

## Session 1: Behaviour

### Keynote

Date: Tuesday 31 October, 2017  
Time: 09:15 – 10.00  
Room: Seminar Room

## Social processes in a community of Paridae

Author: **Ben C. Sheldon**

Affiliation: Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Department of Zoology,  
University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

Many processes of interest in natural populations have a social dimension, from foraging and mate selection, to territoriality and competition. Particularly in the non-breeding season, when population structure is more fluid than during breeding, many species form social groups of variable extent, size and permanence. In this talk I will describe the development of an empirical framework for studying large-scale social behaviour of tits in Wytham, near Oxford. I will highlight practical, statistical and conceptual challenges in the development of this work. I will then highlight some of the key questions that we have addressed in this work relating to individual differences in social behaviour, and how these influence population structure. I will conclude by discussing how this work has enabled us to develop an experimental focus on the way that novel information is transmitted and becomes established within wild populations.