

WELCOME BACK

The summer months have passed very quickly and now the evenings are drawing in quickly we are back to the autumn monthly meetings. We had a glorious July but August was back to normal with a real mixed bag of weather. A few rarities turned up during the summer – I had a great day on 26th July when I arrived at Seeswood Pool near Nuneaton in the morning to find a fisherman who immediately asked me if the unusual bird perched in the open on a branch 30 yards away was the rare bird people had been coming to see. After great views of the night heron I rushed over to Middleton Lakes to join the throng of birders looking at the Pacific Golden Plover sitting quietly on the edge of the pool 50 yards away.

If you have been anywhere or seen anything interesting this summer please put it on paper and send it to me to include in the next newsletter. I have included my email address at the bottom of the page.



YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS
YOU

A VOTE FOR BOB IS A VOTE FOR NATURE. VOTEFORBOB.CO.UK

VOTE FOR BOB

Firstly I should like to thank Bob for all his hard work as Group Leader over the last six years on behalf of the Lichfield Group and committee. As well as organising the monthly meetings which take a lot of effort to plan and arrange, he has done a lot of work for the RSPB locally "behind the scenes" such as giving talks to schools and clubs and leading birdwatching walks.

As he announced at the May meeting, he and Joan are moving to Yorkshire and he has decided to retire as group leader. I have been nominated by the committee to take over as group leader, which I am happy to do.

I have been attending the group meetings for the last four years and joined the committee two years ago. I am relatively new to birdwatching having only taken up the activity seriously four years ago and I appreciate that many members of the group have vastly more experience than I do. Consequently I would welcome the support of group members when we organise guided walks etc in the future. Also we are always looking for members to join the committee to help to run the group, especially as we have now lost five committee members who have moved away from the area in the last four years.

Bob and Joan have not yet sold their house so hopefully we can look forward to seeing them for the next few meetings.

As for the other Bob – the RSPB is running a campaign to persuade our politicians to do more to protect and care for our wildlife and nature. **You can help by adding your name to the petition created by the RSPB on the website – voteforbob.co.uk.**

The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As part of the process for me to become the new group leader, the RSPB requires the group to hold an AGM. Therefore we have decided it would be best to get this formal business done as soon as possible and we have therefore allocated 10 minutes at the start of tonight's meeting for this.

The agenda for the AGM is

- Leader's report and annual review
- Financial report
- Election of leader

There is a separate hand-out available which gives the leader's report and annual review and the financial report.

OTHER NEWS AND INFORMATION

RSPB MEMBERS DAY – The RSPB is holding its Members' Day and AGM on Saturday 25th October at a new venue, the ICC in Birmingham. There's lots for you to enjoy on the day, including talks by David Lindo (the urban birder) and the RSPB president Miranda Krestovnikoff, who is well-known from TV shows Coast and The One Show.

There are plenty more inspiring talks, too. You can find out about huge conservation projects, where whole landscapes are being improved for wildlife and people, as well as the effects of flooding.

If you are interested you can find more information and a booking form on the RSPB website (www.rspb.org.uk/thingstodo/agm)

PHOTO EXHIBITION - As in previous years you are all invited at the Christmas meeting to submit a display of your favourite photographs from the last 12 months. This event has proved popular for the last three years and gives you the opportunity to show your pictures. Please make sure the subject matter is wildlife or landscape based and mounted on card so they can be presented on our display boards.

OCTOBER COACH TRIP

After last year's successful trip to Gibraltar Point, we are revisiting the reserve on Sunday 12th October. Please see Heather tonight to book your place as this is the last meeting before the trip.

NEXT MEETING

Colin Kirtland takes us to Kazakhstan and southern Siberia – a journey with a difference

TUESDAY 14th OCTOBER 7.30