

RSPB NE London Local Group

Dear All,

We hope you, your family and friends are keeping safe and well. This is our second newsletter since the start of the coronavirus lockdown. As the emergency appears to be drifting onwards with no obvious end in sight, the committee's thoughts had turned to the months of September to December. In theory, in this period we would have had three meetings with a speaker plus the social just before Christmas.

The guidance we have received from the RSPB is that we should cancel all indoor meetings up until the end of December 2020. The situation with regard to walks is that the possibility of holding these is to be reviewed by the RSPB on a monthly basis.

We are therefore beginning the process of looking to replace the meetings prior to Christmas with zoom meetings with speakers. This essentially means that we need to explore the feasibility of zoom meetings in terms of the availability of speakers and the facilities/limits of the technology.

We hope to bring you some positive news on these in the next newsletter.

Warm regards,

Your Friends on the Committee

Website - www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northeastlondon

Contact us by email - nelondonRSPB@yahoo.co.uk

Keep in touch - on Twitter @RSPBNELondonGrp
- on Facebook (www.facebook.com/nelondon)



RSPB Reserves

The RSPB nature reserves in England and Northern Ireland are gradually reopening to visitors, with plans for reopening in Scotland and Wales also underway. Inevitably there have been quite a few changes to the visitor experience as the reserves are now operating within Government Covid-secure guidelines.

The RSPB, to welcome visitors back, show them what to expect and help them plan their visits, have produced a short [video](#).

This has been shared on the RSPB website and social media. The Committee would recommend you watch it before visiting a site.



News

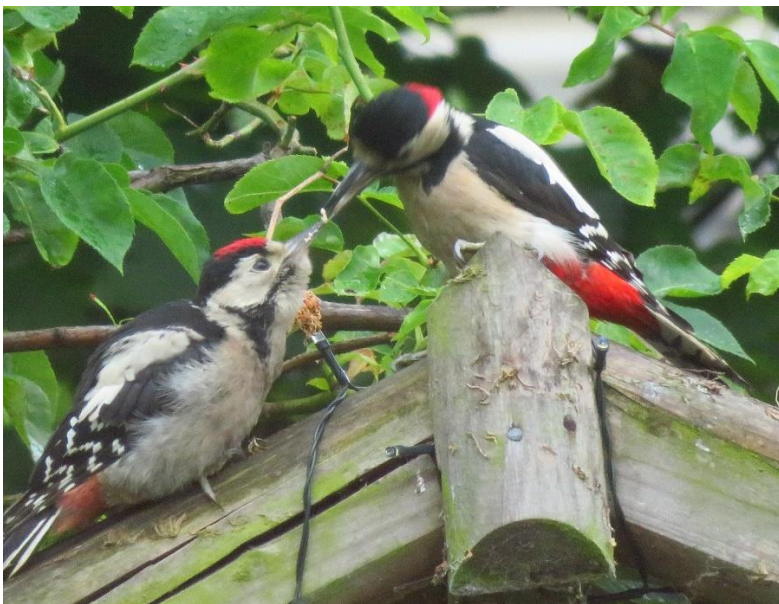
Big Garden Birdwatch



In January this year, the group helped out with a Big Garden Birdwatch event in Valentines Park, Ilford run by Vision (Redbridge). The aim of the event was to identify the different birds there and to enthuse young birdwatchers. A big surprise was to spot a

turtle dove sitting in a tree, as this bird normally arrives on migration in spring. So unexpected was this that it was worthy of a mention in the BBC Winterwatch programme

Garden visitors



Following our first newsletter, Judy Dakin sent this lovely photo of an adult Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding one of its young in her garden – see above. To the right a Goldfinch is posing for the camera and the Sparrowhawk with its prey on page one. Many thanks to Judy for letting us use her pictures.

Please do send us your observations for the next newsletter.

Garden Birds Quiz

The following birds all featured in the Top10 of this year's Big Garden Birdwatch results. Their names are arranged in alphabetical order. Can you unravel them? Answers below:

ABBCDIKLR

BINOR

CDFGHILNO

BEILTU

AEGIMP



Gardening for Birds

The RSPB provides year round [gardening advice](#) to help encourage wildlife in your garden. You can support the RSPB by purchasing items from the [In the garden](#) section of their shop.

Quiz answers: Blackbird, Robin, Goldfinch, Blue Tit and Magpie