



[www.bargainbirdingclub.com](http://www.bargainbirdingclub.com)

# WINTER WILDFOWL WEEKEND

FRI. 1<sup>ST</sup> NOV. TO SUN. 3<sup>RD</sup> NOV. 2013

## £179 per person

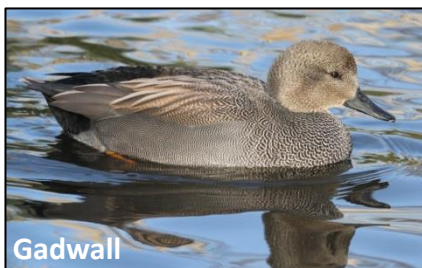
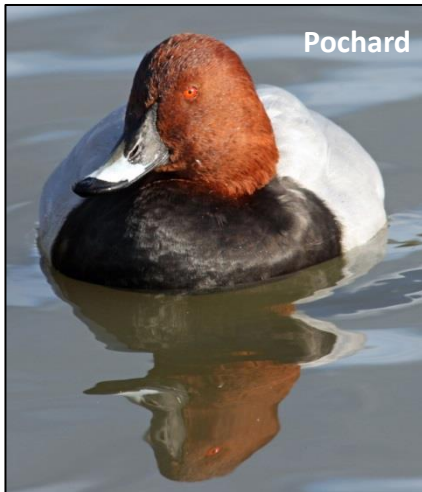
**(NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PENALTY CHARGES!)**  
**(10 single rooms + 11 double rooms available)**

Included:	Fri. 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov.
Hotel with private en-suite bathroom	✓	✓	
Breakfast		✓ (English/Cont.)	✓ (English/Cont.)
Lunch	✓ (buffet)	✓ (picnic)	✓ (2 course)
Evening Meal	✓ (3 course)	✓ (3 course)	
Guided walk at Ham Wall with Ed Drewitt	✓		
After-dinner talk by Ed Drewitt	✓		
Full day at Slimbridge		✓	
2 x Warden talks		✓	
Half day at Chew Valley			✓
Use of hotel mini-gym	✓	✓	✓

**“Value for money bird watching trips for birders on a budget”**

**Ham Wall NNR** is part of the vast Somerset Levels wetland. We hope to see Kingfisher, Bittern, Great White Egret, Bearded Tit, Bullfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Fieldfare and Redwing, as well as over-wintering native and migrant wildfowl.

As dusk approaches, tens of thousands of Starlings gather to roost and (weather permitting) may perform their acrobatic aerial ‘murmuration’ – one of the birding wonders of the world!



Our guide at Ham Wall is **Ed Drewitt** who is a passionate naturalist, writer, broadcaster, tour leader, birder, photographer, public speaker, bird ringer, zoologist, diver, feather expert and Peregrine researcher. Ed regularly leads bird and whale-watching tours in the UK and overseas.

Ed will also host our after-dinner talk back at the hotel entitled “**Our local raptors – or are they?**”

Further information about Ed can be found at:

<http://www.eddrewitt.co.uk>



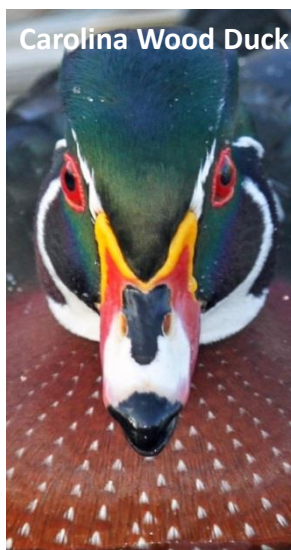
**“Value for money bird watching trips for birders on a budget”**

**WWT Slimbridge** is a wetland reserve and home of the worlds largest collection of captive wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans).

The reserve also has 16 hides overlooking fields, streams and lakes bordering the River Severn, and is an internationally important site for over-wintering Bewick's Swan and White-fronted Goose.

We will have a self-guided walk around the captive wildfowl collection and the whole reserve looking for resident and visiting winter migrant species. If we are really lucky, we may be in the right place to observe the spectacle of thousands of starlings coming in to roost

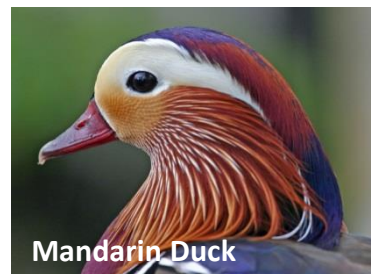
We have also booked 2 x 30 mins warden talks and will get the opportunity to meet the resident otters - Minnie, Ha Ha and Flo.



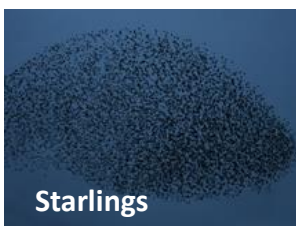
Carolina Wood Duck



Bewick's Swan



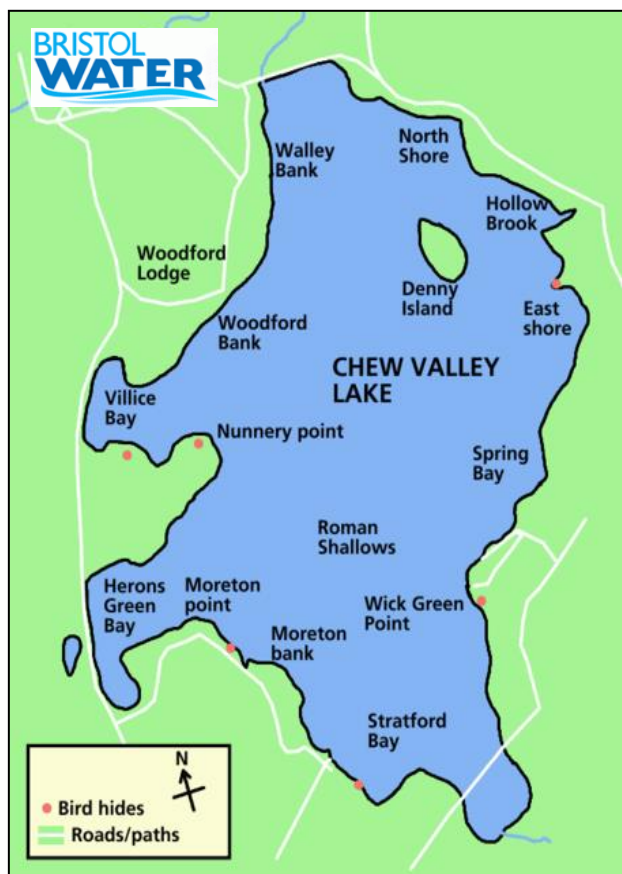
Mandarin Duck



Starlings



Otter



**Chew Valley Lake** in Somerset is the fifth-largest reservoir in the UK and was created in the 1950's to provide drinking water to the Bristol area.

The lake is internationally important for wintering wildfowl and as such has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with 260 bird species recorded. It even has its very own heronry on Denny island.

From July to February, up to 4000 ducks of 12 different species may be present, including Shoveler, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Pochard and Shelduck. Up to 600 Great Crested Grebes gather to moult in autumn, and waders such as Lapwing, Dunlin and Snipe probe the muddy shores. By mid-winter up to 55,000 Black-headed and Common Gulls roost on and around the lake.

We will end our trip with a 2-course lunch at Chew Valley Tea Shop overlooking the lake.

**“Value for money bird watching trips for birders on a budget”**

# Winter Wildfowl Weekend Itinerary

## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2013

- 12 noon Arrive Holiday Inn hotel (BS40 5RB) for meet & greet buffet lunch
- 1.00pm Travel 35 mins to Ham Wall (BA6 9ST) for guided walk with Ed Drewitt
- 6.00pm Return to hotel for evening meal (3 course) at 7pm
- 9.00pm After dinner talk by Ed Drewitt (“Our local raptors – or are they?”)

## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2013

- 7.30am Full English or Continental breakfast
- 8.30am Travel 35 miles (1 hour) to Slimbridge WWT (GL2 7BT)
- 9.30am Self-guided walk around captive wildfowl collection / Observation Tower
- 11.00am Self-guided walk around the wilder side of the reserve (inc. picnic lunch)
- 2.15pm Warden talk on amphibians (30 mins) and 45 mins free time/gift shop
- 3.30pm Warden talk on otters (30 mins) – meet Minnie, Flo and Ha Ha
- 4.00pm Final look around the captive wildfowl collection
- 5.00pm Return to hotel for evening meal (3 course) at 7pm

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 2013

- 8.30am Full English or Continental breakfast, then checkout hotel
- 9.30am Travel 5 miles to Chew Valley Lake (BS40 8TF) - assemble in car park
- 10.00am Self-guided walk (Glebe Trail , Bittern Trail and Heron’s Green Bay)  
or  
Self-guided walk (Heron’s Green Bay, Moreton and Stratford Hides)
- 2.00pm Farewell lunch (2 course) at Chew Valley Lake Tea Shop
- 3.30pm Return home (please allow 3 hours back to the Medway / Swale area)

## What is included in the ‘**Bargain Birding Club**’ price?

- ✓ 2 nights accommodation with private en-suite bathroom facilities and TV
- ✓ Meals as specified above (excludes alcoholic drinks)
- ✓ Hotel parking and use of hotel mini-gym (if you are feeling energetic)
- ✓ Entrance to Ham Wall NNR, Slimbridge WWT and Chew Valley Lake
- ✓ Guided walk at Ham Wall and after dinner talk with Ed Drewitt
- ✓ 2 x 30 min warden talks (amphibians and otters) at Slimbridge WWT

## What is NOT included in the ‘**Bargain Birding Club**’ price?

- ✗ Transport (suggest guests car share as we have done on previous trips)
- ✗ Personal effects (birding equipment, toiletries, medications, etc.)

**To reserve your place on this trip please contact Richard Hanman**

**Email:** [r.hanman1970@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:r.hanman1970@hotmail.co.uk)

**Mob:** 07544 519 073 or 07785 707 797

**“Value for money bird watching trips for birders on a budget”**