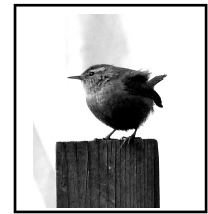




a million voices for nature

**LICHFIELD RSPB**

**MAY NEWSLETTER**



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

## VISIT TO BROWNSEA ISLAND

We spent a few days during Easter in Christchurch and decided to visit Brownsea Island. This proved to be a great day out.

Brownsea is a small island approximately 1½ miles by ½ miles wide, owned by the National Trust in the middle of Poole harbour, easily accessed by ferry from Poole or Sandbanks. The northern third of the island is a Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve, covering about 100 hectares, with a variety of habitats including a lagoon, pine woods, lakes and reedbeds. There is a well laid out nature trail with five hides. As relatively new birdwatchers, we were impressed by the mix of habitats and the location of the reserve; although busy Poole is only a couple of miles away, the island has a secluded feel to it.

There was a good variety of birds on the lagoon, including four Spoonbills, a Spotted Redshank, Mediterranean Gulls and the newly arrived Sandwich and Common Terns. There were lots of Black-tailed Godwits, many in summer plumage however all the Avocets had left. We saw our first Willow Warblers and Swallows of the season. An added bonus was a red Squirrel on a bird feeder. As well as the reserve the rest of the island is well worth exploring with several waymarked trails and wonderful views across the harbour to Studland and the Dorset countryside. There is a National Trust cafe on the island which provided welcome refreshments during the day.

Dennis and Mary Muxworthy

## TWO NIGHTS FOR NIGHTJARS

As we did last year we'll stick to Tuesdays for our late evening visits to the Chase in an attempt to hear and hopefully see Nightjars. We'll try two dates in case the weather is unsuitable on the first date, I'll be there both nights.

**Meet at the Whitehouse Carpark at 9.30.**

**Tuesday 12 and 19 June**

Hopefully we'll get a warm evening when the birds will perform well but you can never tell!

Bins, torch and possibly warm clothing recommended, it can get quite chilly as the sun goes down. Bob

**C.H.A.D.S.** Combined Handicapped  
& Disabled Society

CHADS are holding a their annual garden party on July 7, 6.00-9.00 pm, £1 entry.

Barbeque, Lawn games, Raffle and Tombola are among the attractions .

This is part of their 25 years celebration.

Find CHADS at their visitor centre, Bromley Lane, Handsacre.

(Just past Prince farm where you get your bird food supplies)

## NEXT MEETING

**The Long Journey North**

**SEPTEMBER 11**

Presented by Dan Green, award-winning  
photographer

## GTKYB Branston Water Park 15 April

A bright, sunny, but crisp morning giving perfect conditions for birding. Eight group attendees and an eager lady who joined us from Ashby-De La-Zouch (found us on the web) gave us enthusiasm to find as many species as possible.

Our optimism soon paid off as before we left the car park we were rewarded by the delightful sight of Swallows, House martins and a *Swift* flying low overhead, this gave us an excellent opportunity for id comparisons. A Willow Warbler had already presented well, numerous Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Blackcaps and the usual hedgerow birds with kestrel and Buzzard above kept us busy at the canal side. A possible sighting of a Lesser Whitethroat puzzled us for a while but but when one of the group reproduced the call on her iPhone we were *almost* convinced of its id. The main lake was quiet with just a few Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Mallards and Cormorants present but good views of Sand Martins skimming low over the water further aided id of the three different hirundines all in the same location.

We finished the morning with a total of 32 species seen and identified.

Swift note:

Swifts cling and cannot perch having all four toes facing forward.

Swifts spend practically all of their time in the air, feeding, sleeping and mating on the wing.

Swifts nest on ledges or crevices in walls, the young being fed with up to 1000 tiny insects (aphids, ants etc) at a time. A thought to consider when spraying the roses?

Swifts usually arrive in May (our Branston bird was really early) and can depart as early as July (not surprising they don't have time to stop)

Carol and Howard Perry