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a home

Lichfield RSPB Local Group MAY NEWSLETTER



TWO NIGHTS FOR NIGHTJARS

We will meet as in previous years at the Whitehouse car park (postcode WS12 4PR) on Cannock Chase at 9pm. The two dates, in case the weather is unsuitable on the first date, are Tuesday 7th and 14th June. I will be there on both nights and hopefully we will see and hear these enigmatic visitors. There is also a very good chance of seeing Woodcock performing their roding flight and perhaps long eared owls (We saw them last year at this time). Put some warm clothes on as it can get quite chilly when the sun goes down and a torch may be useful to get back to the car park.

NEW VENUE FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Just a reminder, for anyone who did not attend last month's meeting, that our last meeting at St Mary's will be on Tuesday 13th September. Our October meeting will be at our new venue, the Guildhall.

NEXT MEETING: 13th SEPTEMBER – A LANE AROUND THE UK

Mike Lane is a full time wildlife photographer specialising in birds and mammals. He says "Although I get to travel to foreign lands a great deal, my main love is British wildlife. I get far more satisfaction photographing humble wrens and chaffinches than exotic parrots in distant rain forests." His talk will concentrate on British wildlife and includes Dartford warbler, Snow buntings, Choughs, Corncrakes as well as a selection of mammals such as seals and deer.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: SEVEN SPRINGS

19 of us went on our local birdwatching walk at Seven Springs yesterday. A wood warbler was singing close to the car park and we were able to get good close views of it (see photo taken by John Foulds). The bird put so much effort into his song that we could see his whole body trembling as he sang. Walking up the track we had an unexpected surprise with a good view of a spotted flycatcher and a little further we heard what we thought at first was a blackcap but in fact turned out to be a garden warbler. We heard the distinctive song of a tree pipit in a nearby tree but it flew away before anyone could see it. We thought we had found it nearby but it was rather distant and I now think we were looking at a linnet (thanks to photo taken by Gareth Morris). Alas we did not see any redstarts or cuckoos but we saw and heard a good variety of other birds during the walk.

COACH TRIP TO RSPB BEMPTON CLIFFS

Sunday 26th June

Our next coach trip is to RSPB Bempton Cliffs in June.

There are still places available on the coach if you would like to go.

This is the peak time to see all the nesting sea birds, including of course the puffins. Bempton has the largest mainland breeding colony of gannets. You can get close to the action from six, safe cliff-edge viewing platforms. There is a café and decked area overlooking the reserve with tables and chairs.

You can reserve your place with Roger tonight.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head and the coach will leave the B&M car park at 7.30 am.

Free admission to Bempton for RSPB members, otherwise £3.50 for adults.

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.

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield

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OCTOBER COACH TRIP TO FRAMPTON MARSH

Sunday 23rd October

We are going to RSPB Frampton Marsh, which is located near Boston in Lincolnshire, close to the Wash, so it attracts many migrating and overwintering birds. Autumn/winter can be spectacular, with thousands of Brent geese grazing the saltmarsh and thousands of ducks on the freshwater scrapes. Hen harriers, merlins, peregrines, barn owls and short-eared owls favour the saltmarsh or wet grassland. With luck you may see a small flock of twite, or even the elusive Lapland bunting.

A major new extension to this coastal wetland reserve includes a reedbed, large freshwater scrapes and wet grassland. These habitats have all been created to bring the wildlife of the Wash closer to visitors. New facilities include a small visitor centre with toilets; the centre has a refreshments area where you can get a hot or cold drink and a snack. There are three hides - two with 360-degree views - and over 3 km of new footpaths to explore.

Please note that we have changed the original date of this coach trip from 16th to 23rd October.

Please reserve your place tonight. Roger is taking bookings tonight as Heather is on holiday.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head and the coach will leave the B&M car park at 7.30 am. It is just over 100 miles to Frampton and will take about 2 ½ hours to get there.

There is free admission to Frampton Marsh.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALKS AUTUMN/WINTER 2016

The walks will last approximately 2 hours. Paths can be muddy so please bring appropriate footwear.

Either meet at the venue at 10.00am or contact me by phone (0121 353 6886) or email (dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com) and we may be able to share transport from Lichfield B & M car park.

The programme of walks is as follows:

Tuesday 20th September

RSPB Middleton Lakes

Meet at the reserve car park

Thursday 27th October

Doxey Marshes, Stafford

Meet at the car park at the end of Wootton Drive ST16 1JR (see following instructions)

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.

Friday 25th November

Croxall Lakes

Meet at the reserve car park

Monday 12th December

Ladywalk Nature Reserve (managed by the West Midland Bird Club)

Access is via Faraday Avenue at Hams Hall Distribution Centre, approached using the roundabout on the A446 approx 1 mile south of Junction 9 of the M42. Faraday Avenue leads to the car park via a padlocked security gate (turn right at final roundabout by Sainsbury's warehouse).

The WMBC require a permit fee of £3 from non-club members (collected on the day). A code is required to open the gate to the car park so I will get there at 9.30 to open the gate. Postcode is B46 1AL.

SEE YOU ALL IN SEPTEMBER AND HAVE A GREAT SUMMER