

RSPB NE London Local Group

Dear All,

Hope you are all well. Many thanks to those of you who have donated on line following our zoom meetings or have let us know they will make a contribution in person once we can meet again. The RSPB is grateful for all the funds it can raise at any time and especially in these difficult times.

Our next zoom meeting is our Christmas social on the 8th December. The plan is to have a quiz on the evening. Nothing too difficult I am told, although they are only easy if you know the answer. I'm afraid you will need to bring your own mince pies and mulled wine.

Here are a further three dates for your diary in the New Year

12th January AGM followed by Roy Atkins from Speyside Wildlife
9th February Andre Farrar - My Life with Birds
9th March Simon Ginnaw - Birding in the Heart of Europe (Hungary)

As we become aware of SE Herts Zoom meeting invites, we are sending them on to you. We hope this offers you a wider range of possible meetings.

With the continuing restrictions in place on people meeting, walks are still cancelled, but we have a walks programme ready in the event the rules change significantly.

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



Protecting Wildlife Sites

If you are worried about the damage being done to a local wildlife spot, or want some background information on wildlife law and the planning system, the RSPB have a series of local planning packs. One for each of the home countries. The local planning packs will guide you through the process of protecting special places near you.

The RSPB planning packs are available at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/protecting-wildlife-sites-near-you/>



RSPB Lodge Hill campaign photo

Feeding Birds

As autumn turns to winter, the plentiful supply of food for birds begins to diminish. The winter is the hardest time of year for most birds. The RSPB website offers advice on feeding birds throughout the year and for the autumn and winter it advises the following.

At this time of year, put out food and water on a regular basis. In severe weather, feed twice daily if you can, preferably in the early morning and again in the early afternoon.

Birds require high-energy (high-fat) foods during the cold winter weather to maintain their fat reserves to survive the frosty nights. Use only good-quality food and scraps.

Always adjust the quantity given to the demand, and never allow uneaten foods to build up around the feeders. Clean the feeders regularly to avoid wet food accumulation and disease.

Once you establish a feeding routine, try not to change it as the birds will become used to it and time their visits to your garden accordingly.

So, what to feed Birds

From personal experience black sunflower seeds and sunflower hearts are very popular with common garden birds such as blues tits, great tits and most finches. Another popular choice is a suet block, loved by long-tailed tits and the great spotted woodpecker. Our last speaker had a recommended recipe of peanut butter, lard and bread crumbs pushed into holes in a wooden post to attract woodpeckers. You may even get the odd exotic such as a parakeet in your garden.



Bird Quiz

Listed below are 5 Cryptic clues to birds. Can you identify them from the clues?

Answers below:

- 1 This legendary character was an absolute wizard
- 2 A well-known crossing
- 3 An invoice for cutlery
- 4 Something you really don't want to win
- 5 Royal angler

Local Reserves

Not strictly a local reserve, but the Gunpowder Park (Waltham Abbey) has been generating excitement amongst bird watchers with a pair of short eared owls regularly being seen there in the hour before dusk. The first report on Birdguides was on 25th October and there have been reports on many days since.

Answers: Merlin, pelican, spoonbill, booby, Kingfisher