How lockdown changed birds singing.

Scientists studying sparrows in San Francisco made some surprising discoveries about the birds singing during the recent global COVID19 lockdown.

While people reported hearing songbirds singing louder and more clearly than before the scientists measured that they were singing more quietly than usual.

Due to the lack of noise pollution in big cities birds were able to sing more quietly and still be heard by potential mates.

October’s Meteor Showers

October is the perfect month to head out and try and see some meteors, or shooting stars. The days are starting to get shorter which means it’s dark enough to see meteors earlier. The table below details the meteor showers in October.

What is a meteor? Why do we get meteor showers?

Looking for meteors takes a lot of patience, but you don’t need any equipment other than your eyes. You want to get to the darkest place you possible can with as little light pollution as possible. Make sure you wrap up warm and either sit on a comfortable reclining chair or lie on a warm blanket on the ground. Give your eyes about 10 minutes to adjust to the dark and then try and watch as much of the sky as you can.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shower Name</th>
<th>Date of Maximum</th>
<th>Normal Limits</th>
<th>Rate/Hour</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Draconids</strong></td>
<td>8-9 October</td>
<td>5-9 October</td>
<td>~10</td>
<td>Associated with Comet 21/P Giacobini-Zimmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orionids</strong></td>
<td>21-22 October</td>
<td>1 Oct - 6 Nov</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Fast with fine trains. Associated with Comet Halley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taurids</strong></td>
<td>10-11 Nov</td>
<td>19 Oct - 9 Dec</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Very slow meteors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Royal Museums Greenwich
FREE SERIES OF WEBINARS FROM PSTT REGIONAL MENTORS

PSTT’s Regional Mentor Programme has been successfully supporting primary science teacher development for over 3 years. Each Regional Mentor is an outstanding classroom practitioner and award-winning primary science teacher with many years of experience in leading, supporting and developing best practice in science teaching.

As part of this support, PSTT is pleased to announce that our Regional Mentor team will be offering a series of webinars, starting in late October. The seven webinars focus on different aspects of science teaching and leadership for which teachers frequently ask for assistance. Mindful of the current circumstances that schools are facing, these webinars will be freely accessible to primary teachers throughout the UK. Each webinar will be delivered ‘live’ to ensure teachers have an opportunity to interact fully with our Mentors and will be suitable for all classroom teachers, whether or not a science subject leader.

DATES AND TOPICS:
21 October – Ruth Shallcross - English and Science
4 November – Kate Redhead - Outdoor Learning
11 November – Tom Holloway - Maths and Science
18 November – Kulvinder Johal - Cross-curricular Planning
25 November – Claire Seeley - Teachers’ Questions
2 December – Sarah Eames - Science Subject Leadership
9 December – Kathy Schofield - EYFS

All webinars will begin at 4pm and last around 45mins to 1 hour (max).


Teachers are able book some or all of the webinars. Each webinar will be delivered via Zoom and bookable individually via Eventbrite, one month before the scheduled date for the webinar.