

# Jeff Blincow - Illustrated Wildlife Lectures

I have enjoyed bird-watching all of my life. I worked as a teacher of Information Technology and have been lecturing about wildlife since 1980 on such topics as Ecuador, Australia, Beetles, Fungi, Mammals, Bird Families and Bird Flight. I have travelled widely and my concentration on South America in the 90's led me to be one of the founder committee members of the Neotropical Bird Club. My interests broadened to all aspects of wildlife and I became a member of the conservation team at Yardley Chase Training Area in Northamptonshire where I have surveyed beetles, fungi and Great-crested Newts. I spend each summer recording wildlife in Norway.

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## Lectures from around the world

### Wildlife in Finnmark

I first visited Finnmark in 1980 primarily to see the birdlife. Luckily I have friends that live there and I have returned every summer for the last few years to enjoy and study the wildlife. Finnmark is the northern part of Norway with Finland to the south and Russia to the east. Most of the area where I record wildlife is either classic alpine or arctic tundra habitats. These are seriously harsh conditions for plants and animals to survive and the Lecture will focus on these true survivors of Europe.

### Chile Wildlife - South to North

With more than 2500 miles north to south, the cold Pacific to the west and the High Andes dominating the east, Chile offers such a wide variety of climatic and floristic zones that there is so much to see. With Tierra del Fuego in the south and the Atacama Desert in the north I was able to see three species of penguin and several copiapoa cacti on the same trip. As one travels through the landscape you have to shift seamlessly from birds to mammals to insects to plants to truly appreciate all that this country has to offer. This unique country is very rich for wildlife and I will draw on experiences from three trips over 5 years.

### Birdwatching in Yunnan

This Lecture highlights the superb birds seen on a trip to south-west China in the winter. Yunnan has a varied landscape with snow-capped mountains, lakes, deep gorges and rich sub-tropical forest in the south. At first, visiting in winter, would appear an unusual idea, but the lowland forests along the Burmese border hold a strong resident avifauna and the region is the wintering ground for migrants from nearly all points of the compass. Many of the misplaced eastern rarities that reach the UK shores in the autumn were headed for the forests of Yunnan to join the laughing-thrushes and pheasants that grace the remaining forests.

### Mammals of South America

South America does not have the larger herbivores found on the plains of Africa or the big five, but it does have more mammal species than Africa. We will enjoy the wide diversity of species and some of South America's unique orders

like the anteaters, sloths and armadillos. We will also look at the impact the rapid increase in the number of humans has had on the distribution and survival of many of these species.

## Lectures from the UK

### Yardley Chase - Northamptonshire's Wildlife Gem

Yardley Chase is the best recorded wildlife site in Northamptonshire. This lecture will look at the history of the locality to show why it is an oasis for wildlife. It has an internationally important beetle assemblage and one of the largest newt populations in Britain. The main orders of flora and fauna occurring at Yardley Chase will be covered followed by a look at the future for 'Northamptonshire's Wildlife Gem'.

### Top Wildlife Sites in the UK

A personal selection of the best places to enjoy wildlife in the UK. The choice of sites is simply based on those places I like to go for a day out to enjoy wildlife. They range from some of the most well-known nature reserves to an obscure hill in Wales. At the right time of year each can offer some great experiences.

