

*This paper forms part of the proceedings from the BOU conference **The Impacts of Non-native Species**.
Other papers from these proceedings can be viewed at www.BOUPROC.net.*

ABSTRACT

The impacts of non-native species – an introduction

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Revisiting this issue following the 1995 BOU conference on non-native birds, this conference addressed a broader scope including both the impacts of non-native birds, and other non-native species on our avifauna. The geographical scope was also extended to cover UK Overseas Territories.

Non-natives can be defined as introduced species, escapes from captivity, and feral species. In addition, re-introductions though intended to re-establish native species, require us to address in a similar way the potential impacts on the current avifauna. This conference updated our progress on gathering knowledge, establishing policy and taking action to address the impacts of non-natives on our avifauna. Examples ranged from a progress report on the Ruddy Duck control programme, through to the risk assessment associated with species where we do not yet have enough information, such as Eagle Owl. For the future, the conference looked at the assessment of the status of non-native species, monitoring, legislative and policy requirements, and discuss action plans to be put in place over the next few years.