

LET NATURE SING

On the 17 October the RSPB is hosting a 'Let Nature Sing' Takeover day – in a nutshell, the RSPB wants birdsong to be played across the UK in as many places as possible. This will spark media interest and general interest in this issue. They are inviting anyone to take part and run an event and/or get their place of work to play the birdsong. Imagine 100,000s of people hearing a Nightingale singing at the same time in October. Please read more about it here: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/let-nature-sing/>

The website has more information about how people can get involved.

This is the next stage in the RSPB's campaign to raise public awareness about the biodiversity loss in the UK over the last 50 years. We have to keep this in the media, in the public's mind and remind politicians that stronger policies are needed to protect nature, so we can halt and reverse the decline. The state of nature report is being published on 4 October which will also raise media and public awareness.

COACH TRIP TO RSPB TITCHWELL

Sunday 13th 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.

There are still seats available so please book your place tonight.

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.

There is free entry to Titchwell for all visitors.

Can those of you who have already booked please pay tonight.

RSPB England is part of the RSPB, the UK'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

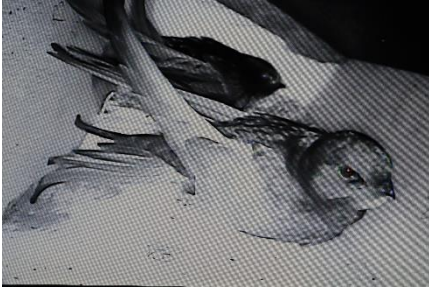
www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield



RSPB Lichfield Local Group

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KEN & PAM'S SWIFTS



Last year Ken and Pam put up swift boxes and a pair of swifts bred successfully. They decided to install a camera in one of the boxes and can now report another successful year – read on.

Both swifts arrived on 15th May and settled in the nest box with the camera. We were able to watch the successful hatching and raising of two chicks. Both fledged at the same time, about 10.15 pm, which surprised us as we thought they always fledged early morning. We had been sitting on our patio when we heard a lot of wings flapping and, after checking the nestbox camera, discovered the birds had gone. After looking around, Ken found one chick on the front lawn. He put it back in the nestbox for safety and then monitored the box to see if the parents came back. The following morning the chick was still in the box, so we contacted the RSPCA who advised waiting until lunchtime to see if there was any contact from the parents or if not to take it to them, which we did. A few days later they advised us that after being thoroughly checked over and ringed the chick was released this time flying off successfully. Hopefully they will be back next year.

NEXT MEETING: 12th NOVEMBER

Fair Isle – Presented by Craig Round of Speyside Wildlife

Fair Isle is a small island halfway between Orkney and Shetland, a difficult place to get to but which has some wonderful birdlife. More species of bird have been recorded on Fair Isle than on any other piece of land of the same size in the British Isles. Almost anything can turn up at any time and often does. It is one of the magical things about the place that you don't know what is around the corner, or what will fly past next and the tales of finding rarities are legion.

You will remember that Speyside Wildlife generously provided 2 free places for us last year on a birdwatching holiday in Scotland which Andy Clarke and Steven Keey thoroughly enjoyed and Roger Rooke has been on holidays with them including Fair Isle last autumn.

Craig has led tours in Scotland for nearly 25 years, taking guests regularly to Mull, Shetland, Fair Isle and the Outer Hebrides. He has a great combination of field naturalist skills and an astonishing knowledge of birds, mammals and insects.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER

Doxey Marshes, Stafford

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).

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. Some new houses have been built here in the last year but I understand there is still a small car park. If necessary park on the nearby roads.

PHOTO EXHIBITION - As in previous years you are all invited at the Christmas meeting to submit a display of your favourite photographs from the last 12 months. This event has proved popular for the last few years and gives you the opportunity to show your pictures. Please make sure the subject matter is wildlife or landscape based and mounted on card so they can be presented on our display boards.

Please note this year that we would like photographs to be no larger than 8" x 12" (A4 size) to give everyone a fairer chance of winning when we are selecting our favourite photo.

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.