

NOTICES



24 hour Bird Race 2015



Remember it is not too late to take part in the Annual Bird Race which has been arranged for Friday 5th/Saturday 6th June. Entry fee is £2.50 per person and requires teams with a minimum of two people. You can decide where in the county you visit and how long you spend participating.

If interested please speak to Jools and remember this year there will be a trophy awarded to the winning team which has been very kindly designed and hand carved by Roger Keightley.



Members talks



A quick reminder that as we now have our own projector this means we have the facility for any member to give a short talk to the Club. 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.



Glen Parva Bioblitz 26-27 June 2015



If you are interested in helping out with the Bioblitz in any way please speak to Jools Partridge.



Xmas Meal 2015



We are still looking for a member or members to volunteer to organise this years Xmas meal. If you are interested please speak to a member of the Committee. **N.B.** If no-one comes forward there will be no meal so if this is an event you enjoy please think about helping out.

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

SLB NEWSLETTER

Issue no. 38

May 2015

SOUTH LEICESTER BIRDWATCHERS



I know I have said it before but I don't know where the days go! Here we are again in the height of Spring and with this latest spell of warm weather some resident birds are already on eggs or with fledglings. We had Blackbirds feeding in early March and now have Great Tits, Dunnocks and Robins nesting. Those of our summer visitors who have already arrived can be heard joining in with the dawn chorus which is building up nicely. The only problem is that it all happens so fast you need to get out there now and enjoy seeing your "firsts" for the year or try setting the alarm early to experience the beautiful sound that is the dawn chorus even if you only do this whilst still lying in your own bed. Go and enjoy yourselves.



Indoor Meetings & Events

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

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 10 th June | Jonathan Forgham | The Birds of the North Norfolk Coastal Footpath |
| 9 th September | Prof. Graham Martin | Through Birds' Eyes |
| 14 th October | AGM & Annual Photographic Competition | |
| 11 th November | Paul Hobson | Scottish Delights |
| 9 th December | Phil Johnson | Rectory Farm |

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

Snettisham RSPB & Coastal Path - 14th February 2015 - GT

This was our first visit to Snettisham since 2011 and in between time the 4 viewing hides had been destroyed by winter storms but 2 had been repaired/replaced. We headed off to the hides and on the way had good numbers of waders including, Curlew, Godwits, Dunlin, Redshank, large flocks of both Golden Plover and Oystercatchers as well as Grey Plover, Sanderling, Ringed Plover & Lapwing over the Wash mudflats. Looking over the pools from the hides we had good views of an obliging Black Necked Grebe. After lunch we walked to the coastal path so we had views inland over the fields and pools. We soon found the Pink Footed Geese - there were large numbers, probably several thousand noisily feeding on the stubble and beet feeds. As we watched a Barn Owl was also quartering the ground in front of us and was having some success finding food in the shape of small voles/mice. We had a total of 67 species on the day.

WT Christopher Cadbury Reserve, Upton Warren, – 14th March 2015 - GT

It was an overcast day but a northerly breeze had been in place for a few days and as well as keeping the temperature down it did reduce the possibility of early spring migrants to this inland site. So it proved as we didn't see any migrants although there were signs of breeding activity throughout the day. The Great Crested Grebe were starting their mirroring courtship display and at least 28 Avocet were present looking to claim a breeding area amongst the numerous Black Headed Gulls. There were also 4 Little Egret at the Moors Pool and 9 Curlew and 4 Snipe. A total of 50 species on the day.

RSPB Nagshead, Gloucs – 25th April 2015 - GT

This was the Group's first visit to this site situated deep in the Forest of Dean. We set off in two groups to walk the 2.25 mile through the oak woodlands and back over the heath. The woods were full of resident birds in full voice which was interspersed with warbler song from Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff. One group were lucky enough to see a pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers on a fallen tree and then up into the top of the tree canopy before flying off - an excellent start to the day. Soon after we were watching pairs of Pied Flycatchers interacting and visiting likely nest box sites. On the way back some of us had just been looking at another pair of Pied Flycatchers when Marion shouted "Hawfinch" a few yards ahead of us down the path. We eagerly fell in behind her and in a small patch of water in the dip was a bathing Hawfinch - splendidly caught in the sunlight. It lingered briefly but we managed to relocate it a few minutes later preening on a tree branch offering further views for the lucky few. In the afternoon we went to the lower hide and had good views of a pair of Mandarin and a return walk into the forest produced a singing Wood Warbler. 51 species on the day with some much sought after ticks too!

Field Trips 2014-15

June 13th

RSPB Coombes Valley, Staffordshire, ST13 7EU

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.

July/August

No meetings/trips

September 12th

NNR Gibraltar Point. Lincs PE24 4SU

We were looking for Springtime migrant species on our last visit here. An Autumn trip should throw up migrators heading in the opposite direction.

No café (being rebuilt after storm damage, but a mobile catering van should be on site) but there are facilities .

Cost £2.50

October 17th

RSPB Titchwell Marsh, Norfolk, PE31 8BB

We can't go wrong with this wonderful reserve on the north Norfolk coast.

Café and facilities.

Cost £2.50

November 14th

RSPB Ouse Washes, Cambs, PE15 0NF

The waterfowl numbers should be swelling with more migrants flying south at this time of year. Hen Harriers, Short-eared Owls, Peregrines and Merlins hunt over the washes and surrounding farmland.

No café but there are facilities

Cost £2.50.

December 12th

WLT Brandon Marsh, Warks, CV8 3ET

A nearby reserve where we can make the most of the short winter days. Bitterns show themselves periodically. Always good numbers of waders and waterfowl found on the lagoons.

Café (if you plan to have a meal in the café, they would like advance notice to help their caterers) and facilities

Cost £5.00 (unless you are a WLT member then the cost is £2.50 and your membership card will be required on the day).

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