



UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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Media Release

From the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

19th November, 2009
For Immediate Release:

Wild bird care in the garden UFAW International Symposium, London, 2010

A scientific look at large scale, do-it-yourself wildlife management, '*Wild bird care in the garden*' is the subject of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) International Symposium to be held in London at the beginning of May 2010.

In recent years, there has been a huge growth of interest in feeding garden birds in many countries. In the UK, the amounts provided make a significant contribution to the annual food requirements of many bird populations. At a time when human changes to the environment are a major threat to many other species, garden bird feeding is grass roots, do-it-yourself wildlife management on a large scale.

Whether we like it or not, in meeting the needs of the vast and rapidly growing human population and in tackling the associated environmental consequences, the whole world is becoming a managed environment. Can lessons learned from caring for free-living backyard wildlife be applied more widely to help conserve biodiversity and to avoid adversely affecting wildlife welfare?

The aim of this Symposium is to consider these questions and to share the results of recent research and advances in understanding on various aspects of the feeding and management of garden birds – matters that UFAW and others have been working on together in recent years through the Garden Bird Health Initiative (see <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/gbhi.php>).

Talks will include, amongst others: '*Impacts of over-winter feeding on health and productivity*' (Jonathan Blount and Stuart Bearhop, University of Exeter); '*Provision of supplementary food at garden feeding stations and its value to wild birds in Britain and Ireland*' (Mike Toms and David Glue, British Trust for Ornithology); '*Factors influencing disease transmission at garden feeding stations: a national analysis*' (Liz Humphreys, Rob Robinson, Becki Lawson and Mike Toms, BTO and Institute of Zoology); and '*Trichomonosis – an emerging threat to garden birds*' (Becki Lawson, Institute of Zoology).

If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster at the symposium please contact UFAW (details below) as soon as possible.

For further information about the symposium or to register your interest in attending contact Stephen Wickens, Development Officer, UFAW, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN. Telephone +44 (0)1582 831818, fax +44 (0)1582 831414, email wickens@ufaw.org.uk, website www.ufaw.org.uk.

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SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: James K Kirkwood BVSc PhD CBiol FIBiol MRCVS

Secretary: Donald C Davidson

Registered Charity No. 207996 (Registered in England) and Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991



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Note to Editors:

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an internationally recognised, independent scientific and educational animal welfare charity. It works to improve knowledge and understanding of animals' needs in order to achieve high standards of welfare for farm, companion, research, captive wild animals and those with which we interact in the wild.

UFAW improves animal welfare worldwide through its programme of awards, grants and scholarships; by educational initiatives, especially at university and college level; by providing information in books, videos, reports and in its scientific journal *Animal Welfare*; by providing expert advice to governments and others, including for legislation and 'best practice' guidelines and codes; and by working with animal keepers, scientists, vets, lawyers and all those who care about animals.

This work relies on the support of members, subscribers and donors.

Symposium Programme Details

Speakers who will be contributing talks to the symposium in the following areas include:

- **James Kirkwood** (Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) Introduction: the garden bird health initiative
- **Chris Whittles** (CJ WildBird Foods Ltd) The history of garden bird feeding
- **Darryl Jones** (Griffith University, Australia) Feeding wild birds: why we need to know more about a global experiment
- **Jonathan Blount and Stuart Bearhop** (University of Exeter) Impacts of over-winter feeding on health and productivity
- **S James Reynolds** (University of Birmingham) Effects of food supplementation in spring and early summer on breeding performance
- **Will Peach** (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) The RSPB house sparrow feeding trial in London
- **Mike Toms and David Glue** (British Trust for Ornithology) Provision of supplementary food at garden feeding stations and its value to wild birds in Britain and Ireland
- **Liz Humphreys¹, Rob Robinson¹, Becki Lawson² and Mike Toms¹** (¹BTO, ²Institute of Zoology) Factors influencing disease transmission at garden feeding stations: a national analysis
- **David Leech and Vivienne Greenough** (British Trust for Ornithology) Monitoring breeding success of urban birds: the BTOs nest box challenge
- **Becki Lawson** (Institute of Zoology) Trichomonosis – an emerging threat to garden birds
- **André Dhondt** (Cornell University, USA) Dynamics of mycoplasmal conjunctivitis in house finches
- **Scott McBurney, Spencer Greenwood, Raphaël Vanderstichel and María Forzán** (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada) A pilot study to determine epidemiological factors associated with the emergence of trichomonosis in wild finch populations of the Canadian Maritime Provinces

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