

BTO YOUTH

REFLECTIONS

Passing on a love of birds

In a fast-changing world where technology is rapidly improving, intergenerational birding is a shared experience where both sides benefit from a perfect combination of wisdom and youthful exuberance. The mutual transfer of knowledge and experience between generations helps facilitate a wider and deeper understanding of birds and the natural environment. Birding across generations allow for a more complete development of your skills; from understanding the birds, to how to use technology, and becoming part of the birdwatching community.

As the BTO Youth Representative for Gloucestershire, I aim to increase these intergenerational interactions as I believe they provide both parties with great opportunities. Using technology, such as the many birdwatching apps that are out there,



▲ Jose and BTO Regional Rep for Gloucestershire, Gordon Kirk.

JOSE KIMBURI & GORDON KIRK: OLIVER NORRIS

with traditional tools such as binoculars and telescopes, can really make birdwatching even more interesting, enhancing the birding experience. The passing down of knowledge and traditional practices from the older generation also preserves the art of birdwatching.

Last year, I took part in the Big Bird Race 2023 which highlighted the true essence of intergenerational birding. It was not just about lessons in ornithology, but the interpersonal connections it created and nurtured. It allowed us to work in harmony with each other, gaining mutual respect and

appreciation for each of our perspectives and experiences. Furthermore, when we were discussing different ideas, the generation gap dissipated and was replaced by a shared passion for birds and a desire to learn more.

The Bird Race really exemplified the richness that lies in these intergenerational encounters, fostering a profound appreciation and admiration for each other. I hope to continue sharing my birding experiences when I am part of the 'older generation', so that the tradition of intergenerational birding is passed on.

Jose Kimburi



▲ Bird ringing at the 2023 Northern Ireland Bird Camp.

SAVE THE DATES!

BTO Bird Camps return!

We're delighted to announce the 2024 Bird Camps! The camps are aimed at young people aged 11–17 across the four countries. They are completely free of charge and are a great opportunity to connect with, and learn about, the natural world. Alongside this, camp participants will work with local artists, focus on mindfulness, and have the opportunity to make friends with a shared interest in birds! The four camps will be:

Northern Ireland, Co. Tyrone: 24–26 May

Scotland*, East Lothian: 31 May–2 June

England, Cumbria: 28–30 June

Wales, Pembrokeshire: 19–21 July

*Scotland Bird Camp is delivered in partnership with Scottish Ornithologists' Club and is open to young people aged 10–16.

Find out more To find out more and to apply, visit: www.bto.org/youth-events

NI BIRD CAMP 2023: FAYE VOGEL/BTO