

## **SOME RSPB SUCCESS STORIES IN 2014**



Significant advances have been made with creating new intertidal habitat. Three pairs of black winged stilt bred in the UK in 2014. One at our Medmerry reserve raised 4 young, less than a year after the sea wall was breached.



Seven pairs of Montagu's harriers nested in England and with RSPB organised nest protection, raised 17 young!



This was the fifth and final year of crane school and the class of 2014 passed with flying colours to join a flock now gracing the Somerset levels. In 2014 17 cranes were released onto the Somerset Levels and Moors in late August and are starting to interact and integrate with the 54 birds that currently live there.

## **LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

### **Doxey Marshes, Stafford**

We are making our next visit to local reserves at Doxey Marshes on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Doxey Marshes, a Staffordshire Wildlife Trust reserve, has a good range of wildfowl and wading birds with over 200 species recorded and over 80 breeding species. The reserve is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its nationally important populations of Lapwing, Snipe and Redshank. Several water pipits have been reported regularly on site during the last two months.

We will be meeting at the Reserve car park 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](mailto:dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com)).

#### **Directions to the car park at the end of Wootton Drive ST16 1JR**

From M6 Junction 14 - Leave the motorway at this junction and head south towards Stafford along the Eccleshall Road A5013. Take the first turning on the right to access the main reserve car park. This turning is sign posted with a brown tourist sign. Follow the road (Creswell Farm Drive/Wootton Drive) through the housing estate, down a slight hill and around the bend until you reach the car park and the playground.

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

The RSPB is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654.

**Dennis 0121 353 6886**

[www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield)

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## **LEIGHTON MOSS COACH TRIP**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Our next trip is to the RSPB reserve at Leighton Moss. Leighton Moss has the largest reedbed in north-west England, and is home to some really special birds such as breeding bitterns, bearded tits and marsh harriers. I remember the last time we visited Leighton Moss we had some fantastic close up views of the bearded tits. There are three nature trails and seven hides. There is a visitor centre, shop and café on site.

Reserve your place tonight with Heather. Cost is £15 per head. Admission to hides and nature trails is free for RSPB members or £7 for non-members (concessions £4.50).

## **TRIP TO RUTLAND WATER**

We arrived at Rutland Water on a sunny frosty morning and hastened to visit the furthestmost hides before the predicted wet and windy weather arrived. There was a good selection of birds to see including two male smew, which were displaying to females, and a great white egret which was very close to one of the hides. Some of us saw a red kite flying around the reserve. By lunchtime the wind and rain arrived and most of us retreated to hides or the visitor centre to warm up with mugs of coffee and tea. In all we saw 73 species during the day.

## **FOCUS OPTICS BIRDWATCHING HOLIDAYS**

I visited Focus Optics, one of our sponsors, last week and Tim told me about four day bird tours they are organising to the Sierra Oeste area of Spain, west of Madrid. If you are interested, there are some leaflets about the tours at the back of the room

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

We would like members to give us their email addresses so we can contact you about events etc. If you have not yet completed a form and would like to give us your email addresses please complete a form which is available on the back of the room. I will be responsible for collecting, recording and sending out emails to members. You will be able to unsubscribe from receiving future emails at any time, should you wish to.

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

### **2010 – A Digital Year presented by Geoff Trinder**

Geoff last visited us in 2010 when he gave us a talk on Yellowstone National Park. This time, he is going to show us a wide range of wildlife from places he visited in 2010. He starts in Japan with cranes, eagles and monkeys before moving on to Lesvos with birds and flowers, followed by species photographed in North Lincolnshire. Next he will visit the Masai Mara with leopards and other big game and finally visits Botswana with bee-eaters and fish eagles. In other words a bit of everything.

He is chair of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and has managed one of their reserves, Epworth Turbary SSSI, for the last 37 years. He is a Member of the Royal Photographic Society and has served as chair of their Nature Group. Geoff has travelled extensively around the world in search of images of nature.