



South Leicester Birdwatchers on Migration !!!

Well only down the road actually - we now have a new venue for our indoor meetings which will be the All Saints Parish Centre, Wigston Road, Blaby, Leicester, LE8 4FQ, opposite The Bakers Arms Public House. We will have use of the room, kitchen, toilets and car park so hopefully it will be like home from home. A further reminder regarding the change of **AGM** date **17th October** being the 3rd Wednesday of the month not our usual Wednesday. All entries for the Annual Photographic Competition are required by Dennis Taylor t2@sky.com by the September meeting.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, whenever it arrives and see you at our new Blaby venue in September.



Indoor Meetings

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

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| Sept 12th | - | John Jones | - | Skokholme Island |
| Oct 17th | - | AGM and Annual Photographic Competition | | |
| Nov 14th | - | Nick Martin | - | Secret Wildlife of the Cairngorms |
| Dec 5th | - | Christmas Meal at Chef Patron, Thurlaston | | |
| Dec 12th | - | Sophie Barker | - | The work of N.O.A. and migration |

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.

Trip Reports

Rutland Water Evening Nightingale Walk Saturday May 5th 2012 (PS).

Everyone managed to find Hambleton Woods, eventually, another new destination for the group. We were guided round by Tim Mackrill of the LRWT. A new sighting for SLB was several Little Gulls over the water, an Osprey kindly gave us a fly past. Most of the common warblers were heard or seen including Chiffchaff, Willow warbler, Blackcap and Garden Warbler. It was looking bleak for hearing or seeing Nightingale but on our return through the woods we were rewarded with the beautiful song of a nearby male. A lucky half a dozen actually saw this bird perched for about 10 seconds before it flew off. A very pleasant evening walk.

Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve, Saturday 16th June 2012 (GT)

As much of the preceding week had been wet and the forecast the same we had fairly low expectations for the day at Wicken Fen. As it turned out the day was very windy, which kept the rain away but also kept a lot of the smaller birds down. We did have good views of Hobby, at least 4 hawking and perched on posts among the reedbeds. Marsh Harriers were also evident and a Cuckoo was heard. Warblers were also in good voice if not readily visible and a pair of Swallows had nested in one of the hides and were busy back and forth to the nest seemingly oblivious to the crowd of people in the hide. Total 59 species for the day.

NOTICES

Remember our change of venue for the September indoor meeting

The Frog & Mouse Art shop in Cank Street, Leicester have kindly agreed to give a 10% discount on any picture/photo framing etc, for SLB members. Should any member wish to take advantage of this service all you need to do is show your club membership card.

Should you wish to receive the Newsletter by email please send your request to Marion on graham.turner@btinternet.com

If you would like to contribute a report to the Newsletter please send your report and photos to Marion on graham.turner@btinternet.com

Norfolk Broads Weekend 18th–20th May (GT)

Day 1 Cley Nature Reserve

With an early coach start from Blaby, quizzes on the way and a quick breakfast stop 27 club members arrived at Cley Nature Reserve for a day's birding. We started with a visit to the three hides nearest the Visitor Centre where we had large numbers of Swifts and Hirundines. A nice surprise was two resting Spoonbills offering reasonable views along with a good assortment of Waders including Grey, Little Ringed and Ringed Plover, Dunlin and Common Sandpiper. We soon found a couple of Little Gulls as well as a solitary Black Tailed Godwit and we then split into two groups to explore the rest of the reserve. A short shower then caught some of us in the open whilst others were in a hide but this soon passed and Harriers and Bearded Tit showed well. We also found a number of Little and Sandwich Tern flying along the shoreline as well as a single Gannet. A lucky number of the group saw a Great White Egret flying over the Visitor Centre when returning to the coach. A total of 84 species for our first day was an excellent start.

Day 2 Hickling Broad NNR

After a good breakfast at our hotel in Great Yarmouth we boarded the coach for the short drive to Hickling Broad NNR. We immediately split into three groups two of which headed off for the pre booked electric powered boat cruise with the third group booked on the afternoon trip. This was a novel way for the group to birdwatch giving access to hides which could only be reached by boat. As well as ascending the 60ft Tower viewpoint which gave incredible views across the reserve and beyond we also stopped at two hides with scrapes. One of these held an excellent array of Waders including Temminck's and Little Stint, Dunlin, Sanderling, Common and Curlew Sandpiper and Greenshank amongst others. Afterwards a walk around the reserve also produced some superb views of Bittern, Hobby, Bearded Tit and Common Crane. A final surprise for us was a Tawny Owl perched in full view in trees near the Visitor Centre. A total number of 83 species on the day bringing sightings total to over 100 for the weekend so far.

Day 3 How Hill Broad NNR

After another hearty breakfast we left the hotel for our final days birding at How Hill NNR. On the way we stopped briefly at North Dene for a possible nesting Little Tern colony however despite over 100 Terns being sighted earlier in the week they hadn't settled and none were seen. On arrival at How Hill we split into two groups to explore the Woodland Trail. There was a good selection of warblers for us to find including Cettis & Garden Warbler and one group had Treecreeper & brief views of a Tawny Owl, whilst the other found Willow Tit & Bullfinch. In the afternoon we walked along the River Ant where we heard booming Bittern whilst being dive bombed by the huge numbers of Hirundines and Swifts feeding on the insects disturbed by the group. A total of 55 species for the day bringing the weekend total to 111.

Field Trips

September 15th RSPB Frampton Marsh

This site on The Wash has three hides and a visitor centre. Hopefully a good chance of birds migrating through, and depending on the tides a good variety of Waders. Cost £2.50 assuming you are an RSPB member

October 13th Brockholes, Lancs (by coach)

A new site which is a new Lancashire Wildlife Trust site on the Ribble, there are full facilities including a floating visitor centre and various trails This trip will be by coach with a 7am start. Cost will be £21.50.

November 17th RSPB Ouse Washes

A reserve we have visited previously but at a different time of year, there are 10 hides and a small visitor centre with toilet facilities There should be a good chance of seeing wintering swan, geese and ducks. Cost £2.50 assuming you are an RSPB member.

December 15th Summer Leys Nature Reserve

This site is close to Wellingborough so not too far to travel on a winter's day. This reserve has 4 hides and good paths but no facilities If time allows we may make a short visit to Pitsford Reservoir on the way home. Cost will be £2.50.