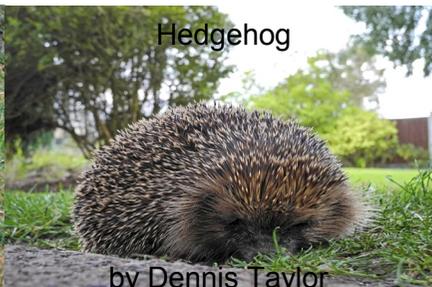


Some entries in the 2014 photo comp 2014



Purchase of equipment for the Club

The Committee has recently purchased a projector for use at the indoor meetings. There has unfortunately been occasions when guest speakers arrive with very little of their own equipment and so in the past we had to rely on the generosity of Dennis Taylor for the loan of his equipment at short notice. The Committee would like to thank Dennis for his assistance in the past and for his guidance on the purchase of our own projector.

The projector will be put to good use for the Annual Photographic Competitions. Of course what this also means is the Club now has the facility for any member to give a short talk/presentation to the Club. Dependant upon interest shown the intention would be for this to form part of a members evening or be included as part of the AGM evening. Topics could include birds or wildlife covering subjects such as your local patch, favourite bird/fauna/flora, favourite reserve or birding holidays etc.

Anyone who is interested please speak to Graham.

The next edition of the Newsletter will be issued in May 2015. If you have a story for inclusion please send copy and photos to Marion at graham.turner@btinternet.com

SLB NEWSLETTER

Issue no. 37

Feb 2015

**SOUTH LEICESTER
BIRDWATCHERS**



With the cold snap we have experienced lately I hope that you are all continuing to feed the birds in your garden. Remember to feed various food stuffs and ensure that water is always available. With a bit of luck you could attract a variety of finches to your feeding table like these in our garden.



As you may know National Nest Box Week begins this coming weekend on the 14th February so now is a good time to clean out your old boxes and put out new ones.

Further useful information can be found on the BTO website www.bto.org.

Indoor Meetings & Events

Our forthcoming programme of indoor meetings, with guest speakers is:

11th March	Alan Firth	RSPB Investigations Talk
8th April	Simon Bentley	Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Work
13th May	Ian Rotherham	Lost Fens
10th June	Jonathan Forgham	The Birds of the North Norfolk Coastal Footpath

Meetings start at 7.30pm (doors open from 7pm) finishing at approx. 9.30pm. Please attend early if you wish to book trips, speak to the Committee or order seed.

For further information on the South Leicester Birdwatchers, please contact Graham Turner on 01455 282854 or e-mail graham.turner@btinternet.com

Trip Reports

RSPB Old Moor - 15th November 2014 (GT)

It was a foggy journey to this RSPB site near Barnsley, South Yorkshire but the day did remain dry albeit overcast and misty throughout. Despite the conditions the birds were there in good numbers. We started with good views of Tree Sparrow and Bullfinch around the feeders near the car park and also had a fine selection of waders on the scrapes including Black-tailed Godwit, Snipe, Ruff, Dunlin and Golden Plover. The ducks included Goldeneye, Goosander and large numbers of Wigeon. We also found a Sparrowhawk and at least two Barn Owl tucked away in bushes with, later on, one offering flight views. A total of 62 species for the day.

Rutland Water - 13th December 2014 (GT)

A cold, frosty day at one of our local reserves produced some excellent birds despite large areas of the various lagoons remaining frozen throughout the day. Ducks were plentiful and included several male Pintail and Goldeneye and a redhead Smew was a good find. A Great White Egret gave some good, if somewhat distant views but we did also pick up a flight view too. Birds of prey included several Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and an extended view of a hunting Peregrine from one of the hides. A splendid total of 75 species for the day.

Titchmarsh/Thrapston/Stanwick Lakes - 17th January 2015 (SW)

We arrived at Titchmarsh, a site the club had visited previously a long while ago, not knowing what to expect from the weather as snow flurries and cloud cover were forecast! This proved to be wrong as we were treated to a lovely sunny, cold winter's day. Fifteen of us set off around the reserve and were soon spotting the usual ducks as well as some lovely Goosanders.

There were good views of several Red Kites including one with wing tags clearly visible. After negotiating the mud along by the river some of the group had lovely sightings of a Green Woodpecker and a flash of a Kingfisher. After lunch at Stanwick Lakes we were soon moving again to keep warm, Canada Geese were soon spotted after being strangely absent from Titchmarsh. A few Redpoll were with the Goldfinch in Alders and Golden Plover with Lapwings in the last hide of the day. A total of 53 species for the day.

Field Trips 2014 -15

February 14th RSPB Snettisham, Norfolk

Storms wrecked hides more than a year ago but one new one has just been completed so should afford us some comfort whilst viewing, hopefully, lots of wintering waders. No facilities. Cost £2.50

March 14th Upton Warren WT Reserve, Worcs

We head for Worcestershire to explore a site which has good numbers of waders - Avocets should be present. We could also see Water Rail and Peregrine Falcon

Toilets at northern end of reserve. Cost £4.50

April 25th RSPB Nagshead, Gloucs

Note this is the last Saturday of the month rather than our usual date.

This delay gives the summer visitors a chance to arrive ahead of us and greet us at the gate! Lovely location for Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and plenty of Warblers. We should also see a variety of birds of prey.

Toilets but no café. Cost £2.50 RSPB permit required

May - no trip as Cumbria Weekend away arranged for 15th – 17th May

June 13th RSPB Coombes Valley, Staffordshire

Picturesque woodland reserve which, at this time of year, should be alive with Warbler song. Pied and Spotted Flycatcher and Redstart breed here.

Toilets but no café. Cost £2.50 RSPB permit required

All booking forms and payments to be returned to Sue Walton please.

Cumbria Weekend

Please note the balance for the Cumbria Weekend trip can be paid any time between now and the April indoor meeting. Please ensure all payments are received by Sue Walton by 8th April, at the latest.

Twin room sharing balance of £130.00 per person payable
Single room balance of £160.00 payable

Any queries and all payments to Sue Walton please :-
29 School Lane, Huncote, Leicestershire, LE9 3BD.