Challenges and opportunities of analysing ecological citizen science data

Monday 10th October 2016

This is a full day meeting, organised jointly by the BIR, RSS ecological statistics section and the BES (British Ecological Society). It is planned to include working group discussion sessions and lunch and will be held at the David Attenborough Building in Cambridge.

Citizen science data are data collected by amateur or non-professional scientists. Some citizen science schemes are organised in such a way that data collection is regularised so that surveys are consistent from one year to the next – for example the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (Butterfly Conservation), whilst others allow the general public to report sightings throughout the year – for example National Biodiversity Network, Wildlife Trusts and Environmental Records Centre.

Citizen science data can be challenging to analyse due to the type of data recorded and the difference in approaches of collecting and reporting the data.

This meeting will start with a tutorial session introducing the audience to citizen science data and the general difficulties of analysis and then a range of speakers will discuss modern methodological approaches for citizen science data. Discussion sessions will be incorporated into the day to allow the sharing of perspectives from both ecologists and statisticians.

Registration is via the webpage: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/challenges-and-opportunities-of-analysing-ecological-citizen-science-data-tickets-27624012164

Programme

10:00 - 10:30	**Registration**
10:30 - 11:30	**People are the data-generating process: the human side of citizen science and its diversity** Michael Pocock, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
11:30 - 12:00	**What determines spatial bias in citizen science?** Jonas Geldmann, University of Cambridge
12:00 - 12:30	**Spatial bias and observer variation in avian citizen science datasets** Ali Johnston, British Trust for Ornithology
12:30 - 13:30	**Lunch**
13:30 - 14:00	**Hierarchical Bayesian models for messy and biased data** Nick Isaac, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
14:00 - 14:30	**Comparing trend estimates from unstructured citizen science data & common bird monitoring in Denmark** Steffen Oppel, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

14:30 - 15:00	**From novice to expert: modelling the various sources of data on UK butterflies** Emily Dennis, Butterfly Conservation and University of Kent
15:00 - 15:30	**Coffee**
15:30 - 17:00	**Discussion sessions**
17:30 - 18:30	**Wine Reception**