

# Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter



**EBwS.org.uk**

*Connecting Essex birders for over 60 years*

Registered Charity No: 1142734

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**September 2017**

Dear Members

I trust that you all have had an enjoyable summer and are now looking forward to starting the new birding season. The Society has some excellent field trips and indoor meetings topics for 2017/2018, we look forward to seeing you at the events.

Happy Birding Emma

## **EBwS Field Trip**

**Sunday 24 September**

**LANDGUARD POINT, FELIXSTOWE IP11 3TW (NON COACH TRIP)**

**A 07:15 start (Sorry, a later entry is NOT permitted to LBO)** meet in the Fort Car Park, at the end of View Point Road. We have arranged with Landguard Observatory to see close up, birds being ringed, weighed etc., a chance to see some of our bird close quarters. **Alternatively a 09:30 start** to walk around the common and foreshore area for resident and early migrants and possible rarities arriving from Europe.

**Non-coach trips are free to attend by everyone.**

“The observatory's primary function is to study and record the wildlife of the entire Landguard peninsula. A daily census of the birds present is carried out with many birds trapped for ringing studies. All wildlife is recorded, with moth traps run daily from March to early December. Annual reports are compiled and all the data collected are made available to a variety of local and national organisations.” – see website at <http://www.lbo.org.uk>

For the latest up to date sighting please see website at - <http://lboobs.blogspot.co.uk>

## **EBwS Talk**

Join us on **Friday 1 September** at 8pm for a talk about:

**SPURN BIRD OBSERVATORY** by Nick Whitehouse

**Venue: Quaker Meeting House, 82 Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2QL**

**Members £3.00 each, Guests £4.00 each on the door.**

Nick Whitehouse from Spurn Bird Observatory Trust, enlightens us about the varied work and unusual bird species seen at Spurn Bird Observatory situated at the north end of a 3 mile peninsular projecting into the North Sea and open to the elements! Nick will also talk about what you can expect at the Spurn Migration Festival being held on 8th-10th September 2017 where there is something for everyone.

See websites at - [www.spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk](http://www.spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk) and [www.spurnmigfest.com](http://www.spurnmigfest.com)

## EBwS Events

**Sunday 27 August**

### **Bird Migration Day at EWT Fingringhoe Wick**

The yearly joint Bird Migration Day event with local wildlife tour company Swallow Birding was blessed with fantastic weather. During the day, tour leader Steve Grimwade led two walks down to the excellent intertidal area on the River Colne which two years ago was arable fields and is now a rich wildlife haven!

Some wildlife highlights of the walks were three KINGFISHERS, HOBBY, COMMON BUZZARDS, LESSER & COMMON WHITETHROATS, GREENSHANK, HOBBY, TUNSTONE, BLACK & BAR-TAILED GODWITS, GREY & GOLDEN PLOVERS, DUNLIN, RINGED PLOVERS, REDSHANK and AVOCETS with many waders still in their resplendent breeding plumage which thrilled everyone.

It was not just birds, as there were also RUDDY & COMMON DARTERS, MIGRANT & SOUTHERN HAWKERS, WILLOW EMERALD DAMSELFLY and LONG-WINGED CONEHEAD, a type of bush-cricket.

The walks were very popular with around 50 people taking part.

We've had excellent feedback regarding the event and look forward to repeating it in 2018!



## 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.*

## Other Field Trips

### Saturday 9 September

#### **Wildlife Wander Autumn Migration Watch RSPB Wallasea Island (South East Essex)**

September sees the peak of migration for our summer visitors with many young birds from across the UK and further north and east passing through and stopping to feed on Wallasea's varied habitats. Walk will last between 2 to 2.5 hrs. Booking is essential as limited numbers, suggested donation £5. Please call our Wat Tyler Office on: (01268) 559158. See <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk>

### Saturday 9 September

#### **Introduction to the Birds and other Wildlife of the Ingrebourne Valley EWT Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre**

Join local naturalist Dave McGough on a walk around Hornchurch Country Park and the surrounding Living Landscape to experience the fantastic array of wildlife that the valley holds. Suitable for beginners. For full details see <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

### Saturday 9 September

#### **Birding day – Can we beat 65 species in a day? EWT Abberton Reservoir**

Get out and about on the nature reserve and around the reservoir to see how many birds you can identify in the day; the record to date is 65 different species. Our expert will help you with your basic identification skills. For full details see <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

### Sunday 10 September

#### **Heybridge Basin Walk RSPB Chelmsford and Central Essex**

RSPB Chelmsford & Central Essex Local Group Secretary, Janet Hawkes, will lead a walk of about 3 miles / 2 hours starting from Daisy Meadow car park. We hope to see a variety of small birds in bushes along the Chelmer Navigation towpath and near the sea wall, and various ducks, geese, seabirds and waders on the mud flats and the flooded gravel pits. For full details see <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chelmsford> , Telephone: 07718 705752 or E-mail: [janhma@aol.com](mailto:janhma@aol.com)

### Saturday 30 September

#### **Coach Outing – Rye Harbour, East Sussex RSPB Havering Group**

For full details see [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering)

## Other Talks

### Wednesday 6 September

#### **Indoor meeting - Derek Nieman "Birds in cage" RSPB South East Essex**

The true story of four young men held as POWs in Nazi Germany who kept their sanity by watching birds and went on to become post-war giants of conservation. Full details at <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk>

### Friday 8 September

#### **Indoor Meeting – Bill Goodsafe RSPB Havering**

Bill Goodsafe is Essex Wildlife Trust's warden at Hanningfield Reservoir and tonight his talk will show us the work and wildlife around the reserve. For full details see [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering)

### Thursday 14 September

#### **Essex Coastal Marshes in Winter (Rescheduled from 12 January) RSPB Chelmsford and Central Essex**

Essex is an amazing county for birdwatchers - flat landscapes, big skies, varied habitats and one of the longest coastlines in England. Liz Huxley takes us on an illustrated journey to some of these wonderful coastal sites (often in rather bleak conditions!) to see some of the thousands of wildfowl and waders, raptors and more that choose to spend the winter there. For full details see <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chelmsford> , Telephone: 01245 471576 or E-mail: [suem@idnet.com](mailto:suem@idnet.com)

*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

### Wader Conservation World Watch

The 4th WCWW will take place on the 4th and 5th November 2017  
Make a note in your diary to join in the fun



To take part is as simple as A, B, C.

- A. Go out and see waders/shorebirds wherever you are in the world.**
- B. Send us an email telling us what you have seen and where.**
- C. Look for your birds on the species list and your name on the roll of honour on this website.**

You will also receive a **Wader Quest *The Newsletter*** WCWW e-newsletter special to your email address with all the results, lists and the roll of honour.

It is that easy; no registration required just good old-fashioned bird watching.  
And an email to [waderquest@gmail.com](mailto:waderquest@gmail.com)

See website at <http://www.waderquest.org/p/wader-quest-world-watch.html>