



For immediate use

Fife man receives national award

Norman Elkins, from Fife, received a national award for services to ornithology at the annual conference of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The BTO Jubilee Medal was presented by Baroness Young. Dawn Balmer highlighted his personal contribution.

Norman has been the BTO Regional Representative for Fife and Kinross since 1987, and has organised several surveys in the region, including the Atlas, Breeding Bird Survey, Wetland Bird Survey, and the BTO's longest running survey, Heronries; this survey began in 1929. He always manages to achieve superb coverage in Fife & Kinross for every survey undertaken, and was local organiser during the last breeding atlas in 1988-91. Norman has served on BTO Council and the Regional Network Committee, where his experience of fieldwork and organising surveys shone out.

Norman has helped run a number of BTO Training events in Scotland and his experience and enthusiasm have encouraged many birdwatchers to take the plunge and become volunteer fieldworkers. He's also been involved in interviewing for two members of staff for BTO Scotland, evidence of how highly his opinion is valued by the Trust.

Norman Elkins is also known nationally and internationally as the author of the fantastic Poyser book on Weather and Bird Behaviour – now in its third edition! However, the Jubilee Medal is awarded to him, not for his work on weather and birds but for his dedication and his huge contribution to the Trust.



Norman commented, *'This award is a fantastic honour. Managing the BTO's survey work in my region provides me with enormous satisfaction, but I must also pay tribute to the commitment of the region's volunteer fieldworkers'*

Dawn Balmer, BTO Atlas Organiser, said, *"Norman's common sense approach and constructive help have been a huge asset to the Trust, and continue to be so. However, it is his vast experience in organising fieldwork and surveys that has been his greatest asset. It is his dedication to this and his enormous contribution that make him a worthy recipient of the Jubilee Medal."*

More >>

Notes for editors

1. **The Jubilee Medal** is ‘for committed devotion to the Trust’ – *i.e.* for contributions to the Trust other than directly to its scientific work. The Medal was first awarded in 1983, the year of the BTO’s Golden Jubilee, and is awarded annually.
2. **The BTO is the UK’s leading bird research organisation.** Over thirty thousand birdwatchers contribute to the BTO’s surveys. They collect information that forms the basis of conservation action in the UK. The BTO maintains a staff of 100 at its offices in Norfolk and Stirling, who analyse and publicise the results of project work. The BTO’s investigations are funded by government, industry and conservation organisations.
3. **Bird ringing in Britain and Ireland is organised and co-ordinated by the BTO.** A network of over 2,000 highly trained and licensed volunteers currently ring over 850,000 birds every year. The skills necessary to become a ringer can only be learnt by practice under the close supervision of experienced ringers. For this reason, ringers undertake a period of training of at least one or two years, during which they are only allowed to ring birds under supervision.

Contact information

Paul Stancliffe (BTO Press Officer)

Office: 01842 750050 (9am to 5.30pm)

Mobile: 07845 900559 (anytime)

Email: press@bto.org

Images are available for use alongside this News Release

Please contact images@bto.org quoting reference 2009-12-50

The BTO has an ISDN line available for radio interviews

Please contact us to book an interview

Office: 01842 750050