

# Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter



**EBwS.org.uk**

*Connecting Essex birders for over 60 years*

Registered Charity No: 1142734

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**May 2017**

Dear Members,

May is my favourite month of the year, the birds are in full song, the flowers in bloom and days are getting longer. It is also the month of the International Dawn Chorus Day which is the theme for the events in the newsletter this month. Attending a Dawn Chorus event or going early to your local patch, is an experience not to be missed!

Happy Birding Emma

## **EBwS Field Trip**

**Sunday 14 May at 7:00am**

**CLEY MARHSES NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST**

*Please note earlier start time and Chelmsford only pick up.*

We return to this superb flagship reserve on the north Norfolk coast. An extremely popular site to visit at this prime time for summer migrants and that something 'special' that can turn up on any visit. During spring at Cley the pools fill with wading birds such as Spotted Redshank on their way to Arctic breeding grounds. Sedge, Reed and Grasshopper Warblers can be seen in the reed beds. Other species can include Marsh Harrier, Bittern, Spoonbill and Cuckoo.

*Coach trip commences from Trinity Church (opposite the County Hotel) Chelmsford at **07:00am**. There is a large 'free' car park next to County Hotel in Chelmsford. Please call Gerry Johnson on 07775 663166 (after 7:00pm) for more details and to reserve coach seats. Coach trips cost £20.00-£23.00 each, subject to destination and attendance. Accompanied juniors travel 'free'. An entrance charge applies to some venues and reserves for non-members. To avoid disappointing anyone on a waiting list, non-attended coach bookings, without 24hrs cancellation notice, will incur the full trip cost. Please note an entrance charge for the reserve of £5 will apply for non-members.*

## **EBwS News**

### **British Bird Magazines for Sale**

The complete sequence of British Birds magazines from 1956 to the end of 2014 for sale.

The first 10 copies are bound, the remainder separate. Please email offers to [thorogood.john@btinternet.com](mailto:thorogood.john@btinternet.com)

## **EBwS Bird Records**

**Thank you for adding all your bird sightings on our website- [EBwS.org.uk](http://EBwS.org.uk)**

*Your contributions are really valuable as they help to build our knowledge of the birds of Essex which supports our conservation work.*

## EBwS Events

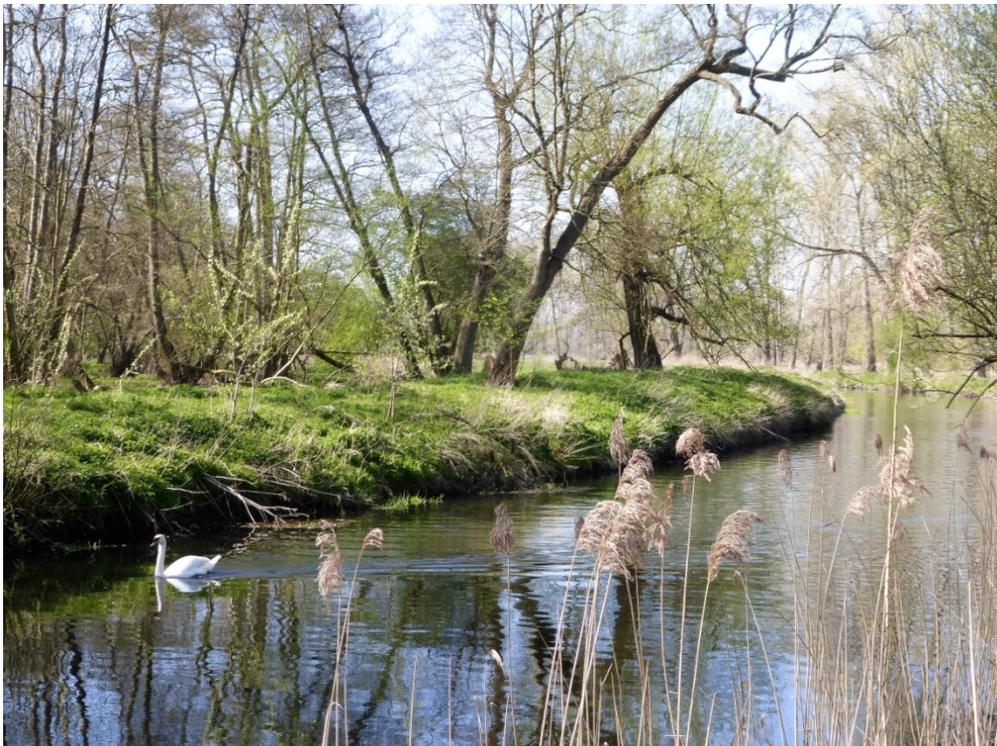
**Sunday 9 April**

**The Brecks (Santon Downham & Lynford Arboretum)**

For our recent trip to the Brecks we were lucky to have Steve Grimwade from Swallow Birding as a guide. The trip started at Santon Downham where we saw Brambling, three Woodlark on the ground and flying, a pair of Yellowhammer and Marsh Tit singing.

In the afternoon we moved on to Lynford Arboretum where Common Crossbill were seen feeding high in conifers and drinking by the bridge. More Brambling, Reed Bunting also showed and a Grey Wagtail catching insects at a small pond. All in temperatures up to 24 Deg C. It was a brilliant day in the 'Brecklands'.

All trips are open to members and guests are most welcome.



## Other Field Trips

### **Dawn Chorus on the Canal** **Essex Wildlife Trust – Essex Waterways** **Wednesday 3 May - 5:00am - 7:00am**

An early morning session along the banks of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation at Paper Mill Lock to listen to the dawn chorus and to look for and learn about some of our migrant and resident bird species. Meet at Essex Waterways private car park adjacent to the Old Stables Tea Rooms, Basin Rd, Heybridge Basin, Maldon, CM9 4RW. Followed by a breakfast bap and choice of tea or coffee (included in donation). Donation £21 per person. Suitable for 18+ years. Booking essential on 01621 862960 or [reception@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:reception@essexwt.org.uk).

### **Bats, Birdsong and Breakfast** **EWT Hanningfield Reservoir Visitor Centre** **Saturday 6 May - 4:15am - 7:30am**

See Soprano Pipistrelle Bats and then take a walk to see the bluebells. You will then listen to the dawn chorus and enjoy a bacon roll and hot drink (vegetarian option available). £15 per person. Book by phone Tel: 01268 711001.

### **Dawn Chorus and breakfast** **EWT Abberton Reservoir Visitor Centre** **Sunday 7 May - 4:30am - 6:30am**

Get up early and join our friendly leaders as we watch the reservoir and its wildlife waking up. As part of International Dawn Chorus Day, experience bird song at its best and identify the songsters before returning to the Visitor Centre for a full English breakfast (vegetarian option available, please let us know at time of booking). £13.50 per person includes full English breakfast. Suitable for 7+ years. Guided walk 4.30am - 6.30am then back to the visitor centre for full English breakfast from our Skylark tearoom. Places are limited so please call 01206 738172 to book your place to avoid being disappointed.

### **Dawn Chorus Walk** **EWT Belfairs Woodland Centre** **Sunday 7 May - 4:00am - 7:00am**

Meet at the Woodland Centre and join Ashley for a walk through the Belfairs dawn! Please arrive 10 minutes early for registration. We will be listening out for a variety of species singing to attract mates and hold territories. This was a magical event in 2016 and we hope to see a large number of birds. Ideal for age 10 upwards. £8 per person. Booking is essential. Book by phone Tel: 01702 477467 or email [ashleyp@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:ashleyp@essexwt.org.uk)

### **Dawn Chorus Walk - Gusted Hall Woods** **South East Essex RSPB Local Group** **Sunday 7 May - Meet at 04:45am**

Heading towards Hockley on Hall Road past the Potash Garden centre on the left, take the next left on the right hand bend. Follow road to top of hill to car park. All welcome. <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk>

### **Dawn Chorus** **EWT Fingringhoe Wick Visitor Centre** **Saturday 13 May - 4:30am - 7:30am**

Experience the amazing sound of the dawn chorus at Fingringhoe Wick with professional tour guide Steve Grimwade of Swallow Birding. Learn how to identify the members of our "Bird Orchestra" with Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Garden and Willow Warbler and not forgetting the wonderful Nightingale. Expect many more species. Spaces are limited so an early booking is advisable. A breakfast option will be available to purchase at the tearoom after walk. Donation requested £6 per person. Book by phone Tel: 01206 729678.

### **RSPB Wallasea Island Wildlife Walk - Spring Migration Bonanza** **South East Essex RSPB Local Group** **Saturday 13 May**

May is peak migration season and we'll be looking out for summer visitors and passage migrants heading further north. Join us on this short walk with our experts who will bring telescopes to get really close up views. All walks are about 2- 2.5hrs and recommended £5 donation. Booking essential through the SE Essex office on (01268) 498620. <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk>

## Other Talks

### **The RSPB in the 21st Century by Shaun Thomas (Director, Operations, RSPB) South East Essex RSPB Local Group**

**Wednesday 3 May**- doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

Location - Belfairs Woodland Centre, Eastwood Road North, Leigh on Sea, SS9 4LR. Note: turn down small road directly on the bend by the three flagpoles. Map reference TQ 831 874. Entrance fee £3.00 for members. Suggested donation of £5 for non members. See <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/belfairs> for directions.

*These field trips/talks/events are only a selection of activities from across the Essex area.  
Please see your relevant local wildlife groups for further activities.*

## Other Events

### **International Dawn Chorus Day - Sunday 7 May**

International Dawn Chorus Day is the worldwide celebration of nature's symphony. The IDCD website at <http://idcd.info/> lists events from all over the world and across the UK.

The story goes that International Dawn Chorus Day began in the 1980s when broadcaster and environmentalist Chris Baines asked everyone to attend his birthday party at 4am so they could enjoy the dawn chorus with him. Since then IDCD has grown from a small event in Birmingham UK to an annual international celebration with Dawn Chorus events held as far afield as the Caribbean and Antarctica.

### **Global Big Day – Saturday 13 May**

Want to be a part of Birding's biggest day? All you have to do is go birding for at least a few minutes, and submit your sightings to eBird. Last year's Global Big Day featured more than 60% of the world's bird species in a single day. Sightings came in from more than 17,000 eBirders spread across 154 countries.

To be a part of Global Big Day, go to eBirding at <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> and enter your list for the day!

## Other News

### **RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2017**

The results for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2017 have now been published.

In Essex 2016 the top ten species of birds were as follows from 1 to 10: House Sparrow, Starling, Blue Tit, Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Collared Dove, Great Tit, Robin, Goldfinch and Magpie.

You will see for 2017 in Essex the species are the same but the order has slightly changed, they are as follows from 1 to 10: House Sparrow, Starling, Blackbird, Woodpigeon, Blue Tit, Collared Dove, Robin, Great Tit Goldfinch and Magpie.

### **JA Baker - The Peregrine**

Please link below for an interesting article entitled 'Violent spring: The nature book that predicted the future' by Robert Macfarlane about JA Baker's book The Peregrine.

[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/apr/15/the-peregrine-by-ja-baker-nature-writing?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Email](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/apr/15/the-peregrine-by-ja-baker-nature-writing?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Email)