Youth Advisory Panel member
British Trust for Ornithology
‘A DIVERSE, VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF YOUNG BIRDERS SUPPORTED BY THE BTO, WITH ACCESSIBLE, YOUTH-LED OPPORTUNITIES INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH NATURE AND SCIENCE.’

WHAT IS BTO?

BTO studies the bird populations in the UK with the data collected by of tens of thousands of volunteer birdwatchers. We want to increase our knowledge of birds and other wildlife, as well as how they’re linked with the environment and people. To do this, we want to enable more people to learn about birds and science and take part in our citizen science projects.

OUR PRIORITIES

We will reach our goals by:

- Providing more and better opportunities for people to contribute to our work.
- Monitoring the status of species, researching their ecology and understanding how they respond to change.
- Communicating great stories that bring our science to life

OUR IMPACT

Our scientific research is carried out by expert scientists to answer some of the most important questions about birds and their habitats. Because we don’t campaign or ‘take sides’, we can share our science to inform decision-makers (such as the government), teach people, and support conservation action.

OUR FOUNDATIONS AND VALUES

The success of BTO is thanks to our brilliant staff and volunteers and a good understanding of the environmental sector and how we fit within it.

As an organisation we are:

- Inclusive and supportive
- Impartial
- Passionate
- Collaborative and open to new ideas
ABOUT THE ROLE

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

BTO wants to better engage with young people. To do so, we initiated a Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) in 2019, which consists of a motivated group of young people who are passionate about the natural world. The YAP has developed a Youth Engagement Strategy in 2020, and started implementing their priorities for the strategy in 2021. As we move forward, YAP is looking to recruit new members to the panel to help with the delivery of this exciting new phase.

Please note you must be between the ages of 16 and 24 to apply.

WHAT YOU WILL DELIVER

• Implement our Youth Engagement Strategy, focusing on how BTO can better engage young people
• Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the strategy
• Support, develop and grow our Youth Representative scheme
• Work with our staff, both in the Science and Engagement departments, on ensuring young voices are represented
• Improve our offer to Young Members
• Help create new products, materials and events to inspire more young people to get involved with BTO
• Participate in working groups and events where suitable

WHAT YOU WILL BRING TO THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TEAM

• Committed to BTO’s values
• Interested in nature (detailed bird knowledge not required)
• Willing to meet the minimum time requirement (one meeting a month), though many members are part of working groups and attend more meetings and training sessions – the average is one meeting every two weeks
• Reliable, enthusiastic and willing to learn

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ROLE

For an informal chat about the position please email Faye Vogely, Youth Engagement Manager (youth@bto.org).

WHAT WE WILL OFFER IN RETURN

You will get a full welcome pack upon appointment, which will include a bird guide, hoodie, and BTO membership.

BTO will cover any costs associated with the work you do, including travel expenses and material costs.

We will support you by providing references upon request, a paid-for DBS check where appropriate, and through training on topics such as:

• Networking
ABOUT THE ROLE

• Leadership skills
• Partnership working
• Working in a professional team and environment
• First Aid
• Bird identification
• CV writing
• Data analysis
• GIS
• Social media content creation
• Child safeguarding

MAKING AN APPLICATION

If you have what it takes then we look forward to hearing from you – send your answers to the four questions (no more than 150 words per answer) below to youth@bto.org stating “Youth Advisory Panel application” in the subject line. If you are happy to do so, please also attach the Monitoring Form available at www.bto.org/jobs. This will help us learn more about the candidates we reach.

Q1. What inspires you about the natural world?
Q2. How have you shared your enthusiasm for nature?
Q3. Why would you like to be a part of this BTO panel?
Q4. Give an example of a project you think would engage young people with nature, and how you’d decide if it was successful.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 11.59pm on Sunday 22 August 2021.

We will contact all applicants on the outcome of their application. Shortlisted candidates will be expected to be available for an informal Zoom interview in the week starting 30 August 2021.

We are an equal opportunities employer and are especially keen to encourage applications from people currently under-represented in the environment movement.

If you have a disability or long-term illness that otherwise prevents you from meeting any of the criteria, please contact us to discuss whether a reasonable adjustment could be made. If you are uncomfortable submitting a written application, please contact us at youth@bto.org for alternative options.

As users of the disability confident scheme, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the vacancy.
BTO Staff

Faye Vogely
Youth Engagement Manager
She / her

Ieuan Evans
Director of Engagement
He / him

Nick Moran
Training Manager
He / him

Tom Stewart
Social Media Officer
He / him

Youth Advisory Panel

Arjun
17, London
He / him

Ellie
18, Shropshire
She / her

Emily
24, Greater Manchester
She / her

Emma
20, Surrey
She / her

Greg
25, Cambridge
He / him

Katie
17, Edinburgh
She / her

Matt
20, Norfolk
He / him

Maura
19, Oxford
She / her

Megan
16, Buckinghamshire
She / her

Samuel
21, London / Dorset
He / him

BTO is a Registered Charity Number 216652 (England & Wales), SC039193 (Scotland).

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