



giving
nature
a home

Lichfield RSPB Local Group FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

NEW BIRD SPECIES IN UK?

I read an interesting article in the February edition of Birdwatching magazine, which is trying to predict ten species of bird which will colonise the UK over the next few years. We are so used to warnings of disappearing birds on a regular basis that it makes a welcome change to get some more positive views.

The 10 species predicted to become established breeding birds are:

Night Heron, Baillon's Crake, Zitting Cisticola, Great White Egret, Glossy Ibis, Bluethroat, Common Rosefinch, Mealy Redpoll, Black-winged Stilt and Bee-eater.

Of course all of these birds are fairly regular visitors and sporadic breeders already in some cases, but it would be great to see them properly established in the UK in the same way that Little Egrets have over the last few decades.

Other good news reported by the RSPB is that 140 confirmed booming male bitterns were recorded in the UK in 2014, a 17% increase on 2013. Somerset seems to have done particularly well with 20 booming bitterns at the Ham Wall reserve alone.

RSPB SANDWELL VALLEY RESERVE

As you may know the old visitor centre at Sandwell Valley was the victim of an arson attack several years ago but I am pleased to report that a brand new centre is currently being built and is due to open this summer. I visited the reserve last week and the builders are making good progress, with the walls already quite high. The RSPB is keen to gain new volunteers to welcome visitors, so if you could help even for a short time, particularly over the summer weekends and school summer holidays, please contact Nadia Shaikh, the Volunteer Development Officer, on 0121 357 7395 or email her at nadia.shaikh@rspb.org.uk

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: 12th FEBRUARY

RSPB Middleton Lakes

As I mentioned last month, we are organising the first of our 2015 visits to local reserves at Middleton on Thursday. 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).

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

dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com

RUTLAND WATER COACH TRIP

Sunday 22nd February

We still have a handful of places left on our trip to Rutland later this month.

Reserve your place tonight with Heather. Cost is £15 per head and there is a discounted rate for entry to the reserve of £3.80 per head.

The coach will be leaving the "B&M" car park as usual at 7.30 am.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND OTHER NEWS

20th March - Our next local birdwatching walk to Doxey Marshes, meeting there at 10 am.

13th June - Lichfield Wildlife Group are organising a coach trip to Slimbridge on Saturday 13th June and would like to invite RSPB members to join them. The cost is £20 per head which includes the admission fee to Slimbridge. Please contact Ray Allen for further details on 01543 251654.

I have received a 2015 programme of Birdwatching Cruises in the Wash organised by the RSPB South Lincolnshire Group. These 4 ½ - 5 hour cruises depart from Boston Marina on various dates from April to October and visit the extensive saltmarshes and mudflats in the area. In 2014 they averaged 64 species per cruise. If you are interested there are some copies of the programme at the back of the room.

NEXT MEETING: 10th MARCH

The Wildlife of Shropshire and West Midlands

This talk will be presented by Ben Waddams. Ben lives in Shropshire and regularly gives talks on the natural history of Britain and abroad. As well as being a wildlife photographer, he is also a wildlife artist, writer and film maker – an all-round naturalist!

He has travelled extensively through regions of Africa and Central America. He also gives talks about wildlife art and the inspiration behind his paintings.

VOTE FOR BOB

If you have not yet voted for Bob, now is a good time to do it in the run-up to the General Election to get nature onto our politicians' agenda. The target is 150,000 votes and so far the campaign has attracted 118,500. It is easy to vote by visiting the website www.voteforbob.co.uk and voting for Bob.