

RSPB NE London Local Group

Dear All,

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone. Hope you are all well.

With the Christmas season almost upon us I thought we would take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and Merry Christmas even if, for many of us, it is not the Christmas that we envisaged.

Our next three meetings are all on zoom.
12th January AGM followed by Roy Atkins from Speyside Wildlife talking about Speyside Wildlife
9th February Andre Farrar - My Life with Birds
9th March Simon Ginnaw - Birding in the Heart of Europe (Hungary)

We will review the situation in January regarding the meetings for April onwards, whether we will continue with zoom meetings or it will be safe to return to the hall

We have a full programme of walks for next year. We did a practice run for committee members in early December, to see how a bird walk would work with social distancing. With the move to tier 4 for London, and a possible long-term lockdown after Christmas we are monitoring the situation closely.

As it's Christmas, I could not resist including a picture of a robin (right).

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



Redbridge Green Urban Landscape Policy

Redbridge Council are currently working on a policy that will create a plan for managing and improving greenery across the borough, including trees, shrubs, planters, and grass areas. If managed well these natural assets can provide healthy spaces for wildlife to flourish and adapt to climate change. The Council are keen for the public to help shape this policy and have an online survey. It is not just for Redbridge residents.

The closing date for the survey is 15th Jan 2021

Complete the survey [here](#).



Wildlife Discovery Centre at Fishers Green



The Lee Valley Authority has opened its new Wildlife Discovery Centre at Fishers Green in the Lee Valley. This is a replacement for the former Bittern Hide and is facing seventy-acre lake. The potential highlight of the centre is the 5metre high tower which offers 360-degree views of the Lee Valley.

The centre has also incorporated a kingfisher breeding site which is pictured on the left. In the event that kingfishers decide

to nest there, it is possible to insert a camera which will send back pictures of the activity to the main centre.

Due to Covid restrictions the centre is currently closed. Previously, it was open to those who booked an entry time in advance.

Big Garden Bird Watch

An early mention of the Big Garden Bird Watch -29th to 31st January. You can sign up for all you need to take part, including your free guide, help with identifying what you see and expert advice on feeding the birds at [Big Garden Birdwatch | Join the fun - The RSPB](#)

New this year on the RSPB website is Big Garden Birdwatch Live! The website states

Our experts from across the UK will be bringing you photos, footage and facts about the birds they see, as well as answering any questions you may have. Plus, there'll be live quizzes, and familiar faces throughout the weekend – all set to make this the best Birdwatch ever!

Bird Jokes

As it's Christmas a few 'cracker' jokes with a bird theme

Answers below:

- 1: Which bird is always out of breath?
- 2: What kind of bird doesn't need a comb?
- 3: What kind of bird can carry the most weight?
- 4: What flies through the jungle singing opera?
- 5: Why do hummingbirds hum?

Essex Wildlife Trust's 2020 Photographic Competition

Congratulations to Peter Warne, our October speaker, who has won the category of 'Wilder Essex' one of six categories of this competition. The public are now invited to vote for the overall winner. To vote, and see some great photos, follow the link below. Vote by 11th January.

Good luck Peter!

[Vote for your favourite to win | Essex Wildlife Trust \(essexwt.org.uk\)](#)

Answers 1: A puffin! 2: A bald eagle 3 The crane 4: The parrots of Penzance! 5: They don't know the words