

Climate Change and Coastal Birds

University of Hull, UK
22 ~ 24 March 2002

BOU Annual Spring Conference

hosted jointly with the
Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association

supported by
Northumbrian Water and The Marine Biological Association

This conference aims to obtain an overview of the likely impacts of global climate change on coastal birds. The speakers, all specialists in their respective fields, will review each of the areas that have been identified as being likely to cause an impact of global climate change on coastal birds within a series of themes that include the history of climate change and sea-level rise, the socio-economic factors that may mitigate climate change, predicted changes in coastal geomorphology and in the plant and invertebrate resources of coastal birds, the observed and predicted effects of Global Change on birds, and the possible mitigation of any adverse effects within the present legal framework. The major objective of the conference is to highlight the uncertainties in the field, identify research priorities and the audience that needs to be reached if the health of the coastal ecosystem is to be maintained within the constraints of a global economy.

This conference is particularly timely in the context of the rising importance of global change on the ecological, conservation and political agendas. The UK, with its extensive coastline, low lying land and internationally important waterbird populations is likely to be much affected by global change generally and rising sea levels in particular. Already the UK's birds are breeding earlier and the distributions of its internationally important over-wintering populations of waders (shorebirds) are changing with warmer winters. If the current IPCC climate change predictions are correct, coastal birds throughout the world are likely to be considerably affected. The full programme is posted on the BOU website, along with a downloadable booking form.

Travelling to Kingston-upon-Hull

Transport links to Kingston-upon-Hull are good. There are the Hull-Zeebrugge North Sea Ferries. Arrivals at the London Heathrow or London Gatwick airports can get into London rapidly using train links, from London Kings Cross railway station it is about three hours to Hull by train. Arrivals at Humberside International Airport can get into Hull using the Stagecoach, service number 909. Telephone numbers for your nearest regional airport can be obtained from directory enquires or contact your usual travel agent for bookings and prices.

Useful contacts

BOU Conference Office - 01 733 390 392, steve.dudley@bou.org.uk
Heathrow Airport Information (Switchboard/Flight Enquiries) + 44 (0) 870 0000 123
Gatwick Airport Information (Switchboard/Flight Enquiries) + 44 (0) 870 000 2468
British Airways + 44 191 490 7901
Humberside International Airport - General Enquiries + 44 (0) 1652 688 456
P&O North Sea Ferries UK Tel: + 44 (0) 870 129 6002 Fax + 44 (0) 1482 706438

Birdwatching in East Yorkshire

Anyone wishing to extend their stay in Yorkshire to go birdwatching may wish to obtain a copy of *Where to watch birds in Yorkshire* (including the former North Humberside) (Mather, J.R. 1998. Christopher Helm, London.)

Yorkshire is the largest county in the British Isles, and encompasses a very wide variety of habitats including coastal cliffs and dunes, moorland, mixed woodland, the Humber Estuary, lakes and reservoirs and agricultural land. The county list comprises more than 420 species of bird, reflecting this variety of habitats. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has several reserves in the county including Fairburn Ings and Blacktoft Sands (both excellent for wildfowl and waders). The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve at Spurn with its' famous Bird Observatory and eroding shingle spit provides something of interest to the ornithologist, botanist and geologist.

Accommodation

This is a residential conference held at the University of Hull. Accommodation is in single rooms with some a limited number of twin rooms available on request. Please note that the conference centre does not have any en-suite rooms. A list of local hotels and guesthouses offering these facilities is available from the BOU Office or on the BOU website – www.bou.org.uk.

Please also note that there are no disabled facilities available at the conference centre.



The proceedings of this conference are to be published by the BOU with the support of Northumbrian Water. Further information will be available at the conference or from the BOU website.



Enquiries regarding the scientific programme (oral and poster presentations) should be sent to Dr Mark Rehfisch, Scientific Programme Co-ordinator – mark.rehfisch@bou.org.uk

Please return the booking form to the address below by 4 March 2002 to ~

Climate Change and Coastal Birds Conference
BOU, The Natural History Museum, Tring, Herts HP23 6AP, UK.

Note refunds cannot be made for cancellations after 4 March 2002.