

# BIRDS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

## Research from the South West and beyond

### SPEAKER PROFILES

**Dr Aonghais Cook** is a Research Ecologist in the BTO's Wetland and Marine Research Team. Recent work has included modelling collision risk for seabirds and migrants as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Dogger Bank Offshore Wind Farm Zone. Aonghais has also been heavily involved in projects investigating the factors and processes influencing the population trends in seabirds using data obtained from sea-watching and monitoring programmes.



**Richard Cook BSc MSc** Following several successful careers including television editor, chef and carpenter, I finally decided to follow a lifelong interest and studied Marine Biology & Oceanography at Plymouth University. Afterwards I spent 5 years working in aquaculture throughout S.E. Asia where I became the Environmental Manager for a Norwegian life-sciences group and where I developed a passion for sustainable development and resource management. Following my return to the UK in 2010, I decided to further develop my skills with an MSc in Environmental Consultancy and subsequently accepted a position with Natural England as a regional Lead Adviser where I currently work on the Natura 2000 designation program, specifically Special protection Areas.



**Holly Kirk** is in the final stages of a PhD studying the migratory behaviour of the Manx shearwater. She has spent the last 4 years studying seabirds on some of the UK's largest colonies, using a range of newly developed tracking and data-logging technologies. As a member of the Oxford Navigation Group she has been involved in research on several species, including auks and gulls. The group specialises in using computational techniques to identify important at-sea behaviour in spatial data collected by GPS and geolocation.

**Paul St Pierre, RSPB Conservation Officer for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly** I have been birdwatching since I was eight, involved in conservation issues from the age of twelve and have worked for the RSPB for over 20 years in the south west of England working as the first Cirl Bunting Project Officer in Devon and then as the Purbeck Biodiversity Officer. I have been in my current post for the last 10 years. I lead on the RSPB's marine conservation work in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and was heavily involved in the Finding Sanctuary Project as a stakeholder representative at a regional level. I am the project supervisor for the Isles of Scilly Seabird Recovery Project and project managed the setting up of the project. I also lead on planning and projects for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. I have travelled widely and worked with a variety of NGOs as a volunteer around the world including work on invasive species control on NZ islands and designation of RAMSAR sites in the Falkland Islands.



**Bruce Taggart** was Head of Countryside Management at Capel Manor College before moving to Cornwall in 2005. He worked for the RSPB on the Cirl Bunting Re-introduction Project until 2011 and runs a consultancy, Tamar Wildlife that organises birdwatching trips on the River Tamar each winter. He has been a board member of CBWPS for 7 years, recently co-ordinating the publication of the on-line Cornwall Bird Atlas. He holds a full ringing licence and has managed the Looe Island GBB gull ringing project since 2010.



**Dr Stephen Votier** I am an ornithologist with a particular interest in seabirds. The aim of my research is to understand the impact of global change on marine top predators. Most of my work is field-based, where I study how key stressors - such as fish extraction, climate change, pollution and industrial development - have impacts at the individual, population and community levels. This work is also heavily influenced by the recently emerging fields of bio-logging and analysis of intrinsic biogeochemical markers.



**Dr Lucy Wright** is a Research Manager in the BTO Wetland & Marine Research Team, specialising in the environmental impacts of renewable energy developments. Lucy has over 10 years' experience in applied ecological research, and regularly provides policy-relevant scientific advice to government organisations and industry. From 2010-2012 Lucy ran a secretariat providing ornithological advice to the offshore wind farm industry in partnership with The Crown Estate, developing strategic research projects to improve understanding of the potential impacts of offshore wind farms on birds and aid the planning process ([www.bto.org/soss](http://www.bto.org/soss)). She was lead author of the biodiversity theme assessment for the Severn Tidal Power SEA, and assisted in the co-ordination of this work. More recently she has led a project providing scientific advice to Defra on how Marine Protected Areas can contribute to the conservation of mobile species, and has provided expert review and quality assurance of ornithological evidence for the Marine Management Organisation.



**Dr Russell Wynn** is Head of Marine Geoscience at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, and is a co-ordinator of the UK Marine Environmental Mapping Programme (MAREMAP). He is currently Chairman of The Seabird Group of UK and Ireland, and previously co-ordinated the SeaWatch SW project. Russell is a multi-disciplinary marine scientist with particular interest in environmental controls on marine ecosystems and species. In his spare time he works on marine conservation projects and is a keen wildlife observer and photographer, regularly undertaking expeditions to the far corners of the UK to search for seabirds and marine mammals.