



CONSERVATION BREEDING AND HUSBANDRY OF BIRDS

6-10 NOVEMBER 2017, JERSEY



DURRELL
CONSERVATION
ACADEMY

 **Royal Society of
Biology**
APPROVED BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY
OF BIOLOGY FOR PURPOSES OF CPD

YOUR INVITATION...

Successful conservation action involves a wide variety of cross-disciplinary skills. Durrell's experience of running successful conservation programmes provides significant insight which feeds into our training programmes. We hope you will be able to join us on this specialist course.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Tim" and "Wright" being capitalized and prominent.

DR TIM WRIGHT
ACADEMY MANAGER



COURSE OVERVIEW

The Conservation Breeding and Husbandry of Birds is a five-day course designed to equip you with the necessary skills to successfully manage and breed birds in captivity.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The course is targeted at curators, keepers and veterinarians from zoos and other institutions (e.g. universities) and private keepers involved in the captive management of birds.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT?

The course will cover the following topics:

- Planning your captive bird collection; making the link to the wild
- Bird behaviour and ecology
- Enclosure design and management
- Hand rearing and incubation techniques
- Record keeping and population management
- Feeding and nutrition.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you will have:

- ✓ How to plan a captive bird collection, ensuring appropriate links to the wild;
- ✓ Relevant aspects of bird behaviour and ecology, and how they inform the husbandry needs of our birds;
- ✓ The principles of bird enclosure design and management;
- ✓ Key points of artificial incubation and hand rearing techniques;
- ✓ Record keeping and population management for birds;
- ✓ The importance of minimising stress through correct husbandry and management;
- ✓ Key factors for managing health within your collection;
- ✓ Best practice feeding and nutrition for birds;
- ✓ How we can more effectively contribute to the conservation of threatened birds.

The course will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on passerines, wildfowl and pigeons.



COURSE OUTLINE

In addition to the following, the first two hours of each day will be spent either getting practical work experience on Durrell's animal sections, or developing skills in behavioural observations.

WEEK ONE

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Planning and managing your bird collection

Day one introduces the key issues we need to address in order to successfully manage and breed our birds in a captive environment. We will also look at the status of bird populations currently in captivity, and take a critical look at how we prioritise which species to work with, and how it supports their conservation.

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER

Enclosure design and nutrition

Day two focuses on the principles of good enclosure design for various groups of birds, and the factors we need to consider. As with other animals, it is important to also take into account the natural biology and ecology of our species. We will also look at bird nutrition and diets, and live food production today.

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Reproduction

Day three focuses on various aspects of breeding. We will go through the principles and practice of artificial incubation techniques, and consider hand-rearing techniques for various groups of birds. There will be plenty of hands-on practical activities with egg candling, cracked egg repair, determining egg weight loss etc

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER

Managing bird health and welfare

On day four we will take a detailed look at key aspects of health management – keeping our birds healthy, and what infectious and non-infectious diseases to look out for. We will also spend time thinking about the value of training in improving the health, welfare and management of our birds – both in theory and in practice.

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER

Future directions for zoos in bird conservation

On day five we will revisit practical aspects of avian enclosure design, and take a practical look at the need to actively manage populations of birds (with a brief hands-on introduction to studbook analysis). We will then take a detailed look at how we can more effectively contribute to the bigger picture of bird conservation, and link our work to in-situ activities. We will also go over what we have covered over the course, with an opportunity for you to ask for any clarification, and a chance for you to think about how you can apply the skills in your professional life.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE COURSE OUTLINE MAY BE SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES.

COURSE LEADERS



Dr Glyn Young

HEAD OF THE BIRD DEPARTMENT, DURRELL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

Glyn works on programmes in Jersey and around the world specialising in wildfowl of the Indian Ocean, his MSc and PhD are for research on Meller's duck and Madagascar teal. He first visited Madagascar in 1989 searching for Madagascar pochard, finally seeing one in 2006. He now manages Durrell's captive-breeding programme for this species. In 2005, Glyn was invited to Galápagos to identify the decline of mangrove finch and develop conservation plans for this species. He works closely with Jersey's Department of the Environment managing bird monitoring in the Island, Durrell's work within Birds On The Edge, this project's website www.birdsontheedge.org and red-billed chough reintroduction.



Harriet Whitford

DEPUTY HEAD OF BIRD DEPARTMENT, DURRELL

Harri first joined Durrell's Bird department in 1999. Originally trained on all routines, she has spent most of her time to date working on the Wetland section. She is responsible for both the Meller's duck and Madagascar teal studbook and has a keen interest in avian incubation. While developing and applying her incubation skills here, she has also applied her knowledge in-situ; incubating and hand rearing both the Madagascar fody and olive white-eye in Mauritius.



Professor Carl Jones MBE (TO BE CONFIRMED)

CHIEF SCIENTIST, DURRELL

Carl is Durrell's Chief Scientist as well as Scientific Director of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, and an Honorary Professor in Ecology and Conservation Biology at the University of East Anglia. Carl began working in Mauritius in 1979 and his dedication has led to the restoration of many species and habitats, for which he received the prestigious Indianapolis Prize in 2016. Carl leads Durrell's engagement in the Mascarenes and supports various aspects of Durrell's conservation breeding in Jersey.



David Woolcock

CURATOR OF PARADISE PARK

David, is a professional member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators and is both a Founding Trustee of the World Parrot Trust and the Curator of Paradise Park, Hayle, the home of the World Parrot Trust. His interest in parrots started when he kept and bred African Ringnecked Parakeets from the age of eleven. Since then his career has developed and has allowed him the opportunity to work with some of the rarest and most charismatic birds on the planet.

VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The course will be held at Durrell Conservation Academy in Jersey, Channel Islands.

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (Durrell) was established by the world renowned naturalist and author Gerald Durrell in 1963 with the primary aim of saving species from extinction. We now run 46 projects in 14 countries worldwide and have played a pivotal role in the recovery efforts for several species.

Durrell Conservation Academy is located at the Trust's headquarters, Jersey Zoo. In 1984 Gerald Durrell formally established the International Training Centre (now known as Durrell Conservation Academy) on Jersey as a form of "mini university" designed to equip conservationists from across the world with the animal management and critical

thinking skills required to bring species back from imminent demise. Since this time the academy has taught over 5,500 people (both conservation practitioners and conservation students) from 142 countries.

Our facilities include a 54 seat purpose built lecture theatre, two libraries, a computer lab and a classroom. There is 24 hour access to our computers and free Wi-Fi is available throughout.

Most course participants choose to stay at our YHA accredited hostel, which is immediately adjacent to Durrell Conservation Academy. You will stay in shared rooms in our hostel-style residence right next to the Zoo. The residence includes a TV lounge and dining room, where meals are served for course participants.



COST AND BOOKING INFORMATION

The course fee is £575

Optional full board accommodation is available in our on-site hostel for £43 per person per night.

Optional lunches are available for non-residents at £6 per person per day.

For further information or to book a place, please contact +44 (0)1534 860037 or email academy@durrell.org



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SAVING SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION