**Morning Workshops – 11.25 – 12.35**

|  |
| --- |
| Indoors |
| Become a Swift Ambassador in your Community  Are you interested in swifts and helping support a priority species in decline? Come and join our workshop and talk to learn about this important and wonderful bird and how to survey, record and deliver conservation actions to support them.  *Fiona Weir & Toby Wilson, RSPB Scotland* |
| Plastic – not so fantastic! Or is it? You decide  Estimates suggest there are 1 billion plastic bottles on the Scottish market every year and 20 million of these are littered. Join Miriam Adcock from Zero Waste Scotland to hear about the issues around single-use plastics in Scotland, what’s being done about it, and more importantly – what you can do.  Miriam Adcock*,* Zero Waste Scotland |
| Urban raptors - the final frontier  Join the SOC’s Mike Thornton as he takes a look at the colonisation and exploitation of urban environments by raptors. Find out more about methods used to study these birds including the use of feathers to identify individuals, ringing and telemetry, before you put your knowledge to the test in Mike’s raptor ID quiz!  *Mike Thornton, SOC* |
| Making and Maintaining Meadows for Butterflies  Wildflower meadows can be habitats for a wide range of butterflies and moths. This workshop will show you how to create perennial wildflower meadows, including in urban areas. There will be a discussion on the plants used by the caterpillars of butterflies and moths, and how to maintain these meadows.  *Anthony McCluskey, Butterfly Conservation*  An Introduction to Wildlife Recording (part indoors and part outdoors)  A practical introductory workshop with TWIC’s Acting Centre Manager covering the essentials of wildlife recording. By the end of the session you'll be able to get out and recording the wildlife on your patch! No previous experience or equipment necessary.  *Natalie Harmsworth, The Wildlife Information Centre* |
| Outdoors |
|  |
| Lichen safari: discovering the wee world of lichens  RBGE is home to an internationally important collection of beautiful plants, but it is also an urban oasis, supporting scores of other species, hidden in plain sight. Our trees, rocks, walls and even pavements and benches are home to scores of species, from common woodland epiphytes to urban pioneers. Lichenologists from RBGE will guide visitors along an established trail, highlighting important aspects of the lichen symbiosis and opening their eyes to the stories lichens tell.  *John Howieson, RBGE* |
| A guided walk to find the wild medicinal herbs hidden in the Botanics  Join Hamish, owner of the Secret Herb Garden in Edinburgh, for a short walk and talk to find some of the well-known herbs in the Herbology garden and then to take a look at what grows in the hidden corners of the Botanics and why these wild ‘weeds’ are really our medicine and a gift.  *Hamish Martin, Secret Herb Garden* |

**Afternoon Workshops – 13.35 – 14.50**

|  |
| --- |
| Indoors |
| Nature Friendly Farming Network  We are a group of farmers and crofters who passionately believe that nature friendly farming is not only better for wildlife, it’s also the most productive and sustainable way of getting food from our land. Come to this workshop to learn more about how we deliver this on our own farms, how we are working to influence Scotland food and farming policies and how you could support the network to help shape the future of our countryside.  *Chris Bailey, RSPB Scotland and Michael Clarke, Chair of NFFN Scotland* |
| Restoring peatlands for people and nature  Hear about the work being done across Scotland to restore peatlands and the long-term benefits it has for communities and our wildlife. Find out how you can help and weather permitting there will be the chance to see some peatland moths from overnight trapping.  *David Hill, Bog Squad* |
| Solutions to pollution  Be part of the solution to pollution! Fidra is the charity behind the Great Nurdle Hunt, the Cotton Bud Project and more. Meet the team to learn about our latest projects tackling pollution issues affecting our wildlife from artificial pitches to chemicals on your clothes, this workshop will inform and inspire.  *Jasper Hamlet, Fidra* |
| How to help other people improve their bird ID skills (part indoors and part outdoors)  We all encounter people who are keen to learn - whether in a hide, on a walk or on social  media. What should we do or say to support their learning? We all know not to shout "It's  a GOLDENEYE, obviously! Are you stupid?!" Beyond avoiding this obvious mistake, what  else should you do? Come along to this interactive session to explore some ideas.  *Ben Darvill, BTO*  Local Responses to the Ecological and Climate Emergency: Your Role!  David Somervell, former Sustainability Adviser at the University of Edinburgh and now convener of Transition Edinburgh (the community-led initiative working for Climate Neutral Edinburgh by 2030) invites you to reflect on what role you might play in tackling Climate Chaos. Hear about organisations you can get involved in and up-coming initiatives.  *David Summerville, Transition Edinburgh* |
| Outdoors |
|  |
| How to create a grassland habitat which will benefit local biodiversity in your garden  We will start with a brief introduction to the ecology of grasslands followed by a visit to naturalised grasslands in the Garden to discuss ground preparation, seed sources, sowing or planting and how to manage. We will also cover best practice in local seed collection.  *Leonie Alexander and Martina Borge, RBGE* |
| Monitoring Scottish pollinators through Flower-Insect-Timed Counts  There are over 4,000 species of pollinating insects in the UK and this includes bees, flies, butterflies, moths and beetles! This is an opportunity to learn more about the diversity of pollinators, identification of some of the commonly seen species and how to survey and monitor them using Flower-Insect-Timed Counts.  *Suzanne Burgess, Buglife* |

**Alternatively,** if you would prefer not to go to a workshop you can opt to spend longer exploring the gardens and glasshouses at the Royal Botanic Gardens.