

## **TWEET OF THE DAY**

I have always been an early riser, a lark, so I always start the day at 5.58am when my clock radio goes off so that I can listen to Tweet of the Day on Radio 4. For those of you who have never listened to this item, it is a one minute commentary on a bird accompanied by its birdsong, with a variety of presenters. I found yesterday's item particularly interesting as it was presented by Nadia Archer, our RSPB Volunteer Development Officer, who came to talk to us in January about Sherwood Forest. She described watching peregrine falcons hunting pigeons in central Manchester from her 10<sup>th</sup> floor apartment.

## **COACH TRIP TO RSPB YNYS-HIR**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

Our next coach trip is to RSPB Ynys-hir in May

There are still places left so if you have not yet booked a seat, please do so tonight.

There are a mixture of habitats to be explored at Ynys-hir. Stunning Welsh oak woodland which in spring has breeding pied flycatcher, redstart, wood warbler and lesser spotted woodpecker as well as the early spring flowers such as bluebells. The estuary saltmarsh and lowland wet grasslands support breeding lapwing and redshank. Other areas to explore include freshwater pools, reedbeds and peat bog. Birds to be seen here include grasshopper warblers and water rail.

There are three waymarked trails, visiting the saltmarsh and estuary, the oak woodland and wetland. There are five bird hides. There is a small visitor centre where hot beverages and light refreshments such as cakes and flapjacks are available.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head.

The coach will leave the Bird Street (B & M) car park at 7.30 am as usual.

Free admission to Ynys-hir for RSPB members, otherwise £6 for adults.

## **TREASURER AND GROUP LEADER**

I find the years go by very quickly these days. At a recent committee meeting I discovered that Claire Hinsley has been our group treasurer for 9 years. The normal term for a treasurer is five years. Claire has done an excellent job keeping our finances in order, but she now feels it is time to hand over to someone else. Therefore we are looking for a volunteer to take over from Claire. I or Claire can provide further information on the role of the treasurer. It is a requirement of the RSPB that each local group has a treasurer and group leader.

Therefore please let me know if you are interested in helping the group in this way.

Incidentally, I shall have been group leader for five years this September. The RSPB requires that I should seek re-election at the next AGM in September. I am happy to continue at this stage but if anyone fancies taking over as group leader this is your opportunity to put your name forward.

## **COACH TRIP TO RSPB TITCHWELL**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

We are going to RSPB Titchwell on the Norfolk coast. As most of you know, this is one of the RSPB's premier reserves and has a great variety of bird species at all times of the year but particularly during the autumn migration.

Titchwell is renowned for its wading birds, wildfowl and geese. These gather in significant numbers from mid-autumn onwards and with the arrival of migrant birds from Scandinavia and Northern Europe the fresh water lagoons are soon filled with a variety of resident species and visitors. During autumn, marsh harriers can be seen soaring low over reedbeds. Avocets can be seen on the fresh marsh all year round whilst alongside the West Bank path, the metallic 'ping-ping' of the much smaller bearded tits can be heard above the rustle of the reeds.

An easy walk leads from the car park through woodland glades to the Visitor Centre and Cafe. From here, the West Bank path opens up to wild landscapes of saltmarsh, reedbeds and freshwater lagoons fed by a natural spring and on to Titchwell's vast and undeveloped beach. The East Trail has outlooks across quiet pools full of wildlife.

There are 4 hides and 3 signposted trails. There is a visitor centre including a café serving hot and cold food and a shop.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head. There is free entry to Titchwell for all visitors.

The coach will leave the Bird Street (B & M) car park at 7.30 am as usual. Therefore please reserve your place tonight.

### **NEXT MEETING: 14<sup>th</sup> MAY**

#### **Wildlife Down-Under – Chris Ward**

We welcome back Chris Ward who gave us an interesting talk last year on Norfolk. Chris is a natural history lecturer and widely-travelled photographer. His talks feature a variety of landscape or habitat images and wildlife pictures, usually with an emphasis on birds.

He will be presenting one of his overseas talks which he describes as an extravaganza of colourful, rare and unique Australian wildlife, featuring the rich and varied habitats of south-eastern Queensland, New South Wales and the 'Top End'. An unforgettable 'down under' winter trip.

### **LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

#### **RSPB Middleton Lakes**

The spring migration is getting into full swing. There was a report of a grasshopper warbler singing at Middleton on Friday so hopefully a lot more migrants will have arrived by next week.

We will be meeting at the Reserve car park at 10am for an approximate 2 hour visit.

### **LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY**

#### **Cannock Chase – Seven Springs**

Our May local birdwatching walk is at Seven Springs car park on Cannock Chase.

We will be meeting at Seven Springs car park (postcode ST17 0WT) off the A513 about 1 mile west of Wolseley Bridge at 10am for an approximate 2 hour visit.

Please come along if you can and share your birdwatching skills with us. If anyone requires a lift from Lichfield please see me this evening or contact me either by phone on 0121 353 6886 or email (dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com).

**SUTTON COLDFIELD RSPB GROUP COACH TRIPS** – Sutton group are running a coach trip to Paxton Pits near St. Neots on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. For further information and to book please contact Tony Green on 01827 750633 or tonygreen777@hotmail.co.uk.

If you no longer wish to hear from RSPB Lichfield Local Group, please contact Dennis Muxworthy on 0121 353 6886 or dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com to unsubscribe from communications, confirming your name and address and stating that you wish to unsubscribe from RSPB Lichfield Local Group's communications.