

## Annual Photographic Competition

Once again we had a good number of entries for the Competition and below are the winners and runners up for each category.

### Bird Category

#### Winner

Phil Beet with his photo of a Goldeneye taken at Pitsford Reservoir



#### Runner up

Roger Keightley with his photo of a Greenshank taken at Gibraltar Point



### British Wildlife, Flora and Fauna category

#### Winner

Marion Turner with her photo of an Emerald Damselfly taken in the garden



#### Runner up

Jan Thompson with her photo of a Hover Fly



Thanks to everyone who entered and if you didn't win this year there is always next year. Keep clicking those cameras!

*The next edition of the Newsletter will be issued in Feb 2016. If you have a story for inclusion please send copy and photos to Marion at [graham.turner@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.turner@btinternet.com)*

## SLB NEWSLETTER

Issue no. 40

Nov 2015

**SOUTH LEICESTER  
BIRDWATCHERS**



The Committee would like to thank everyone for renewing their membership subscription and we will endeavour to continue to provide a varied programme of events for our 10th year as a club. As the days are getting shorter now, remember to start or continue feeding the birds in your garden to help them through the winter months. (*Robin photo by Brian Pepall*).

Keep your eyes peeled for new arrivals of our over wintering birds such as the winter Thrushes, Duck, Geese, Swan etc. and for those extra special eruptive species such as Waxwings and Crossbills. Happy birding!



### **Indoor Meetings & Events**

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

- |                                 |                |                                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b> | Paul Hobson    | Scottish Delights                    |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b>  | Phil Johnson   | Rectory Farm                         |
| <b>13<sup>th</sup> January</b>  | Jeff Blincow   | Birds in Flight                      |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b> | Steve McGennis | Blue Tits through the seasons        |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>     | Dave Nicholls  | Naturespot, recording Leics wildlife |

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](mailto:graham.turner@btinternet.com)  
[www.southleicesterbirdwatchers.uk](http://www.southleicesterbirdwatchers.uk)

## Field Trips 2015

### 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.**

## Trip Reports

### Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve - 12th September 2015 (GT)

Overnight rain was continuing as we left Blaby but by the time we arrived at Gibraltar Point the skies were clearing to a warm day with the sun looking to come out. First sighting of the day was an excellent one - a Spoonbill flying over the car park. We worked our way along the path through the trees and had a Spotted Flycatcher and from the first hide there was a large flock of Black-Tailed Godwits in variable plumage, 3 Spotted Redshank and a Greenshank. A flock of Golden Plover were put up by a Marsh Harrier and as we moved to the next hide we saw 5 more Spoonbill flying as well as an obliging one who stayed behind to feed and eventually give good views.

From the same hide we found 3 Wheatear as well as a Whinchat sitting on a wire fence plus another Greenshank trying to swallow a small fish. We saw Swallows and House Martin moving south throughout the day and another close view Greenshank from a different hide—which will probably feature in our photographic competitions! A total of 59 species for the day.

## Trip Reports continued

### RSPB Titchwell Marsh - 17th October 2015 (GT)

It was overcast with a northerly wind for much of the day but this didn't put the birds off at all. The Autumn Trail was open and for most of the group it was the first time they had a chance to explore this area of the reserve. Near the feeders by the visitors centre we found Brambling, Siskin, Marsh Tit and there had been an influx of Goldcrest as they seemed to be everywhere. There were a lot of waders including both Black and Bar Tailed Godwits, 30+ Ruff and a large flock of Golden Plover. Ducks were well represented with at least 10 male Red Crested Pochard and a couple of Pintail among the large numbers of "regular" ducks. The Brent Geese were arriving in large numbers to swell the well filled scrapes. A Bittern was seen by a lucky few and a late Swallow was noted. A splendid total of 83 species for the day.

### Photographs versus sketches - Article by Dave Judson

The excellent members photographs shown at our club AGM demonstrates just how clever some people are with their modern cameras. It hasn't always been so. I recently have been reading a Russian book, *Animals in Nature.*, by Vladimir Smirin Here is what the author has to say - he believes it is not photographs but sketches that better illustrate wildlife and bird books.

"Despite the expertise of professional wildlife photographers, their books do not compare with those illustrated by sketches. Photographs, for him, never achieve the same unity with the text as can an author's own drawings. Reading the text and looking at the photograph are separate acts. It is rare for a photograph to be taken at the actual moment being described, on the other hand it is quite possible to sketch the actual events, A photograph is literally a snapshot, it freezes a moment, whereas a drawing represents continuing movement. It gives a better idea of the action as a whole."

Hmm--the writers were working in the 1980s. Does anyone else remember the Zenith cameras of that era? Mine is still gathering dust in the loft. I wonder what the author (sadly now deceased) would have thought if he'd been in the room during our photographic competition!

Please turn to the back page to see the winners and runners up in each category.

