

Leading environmental writer and activist

Mark Cocker



Evening Guest Lecture ‘Birds & People’ @ Wild Thing?? Conference

Wednesday 9th September, Peak Theatre, Sheffield Hallam University, doors open 6.30pm finish 9pm

Ian Rotherham and colleagues are pleased to announce that the well-known British environmentalist, Mark Cocker is giving the evening guest lecture at the *Wild Thing* Conference. Mark Cocker, author, naturalist and environmental activist, writes and broadcasts on nature and wildlife in a variety of national media. His ten books include works of biography, history, literary criticism and memoir. His last two, *Claxton: Field Notes from a Small Planet* (2014) and *Birds and People* (with photographer David Tipling), were shortlisted for six literary prizes. His previous book *Crow Country* was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize (2008) and won the New Angle Prize for Literature (2009). The wonderful *Birds Britannica* was a collaboration with Richard Mabey. For 35 years he has lived in Norfolk, where he devotes free time to restoring a small wooded fen called Blackwater with its thousands of wild inhabitants. He served on the councils of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists’ Society and Society’s President in 2007-8. He has had an advisory capacity to the British Trust for Ornithology from 2005-7 and in 2008, with Tim Birkhead, John Fanshawe and Jeremy Mynott, Mark co-founded *New Networks for Nature*. This promotes and celebrates the central place that nature plays in British cultural life through annual symposia in, for example, Oxford (2009), Thetford (2010) and Stamford (2011-2). These involve an enormous range of creative professionals whose work draws on nature and landscape.

Birds and People by Mark Cocker and David Tipling, published to worldwide acclaim in 2013, is a global survey of the cultural place of birds in human lives. This new presentation about the book explores how birds have given wing to our creative imaginations for thousands of years. Cocker discovers why birds have been such a major source of creativity. Environmentalism, Mark argues, undersells the significance of nature and overlooks how biological shrinkage impacts, not just upon wildlife diversity, but as major cultural deficit.

The *Wildtrack Bookshop* will be there and some of Mark’s books available too.

PLACES ARE LIMITED.

The guest lecture is free for conference delegates but there will be a small charge for others.
Open to the Public – tickets £3 in advance, £5 on the door

To book complete the form with reservations via email info@hallamec.plus.com, snailmail, or telephone 0114 2724227 but payment must be received in advance.

Booking form 10th September – Guest Lecture

Number of places required () at £3 each

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