



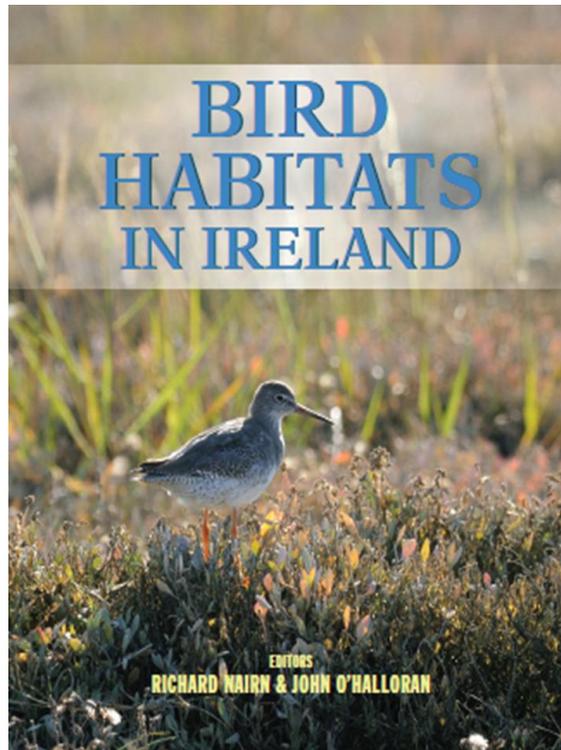
# BIRD HABITATS IN IRELAND

A one-day symposium supported by BirdWatch Ireland,  
the RSPB, the British Trust for Ornithology  
and University College Cork

Hosted by the Royal Dublin Society

For booking details visit [www.birdhabitats.wordpress.ie](http://www.birdhabitats.wordpress.ie)

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012**



This symposium will include the launch of a major new book entitled  
***Bird Habitats in Ireland***

Copies may be purchased at the symposium

For more information on the book visit [www.collinspress.ie](http://www.collinspress.ie)

## Programme

**Registration opens at 08:00**

**Session 1: 09:00-11:00** Chair: Alan Lauder, BirdWatch Ireland

09:00 **Welcome** – Dr Christopher Moriarty, RDS

09:00-09:10 **Opening** – Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

09:10-09:30 **Urban habitats** – Eanna ni Lamhna

09:30-09:50 **Lakes and turloughs** – Clive Mellon

09:50-10:10 **Lowland bogs, fens and reedswamps** – Dr Fintan Bracken

10:10-10:30 **Wet grasslands, marshes and callows** – Dr Karl Partridge

10:30-10:50 **Rivers and canals** – Patrick Smiddy

10:50-11:00 **Questions**

**Tea break: 11:00-11:30**

**Session 2: 11:30-13:00** Chair: Dr Andy Clements BTO

11:30-11:50 **Upland heath and blanket bog** – Dr Sinead Cummins

11:50-12:10 **Woodland, forestry and scrub** – Dr Mark Wilson

12:10-12:50 **Birds and Habitat: Relationships in a changing landscape**

*Keynote address:* Professor Rob Fuller BTO

12:50-13:00 **Questions**

**Lunch break: 13:00-14:00**

**Session 3: 14:00-15:20** Chair: Dr David Tierney NPWS

14:00-14:20 **Cliffs, islands and rocky coasts** – Dr Stephen Newton

14:20-14:40 **Beaches and dunes** – Richard Nairn

14:40-15:00 **Estuaries and coastal lagoons** – Dr James Robinson

15:00-15:20 **Open sea** – Dr Mark Jessop

**Tea break: 15:20-15:40**

**Session 4: 15:40-17:00** Chair: Dr Julian Greenwood RSPB

15:40-16:00 **Lowland farmland** – Dr Alex Copeland

16:00-16:20 **Habitat management for birds** – Alan Lauder

16:20-16:40 **Climate change, habitats and birds** – Dr Alison Donnelly

16:40-17:00 **Synthesis and future perspectives** – Professor John O'Halloran

17:00 **Symposium ends**

## Profiles of Speakers

**Dr Fintan Bracken** is an environmental consultant with particular expertise in birds. His research interests include biodiversity and the effects of land-use change on the diversity of birds and butterflies. He has written several papers on bird diversity of peatland and farmland habitats. Fintan's research for this topic was funded by the EPA through the project 'BOGLAND: Protocol for Sustainable Peatland Management in Ireland'.

**Dr Alex Copland** is a Senior Conservation Officer with BirdWatch Ireland, specialising in farmland related projects. He has managed research and conservation projects on key species, including Corncrakes, breeding waders and Barn Owls, and studied impacts of agricultural policies and practices on bird populations on Irish farmland. He has published several papers on this work, and is a collaborating researcher with UCC and UCD.

**Dr. Sinéad Cummins** is an environmental scientist working on the conservation team at BirdWatch Ireland. With a primary focus on upland birds, her involvement includes surveys of breeding European Golden Plover, Ring Ouzel and Chough and coordination of the national Red Grouse Survey. More recently she has been coordinating baseline waterbird data for Irish coastal Special Protection Areas.

**Dr Alison Donnelly** is an environmental scientist currently working on the impacts of climate change on phenology with the Phenology Research Group in Trinity College Dublin. She established a network of phenologists in Ireland. She has previously worked in NUI Maynooth, the University of Nottingham, FÁS, Teagasc and the University of California. She is currently based in the Botany Department at Trinity College Dublin.

**Professor Rob Fuller** is Director of Science at the British Trust for Ornithology. Rob's main personal interests focus on habitat selection and the effects of habitat change on birds, especially in woodland. Strategies for sustaining future biodiversity against a background of climate change adaptation and the need for habitat restoration at landscape scales form an increasing part of his work. His first book, was *Bird Habitats in Britain* (1982), and he has just finished editing a major review on bird-habitat relationships to be published soon.

**Dr Mark Jessopp** is a marine ecologist at the Coastal and Marine Research Centre, and adjunct lecturer at University College Cork. He has worked on a range of marine species ranging from plankton to top predators, with experience working on seabirds in both Ireland and the Antarctic. His current research focuses on the role of seabirds in the marine environment, and their interactions with fisheries through a combination of diet, telemetry, and population monitoring studies.

**Alan Lauder** is the Chief Executive and former Head of Conservation of BirdWatch Ireland. He previously led the management of the RSPB's reserves in the west and south of Scotland, prior to that heading up the BTO in Scotland. He has a wide range of ornithological interests. In particular, he has worked extensively on waterbirds, seabirds, wetland and grassland habitats, publishing work on breeding wildfowl, cormorants and grey geese and advising on habitat management at sites across Europe.

**Clive Mellon** is an environmental consultant with a particular interest in birds and Lepidoptera. He has published papers in both ornithological and entomological journals such as *Irish Birds* and *Atropos*. Prior to becoming a consultant in 2004, he was the Conservation Manager of the RSPB in Northern Ireland where he was responsible for managing conservation projects for priority bird species. He holds a degree in law and continues to work on environmental legislation and policy issues.

**Richard Nairn** is an environmental scientist and writer. He was Director of the Irish Wildbird Conservancy (now BirdWatch Ireland) during the 1980s and currently heads Natura Environmental Consultants. He is a Chartered Environmentalist and Fellow of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. He has published extensively on Irish birds and their habitats and he has written two books, *Wild Wicklow* (1998) and *Ireland's Coastline* (2005). He is one of the two joint editors of the book *Bird Habitats in Ireland*.

**Dr Stephen Newton** coordinates BirdWatch Ireland's research and monitoring programme on seabirds. This includes the management of long-term projects on terns, cliff-nesting seabirds and petrel and shearwater colonies of islands in Dublin, Kerry, Mayo and Donegal. He coordinated the Irish input to the Seabird 2000 survey and was an editor of the resulting book: *Seabird Populations of Britain and Ireland* (2004). He has also led the joint NPWS-BWI Chough project for the last 10 years which resulted in the designation of 14 Chough SPAs.

**Éanna Ní Lamhna** is an independent environmentalist. She was formerly president of An Taisce, the Irish National Trust, and is a regular broadcaster on radio and television. A botanist by training, she was responsible for Ireland's first Biological Records Centre in the 1980s. She has published several popular books on wildlife including *Wild Dublin* (2008). She is a lecturer on sustainability in the Dublin Institute of Technology.

**Professor John O'Halloran** is Professor of Zoology and Ecology at University College Cork where he is Head of School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences. He has published over 180 research papers and articles. He was former Editor of *Bird Study*, a Board Member of Bird Watch Ireland, Vice-President of the BTO and Council member of European Ornithologists Union. John's main interests are in aquatic birds, forest ecology and ecotoxicology. He is one of the two joint editors of the book *Bird Habitats in Ireland*.

**Dr Karl Partridge** is an environmental scientist and independent ecological consultant since 1991. He was formerly Regional Officer and Research Biologist with the RSPB in Northern Ireland. His key experience is in ornithology and environmental impact assessment but he has also wide experience of marine resource development, having worked in the field of aquaculture and fisheries for a number of years, both in Ireland and abroad.

**Dr James Robinson** is the Director of the RSPB in Northern Ireland. He was Conservation Manager for the RSPB in Northern Ireland and, before that, Head of Wetland Biodiversity at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. He graduated with a PhD in seabird ecology at the University of Durham in 1999 and has produced over 50 publications on ecology and nature conservation. He is a member of the Irish Brent Goose Study Group.

**Patrick Smiddy** is an independent naturalist and editor of the journal *Irish Birds*. He was formerly a Conservation Ranger with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. His main bird interests include river birds, involving especially a long-term study of the Dipper, and the birds of estuaries and other wetlands. He has published his work in a wide range of scientific journals, and was awarded an Honorary Master of Science degree by the National University of Ireland in September 2000.

**Dr Mark Wilson** is a postdoctoral bird researcher at UCC working on the PLANFORBIO research programme. He has broad interests in animal behaviour, bird biology, forest ecology and conservation. He previously worked for the RSPB as a researcher in Scotland. He is currently continuing his work on both forest biodiversity and habitat requirements of Hen Harriers. Mark has extensive experience and expertise in bird surveying and remote observation/tracking, as well as in experimental design, GIS and statistical analysis.

**PARKING** is available at the front of the RDS complex (enter from Merrion Road). A daily charge of €6 will apply.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:**

**By Bus:** The RDS is serviced by bus routes number 4, 7 and 45, which stop outside the Main Hall Entrance to the RDS on the Merrion Road. These bus services can be availed of on Nassau Street, outside Trinity College.

**By Local Train:** Dublin DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transport) service also operates from the City Centre to Ballsbridge. Travel southbound to Lansdowne or Sandymount stations.

