

# Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter



**EBwS.org.uk**

Connecting Essex birders for over 60 years

Registered Charity No: 1142734

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**June 2017**

Dear Members,

The summer migrants have now all arrived and at the time of writing we are experiencing summer temperatures too. I am in particular enjoying hearing and seeing the Swallows, Martins and Swifts in our skies. This month is our last field trip for the season; we hope that you will be able to make the day.

Happy Birding Emma

## EBwS Field Trip

**Sunday 18 June**

**CHOBHAM COMMON**

**NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE**

The largest National Nature Reserve in the south-east of England and a SPA. Nationally important for Nightjar, Dartford Warbler and Woodlark plus Hobby amongst the 116 species recorded on this site.

*Coach trip commences from Trinity Church (opposite the County Hotel) at 07:15am for 07:30am, with Shenfield and Grays pick-ups 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 Events

**Sunday 9 April**

**Cley Marshes NWT Reserve**

For our recent trip we arrived at The NWT Cley Marshes centre on a fine sunny morning and were soon out exploring the splendid reserve. The lagoons produced Avocets, Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Lapwing and wildfowl. Along the East Bank we had good views of 'Arnold's Marsh' where Grey Plover, Dunlin, Turnstone, Common Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint were all seen along with Wheatear on the shingle Bank, Bearded Tits amongst the reeds and Marsh Harrier quartering over the reeds. A most enjoyable visit on a beautiful May Day. All trips are open to members and guests are most welcome.

**Sunday 27 August**

**Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve**

Swallow Birding and Essex Birdwatching Society will be back at Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve on August Bank Holiday weekend with guided walks around the reserve. We look forward to seeing you there.

## 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.*

## Other Field Trips

### Introduction to the Birds and other Wildlife of the Ingrebourne Valley

EWT Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre

**Saturday 10 June - 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](mailto:ingrebourne@essexwt.org.uk)

### RSPB Wallasea Island Wildlife Walk - Breeding Birds of Wallasea

South East Essex RSPB Local Group

**Saturday 10 June**

A walk around the lagoons and grasslands to find some of the many birds breeding on Wallasea taking advantage of the varied habitats provided. 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.

### Wildlife Walk: Minsmere RSPB Reserve

EWT Brentwood and Billericay Local Group

**Wednesday 21 June - 10:30am – 4:00pm**

Our annual visit to this flagship RSPB Reserve and recent home of "Springwatch". The variety of habitats always produces a long list of sightings which should include marsh harriers, hobbies, bitterns and bearded tits. Bring your RSPB card for free entry. Non-members entry fee applies. Meet at the visitor centre. Contact: Paul Hudson, Tel No: 01277 656047 or Nancy Rhodes, Tel No. 01277 353740.

### Birding day – Can we beat 65 species in a day?

EWT Abberton Reservoir

**Saturday 24 June – 10:00am – 4:00pm**

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. Places limited to 6 so please book early to avoid disappointment. Bring any optical equipment that you have. Book by phone on 01206 738172. Requested Donation £20 per person.

## Other Talks

### The Naze – Beach, Birds, Blackberries and more by Liz Huxley

EWT Brentwood and Billericay Local Group

**Thursday 15 June – 8:00pm – 10:00 pm**

This is a unique coastal landscape of outstanding geological and biological importance. As the most easterly peninsula in Essex it is an important site for migrating birds and boasts a number of different habitats both terrestrial and marine. Venue: Shenfield Parish Hall, 60 Hutton Road, Shenfield, Essex. CM15 8LB. Requested Donation £2.50. Contact: Mick Hedges, Tel: 01277 231367 or Email: [mick.hedges1@btinternet.com](mailto:mick.hedges1@btinternet.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

### Garden Volunteering and Nature Activity Opportunities at Broomfield Hospital

Broomfield Hospital is looking for volunteers for their Garden Volunteer programme who help to rejuvenate the green spaces for patients, visitors and staff to enjoy. This is a great opportunity for anyone of any age who loves gardening, nature, animals or just being outside. It will be light planting and activities, and a great opportunity to meet new people. They have plenty of different wildlife and plants in the gardens and around the hospital grounds and two ancient woodlands on site. In April 2016 a 'Forget me not' Dementia Garden was also opened, they have now received charitable funding for a second garden and are looking for volunteers to help in the first phase of this exciting new project.

After the huge success of the Bat Walks last year, they have returned for 2017. These are open to everyone, and supported by Essex Bat Group and Heart and Soul. A great way to learn about these fascinating yet endangered mammals. Dates are 28th July starts 8:20pm, 25th August starts 7:30pm and 8th September starts 7:00pm. **For more information on all of the above or to book a place on the walks please contact** 01245 514558 or email [sustainable.development@meht.nhs.uk](mailto:sustainable.development@meht.nhs.uk)

## Other News

### RSPB Turtle Dove Habitat/Farm Engagement Volunteer and Co-ordinator required

*"As part of the RSPB's Saving Nature Scheme, we are looking for someone with an interest in turtle doves and in improving their UK breeding habitats as part of our drive to help conserve this delicate dove. Your role will be to support RSPB turtle dove advisors to identify suitable locations on and off-farm for the creation or management of turtle dove habitat, and to assess the condition of this habitat throughout the breeding season to ensure it remains at a suitable quality. You may also have the opportunity to attend farmer events to help spread the word about turtle dove conservation".* For further details please contact: Sarah Gelpke, RSPB Saving Nature Scheme Project Officer - 07703 470713 or [Sarah.Gelpke@rspb.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Gelpke@rspb.org.uk)

### RSPB Tagged European Turtle Dove returns to Essex

*"RSPB scientists have succeeded in mapping the complete migratory route of a British-breeding European Turtle Dove for only the second time, after a bird fitted with a tracking device in East Anglia last summer arrived back in the UK. The bird, named Lawford after the Essex village where he was fitted with his tracker last summer, crossed the English Channel to arrive back in the UK on Friday 5 May."* Please see [Bird Guides article](#) and you can follow the journeys of Lawford and the other satellite-tagged European Turtle Doves on the RSPB website at [www.rspb.org.uk/turtledovetracking](http://www.rspb.org.uk/turtledovetracking)

### BTO – Find the Gap

BTO has just launched a new web-based tool for filling the gaps on the map for the new European Breeding Bird Atlas (EBBA2), the most ambitious continental scale atlas of breeding birds ever produced. For more details please see web page [here](#).

### Royal Mail Stamps

The Royal Mail celebrated Dawn Chorus Day on 7 May with a Songbirds Special Stamp issue. Which ones can you tick from your Dawn Chorus?

