We are excited to announce the 5th annual World Seabird Twitter Conference #WSTC5! This is an opportunity to learn about seabird research and conservation around the world from the comfort of your home, office, or field station. #WSTC5 will take place 9-11 April 2019.

**Past WSTCs**

The World Seabird Twitter Conference has been a success for four years running. For example, during only the three days of the conference, the #WSTC4 hashtag was used 2,667 times by 601 contributors – reaching 1.2 million people. We had 100 presenters from over 20 countries – making it a truly global event.

**#WSTC5**

**What is a twitter conference?**

A Twitter conference, as the name suggests, takes place on Twitter. During the conference, each presenter gets 15 minutes in which to tweet out four tweets about their topic. By following the hashtag specific to the conference (#WSTC5) the tweets can then be seen by people from all over the world. Just like at a normal academic conference it allows you to present your work, catch up on the work of others and network with people in your field – but with the added benefits that it is all completely free and low carbon and you reach a much wider audience.

**How do I participate?**

You only need to search for the twitter hashtag #WSTC5 to see all posts related to the conference. There will also be session-specific hashtags (see table below) allowing you to follow topics you are particularly interested in and you can also find a complete programme on this website. You are encouraged to get involved and interact with the presenters and other spectators. In this case, you need to get a twitter account if you don't already have one – which can be easily done at <http://www.twitter.com> (see next section for how to get started with Twitter). If you are presenting at the conference, you can find more information further down.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Session | Session Hashtag | Date and Time |
| Foraging Ecology 1 | #ForSesh1 | 9 April 11:30 UTC |
| Conservation Biology 2 | #ConsSesh1 | 9 April 13:30 UTC |
| Tracking and Distribution | #DistSesh | 9 April 16:30 UTC |
| Foraging Ecology 2 | #ForSesh2 | 10 April 07:00 UTC |
| Population Biology 1 | #PopSesh1 | 10 April 10:00 UTC |
| Conservation Biology 2 | #ConsSesh2 | 10 April 12:45 UTC |
| Behaviour | #BehaSesh | 10 April 15:30 UTC |
| Foraging Ecology 3 | #ForSesh3 | 10 April 18:00 UTC |
| Population Biology 2 | #PopSesh2 | 10 April 20:15 UTC |
| Tools and Techniques | #ToolSesh | 11 April 06:30 UTC |
| Contaminants and Marine Debris 1 | #ContSesh1 | 11 April 08:30 UTC |
| Conservation Biology 3 | #ConsSesh3 | 11 April 12:30 UTC |
| Fisheries | #FishSesh | 11 April 15:30 UTC |
| Contaminants and Marine Debris 2 | #ContSesh2 | 11 April 18:30 UTC |
| Genetics | #GenSesh | 11 April 20:15 UTC |

Interacting by asking questions, re-tweeting (<https://www.bou.org.uk/twitter-masterclass-11/>) and liking the tweets is an incredibly important part of the conference. You can either do this live during the presentation times, but you can also use the breaks between sessions to catch up on the presentations and ask questions. When asking a question, please reply to the tweet (see <https://www.bou.org.uk/twitter-masterclass-10-twitter-basics-2/>) and include the hashtag #WSTC5. Example: @agnesolin #WSTC5 Do the kittiwakes eat both adult and juveniles sandeels in equal proportions?

**What if I don't know how to use twitter?**

There are a lot of online resources to help you learn how to use and get the most out of Twitter. We find the “masterclasses” produced by the BOU particularly helpful.

This is a good one for getting to terms with the basics:

<https://www.bou.org.uk/twitter-masterclass-9/>

Here are instructions on how to set up a Twitter account:

<https://help.twitter.com/en/create-twitter-account>

Once you have set up an account it is a good idea to follow some of the larger seabird groups, which will help you make sure that you get content that you are interested in. (Suggestions: @Seabirders @PacificSeabirds @TheSeabirdGroup @ LAseabirdgroup @AUS\_NZ\_Seabirds @Seabird\_SOS). From here you can then find and follow other accounts you are interested in.

It is a good idea to make sure that your profile shows who you are and what you do. Here is another BOU masterclass on how to get your profile sorted:

<https://www.bou.org.uk/twitter-masterclass-13/>

If you’re still confused about how to navigate Twitter – please get in touch at [wstc.seabirds@gmail.com](mailto:wstc.seabirds@gmail.com)

**Plenaries**

We are excited to have some great plenaries this year!

**Rachael Orben** (@RachaelOrben, 9 April 16:30 UTC)

Title TBC

**Jacob González-Solís** (@SeabirdEcology, 10 April 12:45 UTC)

“Conserving the double life of seabirds in Cape Verde islands”

**Nic Rawlence** (@nic\_rawlence\_nz, 11 April 21:30 UTC)

**“**Sentinels of change: Ancient DNA shows seabirds are key indicators of a dynamic world**”**

**Prizes**

Our sponsors have provided some fantastic prizes for this year, which we are very grateful for.

The Seabird Group (http://www.seabirdgroup.org.uk/) is sponsoring and ECR prize.

The Pacific Seabird Group is sponsoring a special Pacific prize.

**Information for Presenters**

The programme can be found on this website, and you should also have received emails with your date, time and session. Make sure that you are certain of the time you are presenting and how it translates to your own time zone (please get in touch if you are unsure). You have 15 min in which to present your four tweets (each of which is 280 characters). If you are unable to be present during your allocated time slot, you can schedule your tweets so that they get posted automatically without you having to be online (see below for details on how to do this). However, we encourage all presenters to try to be available during their slot to answer questions.

Below is an example presentation from Rowan Mott from #WSTC4 to get an idea what the presentations may look like:

**<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">1/4 <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/WSTC4?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#WSTC4</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ManPolPlan1?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ManPolPlan1</a>. <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/InvasiveSpecies?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#InvasiveSpecies</a> decimate <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/seabird?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#seabird</a> colonies globally. Rats, cats, and mice are the main culprits, but <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ants?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ants</a> can also be a threat. At Ashmore Reef (eastern Indian Ocean), invasive Tropical <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/FireAnts?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#FireAnts</a> kill hatchling seabirds and disturb incubating adults. <a href="https://t.co/mvvBHf02vq">pic.twitter.com/mvvBHf02vq</a></p>&mdash; Rowan Mott (@roamingmoth) <a href="https://twitter.com/roamingmoth/status/986401493438816256?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 18, 2018</a></blockquote>**

**<script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>**

**<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">2/4 <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/WSTC4?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#WSTC4</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ManPolPlan1?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ManPolPlan1</a> We studied Red-tailed <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/Tropicbird?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#Tropicbird</a> nest site fidelity &amp; its potential to inform localised Tropical <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/FireAnt?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#FireAnt</a> control until eradication can be achieved. We measured distance between successive <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/nest?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#nest</a> sites for individual <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/birds?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#birds</a> across three <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/breeding?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#breeding</a> seasons. <a href="https://t.co/SYe4oyMT2H">pic.twitter.com/SYe4oyMT2H</a></p>&mdash; Rowan Mott (@roamingmoth) <a href="https://twitter.com/roamingmoth/status/986402228297654272?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 18, 2018</a></blockquote>**

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**<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">3/4 <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/WSTC4?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#WSTC4</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ManPolPlan1?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ManPolPlan1</a>. Individual <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/RedtailedTropicbirds?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#RedtailedTropicbirds</a> nested a median of 13.4m from their previous year’s nest. As Tropical <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/FireAnts?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#FireAnts</a> range &gt;9m from their colony, periodic <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/baiting?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#baiting</a> within 13.4m of <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/tropicbird?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#tropicbird</a> nest sites would benefit 69% of future tropicbird nesting attempts. <a href="https://t.co/shL8hVE71v">pic.twitter.com/shL8hVE71v</a></p>&mdash; Rowan Mott (@roamingmoth) <a href="https://twitter.com/roamingmoth/status/986402997751070720?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 18, 2018</a></blockquote>**

**<script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>**

**<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">4/4 <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/WSTC4?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#WSTC4</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ManPolPlan1?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ManPolPlan1</a> The Ashmore Reef Red-tailed <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/Tropicbird?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#Tropicbird</a> population is small (20 nests) so effort &amp; cost for this interim <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/management?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#management</a> action is low. Only 0.85ha would need <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/baiting?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#baiting</a> and this can occur during the non-breeding season to remove disturbance to breeding <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/birds?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#birds</a>. <a href="https://t.co/5OeoLTrxGY">pic.twitter.com/5OeoLTrxGY</a></p>&mdash; Rowan Mott (@roamingmoth) <a href="https://twitter.com/roamingmoth/status/986403706240360448?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 18, 2018</a></blockquote>**

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**Drafting your Tweets**

It is best to draft your tweets ahead of time to avoid issues during the event. Again, you are allowed four tweets. Each tweet needs to be numbered (1-4) and needs to start with the conference hashtag #WSTC5 and the hashtag specific to your session (e.g. 1 #WSTC5 #ConsSesh1). The session hashtags can be found in the table above – get in touch if you are unsure of which one to use. Beyond that, the content of the tweets is up to yourself! Many choose to follow a traditional introduction-methods-results-discussion format, but this is not necessary.

Some tips:

1. Get creative! The strict character limit forces you to be creative with how you present your work. Use graphics, photos, GIFs, videos, infographics and anything else you can think of to get people's attention. Last year this video from @ArcticEcology got a lot of attention:

<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">(1/4) Murre on a Mission: Some seabirds are essentially solitary foragers with little evidence of competition with conspecifics <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ForgEco2?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ForgEco2</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/WSTC4?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#WSTC4</a> <a href="https://t.co/U33ZXlpT9D">pic.twitter.com/U33ZXlpT9D</a></p>&mdash; Kyle Elliott (@ArcticEcology) <a href="https://twitter.com/ArcticEcology/status/986320062893187072?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 17, 2018</a></blockquote>

<script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>

1. You can help draw in a very large audience if you use hashtags in a clever way. Many people follow hashtags such as #ornithology and #seabirds and depending on your topic of presentation you may be able to draw in a much larger audience than just the conference attendees. Here is an example from Kat Keogan’s presentation from last year:

<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">3. <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/WSTC4?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#WSTC4</a> hugely <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/collaborative?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#collaborative</a> global <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/phylogenetic?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#phylogenetic</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/metaanalysis?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#metaanalysis</a> of <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/seabird?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#seabird</a> breeding <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/phenology?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#phenology</a> indicated NO trends over TIME or SST. High between year variance = <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/shags?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#shags</a> &amp; <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/gannets?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#gannets</a>; low = <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/albatross?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#albatross</a> &amp; <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/petrels?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#petrels</a>. More results here! <a href="https://t.co/fNeGWQl5Bg">https://t.co/fNeGWQl5Bg</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ClimCha?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ClimCha</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ornithology?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ornithology</a> <a href="https://t.co/NYYyDrdyMh">pic.twitter.com/NYYyDrdyMh</a></p>&mdash; Kat Keogan (@KatharineKeogan) <a href="https://twitter.com/KatharineKeogan/status/986209660226146305?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 17, 2018</a></blockquote>

<script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>

For useful hashtags for ornithologists, check out the list below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| #Seabirds | #SeabirderSaturday | #Birdbanding | #BirdMigration |
| #Migration | #MigratorySpecies | #Ornithology | #Petrelhead |
| #TeamAuk | #TeamGull | #TeamPetrel | #TeamSkua |

1. If you formulate short simple sentences you can get a lot of information into a single tweet. Spend some time editing your tweet to increase clarity and avoid complex sentences and you can get a lot of information across in a very small space. The tweet below from Mark Miller from #WSTC4 is a good example of how this can be done well using some imagination:

<blockquote class="twitter-tweet" data-lang="en"><p lang="en" dir="ltr">3 <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/WSTC4?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#WSTC4</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/hashtag/ForgEcol1?src=hash&amp;ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">#ForgEcol1</a> Heron pop. consistently dual-foraged, Lord Howe switched between unimodal and dual-foraging. GPS and Isotopes showed Lord Howe 🐣 and 🐦 both normally sustained by Tasman Sea resources whereas Heron 🐣 sustained by reef and 🐦 by Coral Sea resources <a href="https://t.co/c9OJIsVDE0">pic.twitter.com/c9OJIsVDE0</a></p>&mdash; Mark Miller (@lark\_gorilla) <a href="https://twitter.com/lark\_gorilla/status/986180802110197760?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw">April 17, 2018</a></blockquote>

<script async src="https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js" charset="utf-8"></script>

This Twitter thread also highlights some previous presentations to give you some more inspiration: <https://t.co/vhaJgVGX09> If you want help with proof-reading your tweets (in English, Spanish or French) or translating your tweets (to/from English, Spanish or French) get in touch at [wstc.seabirds@gmail.com](mailto:wstc.seabirds@gmail.com).

**Tweeting your Tweets**

You can either tweet out your tweets as individual tweets or you can thread them together. Threading them together means that your four tweets stick together, which makes sure that your tweets are always seen together and in order. This WikiHow page shows you how to thread your tweets together: <https://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Twitter-Thread>

While threading helps to keep your tweets together it is not necessary – you can also tweet them out individually. You can either tweet them all at once in the beginning or space them out – it is up to you – but remember to leave some space after your last tweet for questions before the next presentation starts.

Again, ideally you should be present during the presentation to make sure it all works out ok and to be around to answer any questions. However, if it turns out that this is not possible, you can schedule your tweets in advance. Scheduling can be done using services such as Tweetdeck, Hootsuite, or Buffer. We suggest that if you do need to schedule your tweets in advance, try out scheduling a tweet using a similar type of content (images, GIFs, videos) in advance to make sure that it works in time for when the conference comes around.

If you’re tweeting in several languages you can either tweet each language as its own thread or you can tweet them in order (so for example French tweet 1, English tweet 1, French tweet 2, English tweet 2 etc.).

It is also important that you make sure your account is public and tweets are not protected so they are visible to everyone. Extra-check this before the conference!

**Still have questions?**

You can always get in touch with us on [wstc.seabirds@gmail.com](mailto:wstc.seabirds@gmail.com) if you have questions at any point.