

2017 - Annual Photographic Competition

This year saw another good selection of entries for both categories but as they say there can only be one winner, but remember there is always next year!.

Bird Category

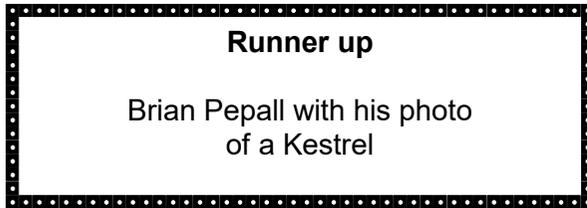
Winner

Phil Beet with his photo of a Turtle Dove



Runner up

Brian Pepall with his photo of a Kestrel



British Wildlife, Flora and Fauna category

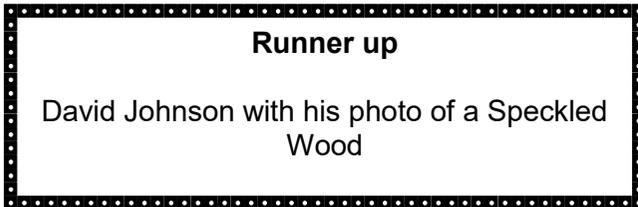
Winner

Jan Thompson with her photo of a Beautiful Demoiselle



Runner up

David Johnson with his photo of a Speckled Wood



The next edition of the Newsletter will be issued in Feb 2018. If you have a story for inclusion please send copy and photos to Marion at graham.turner@btinternet.com

SLB NEWSLETTER

Issue no. 48

Nov 2017

**SOUTH LEICESTER
BIRDWATCHERS**



As year 12 of SLB begins, the Committee would like to thank all those who have again renewed their membership with the club, as it goes without saying without members there wouldn't be a club! We will hopefully continue for many more years so if you have any ideas for trip venues, newsletter items, speakers etc. please speak to a member of the Committee we are very grateful for any input. As the shorter days are now upon us please



remember the importance of feeding your garden birds to help them through the winter and hopefully enticing some of our winter visitors into your garden.

Happy Autumn birding !

Indoor Meetings & Events

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

8th November	Danny Green	Long Journey North
13th December	David Cromack	Return to Sri Lanka
10th January	Jeff Blincow	Ethiopia
14th February	Phil Beet	A birding year with SLB

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
e-mail graham.turner@btinternet.com
www.southleicesterbirdwatchers.uk

Trip Reports

Sculthorpe Moor NR - 16th September 2017 (GT)

A sharp shower greeted us as we arrived at Sculthorpe Moor NR but after a short loiter in the Visitor Centre we headed out along the extensive boardwalks. We were soon finding the usual woodland birds including Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Marsh Tit and Goldcrest. We also had 3 separate sightings of Kingfisher and Jays seemed to be everywhere with several Marsh Harriers and Buzzards added to the mix. After lunch we decided to pay a quick visit to Titchwell RSPB and we were well rewarded! A Red Necked Phalarope had dropped in that morning and was showing well from the autumn trail along with a Purple Sandpiper. Several Ruff added to the interest and a Spoonbill flew over.

Total of 63 species for the day.

Amwell Nature Reserve & Rye Meads RSPB - 14th October 2017 (GT)

We visited these two new sites for the club today, close to each other along the Lea Valley in Hertfordshire. We were met at Amwell by a local bird guide, Jonathan Forgham, who had given the club evening presentations in the past and happily passed on his local area and natural history knowledge as he showed us round the site. Red Kite & Raven were soon seen, eclipse plumage ducks were plentiful and dragonflies were much in evidence around the specially designed pools. Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Buzzard were added. We then went to Rye Meads where we picnicked before exploring further. Highlights were several good views of Kingfisher, a Green Sandpiper, a close Grey Wagtail and a Sparrowhawk worrying the Starling flocks. A good day was had by all.

Total of 57 species for the day.

SLB Bird Boxes update

A group of members consisting of Dave Johnson, Brian Clarke, Brian Pepall and Roger Keightley revisited the nest boxes at Blaby Churchyard and Attenborough Arboretum in October. At the churchyard, there was 1 nest in the Tree Sparrow boxes which Brian Pepall had made, this was by a Blue Tit and had been successful, albeit one chick carcass remained at the bottom of the nest.

Over at Attenborough, only 2 boxes had been occupied and they were by mice! Not one had been used by birds - so disappointing!. A number of boxes had fallen off their trees but there was no evidence of vandalism probably just the wind or squirrels. All boxes were cleaned and re-secured for the next breeding season. Roger has provisionally arranged to go over to Rectory Farm on Friday 3rd Nov. (Weather dependent.). If you wish to help please contact Roger.

Field Trips 2017/18

Nov 18th RSPB Langford Lowfields, Notts NG23 7QL

NB. A week later than the usual Saturday

As this quarry becomes worked out more of it is being handed over to the RSPB for further development. However, this reserve is already a pleasant site to visit with lagoons and reed bed areas which have attracted Bitterns, Bearded Tits and Water Rail. A pontoon walkway forms part of the circular path. We may also visit a Notts Wildlife Trust site at Besthorpe for wintering ducks and geese and/or Spalford Warren which is a heathland reserve close by.

Facilities: None, but Cafes in the vicinity. Cost £2.50.

Dec 16th Rutland Water NR, Rutland LE15 8BT

One week away from the shortest day of the year we need to make the most of daylight hours. Where better than this wonderful reserve with so many hides to choose from, less than a hours drive away.

Facilities: Toilets and coffee machine. £6.50 or £2.50 with permit (Req'd on the day)

Jan 13th RSPB Middleton Lakes, Staffs, B78 2AE

Our nearest RSPB Reserve is now 10 years old and continues to improve. Our last visit was Sept 2014, so it will be interesting to see it in the middle of winter. There will be good number of waders and ducks. We should be able to see Harriers and Owls too.

Facilities: Toilets. Cost £2.50

Feb 24th Slimbridge WWT, Gloucs, GL2 7BT

N.B One week later than normal

One week later to benefit from early afternoon high tide. A WWT site of renown. Whilst there is the captive collection, it is the birds that migrate here for the winter that we want to see: numerous wildfowl and waders. New hides since our last visit (Autumn 2011) will afford us some cover (and comfort?) to enjoy the birds over lagoons and the Severn estuary.

Facilities: Café. Cost £11.00 (or £2.50 if you are WWT member. M/ship card req'd)

Mar 17th RSPB Old Moor, Yorks, S73 0YF

At this time of year, RSPB's finest Yorkshire Reserve will enable us to see drake ducks in their prime and plenty of birds in the bushes and trees before the leaves start to sprout. Barn Owls are a possibility over the meadows too.

Facilities: Café, Cost £2.50

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

Sue Walton, 6 Peers Way, Huncote, Leicester LE9 3BT.