



Virtual Summer Meeting

Saturday 12th June 2021

Programme times are British Summer Time (GMT+1)

**10.30 Introduction & welcome – Rob Sheldon,
OSME Chairman**

**10.40 SSCW: Conservation in Syria under adverse
conditions - Nabegh Ghazal Asswad**

**11.10 Turkestan Ground Jay in Uzbekistan: a bird
endemic to the deserts of central Asia - John
Burnside**

**11.30 Post-fledging behaviour of Cyprus Wheatear
- Patrick Styles**

**11.50 Waterbird Ecology Meets Youth Development
to Save the White-headed Ducks of Central
Anatolia - Kaan Özgencil**

**12.10 Closing comments – Rob Sheldon, OSME
Chairman**

All welcome!

Free to attend

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



osme.org



Nabegh Ghazal Asswad

Dr. Asswad is the Conservation officer at BirdLife Middle East. He has been a Vice President of OSME since 2013, member of the Conservation Research Fund and assisted in editing and revising the Arabic version of the field Guide for Birds of the Middle East. He chaired the Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (2012-2017) and was involved in various activities for the conservation of birds and for field surveys with SSCW team.

John Burnside



John Burnside has worked on the ecology and conservation of the Asian Houbara in Uzbekistan. While studying the houbara, he often observed endemic Turkestan Ground Jay. The species had not been studied in the wild since soviet times. In 2019, in collaboration with Anna Ten (Uzbekistan Institute of Zoology), and the support of the OSME Conservation Research Fund, John and his team undertook fieldwork to study and estimate the breeding productivity of the Ground Jay in Uzbekistan.

Patrick Styles



Patrick graduated with a Zoology degree from the University of St Andrews in 2017, before working as a ranger on the south coast of England, and then as an assistant warden for the RSPB in the Inner Hebrides. In 2019 he returned to St Andrews to undertake a Research Masters in Ecology with Prof Will Cresswell on Cyprus Wheatear. He spent 5 months radio tracking Cyprus Wheatears to study their post-fledging dispersal.

Kaan Özgencil



Kaan's studies focus on avian community ecology and conservation. The talk will be about a biodiversity conservation and youth development project, funded by OSME's Youth Development Fund and the French Embassy in Turkey's Biodiversity Conservation Fund. The project aims to understand the factors shaping the breeding microhabitat preferences of the White-headed Duck and helping raise the next generation of female ecologists and conservationists in Turkey.