

Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter



EBwS.org.uk

Connecting Essex birders for over 60 years

Registered Charity No: 1142734

Email: essexbirdwatchingsociety@gmail.com

April 2017

Dear Members,

Spring has now officially 'sprung' however at the time of writing, we seem to be going through another cold patch! I saw my first Chiffchaff of the year at Fingringhoe last weekend, the Sand Martins have arrived at Abberton and Wheatears at Wallasea. Happy Birding Emma

EBwS Field Trip

Sunday 9 April

The 'BRECKLANDS'

LYNFORD ARBORETUM and SANTON DOWNHAM

Lynford Arboretum and Santon Downham are two very different sites to discover. Recent sightings at Lynford include; Hawfinch, Nuthatch, Brambling, Siskin, Crossbill, Marsh Tit and Water Rail. Recent sightings at Santon Downham include; Mandarin Duck, Grey Wagtail, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Water Rail and Firecrest.

Coach trip commences from Trinity Church (opposite the County Hotel) at 07:15am for 07:30am, with Stanway pick up as required. 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.

EBwS Talk

Join us on **Friday 7 April** at 8pm for a talk about:

NORTH WEST YEAR by Chris Gavin

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

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

Chris Gavin shows us some of the delights of the Northwest with tens of thousands of winter Geese along with the best place in England to see Leach's Petrels. The area may not attract the number of migrants and rarities of East Anglia, but this presentation documents with superb photographs just what is possible with a little effort in North West England and North Wales!

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.

EBwS News

EBwS 'Swift Initiative' in conjunction with 'Save our Swifts' have recently been helping install eight Swift boxes in Blackmore, Essex and also a Barn Owl box in an adjacent building.



Bird Prints for Sale

Suzanne Reynolds has the following prints for sale by Nigel Artingstall, £10 each or £90 for them all plus postage, or collect from Basildon. Please email Suzanne at suegsxr6@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested.



Other Field Trips

Wildlife Walk: Wanstead Park

EWT Havering Local Group

Saturday 1 April - 10:30am - 1:30pm

A visit to Wanstead Park, led by Tony Loveless, looking for spring flowers and birds. Venue: Wanstead Park, London, E11 2LT. Meet at gate at junction of Northumberland Avenue and Wanstead Park Avenue, E12 5EZ. Contact Tony: 01708 442976/grandadtone@gmail.com. Free Event.

Introduction to the Birds and other Wildlife of the Ingrebourne Valley

EWT Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre

Sunday 2 April, Saturday 8 April and Saturday 22 April - 10:00am – 12:00pm

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. Binoculars and scopes will be available to use. Meet at the visitor centre. £5 donation per person. Book by phone on 01708 520364 or email ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk

RSPB Wallasea Island Wildlife Walk - Springtime Stroll

RSPB South East Essex Local Group

Saturday 15 April

Resident birds like Skylarks all kicking off their breeding season and the chance of Yellow Wagtails and other early migrants. 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>

Nightingale Walks

EWT Fingringhoe Wick Visitor Centre

Sunday 23 April - 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Various dates between Sunday 23 April and Saturday 13 May– see website for further details. Experience the wonderful song of these amazing birds, in the spectacular setting of this nature reserve. These guided walks are always extremely popular and are often fully booked weeks in advance. Do not delay, book your place today. Book by phone Tel: 01206 729678.

Bird Song with Liz Huxley

EWT Abbots Hall Farm

Wednesday 26 April - 10:00am - 4:00pm

A classroom session looking at how and why birds sing, aids to learning to recognise birdsong, alarm and contact calls, followed by a short walk to put the theory into practice and then a longer guided walk after lunch. Please bring a packed lunch and binoculars if you have them. Price / Donation £30 per person. Book by phone on 01621 862960, Email admin@essexwt.org.uk or Website <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

Guided Walk - Holehaven Creek

South East Essex RSPB Local Group

Wednesday 26 April – 10:00am

From Benfleet railway station go over the bridge onto the island. At the 1st roundabout take the 2nd exit. At the next roundabout take the 1st exit onto the A130. Stay on the A130 until the King Canute PH on the left. Turn right into Haven Road. Go to the end of Haven Road and park in the public car park in front of the Lobster Smack PH. High tide 13:18. All welcome. <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk>

Dawn Chorus Walk

EWT Tiptree Heath Nature Reserve

Thursday 27 April - 4:30am - 6:30am

A chance to experience the magic of the early birds, followed by a cooked breakfast, if booked beforehand. Meet at the car park on Tiptree Heath. The walk will be led by an expert. Booking must be made in advance for a cooked breakfast. Donation £2.50 (£7.50 to include breakfast, booked in advance). Contact Joan Pinch: 07842 110051 / joanpinch@hotmail.com .

Car Trip to EWT Fingringhoe Nature Reserve

RSPB Colchester Local Group

Saturday 29 April - Meet at 9:30am

Location: Meet at reserve car park - TM 048 192 For car trips, no bookings are required, just meet at the venue, where, weather permitting, we hope you will have an enjoyable day of watching wildlife with like-minded folk. Car sharing is encouraged, especially for the longer trips. Price: No extra costs above getting to the venue.

Other Talks

Belarus by Liz Huxley

South East Essex RSPB Local Group

Wednesday 5 April - doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

This talk shares some of the birdwatching delights of Eastern Europe, visiting some ancient forests and wetland marshes in search of owls, woodpeckers and so much more. 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.

Birds of Kent by Brian Nobbs

Evening Meeting and Cake Bake

Colchester RSPB Local Group

Thursday 13 April - Doors open 7:00pm for a 7:45pm start

Brian Nobbs, experienced Kent birdwatcher, tells us about the rich variety of birds and the best places to see them in the county. Location: The Community Hall, Shrub End Road, Colchester CO3 4SA (as usual, we ask that you do not park at the Leather Bottle PH. If the car park at the hall is full, roadside parking is available in the surrounding roads). Price: Local Group Members: £4, Non-members: £5.

Mammals of Essex

Chelmsford & Central Essex RSPB Local Group

Thursday 27 April – 8:00pm – 9:50pm with interval (preceded by a short AGM at 7.30pm)

Darren Tansley, Essex Wildlife Trust's Water for Wildlife Officer, will return to tell us about some of the interesting and fascinating creatures that live in our county, from harvest mice to whales and lots in between. He'll also share some little surprises about a few of them. "Well I never knew that!" Location: Northumberland Theatre, Writtle College, Lordship Road, Writtle CM1 3RP (Across the road from the main college building, to the right of the Wilkins Tea Room & Shop). Ample free parking adjacent to the theatre. Access is at ground level. All welcome. Price: £3.50.

Other Events

SPRING MIGRATION WATCH AT PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE

Saturday 22nd April 10:00am to 4:00pm

Paxton Pits, Little Paxton, Saint. Neots, Cambs PE19 6ET

Website - <http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk>

Our annual bird watch is always exciting. This year we are inviting everyone who is out on the reserve to phone in **ALL wildlife sightings**, not just the birds. Use your mobiles to ring our 01480 406795 hotline throughout the day. No charge, but please call in at the Visitor Centre on arrival and departure to assist us and to keep abreast of the action.

Tick and Twitch walk

With Senior Ranger Jim Stevenson

Leaves the Visitor Centre at 10:00am

Jim will lead the walk and try to help you see as many species as possible - but only if you will donate 10p for each species we see. (Don't forget your binoculars and your money)

A Guided Wildlife Walk

Leaves the Visitor Centre at 10:30am

£2.50 each, pay at the door

Plants and Insects Walk

Leaves the Visitor Centre at 1:30pm

Led by Jos Gale, this walk will focus on some of the plants that attract the insects that, in turn, attract many of our migratory birds.

£2.50 each, pay at the door

Self-Guided Family Trail

Prepared by the Wildlife Trust

Starting from the Visitor Centre

***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.***