

Irish Raptor Study Group

Grúpa Staidéir Éan Creiche na hÉireann



Irish Raptor Study Group Conference 2019

This is a one day conference that is open to all, you do not have to be a member.

The conference will provide an update on some of the latest Bird of Prey research from within Ireland and the UK. It is a chance to meet other Bird of Prey enthusiasts and get involved.

Saturday 26th January 2019

9.30am–5.00pm

The Green Isle Conference and Leisure Hotel

(Just off JNCT 9—Red Cow Roundabout, M50)

Naas Rd,

Newlands Cross,

Dublin 22.



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Speakers



Fiona McAuliffe

Fiona grew up on a dairy farm in north Cork which gave her an early appreciation of nature and working outdoors. Fiona studied Zoology at University College Cork, developing her understanding of all aspects of animal life. While on a study exchange at the University of Montana, U.S.A. she took a class on Ornithology and had the opportunity to see a wide range of raptor species in the wild including Osprey, Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles, igniting her interest in birds of prey. She has recently completed her MSc in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology at Queen's University Belfast, learning about the current threats facing our wildlife and what can be done to help address these issues. As the recipient of the IRSG's research grant for 2018, Fiona completed her thesis on habitat quality and prey availability in Golden Eagle ranges in Co. Donegal.

John Lusby

John Lusby is a research ecologist with a special and life-long interest in birds of prey and owls. His work is concentrated on trying to achieve a better understanding of the status and ecology of raptor populations in Ireland, and how we can best use raptors as indicators to measure wider biodiversity change and impacts and ultimately to inform conservation policy, with a focus on land-use change including afforestation, the expansion of road networks, as well as pesticide use. John works with BirdWatch Ireland and established the Raptor Conservation Project in 2009 and is also a passionate environmentalist and educator.



Donal Hogan



Donal is an Ecologist from Galway, during his MSc studies he worked with Marc Ruddock of the Golden Eagle Trust to complete a study on the 'Survival and dispersal of the reintroduced Red Kite population in the Republic of Ireland' Following on from this experience he has worked with a number of projects including work with Saker Falcon reintroductions in Bulgaria and with the Peregrine Fund's Puerto Rican Sharp-shinned Hawk project. Donal's main interests now lie with raptor reintroductions and habitat management and restoration.

Alan Lauder

Alan is a committee member of the IRSG and is actively involved with raptor monitoring in Wicklow. As a professional nature conservationist, his career spans over 30 years in a diverse range of work but, in particular, nature reserve management, conservation policy and ornithological survey and research. He has been involved in raptor monitoring in Scotland and more recently in Ireland, over a 35 year period including involvement with the early days initiation of the Scottish Raptor Monitoring scheme. He was the organiser and a significant contributor to the 2001/2002 UK National Peregrine Survey and was on the steering group of the 2017 Irish Peregrine Survey and the 2018 Merlin Survey and has done fieldwork on a wide range of raptors over the years. He prefers his Raptors alive and without shackles and works to keep them that way.





Gordon Riddle

Gordon is a founder member of South West Scotland Raptor Group in the early 1970s and has been Chairman of the South Strathclyde RSG for the past 25 years. His study of the Kestrel population on the South Ayrshire/Dumfries border is one of the longest monitoring programmes on this species in Britain and has resulted in three books on the subject. The most recent project undertaken has been satellite tagging young kestrels. He was awarded the Donald & Jeff Watson Award in 2010 for his contribution to Raptor work in Scotland.

Nick Dixon

Nick is a Raptor ecologist and has been professionally involved in bird of prey research since 1995. He specialises in Peregrines nesting in urban environments and on built structures, and has been monitoring the increase in this trend across the UK during this period. He has advised at many well known urban sites and to a wide variety of organisations. His research into Peregrine prey selection and diet at his main study site in Devon is now the longest running study of its kind in Europe.



Noreen Gallagher

Noreen is the RSPB Northern Ireland's Red Kite Project Officer and has been involved with Red Kites in Northern Ireland since 2012 when she started spotting these beautiful birds of prey in the South Down area. As part of a small group of volunteers she has helped to find new nests and roosts along with monitoring existing ones. In March 2018 she took over the role of Project Officer and would be delighted to see the main aim of the project which is to see a sustainable population of approximately 50 breeding pairs of Red Kites in Northern Ireland. Part of her role is to visit schools to tell children about this magnificent reintroduced species.

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Programme 2019

09.30 am			Registration		
<i>Morning session chaired by Ryan Wilson-Parr, IRSG</i>					
09.50	Welcome and Introduction				
10.00	Assessing Habitat Quality and Prey Availability for Golden Eagles.		Fiona McAuliffe, <i>Queens University,</i>		
10.30	Peregrine Falcons on built structures in the UK		Nick Dixon, <i>Raptor Ecologist</i>		
11.15–11.45			Tea /Coffee Break		
11.45	Hovering on forty five seasons with the Kestrel		Gordon Riddle, <i>South Strathclyde Raptor Study Group.</i>		
12.30	Survival and Dispersal of the Red Kite in the Republic of Ireland		Donal Hogan, <i>Ecologist</i>		
13.00	10 years of the Red Kite in Northern Ireland		Noreen Gallagher, <i>RSPB</i>		
13.15–14.30—Lunch (not provided)					
<i>Afternoon session chaired by Lorcan O'Toole, IRSG</i>					
14.30	Raptor Patching in County Wicklow—A trial season		Alan Lauder, <i>IRSG</i>		
14.45	A Review of the Irish Merlin Survey 2018		John Lusby, <i>Birdwatch Ireland</i>		
15.30	Peregrine territorial aggression towards the Common Buzzard		Nick Dixon, <i>Raptor Ecologist</i>		
16.00 -Close of Conference					
16.30 pm—IRSG AGM open to all members					

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Booking Form

The conference fee is € 25 per person.

This fee includes Tea/Coffee, but does not include lunch. Please attach a cheque or postal order made payable to the Irish Raptor Study Group and send to address below.

IRSG membership: If you wish to renew your IRSG membership for 2019, please add a further €15 to your cheque or postal order.

Conference fee €25.00

Membership fee €15.00

To book your place, please complete this form and return it to:

Mr. John Lyden, 3 Castle Court, Currabinny Rd, Carrigaline, County Cork.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

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Email:.....

Tel. No.

You can also pay at the door on the day, but advance payment will beat the queues at the door!

If you have any queries please contact:

Irene O'Brien, Secretary IRSG

Phone : 00 353 87 2472262

Email: secretary@irsg.ie

OR

Ryan Wilson- Parr, Chairman IRSG

Phone: 00 353 87 7594 393

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