

Grrr...Go Wild with the Edinburgh Zoo and the Science Festival in 2009...

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland are celebrating their centenary this year with a number of absorbing talks and discussions as part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

There are events which examine the conservation and protection of wildlife both home and abroad - from the life of ospreys and the near extinction of the Scottish Wildcat, to the consequences of wildlife threats in China and follow-on risks to a significant proportion of the world's wildlife.

174 events. 26 venues. Edinburgh International Science Festival – the world's first and Europe's largest celebration of science and technology. For details of all Science Festival events, visit www.sciencefestival.co.uk. Online booking: www.sciencefestival.co.uk. Booking hotline: 0131 553 0322



Predators and People – Living with the Enemy • Tessa McGregor (Natural history broadcaster) • 6 April • 7pm-8pm • Edinburgh Zoo Education Centre • £6 (£4) • An exploration of our complex relationship with large carnivores, the role they play in different habitats and their profound influence on the human psyche. Are we compatible in today's world? • Organised by Edinburgh Zoo

Is There Such A Thing As A Good Or A Bad Animal? • Peter Cairns (Nature photographer and writer) • 9 April • 7.30pm-8.30pm • Edinburgh Zoo Budongo Lecture Theatre • £6 (£4) • Exploring our attitudes towards certain species – predators in particular – and against a backdrop of stunning imagery, discusses how those perceptions reflect our changing relationship with nature as a whole • Organised by Edinburgh Zoo

Culture Evolves In The Animal World • Professor Andrew Whiten (Professor of Evolutionary and Developmental Psychology, and Wardlaw Professor of Psychology, University of St Andrews) • 18 April • 2pm-3pm • Edinburgh Zoo Education Centre • £6 (£4) • The ability of humans to build up complex cultures seems to put us on a different plane to other animals. It's what has allowed us to dominate the planet. In recent years, however, long-term studies of other species have revealed various signs of culture • Organised by Edinburgh Zoo



Identifying A Future For The Scottish Wildcat • Dr Andrew Kitchener (National Museum of Scotland) • 10 April • 2pm-3pm • Edinburgh Zoo Education Centre • £6 (£4) • Habitat loss and hunting took the Scottish wildcat to the brink of extinction by the early 20th Century, but recent recovery resulted in hybridisation with domestic cats, confusing the wildcat's identity, compromising full legal protection and may finally result in its extinction • Organised by Edinburgh Zoo

A Life of Ospreys • Roy Dennis (Highland Foundation for Wildlife) • 18 April • 4pm-5pm • Edinburgh Zoo Education Centre • £6 (£4) • A richly illustrated talk tells the story of ospreys in Scotland and the UK, revealing their ecology, history, conservation and threats as well as special projects such as colour ringing, reintroduction and tracking their amazing migrations by satellite radios • Organised by Edinburgh Zoo

Nature Tech – Episode I The Magic of Motion • John Capener (Natural history film maker) • 6 April • 3pm-4pm • Edinburgh Zoo Education Centre • £6 (£4) • Why is the spider's web tougher than steel? Exciting new developments in computer technology, chemistry and physics help us understand nature's designs better than ever before. Scientists are not simply trying to copy nature – they are taking hints and applying winning designs of evolution in a new, human context. This film, The Magic of Motion, covers nature's winning high-speed, long-range and all-terrain motion designs such as Germany's recent tuna-fish sonic jet • Organised by Edinburgh Zoo

Wildlife Conservation in China • Zhaoyuan Li (Chinese field biologist) • 11 April • 4pm-5pm • Edinburgh Zoo Education Centre • £6 (£4) • China hosts a significant proportion of the world's wildlife, including species that are endemic to the country. These species are important components of ecosystems but, with rapid economic growth, humans are threatening their survival • Organised by Edinburgh Zoo



Durrell: 50 Years of Commitment to Conservation • Lee Durrell (conservationist and author) • 11 April • 7pm-8pm • George Square Theatre • £8 (£6) • Fifty years after Gerald Durrell started his animal sanctuary in Jersey, Lee Durrell reviews the many achievements of the Trust in its mission to save species from extinction, from its work with island fauna around the world to its international training programme for conservation practitioners. She examines how the Trust intends to meet the many challenges facing species conservation over the next 50 years.