



Bracknell Forest Natural History Society

PROGRAMME Spring – Summer 2025



This is what we have in the pipeline for you – and there's more to come!

Our illustrated talks are held on a Monday each month (September to June) at 7:30pm in the Recital Room, South Hill Park, Ringmead, Bracknell RG12 7PA.

17th March 2025 **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE NEW FOREST** The New Forest National Park is home to all six of the UK's native reptile species. Forestry England's **Richard Daponte** works with the New Forest Reptile Centre to help protect rare snakes and lizards and encourage reintroductions across the country. He will talk about the Centre and its work, the reptiles and amphibians indigenous to the forest and the important conservation going on to save these rare and secretive animals.

14th April 2025 **LOOKING FOR THE GOSHAWK – THE LOST RAPTOR** Writer and naturalist **Conor Mark Jameson** will give a personal, narrative account of the natural history of this mystery-shrouded bird of prey: how it lives, where it lives, and why it might be missing from our lives. His search took him to some unexpected places, at home and abroad. Conor's talk focuses on the adventure that turned his essay, which won BBC Wildlife Nature Writer of the Year, into a book which received a coveted Roger Deakin Award.



19th May 2025 **ECUADOR AND THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS** Nature Trek's **Andy Tucker** will explore the richness of mainland Ecuador, from the moss-laden cloudforests of the north-west, to the high Andes and the lowlands of the Amazon in the east. The talk will feature stunning photography of iconic species such as Cock of the Rock, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Giant Anteater, Torrent Duck and Hoatzin. He will then move on to the Enchanted Islands, covering the geological history and geography of the archipelago, the Darwin story, current conservation issues and the visitor experience - featuring seabird and sealion colonies, giant tortoises, marine and land iguanas, penguins and more!

16th June 2025 **SAVING THE STAG BEETLE** The UK's largest land beetle is the spectacular stag beetle, but they are in decline. The People's Trust for Endangered Species is fighting to save it and their resident expert **David Wembridge** will inform us what they are doing, how you can help and provide lots of stag beetle facts such as where they live, what they eat - and their life cycles.

Also in the pipeline:

11th May 2025 **Visit to New Forest Wildlife Centre** Join us for an unforgettable wildlife experience in the heart of the beautiful New Forest. With many UK natives such as barn owls, Eurasian otters, badgers, pine martins, Scottish wildcats to once native bison, lynx and grey wolves, there will be plenty to see and photograph! The Wildlife Park is dedicated to conservation projects such as rehabilitation and breeding programmes - so our visit will help carry on this vital work.

Details of our guided **Spring and Summer Wildlife Walks** and the **Surveys** we are undertaking (for which we always appreciate extra volunteers) will be available soon.