

Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter



EBwS.org.uk

Connecting Essex birders for over 60 years

Registered Charity No: 1142734

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October 2017

Dear Members

October is a great time to get out birding and enjoy the autumn colours. The migration season has started and for Essex Birders we wish for some easterly winds to bring over some rare migrants to our coast.

Happy Birding Emma

EBwS Field Trip

Sunday 22 October

MINSMERE RSPB RESERVE, SUFFOLK

We return to the RSPB's superb flagship reserve on the Suffolk coast, with its extensive range of habitats. Cetti's Warbler, Avocet, Bittern, Tree Creeper, Mediterranean Gull, Spotted Redshank, Bearded Tit, Marsh Harriers and many more. The adjacent Dunwich Heath also offers sightings of Stonechat and Dartford Warbler.

At the time of writing, sightings in September have included Citrine Wagtail, Great White Egret, Wryneck and Red-necked Phalarope. Please see latest sightings - [here](#)

*Coach trip commences from Trinity Church (opposite the County Hotel) at 07:15am for 07:30am, with **Stanway pick up** as required at 08:00am. 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 cancellation notice, will incur the full trip cost.***

EBwS Talk

Join us on **Friday 6 October** at 8pm for a talk about:

ECUADOR, LAND OF SWORDBILLS AND STINKBIRDS by Bill Baston

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

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

Bill Baston's talk is about the birds of Ecuador. For a relatively small country, Ecuador has a huge variety of birds, with over 1600 species in total. Starting from the capital city of Quito, we visit a variety of habitats at different altitudes on both the western and eastern slopes of the Andes, the high Andean plateau ("Páramo") and the lowland rainforest along the river Napo to see a wide range of different bird species: hummingbirds, toucans, woodpeckers, owls, raptors and many more exotically named birds such as tanagers, chlorophonias, cotingas, not to mention the iconic Andean Condor.

Bill is a keen bird and general wildlife photographer, living in Hadleigh (Suffolk, not Essex!), and has been birding and photographing birds in Suffolk for the last 30 years or so, and also made a number of foreign trips to photograph birds. He has been photographing birds in East Anglia, further afield in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, Africa, India, North, Central and South America. Bill's photos have won prizes in various competitions over the years (British Birds Photograph of the Year, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, etc.), and have appeared in magazines and other publications (British Birds, Birdwatch, Birdwatching, etc.).

EBwS News

September Field Trip – Landguard Point by Gerry Johnson

We had a great Autumn day for our visit to Landguard Bird Observatory where we were fortunate to see Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest and Blackcap in the hand. Landguard is a great place for people to learn more about different species. The walk around the Common produced Meadow Pipits and Linnets in good numbers plus ten Wheatear and a confiding Purple Sandpiper at the point. Common Blue and Clouded Yellow butterflies were seen in the warm sunshine. In the bay near the cafe a Caspian Gull and a Sandwich Tern were the highlights. Thanks to Nigel Odin at LBO.

WeBS counters for Hanningfield Reservoir

Due to EBwS members retiring from full time employment and moving away from the county there are a number of vacancies for people to volunteer to help with this important WeBS surveying at the SSSI Hanningfield Reservoir site. A small team is urgently required to complete this rewarding monitoring. By becoming a WeBS counter at this site you will receive a permit allowing access to parts of the Reservoir not open to general visitors.

If you are an EBwS Hanningfield Reservoir permit holder it is expected that you will become a part of the WeBS team to protect the permit system currently in place. A point to remember, if this WeBS data is not collected and supplied then the Society could have the special privilege of permits withdrawn by the Water Company. If you are interested please contact Bill Godsife the Hanningfield Warden at the EWT Centre on 01268 711001 , 07881 815990 or email – billg@essexwt.org.uk

EBwS Bird Records

Thank you for adding all your bird sightings on our website- 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 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

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

Other Field Trips

Saturday 14 October

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 more information see - <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

Saturday 21 October

RSPB Wallasea Wildlife Wander Octoberfest

Mid-October sees the tail end of the summer exodus and the start of winter visitor arrivals with new birds arriving on a daily basis, all stopping to feed up before moving on south. The first wintering raptors may be moving in and possibly some cold weather movements of skylarks, pipits and thrushes. Walk will last between 2 to 2.5 hrs. Booking is essential as limited numbers. For more information see -

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

Saturday 28 October

RSPB Havering Local Group

Coach Trip to RSPB Titchwell Marsh, Norfolk

This popular reserve on the north Norfolk coast has something for everyone. A walk from the visitor centre down to the sandy beach takes you past reedbeds and shallow lagoons which are often full of birds. You can sit on benches or watch from spacious, wheelchair-accessible hides. In autumn and winter you can see up to 20 species of wading birds and lots of ducks and geese. Booking is essential. For more information see -

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering>

Other Talks

Wednesday 11 October

Illustrated Talk: BTO

EWT Maldon and South Woodham Ferrers Local Group

The recently appointed Regional Representative for north-east Essex, Rod Bleach, will present a talk on what the British Trust for Ornithology does, with information on recent and on-going surveys and how volunteers can participate. For more information see - <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

Thursday 12 October

Indoor meeting - Birds of Blakeney Point by Paul Laurie

RSPB Colchester Local Group

Paul Laurie, experienced Blakeney birdwatcher, describes the wildlife and birds of this well-known location on the North Norfolk coast. For more information see - <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/colchester>

Thursday 12 October

Indoor Meeting - Puffins in simmering seas: a threat to seabirds and their food supply - Euan Dunn

RSPB Chelmsford & Central Essex Local Group

The puffin is our best loved seabird and the poster bird for marine conservation. In 2015, however, it was officially listed as 'globally threatened with extinction'. Its numbers are declining and our other seabirds are not in great shape either, especially in northern Scotland which historically has been the heartland of our seabird population. Euan's talk will take you through the puffin's annual cycle, explore the threats it faces and what conservationists are doing to counter them. The biggest emerging challenge is how to tackle climate change that is warming our seas and disrupting the food chain. We have to give our favourite seabird a fighting chance in an increasingly hostile and uncertain marine environment. For more information see -

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chelmsford>

*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.*