

RSPB NE London Local Group

Dear All,

We hope you, your family and friends are continuing to keep safe and well and you have found the opportunity to have a break over the summer.

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, we have been exploring the feasibility of zoom meetings to replace our indoor meetings. We are pleased to announce that we will be holding three Zoom meetings on the following dates, so please put them in your diaries! All the talks will start at the usual time of 8pm.

Tuesday 8th September 2020

Tuesday 13th October 2020

Tuesday 10th November 2020

We will shortly be sending out instructions by email on how to join us. As way of a spoiler for the first talk in September – we have two for the price of one! Debbie will be telling us about the plight of swifts locally, tying this in with a look at Walthamstow Wetlands and in the second half, Ray will be sharing his experiences of a visit he made to Namibia.

Unfortunately, the current guidance from the RSPB that we should not engage in any face-to-face activity means we are currently unable to run a walks programme. This line is reviewed by the RSPB on a monthly basis, so we will be able to update you in our next issue or, hopefully when you join us for our Zoom meeting next month.

Warm regards,

Your Friends on the Committee

Website - www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northeastlondon

Contact us by email - nelondonRSPB@yahoo.co.uk

Keep in touch - on Twitter @RSPBNELondonGrp

- on Facebook (www.facebook.com/nelondon)



RSPB Reserves

With the majority of RSPB nature reserves now open, Jeff and Marc paid a visit to Rainham Marshes. "Despite the visitor centre not being open, we were still afforded a warm welcome and were informed of the changes that had been made to help keep visitors safe. This included a one-way system around the reserve and face masks to be worn in the hides.

The highlights of our visit were seeing a Snipe "drop in" as we were viewing the pools in front of the Butts Hide, a Hobby swooping and twisting in search of prey and best of all, fantastic views of a Wood Sandpiper (see below) as it fed among the vegetation right in front of the Ken Barrett Hide.

A quick walk along the sea wall before heading home resulted in good views of Avocet, Ringed Plover, a solitary Ruff and a sizable flock of Black-Tailed Godwit."



News

Allotment Watch by Jeff Gooding

I am fortunate to have an allotment on the Roding Road site in Loughton. While working on my plot, I've always got half an eye out for passing birds, the recent increase of flyovers by Red Kites has been great to see. Summer is traditionally a quiet time for birds but that doesn't mean there is no wildlife to see, as I hope the photos below show. The photo on the left below is a Jersey Tiger moth proving not all moths are dull! The caterpillar is that of the Cinnabar Moth which feeds on Ragwort. Although it is considered a weed, I always allow some to grow just for the Cinnabars.



Insects are a diverse and large group of creatures. One that I'm always pleased to see is a Rose Chafer (left). It's a large, broad beetle with a magnificent metallic green shell, that when it lands it does so with a thump! The Thick-legged Flower Beetle is also a shiny, iridescent green (right) as you can see from the photo!



I see plenty of Common Field Grasshoppers. The one shown on the left below is sunbathing on the log I have in my wildlife corner. It'd be wise to be alert though, as this log is also a popular spot for this Common Lizard!



Butterfly Quiz

Listed below are 5 butterflies in anagram form. Can you unscramble them? Answers below:

Mac mo

Married Lad

Cake Cop

Best Minor

Horsetail Lost Smell

Helping bees

The RSPB has produced a guide that shows how you can help bees by growing different flowers and shrubs that are full of nectar and pollen, to give them a rich feeding ground throughout the year.

Bees are declining globally, so why not have go at this activity on your balcony, in your garden or on your allotment!

[Click here](#) to access the guide.

Small Tortoiseshell.
Admiral, Peacock, Brimstone and
Quiz answers: Comma, Red