

TITCHWELL COACH TRIP

33 of us made the long trip to Titchwell on a rather wet day. It rained until just after lunch when it did clear up a bit. Nevertheless we made the most of our visit to one of the RSPB's premier reserves and were rewarded with the usual excellent range of bird species. As soon as we set off down the trail we had fine views of marsh harriers flying low over the reedbeds. We spent some time in the Parrinder hide where we saw a good range of ducks, geese, waders and a solitary whooper swan. Some of us ventured down to the beach where again there was a good range of gulls and waders. There was a grey phalarope at Thornham Point but nobody wanted to walk a mile down the beach in the wind and rain to see it. On the return to the visitor centre we stopped to look for bearded tits which some of our group had seen earlier but they were sheltering low down in the reeds out of the wind. Claire and John saw a bittern fly over. Despite the poor weather we saw a very respectable 66 species during the day.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK TO DOXEY MARSHES IN OCTOBER



Six of us visited Doxey Marshes on a fine sunny day. After several days of heavy rain some of the paths were flooded so we could not get to the octagonal hide where we had hoped to see a water pipit which had been reported the previous day. However we were rewarded with close views of a cattle egret which was feeding alongside some cows, then flew over and Steve Larkin was able to take this photograph. It was a "lifer" for several of our group. We also saw a good range of species and had great views of a kingfisher perching on a fence.

OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Our Facebook group has continued to grow since we started it in March 2018. We now have 36 members and regular postings to it. We use it to advertise events and show interesting items and news stories. Group members often put photographs on the page – we now have over 1,100 photographs since March 2018.

I have been asked to explain how to access it. The name of our Facebook group is RSPB Lichfield Local Group. To access it, you need to have signed up to Facebook and then type the name of our group into the search box. You can then apply to join our group.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

While I quite enjoy writing articles and bits of news and information it seems a shame that your birding and wildlife activities are not being enjoyed by the rest of us. Please put pen to paper or prepare an email and let us know what you have been doing, where you have been or what you have seen. I'm happy to receive items by email, post or a note at a meeting.

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

dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER

Belvide reservoir (managed by the West Midland Bird Club)

For those of you who have not been here before it is well worth a visit as it is one of the best reserves in the West Midlands with several hides overlooking the reservoir. It is home to a wide variety of waterfowl, gulls and woodland birds. I have obtained a permit for us to visit the reserve and the WMBC requests a donation of £3 from non-club members (collected on the day).

Go to junction 12 of the M6 on the A5 from Cannock. Continue west along the A5 and after approximately 3 miles, turn left onto Horsebrook Lane signposted Brewood, Codsall and Homestead Caravan Park, about 200 yards before reaching the Bell Inn. Take the second right onto Shutt Green Lane (half mile) signposted Homestead Caravan Park. After passing the caravan park, the car park is on the right after about 200 yards. 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 ST19 9LX.

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.

NEXT MEETING: 10th DECEMBER

Christmas Social with a short presentation by Phill Ward, Photo Display, Food and Drink

It is some time since Phill showed us some of his photographs and I know he has been busy visiting various parts of the country to collect new images, so he is going to show us the results of some of his recent trips.

Please bring your favourite wildlife photographs from the last 12 months to display at the December meeting. 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).

Please bring a plate of food. We will provide squash but of course you can bring your own drinks.

If you can't make December, the first meeting of 2020 is on 14th January when we welcome back Rick and Elis Simpson who will talk about plovers at home and abroad.

SPONSORSHIP

At this time of the year I have been contacting our sponsors detailing the group's activities over the last year, thanking them for their support and hoping they will continue sponsorship for the next 12 months.

In my letters to sponsors I have expressed the gratitude of the group for their support and promised to circulate any advertising material they provide. I would like to encourage group members to use our sponsors if possible and, if appropriate, mention the group and add your thanks.

SUTTON COLDFIELD RSPB GROUP COACH TRIPS – Sutton group are running a coach trip to RSPB Leighton Moss on Sunday 17th November. 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.