



Mammal Society 66th Spring Conference

16th – 17th April 2021



Platforms

*Please join us on **Zoom** for the Cranbrook Lecture and for the beginning of the conference on Saturday. You will have been emailed separate Zoom links for each of these*

Coffee and poster sessions, as well as the Student Meet and Greet, will be held in **Gather.town**. You will be able to re-join Zoom from **Gather.town**

Friday 16th April

- 17:30-18:30 Student Meet and Greet including Guest Career Talks
- 19:00-20:00 Cranbrook Memorial Lecture – Prof. Andrew Balmford, University of Cambridge: Reasons to be cheerful: success stories and the importance of optimism in conservation
- 20:00-20:15 Mammal Photographer of the Year exhibition and prize giving
- 20:30-End Mammal Society Quiz hosted by Derek Crawley, Staffordshire Mammal Group

Saturday 17th April

Please note talks will be 15 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions. Rapid fire talks will be 5 minutes plus 1 minute for questions. The question time for rapid fire talks will be held once all of the speakers in that session have presented.

- 9:00-9:05 **Welcome**
- 9:05-9:25 **Impacts of forest management on red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) conservation in multi-functional forests**
Louise de Raad, University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness College

- 9:25-9:45 **Predation by cats (*Felis silvestris catus*) around the world – a meta-analytical review of methods used**
Hannah Lockwood; University of Derby
- 9:45-10:05 **Going, going gone: Changing morphology of the disappearing Wildcat**
Andrew Kitchener
- 10:05-10:25 **Extinction of the Scottish Wildcat population: is hybridisation a cause or a consequence?**
Keri Langridge, Saving Wildcats Field Manager, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
- 10:25-11:10 *Tea, coffee, posters and stalls*

Session 2

- 11:10-11:30 **Badger territoriality maintained despite disturbance of major road construction**
Aoibheann Gaughran
- 11:30-11:50 **A comparative molecular dietary study of the European hedgehog and the European badger**
Katie Lee; Nottingham Trent University
- 11:50-12:25 *Rapid Fire Talks Group 1*
- 11:50-11:55 **Revealing the diet of the lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) in Ireland via DNA metabarcoding**
Thomas Curran
- 11:55-12:00 **Owl prey - as a source of data on invasive small mammals in Ireland**
Paddy Sleeman
- 12:00-12:05 **Lessons learnt from student projects studying small mammals**
Debbie Alston
- 12:05-12:10 **Regulation and ethics in wildlife research by citizen scientists**
Alexandra Palmer
- 12:10-12:15 **The potential role of wild mammals in the epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2**
Dez Delahay, The Animal and Plant Health Agency
- 12:15-12:20 **Is rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus var.2 worse than myxomatosis**

Brian Boag

12:20-12:25 **Rapid Fire Talks Group 1 Questions**

12:25-13:35 *Lunch Break, posters and stalls*

Session 3

13:35-13:55 **Developing a strategy for the restoration of water voles in Wales**

Frazer Coomber, Mammal Society Science Officer

13:55-14:15 **ENETWILD Project: towards harmonising mammal population monitoring in Europe**

Joaquín Vicente Baños

14:15-14:40 **Rapid Fire Talks Group 2**

14:15-14:20 **EMMA2 – mapping Europe’s mammals**

Tony Mitchell-Jones

14:20-14:25 **Home range size of leopards in Dachigam National Park, western Himalaya, India**

Athar Noor

14:25-14:30 **A countryside carnivore: aspects of leopard ecology at Jawai, Rajasthan**

Ravi Sharma, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, India

14:30-14:35 **The use of a conservation detection dog for establishing *Micromys minutus* (harvest mouse) presence**

Emily Howard-Williams

14:35-14:40 **Rapid Fire Talks Group 2 Questions**

14:40-15:05 *Short Break – Coinciding with the Duke of Edinburgh’s funeral and minute silence (14.45 – 15.00)*

Session 4

- 15:05-15:25 **Chemical contamination of freshwaters: still a threat to otters?**
Eleanor Kean
- 15:25-16:00 **Rapid Fire Talks Group 3**
- 15:25-15:30 **Camera traps and CCTV monitoring of otters – their use, the challenges and what they can tell us**
Stephen Powles
- 15:30-15:35 **Innovative adaptations to optimise camera traps for recording small mammals**
Nick Littlewood
- 15:35-15:40 **Hedgehog survey in the village of Grafham, Cambridgeshire**
Carole Baber, Cambridgeshire Mammal Group
- 15:40-15:45 **Why do animals have whiskers?**
Robyn A. Grant
- 15:45-15:50 **The Euler spiral of rat whiskers**
Eugene L. Starostin
- 15:50-15:55 **Challenging misconceptions of urban bat diversity**
Morgan Hughes
- 15:55-16:00 **Rapid Fire Talks Group 3 Questions**
- 16:00-16:10 **A Review of Local Mammal Groups**
Kate Hills, Mammal Society Local Groups Committee Chair
- 16:10-16:40 **Prize giving, formal thanks and closing remarks**

After the prize giving, Gather.Town will remain open until 17:45 so please feel free to re-join to network and view posters and stalls