

LONDON BIRD CLUB TALKS PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2018 TO MARCH 2019



LONDON BIRD CLUB
A section of The London Natural
History Society

RETURN OF THE OSPREYS

Ralph & Brenda Todd

Ralph and Brenda Todd have travelled extensively in the UK, Europe, Central Asia, North America, Africa, China, Argentina, Ecuador, Antarctica and the Galapagos in search of and photographing birds and wildlife. For 45 years they have been actively involved with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, being founder members of three local members' groups .



The talk is based on many separate weeks as volunteer wardens at the famous RSPB Scottish reserve at Loch Garten, in the shadow of the Cairngorms. This talk tells the history, changes and developing story, through a typical volunteer's week, of the ospreys returning to Scotland as a breeding bird, the protection they have been afforded, some of the conservation issues surrounding them plus some of the beautiful habitats, scenery and wildlife within striking distance of the reserve.



Wednesday 19 September 2018 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30)

Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, London, NW3 1LT

Entry £2; free for under-18s and students



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THE BIRDS AND WILDLIFE OF GUYANA



Tony Thorne

Tony is Managing Director of Wilderness Explorers which was the official tour operator partner of the USAID funded project to develop birding tourism in Guyana. Tony represents Guyana annually at the British Birdwatching Fair where he delivers a lecture on the birds and wildlife of the country. Tony has a passion for using tourism to support grass-roots indigenous sustainability and conservation and been instrumental in assisting numerous Amerindian communities develop tourism products.

As part of the Guiana Shield the country is not only remote and barely explored but it is home to healthy populations of species that threatened in other countries. The talk will explore some of the 850+ species of the rare, endangered, colourful and magnificent birds and the range of mammals that can be seen whilst out birdwatching. From rainforest and savannah to the amazing Kaieteur Falls and the coastal forest. With a country the size of Britain and 87% covered in forest it is a birders and wildlife enthusiasts' dream come true.



Wednesday 31 October 2018 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30)
Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, London, NW3 1LT
Entry £2; free for under-18s and students



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WILDLIFE PUBLISHING: AN INSIDER'S VIEW

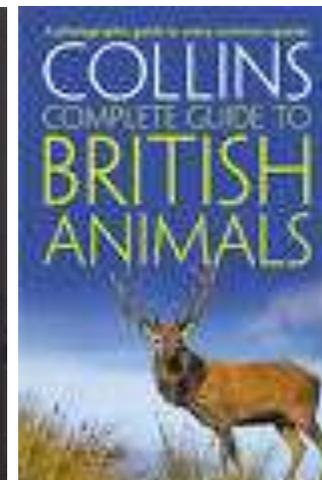
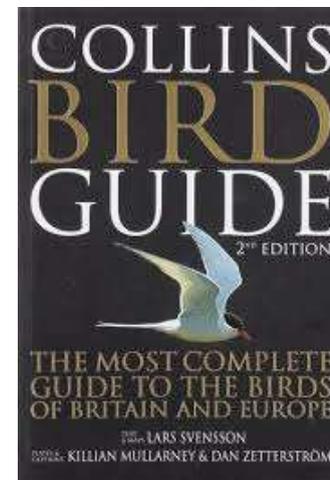
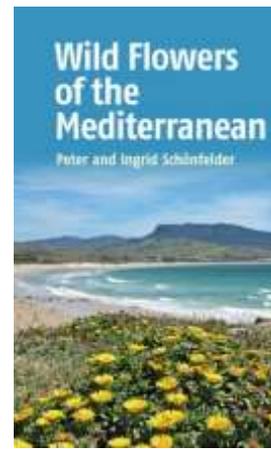
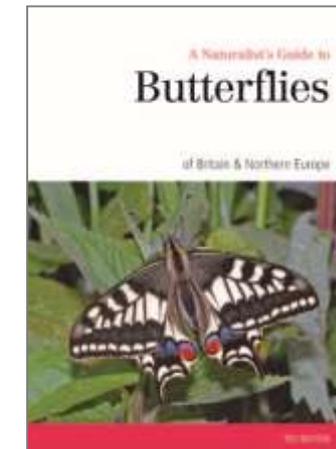
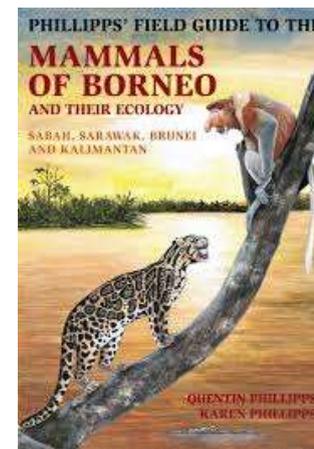
Wildlife publishing has many genres from art books, nature writing to field guides and family monographs. Wildlife publishing is constantly evolving to keep up with changing consumer demands, new discoveries in science and improvements in photography. What books sell? How do publishers find their photographers and writers? How should you pitch an idea? Why is wildlife publishing in the print media proving so resilient? This event is a chance to have your questions answered and gain an insight into some of the stories behind the books. A chance to meet two of the most influential wildlife publishers in the world who will make individual presentations followed by a panel discussion and an audience Q&A.

John Beaufoy John Beaufoy founded his eponymous publishing company in 2008 after 30 years working in corporate publishing, including 20 years as MD of New Holland. **John Beaufoy Publishing** specialises in books about natural history and travel, and has 150 titles in print, focusing on the Indian sub-continent, Southeast Asia and Australia.

Myles Archibald is the Publisher of **Collins Natural History**, one of the longest established and biggest international publishers of natural history. Besides benchmark series such as the Collins New Naturalist Series, they have also published the leading field guides to birds and other wildlife in Britain, Europe and the rest of the World.

Pippa Jacks (Moderator) is Group Editor at **Travel Trade Gazette** (TTG Media) - a leading tourism industry publisher - where she oversees several magazines and conferences. She is an RSPB volunteer and committee member of the LBC. She frequently joins press trips to wildlife destinations, and writes about eco-tourism, wildlife travel and sustainability wherever she can.

Tuesday 13 November 2018 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30)
Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, London, NW3 1LT
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NEW MOON ON THE WANE - THE CURSE OF THE CURLEWS

Rick & Elis Simpson

Rick and Elis are a husband and wife team who dedicate their lives to promoting wader conservation. Rick is a lifelong birder, writer and artist and worked for some time as a bird guide in the UK, Spain and Brazil. Elis is a keen photographer whose main interest is birds and wildlife in general. They founded Wader Quest a non-profit, entirely voluntary, charity dedicated to raising awareness about the problems that waders face across the world and to raising funds to support the Community Wader Conservation projects that protect them.



Curlew species are declining across the world. Two of them, the Eskimo and Slender-billed Curlew are probably already extinct. The Eurasian Curlew, evocative of coastal estuaries and marshes has seen its population in the UK fall precipitously, to almost half. The UK holds a third of Europe's breeding population. This talk looks at why curlew population are falling and talks about each of the species in the genus *Numenius* drawing on the personal experience of the authors who have travelled around the world to study waders.



Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 7pm (doors open at 6.00pm for LBC

AGM at 6.30pm.

Talk will start at 7pm after AGM.)

Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, London, NW3 1LT

No entry fee for this talk.



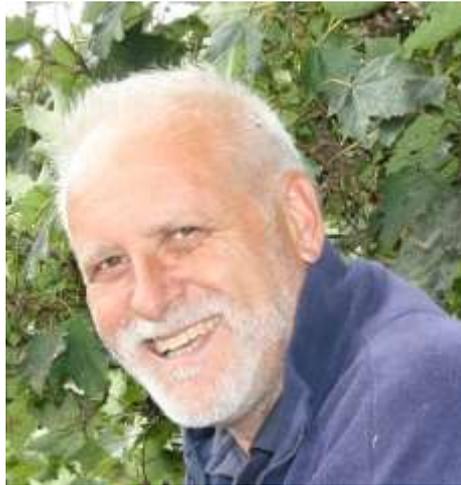
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GULL IDENTIFICATION AND BEHAVIOUR

Steve Piotrowski



Steve is a general naturalist and experienced birder. Author of the recently published 'Birds of Suffolk', co-author of 'The Butterflies of Suffolk' and a Principal Recorder during recent 'Dragonfly Atlas' fieldwork. A founder member of Landguard Bird Observatory (1982) and Waveney Bird Club (2006). He specialises in bird migration and holds a BTO bird-ringing 'Trainer' permit. He works as an associated tutor for the Field Studies Council and British Trust for Ornithology and is ornithological advisor for Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

The first part looks at the identification of gulls. Especially the challenge of separating Caspian, Yellow-legged & Armenian Gull in the 'Herring Gull complex'. Also, the Lesser Black-backed Gull complex (Baltic & Heuglin's). The multiple age classes in the larger 'white-headed' gulls present a challenge to birders which you love or hate. Steve takes you through the latest developments in field identification. Gulls are also fascinating, intelligent birds whose amazing migratory patterns have begun to unfold in recent years thanks to ringing, leg tagging and satellite tracking. Learn how the gulls in your park may have been on foraging visits to Scandinavia, Germany, France, etc., true citizens of the EU.



Thursday 21 February 2019 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30)

Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, London, NW3 1LT

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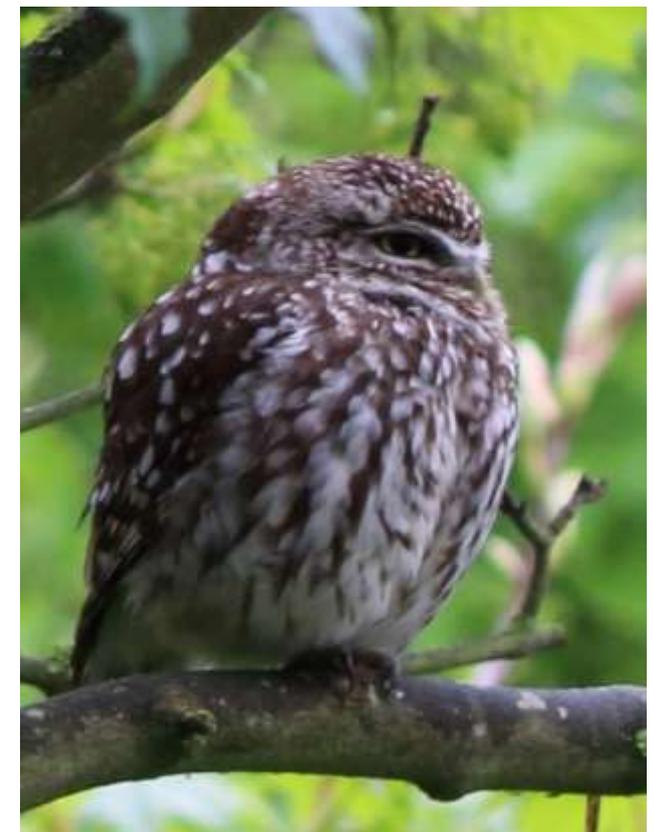
MANAGING LONDON FOR BIRDS & OTHER WILDLIFE



Mathew Frith

Mathew is Director of Conservation, London Wildlife Trust and has nearly 30 years' experience of land management policy and practice in urban nature conservation with voluntary organisations and public bodies, including the London Ecology Unit, English Nature and Peabody. He has managed nature reserves, and developed policies to advocate the protection, creation and promotion of natural green spaces, and co-founded Neighbourhoods Green in 2003. He has a particular interest in the relationship between nature and society in towns and cities, which underpins London Wildlife Trust's work in the face of a rapidly growing capital. www.wildlondon.org.uk @WildLondon

The talk will provide an overview of the London Wildlife Trust's work on birds over the years. This will include Woodberry Wetlands which is a flagship reserve as it provided a bird rich habitat in a part of London which has a high density of housing as well as the recently opened Walthamstow Wetlands, the largest urban wetland reserve in Europe. The talk will also cover policy-based work on some of London's other birds in the spotlight such as Black Redstart & Ring-necked parakeet as well as the Trust's broader citizen science campaigns such as Kestrel Count and Owl Prowl.



Tue 12 March 2019 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30)
Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, London, NW3 1LT
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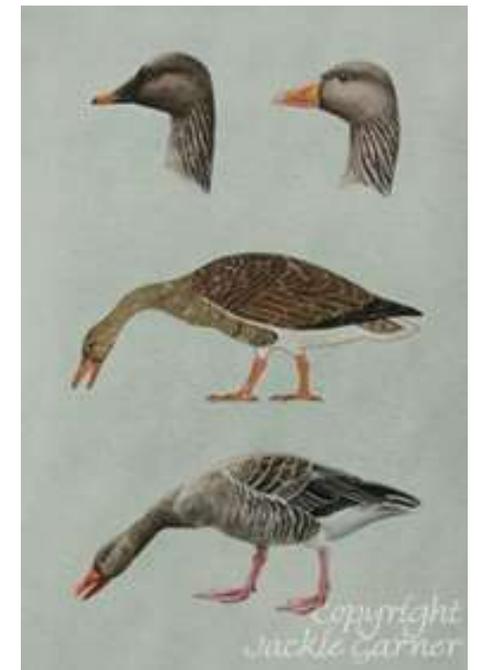
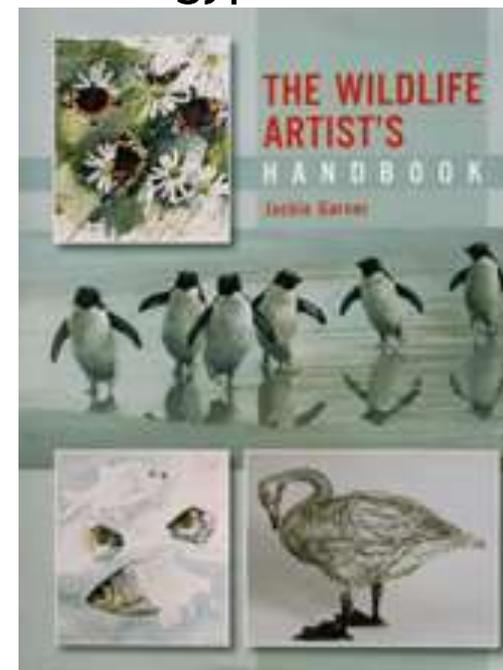
BIRDS IN ART



Jackie Garner

Jackie Garner is a professional wildlife artist with her work held in collections in Norway, South Africa, Trinidad and Australia, and has been shown on BBC television. She is the author and main illustrator of *The Wildlife Artist's Handbook* (The Crowood Press, 2013). Jackie originally concentrated solely on British wildlife art, but four weeks in the Falkland Islands in 2005 led to a reputation for penguin paintings. In 2008 she spent six weeks on a research trip in Egypt which will be the basis of illustrations for a book on the wildlife art of ancient Egypt.

In this talk Jackie will discuss the different mediums in which she paints (acrylic, watercolours, pencil sketches) and provide an insight into the behind the scenes work on a number of paintings, mainly on birds but also a few other animals and plants. The first part of the talk is about how wildlife art has changed through the years and how it relates to wildlife conservation. The second part is about her own work, the practicalities of creating images inspired by the natural world and the importance of fieldwork.



Fri 12 April 2019 at 7.15pm (doors open at 7.00pm)
Gospel Oak Methodist Church, Agincourt Road, NW3 2NT. (Entrance in Lisburne Road. Entrance charge of £5 (£3 for MBS or LNHS members). Note that this joint event is not at the usual LBC venue of Burgh House. Also note that the MBS entrance fees structure will apply and LNHS members who are not MBS members can pay £3.

Joint event with the **Marylebone Birdwatching Society** www.birdsmbs.org.uk



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Burgh House

New End Square, Hampstead, London NW3 1LT.

For the London Bird Club talks which start at 7pm, the doors open at 6.30pm. For the talks, it is open on all week days.

However, for visiting Burgh House and the Museum, opening times are 12pm - 5pm from Wednesday to Friday and Sunday. Closed on Saturday.

The lovely **Burgh House**, the venue for the LBC Talks is just a few minutes walk from Hampstead tube station on the Northern Line (not Hampstead Heath - that's the nearby Overground station).

Tip: Hampstead is a delightful village which can be explored with a lot of cafes. The Heath is just minutes away from Burgh House and can be explored in a mini nature walk.



Left Panel: Hampstead.

Right panel: Burgh House