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# DELIGHTFUL DEVON BANK HOLIDAY BIRDING

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (4 days / 3 nights)

**£179** per person (3 nights full board)

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PENALTY CHARGES!**

**20 single rooms + 7 twin/double rooms available**

| Included:              | Fri. 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>May 2014 | Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup><br>May 2014 | Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup><br>May 2014 | Mon. 26 <sup>th</sup><br>May 2014 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| En-suite bedroom       | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |                                   |
| Breakfast              |                                   | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |
| Packed Lunch           |                                   | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |
| Evening Meal           | ✓                                 | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |                                   |
| Slapton Ley NNR        | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |                                   |                                   |
| Prawle Point NT        |                                   | ✓                                 |                                   |                                   |
| Guided bat walk        | ✓                                 |                                   |                                   |                                   |
| Bird ringing demo      |                                   | ✓                                 |                                   |                                   |
| Yarner Wood            |                                   |                                   | ✓                                 |                                   |
| Bovey Valley, Dartmoor |                                   |                                   | ✓                                 |                                   |
| Dawlish Warren NNR     |                                   |                                   |                                   | ✓                                 |
| After-dinner quiz      |                                   | ✓                                 | ✓                                 |                                   |

**“Value for money bird watching trips for birders on a budget”**

Our birding weekend in Devon starts with check in at the **Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre** (SL FSC) from 4pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014. This gives everyone plenty of time to travel from the Medway/Swale area stopping off en-route if they wish.

After our evening meal, we will have a guided **bat walk**. An early night is then recommended for those that wish to be up at sunrise to enjoy the optional dawn-chorus.



At 6am on Saturday morning there will be an optional Devon **dawn-chorus** walk. We look and listen for the testosterone-fuelled singing males of Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Whitethroat amongst the Robin, Wren, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Chaffinch.

After breakfast at SL FSC, we hope to observe the local **bird ringing** group record their findings at the mist nets.

From the ringing station we will embark on a leisurely 4km stroll around **Slapton Ley NNR** looking for Grey Heron, Reed Bunting, Sedge, Reed and Cetti's Warbler, Great Crested and Little Grebe. For the botanists in the group we will also look for the critically endangered Strapwort (*Corrigiola litoralis*) which is found nowhere else in the UK. We will also note any early summer butterflies before returning to the SL FSC for lunch.



After lunch we will drive to **Prawle Point**, which is owned by the National Trust, in the hope of adding Cirl Bunting, Yellowhammer, Lesser Whitethroat, Raven, Common Buzzard, Redstart, Wheatear and Stonechat to our list.

After our home-cooked evening meal, there will be time for a fun quiz and opportunity to reflect on our first full day in the field – that's if everyone hasn't fallen asleep or gone to the village pub!



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A lie in on Sunday morning affords a 9.30am departure after breakfast to **Yarner Wood** on the edge of Dartmoor which is exceptionally rich in summer woodland birds.

Our guide for the day will be professional Naturetrek tour leader and Dragonfly expert, **Dave Smallshire**. We will complete the 2.5km green nature trail and hope to observe Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Woodlark, Tree Pipit, Wood Warbler, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Tree Creeper, Coal Tit and Long-tailed Tit.

Amongst the heath and gorse at **Trendlebere Down** we may catch a glimpse of Cuckoo, Stonechat and Raven as we enjoy our picnic lunch with spectacular views over Dartmoor.

After our picnic, we head back towards Slapton Ley FSC, stopping off in the **Bovey Valley** for a short walk along the river to look for Kingfisher, Dipper and Grey Wagtail. An after-dinner quiz back at our SL FSC base will end the day.



On Monday morning after breakfast, we will check out of SL FSC and take the scenic A379 coast road (including a car ferry crossing over the River Dart) through Dartmouth, Paignton, Torquay and Teignmouth to **Dawlish Warren**. At 12 noon, the resident warden will take us on a 2 hour guided tour of this spit of land that sticks out into the mouth of the River Exe estuary. We hope to observe Grey Heron, Little Egret, Oystercatcher, Black-tailed Godwit, Dunlin and maybe Kentish Plover.

After a picnic lunch, we will say our goodbyes and continue the journey back home, hoping to arrive back in the Medway/Swale area about 7pm.



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# Devon and Dartmoor Bank Holiday Birding

## **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014: - Arrive, settle in and get ready to see some bats!**

- 4.00pm Arrive Slapton Ley FSC (TQ7 2QP) for check in and welcome briefing
- 6.00pm Evening meal (2 courses) at Slapton FSC
- 9.00pm Guided bat walk with electronic detectors

## **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014: - A full day to explore the superb and varied habitats at Slapton Ley**

- 6.00am Optional dawn-chorus walk in woodlands near Slapton Ley NNR
- 8.30am Full English or Continental breakfast
- 9.30am Observe bird ringers at local misting nets (park on sea front Monument car park)
- 10.30am 4km leisurely circular stroll around Slapton Ley NNR (including picnic lunch)
- 2.00pm Visit by car to Prawle Point National Trust headland (TQ7 2ZQ)
- 6.00pm Evening meal (2 courses) at Slapton Ley FSC
- 8.00pm Quiz night with prizes

## **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2014: - A full day with professional guide & dragonfly expert Dave Smallshire**

- 8.30am Full English or Continental breakfast
- 9.30am Travel 32 miles (1 hour) to Yarner Wood (TQ13 9UG)
- 10.30am Guided circular walk following 2.5km 'Green Trail'
- 1.00pm Picnic lunch on Trendlebere Down overlooking Dartmoor National Park
- 2.00pm Short walk at Bovey Valley then head back to Slapton Ley FSC
- 6.00pm Evening meal (2 courses) at Slapton Ley FSC
- 8.00pm Quiz night with prizes

## **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014: - A warden-led walk around Dawlish Warren**

- 8.30am Full English or Continental breakfast
- 10.00am Check out of FSC and then drive 32 miles along A379 to Dawlish Warren (EX7 0PQ)
- 12.00pm Picnic lunch and warden-guided walk around Dawlish Warren NNR
- 3.00pm End of the trip, fond farewells and time to head home
- 7.00pm ETA back in Medway/Swale

## **What IS included in the 'Bargain Birding Club' price?**

- 3 nights accommodation with private en-suite bathroom and 24 hour tea/coffee facilities
- En-site hire of all towels and all bedding (so no need to bring your own)
- Meals as specified above (excludes alcoholic drinks – please feel free to bring your own)
- Bat walk, dawn chorus walk, and access to bird ringing station at Slapton Ley NNR
- Public Liability Insurance

## **What is NOT included in the 'Bargain Birding Club' price?**

- Transport (suggest guests car share as we have done on previous trips)
- Car parking (where applicable) and car ferry (£4.70 per car cash only) from Dartmouth
- Personal effects (birding equipment, toiletries, medications, travel insurance, etc.)

**To reserve your place on this trip please contact Richard Hanman**

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