



Virtual Summer Meeting

Saturday 15th August 2020

Programme times are British Summer Time (GMT+1)

10.30 Introduction & welcome – Rob Sheldon, OSME Chairman

10.40 Socotra: updates from an Arabian Jewel - Richard Porter

11.10 Developing the next generation of birders in Azerbaijan - Zülfü Ferecli

11.30 The birds of Lebanon - Dr Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi

11.50 Steppe by steppe: in search of the Great Bustard in Central Asia – Dr Mimi Kessler

12.10 Meet the Sandgrouse Editor – discussion with Dr Paul Donald

12.40 Closing comments – Rob Sheldon, OSME Chairman

All welcome!

Free to attend

[Please register for the summer meeting here](#)



Richard Porter

Richard is BirdLife International's adviser on conservation in the Middle East. He is a member of OSME's Conservation Fund committee and as an OSME founder, continues to support the society in many ways. Richard's talk on Socotra will update us on the status of this World Heritage Site.



Zülfü Ferecli

Zulfu is a birder from Azerbaijan who is trying to improve understanding of birdwatching and conservation especially in his hometown Nakhchivan. He will be shedding light on why awareness of ornithofauna is essential for local and regional conservation efforts.



Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi

Ghassan Ramadan-Jaradi, eco-ornithologist, recently retired from the Lebanese University in Beirut, is the Executive Director of the Lebanese Rare Bird Committee and an incessant ornithological researcher. He will talk about the most recent updated checklist of the birds of Lebanon.



Mimi Kessler

Dr Mimi Kessler serves as Director of the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and Deputy Chair of the IUCN Bustard Specialist Group. She has worked with the Great Bustard in Asia since 2006. Her talk will cover the ecology and status of Great Bustard populations in Central Asia.



Paul Donald

Paul Donald is currently Editor of Sandgrouse, Senior Scientist at BirdLife International and Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge. Paul will lead an interactive session seeking views and opinions on how OSME's journal could develop in the future.



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