



**ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE EAST
THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**



Summer Meeting

Saturday 1st July 2017



**Bird
conservation in
the OSME
region**



All welcome!

The Meeting will be held at:
The British Trust for Ornithology
The Nunnery
THETFORD, Norfolk
IP24 2PU



Summer Meeting

Saturday 1st July 2017

Programme

- 11.00 Introduction & welcome - Rob Sheldon, OSME Chairman
11.15 Environmental education in Armenia – Charlotte Beckham
12.00 A review of illegal bird killing across the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq & Iran – Rob Sheldon
12.30 Bird migration at Besh Barmeg, Azerbaijan: – Pia Fetting
13.00 Lunch break

A range of sandwiches and drinks will be available.

14.00 39th Annual General Meeting

- 14.30 Towards a better understanding of the distribution, abundance and conservation of steppe birds in Kazakhstan – Johannes Kamp
15.15 Short break
15.30 Bar-tailed Godwit migration from Oman to Siberia – Roeland Bom
16.15 Important Bird Areas in the OSME region – Paul Donald
17.00 Drawing of raffle and closing remarks.

17.15 Close of meeting

Dinner We have again arranged a meal at the Mulberry restaurant in Thetford after the meeting. We hope you will be able to join us. Please contact Irene Sabiniarz via email irenesabiniarz@gmail.com or mobile 07870747038 – from whom further details can also be obtained.

OSME RAFFLE 2017 All profits from this year's raffle will go towards the development of a smartphone App version of the Arabic edition of Birds of The Middle East. Further details of this exciting project will be available at the meeting.

Getting to the BTO

By Rail to Thetford Station Thetford is on the Birmingham-Norwich line. From London travel via Cambridge. Taxis are available at Thetford station.

By Road The Nunnery is on Nuns' Bridge Road which is off the A134 to the south of the town. To obtain a map of the area visit www.multimap.co.uk and enter postcode IP24 2PU. There is a large car park at The Nunnery.

Accommodation can be found in Thetford, Bury St.Edmunds, Norwich, Newmarket, Barton Mills.

OSME is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 282938)

www.osme.org



39th Annual General Meeting

Copies of the draft Minutes of the 38th AGM and the Accounts for 2016 will be available at the meeting. The draft Minutes were also posted on the website in December 2016 where they can still be viewed. If you would like copies in advance please write to the Secretary, OSME, c/o The Lodge, SANDY, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, UK or e-mail: secretary@osme.org

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting (2nd July, 2016)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's overview of 2016 & introduction to OSME strategy
5. Presentation and adoption of the Accounts for 2016
6. Appointment of accounts examiner for 2017
7. Election of Officers

Vice-Presidents (10 year term)

The following are continuing in office: Ali Adhami Mirhosseyni (2008-18); Sergey Sklyarenko (2008-18); Azzam Alwash (2009-19); Melis Charalambides (2010-20); Dr Nabegh Ghazal Aswad (2013-23) The following will be ending their term of office at this year's AGM: Dan Alon (2007-17); Dr Akram Eissa Darwish (2007-17)

Council Members (Trustees elected for a 5 year term)

The following are continuing in office: Irene Sabiniarz (Secretary 2015-25); Ian Harrison (2015-20); Dora Querido (2014-19); Robert Sheldon (2009; Chairman 2013-23); Thomas Haraldsson (2016-21); Chris Hughes (Treasurer 2012-22); Nick Moran (2016-21).

The following will be ending their term of office at this year's AGM: Sal Cooke (2012-17); Phil Cannings (2012-17).

Currently Co-opted Council Members (appointed by the elected Council) John Warr (Joint Treasurer & Membership); Effie Warr (Sales & Distribution); Peter Cowan (Editor, Sandgrouse); AbdulRahman Al Sirhan (Website Manager); Mike Blair (ORL).

Nominations: Paul Stancliffe,

Further nominations should be sent to the Secretary (e-mail: secretary@osme.org) to arrive as soon as possible. Council would be pleased to welcome any members who can assist with maintaining OSME as one of the premier regional bird clubs.

8. Any other business.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2016

The most tangible way that OSME and our members support bird conservation efforts across the region is through our small grants programme. It has been a Council priority in recent years to see this fund grow and support conservationists across the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In 2015 we had a record breaking year providing £10,450 to a range of projects, and I'm delighted that in 2016 we surpassed that figure again, providing £14,000 to 7 projects, including our largest ever award to a single project of £5,000. This increase in funds is down to a significant growth in donations (our best year ever) from members and supporters, corporate sponsors and a generous contribution from an anonymous donor. During 2016 the following projects were funded:

- EcoClub Project on Yerevan – Armenia; £2,150.00
- Elucidating the patterns in Mid-Winter Waterfowl Surveys by using climate, macrophyte records and lake water level fluctuations – Turkey; £400.00
- Distribution and abundance of Eurasian steppe birds at the western border of their range – Kazakhstan; £1,950.00
- Monitoring of IBA 'Oygaing Valley' and the adjoining territories – Uzbekistan; £2,000.00
- Second year of Monitoring of Illegal Shooting of Raptors in the Batumi Bottleneck – Georgia; £1,000.00
- International youth bird migration project – Azerbaijan; £1,500.00
- SunChild Eco Club project – Armenia; £5,000

Two editions of our excellent journal Sandgrouse, were produced throughout the year, and included a wide-range of scientific papers and reports from almost every country in the OSME region. Despite changes in the world of scientific publishing, we continue to be committed to producing printed versions of our journal, but we are making previous issues available online via our website and through the Biodiversity Heritage Library. I often hear lots of positive comments about Sandgrouse, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Cowan and his editorial team for producing such a high quality and professional publication.

In accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding signed at the Birdfair in 2015, throughout the last 12 months we have continued to work closely with BirdLife International and partners across our region. Notably, we have worked with colleagues in the Amman office to finalise the publication of an Arabic version of the field guide to the Birds of the Middle East. We hope that this landmark publication will help enthuse a new generation of birdwatchers and conservationists across the Middle East. One of the biggest threats to many migratory birds in the OSME region is illegal bird killing, and we have been working closely with BirdLife International on an assessment of the number of birds killed across the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq. These baseline data will provide a valuable source of information to help target conservation efforts in the future.

Engaging new members and supporters has been a high priority in recent years. OSME continues to develop its presence on social media and effectively communicates about conservation issues and highlights from around the region. Our following on Twitter continues to grow steadily with approximately 2800 followers, and our new Facebook page exceeded 1300 likes by the end of 2016. Linking our increasing range of stories and blogs on our website to our social media output has enabled us to engage with more people across the region. Council will continue to develop this area of work in the coming year to promote conservation and connect like-minded people with an interest in ornithology and bird-watching. Alongside the growth in social media, OSME continues with our 'traditional' forms of engagement through our annual summer meeting and our presence at the British Birdwatching Fair.

The above are just a few highlights from a really exciting and successful year for OSME. These achievements don't happen by accident and we are fortunate to have committed and talented Council members that manage OSME on a day to day basis. Our financial position is healthy and our governance is strong, which enables us to be confident going forward that we can continue to meet the ambitions set out in our OSME 2020 strategy. All the work of OSME is undertaken on a voluntary basis by a team of dedicated individuals and underpinned by our members and supporters across the region. On behalf of OSME Council, many thanks to all those that have contributed to our work in 2016 and we look forward to your continued support in the future.

Dr Rob Sheldon, Chairman