South Devon Branch of Devon Birds

Meetings Programme for 2027

Date	Title of Talk	Speaker
18/01	**Avocets and Ice: The Winter Spectacle of the Exe Estuary**	**Derek Carter-Guide-StuartLine Cruises**
Derek has worked with StuartLine Cruises for 9 years, giving a running commentary on the Birds of the Exe. He is also a volunteer with Devon Wildlife Trust and the RSPB in East Devon & The Exe Estuary. He is an avid local wildlife enthusiast, living in Exmouth, with the Exe Estuary in his backyard, Derek is also a very keen wildlife photographer capturing many of the estuary's visitors throughout the seasons. **A voucher for a Stuartline Cruise for 2 persons will be raffled at this talk.**		
15/02	**Awkward Auks and Funny Terns**	**David Bailey**
Following his previous successful presentation on Orkney's Skuas, David will share this focus on Auks and Terns, seen at close quarters. David is a wildlife and nature blogger based in Devon. He spends his summers on the Orkney island of Westray meticulously observing and photographing the seabirds and the migratory and resident birds of the island. His beautiful portraits and action shots and observations of breeding and feeding give a thrilling insight into their lives and show a different side to some of our familiar birds.		
15/03	**Wildlife of the South Devon coast**	**Rob Hughes-Skipper-Devon Sea Safari**
Rob is an award-winning photographer, business owner, and a coastal wildlife guide. Sailing daily from the port of Teignmouth, Rob regularly encounters the wildlife of the South Devon coast. This presentation will include resident species and a few rarer sightings from over the years, including marine mammals, as well as the birds of the coast from Exmouth to Dartmouth, a stunning corner of Lyme Bay.		
19/04	**Bringing Back the Birds: How regenerative farming has transformed a Devon Farm**	**Andy Gray-Landowner-Elston Farm**
A change in fortune for birds on a mid-Devon farm has been achieved through adoption of regen style farming, government schemes and agricultural trials. Elston Farm at Copplestone has focussed on building a more resilient system that focusses on soils, biodiversity and natural systems to maintain long-term food production. The biproduct is more and diversified bird numbers, including a pair of uncommon larks. Andy Gray will describe the actions, implications and response from birds to these changed policies.		
20/09	**The Cornish Chough - a remarkable conservation success**	**Hilary Mitchell- Cornwall Birds**
Hilary moved down to Cornwall in 2013 with her partner and became Chough monitoring volunteers straight away. They are joint editors of the Cornwall Birds Bird Report and manage the data for Cornwall Birds. The talk details the history and extinction of Cornish Chough, the successful recolonisation since 2001 and the conservation and volunteer work that has made it all possible, including stories about the birds themselves, population statistics, trends and current conservation goals.		
18/10	**Beacons of hope: Giving Ospreys a Home in Devon**	**Seb Loram-Devon Osprey Partnership**
Devon Osprey Partnership is working with landowners across Devon to encourage the return of Ospreys to Devon as a breeding bird. Project lead Seb Loram will talk about how the project started, its goals, and progress to date, along with some additional information about the wider recovery of the Osprey. Seb has been involved with monitoring and the study of Devon's raptors for over 20 years.		
15/11	**60 Years of Birding Highlights**	**Dave Smallshire**
A Dipper in 1965 started Dave on a lifetime focused on birds and other wildlife. He will remind us of what birding was like back then and talk about 'shifting baselines'. He will go on to illustrate some of the stand-out birds seen during a total of four years spent abroad on trips to over 30 countries.		

All meetings at the Courtenay Centre, Newton Abbot TQ12 2QA @ 7.30pm
Members £4, Non-Members £5 donation. For more information, please contact Branch Secretary jeffhacon@devonbirds.org