



**Mr Ed Drewitt**  
**BSc(Bristol)**

Honorary Teaching Associate

**Area of research**

Provide teaching, training and support for Biosciences

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**Summary**

**Peregrines: analysing their movements and the diet**

Where do peregrines go when they leave their nests?

Over the past ten years I have organised the ringing of over 170 peregrines, mainly as three week old chicks and some as adults, in the west region of the UK. These have been given pale blue colour rings with two black letters. I have heard back from over 15% of these individuals, with some moving into the east and north of the country.

**By the end of this Masters I will:**

Have analysed ten years of recoveries of peregrines from my blue colour ringing project and one other colour ringing projects (Gloucestershire ). The recoveries will be mapped and statistically tested to find out whether local peregrines have been helping spread the population east or not, and how far individuals are travelling. Satellite data from an adult urban peregrine may also be analyse, although won't be the main subject for the project.

What do urban-dwelling peregrines eat?

Additionally I will be analysing twenty years of prey data from Exeter in Devon, comprising over 5,000 prey items, and comparing it with some overlapping data from Bath, Bristol and Derby. The results of this work will be applicable to urban sites such Norwich, Bath, Taunton and York, where the peregrines share similar tastes. This will build on previous descriptive results I have published.

**By the end of the Masters I will:**

Have analysed twenty years of urban peregrine prey data from Exeter, Devon. This is the longest running diet study in Europe, and probably the world. Analysis will set out to look at seasonal changes in the diet and whether species diversity has altered over the past twenty years. This analysis will help inform what is also happening at other urban locations such as Cheltenham.

More about me as a naturalist and learning professional:

I am a freelance naturalist, broadcaster and learning consultant engaging a wide range of audiences with nature and science. Activities range from tour guiding around the world, dawn chorus walks listening to birdsong, taking schools fossil hunting and sweep netting with families through grassland. I have done extensive work with the BBC as a contributor, consultant and reporter. I have most recently been working with the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust developing high quality learning resources for schools. I am currently developing a learning resources for schools as part of the Gwent Levels Living Levels project in South Wales.

Previous work in the School of Biological Sciences and School of Earth Sciences:

Previously (2014 - 2017) I have worked as a Senior Teaching Associate in the School of Biological Sciences, training demonstrators, overseeing level 1 practicals, tutoring undergraduates and overseeing some field courses.

Prior to this role I worked full time as a Learning Officer for the Bristol Dinosaur Project (2010 - 2013) in the School of Earth Sciences, reaching out to 12,000 school children and the local community. The Bristol Dinosaur was a unique early dinosaur found in the Bristol and South Wales region. Important collections have been excavated and are now stored at Bristol Museum and the School of Earth Sciences. My role enabled myself and postgraduates to visit schools and other venues so others could learn more about it. Other outputs included interpretation panels, a book produced by young parents and a peer-reviewed paper.

## Biography

Ed is a Bristol trained zoologist working at the University of Bristol as a senior teaching associate and trainer. He is also a freelance naturalist, broadcast and wildlife detective – the latter relating to his skill in identifying the various skulls, feathers and parts of birds relating to his diet work on peregrines. Ed is an experienced birder, and has been birdwatching since at least 7 years old. He shows people birds through tour leading for Naturetrek, courses/training relating to bird and birdsong identification and wildlife boat trips along the Avon Gorge and the Exe Estuary. He's previously worked for the RSPB and Bristol's City Museum & Art Gallery. Ed has also been involved with various bird surveys for the British Trust for Ornithology and more recently been lecturing and doing fieldwork with MSc students in bird surveying at the University of Bristol. Ed is an experienced bird ringer, is on the committee of the Bristol Ornithological Club and a former president of the ornithological section of the Bristol Naturalists Society. Ed has also been a reporter on BBC Radio 4 natural history programmes and works closely as a contributor and advisor for the BBC's Natural History Unit.

## Keywords

- peregrines
- Bristol Dinosaur
- bird ringing
- birds
- birdsong
- bird song

## Memberships

### Organisations

[School of Biological Sciences](#)

## Recent publications

- Benton, MJ, Schouten, R, Drewitt, EJA & Viegas, P, 2012, '[The Bristol Dinosaur Project](#)'. *Geologists' Association*, vol 123., pp. 210-225
- Drewitt, E, 2010, '[A comparison of the diet of Urban Peregrines Falco peregrinus nesting in Bath, England during two breeding seasons](#)'. in: JSielicki, T Mizera (eds) *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Status and Perspectives in the 21st Century*. European Peregrine Falcon Working Group, Poland, pp. 555 - 566
- Drewitt, E & Dixon, N, 2008, '[Diet and prey selection of urban-dwelling Peregrine Falcons in southwest England](#)'. *British Birds*, vol 101., pp. 58-67
- Drewitt, E, 2008, '[The Diet of Breeding Peregrine in Bath, 2007](#)'. *Avon Bird report.*, pp. 127 - 132
- Drewitt, E, 2007, '[The Diet of the Pair of Urban Peregrine Falcons Falco peregrinus during their first breeding season in Bath in 2006](#)'. *Avon Bird report.*, pp. 123 - 130
- Drewitt, E, 2007, '[Breeding Success of the Bath Peregrines](#)'. *Bath Natural History Society Magazine.*, pp. 40 - 41
- Drewitt, E, 2007, '[The Colonisation of Cetti's Warblers Cettia cetti at Chew Valley Lake based on an analysis of individuals ringed during 1982 - 2006](#)'. *Chew Valley Ringing Station*, vol 15., pp. 33 - 45
- Thomas, R, Drewitt, E, Kelly, D, Marples, N & Semple, S, 2003, '[Nocturnal playbacks reveal hidden differences in singing behaviour between populations of Robin Erithacus rubecula](#)'. *Bird Study*, vol 50., pp. 84 - 87
- Dixon, N & Drewitt, E, 2002, '[Prey Selection by Urban Peregrine Falcons](#)'. *Devon Bird Report*, vol 74., pp. 210 - 213

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