

NEWSLETTER

SOUTH LEICESTER BIRDWATCHERS



Issue no. 4

September 2006

We're now an official Club !

Many thanks to all of you who came along to the inaugural meeting of the South Leicester Birdwatchers. It was extremely encouraging to find that we had a 90% response to our invitation mailing!

This newsletter (with it's new look) contains brief summaries of the evening and information that we all think you will find useful.

So the committee hopes that you will all enjoy the programs of meetings, trips and activities that will be on offer over the future months.

If you found time to fill out the questionnaire, your comments are greatly appreciated. If you have any future suggestions, please feel free to discuss them with a member of the committee.

Membership

From our initial meeting, we have generated a total membership of 49 people. This immediately puts us in a sound financial position for the future.

By way of the meeting, it was a pleasure to invite Barry Raine to become an honorary member.

Membership rates for the running term of 1st September 2006 to 31st August 2007 will be:

Single membership	: £18.00
Couple membership	: £30.00
Field Trip	: £ 2.00
Meetings	: Free

If joining after 1st March membership will be charged at half the yearly rate.

Please note that non-members will be charged the following:

Field Trip	: £ 4.00
Meetings	: £ 2.00

Please see John for any details.

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The Committee

Please bring along your newspaper cuttings and articles and pin up on the dedicated notice board.

As you are well aware, all the background work in setting up the club has been carried out by the following 5 people, who were voted on block by the members to carry on as the official committee to run future club business.

Please feel free to consult with any of the committee on any matters regarding

the running of the club.

Chairman/Secretary:

Paul Inchley

Treasurer/Membership:

John Palmer

Meetings Co-ordinator:

Martin Williamson

Trips Co-ordinator:

Paul Seaton

Media Co-ordinator:



Puffin Farne Islands July 2004
Dennis Taylor

Indoor Meetings

Martin has been extremely busy booking guest speakers for our indoor meetings.

Details of the content and dates are featured on a separate diary page.

Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Doors open at 7.15pm, meeting starting at 7.30pm and conclusion at 9.30pm.

We would like to feature member's photographs in future newsletters. Please submit to Dennis for consideration.

Christmas Dinner

In the true tradition of festive activities, there will be a Christmas Dinner held at the Manor in Glen Parva for club members (in place of the December meeting).

Please look out for further details in the coming weeks.

Due to the anticipated numbers attending, places for partners may be limited.

Bird Seed Sales

It was great to have Phil Johnson and his daughter from Eyebrook Wild Bird Feeds at the meeting, selling their excellent range of feeds. With Phil's co-operation, we will be offering members quality seeds, etc., at very competitive prices. Please note that a small commission from the sales will be donated to club funds.

Please fill in your needs on the order form (you'll find an extra one enclosed) and give to

Martin along with your payment. Your order will be available for collection at the next club meeting.

We will also be visiting Phil's farm in Eyebrook next June for a guided walk (and maybe tea and scones!), where will be able to view and hear all about life and the work carried out at Rectory Farm, which is a member of LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming).

Field Trips

Our latest field trip programme is now into full swing and takes us up to the end of the year.

A limited number of places are still available, so please see Paul S. if

you wish to come along.

A programme for the first 3 months of 2007 is currently being formulated, details of which will be available at the November meeting.

Tea & coffee
will be served
(for a small
charge) at
the start and
end of each
meeting.

Welsh Weekend Field Trip

Paul S. announced plans at the meeting for a Weekend Field Trip to Wales, based at a hotel in Devil's Bridge during 11th to 13th May 2007.

Your immediate responses to the trip has resulted in most of the places being quickly booked.

The total number of places available will be subject to hotel room and transport availability.

A deposit of £25.00 is required initially, but please check with Paul if you would like to go along, but have not yet reserved a place.

Sightings and Reports

At the meeting, you may have noticed some sheets that you could fill in your own bird sightings. Please enter details of what you have seen, when and where - it will be useful for others and we'll feature some in future newsletters!

Whisby Country Park near Lincoln was our first field trip since our summer break. A fairly quiet day, but we did manage a tick list of 46 birds, including some Warblers and Swallow before their migration south.

Others seen (but not by everyone!) was Kingfisher, Willow Tit, Bullfinch, Treecreeper, Marsh Harrier and Snipe.

Our next trip is to Gibraltar Point, near Skegness - keep your fingers crossed that the Long Billed Dowitcher is still there! The visitor centre has been recently refurbished along with the cafeteria. There are 6 hides to visit as well as extensive salt marshes - should be good for some migrants!

Surveys

If you are interested in taking part in bird surveys, please talk to Dennis. You don't need any experience, but you might have to be able to count!

There are many different surveys we can take part in, either our own or those of official organizations. Go on, try birdwatching with a difference!

Activities

We are always open to ideas for activities that the club can participate in - please feel free to suggest them with a committee member.

We hope you like the new look newsletter, which will be published quarterly. If you would like to help or can contribute in any way, please contact Dennis.

And finally...

A big thank you from the Committee - you have made all the hard work establishing the club extremely worthwhile - so here's to a very successful future for the South Leicester Birdwatchers!