



The Essex Birdwatching Society

Celebrating Bird Recording & Inspirational Birdwatching in Essex since 1949



October 2018

Dear Birders

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 October Indoor Meeting

Join us on **Friday 5 October** at 8:00 pm for a talk about:

INVOLVEMENT in BIRDING from the YOUNGER GENERATION; VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION WORK & BIRDING AROUND SOUTHEND by Max Hellicar

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

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

Max Hellicar, winner of the 'Cornell Lab of Ornithology Young Birders Event in 2017' in Ithaca, New York, USA, gives not 1, not 2, but 3 very different, interesting and informative short talks from a young birders perspective.

EBwS October Field Trip Meeting

Sunday 21 October

WALTON-on-the-NAZE (CO14 8LE) & HOLLAND HAVEN (CO15 5TX)

NON-COACH TRIP

MEET AT THE VENUE CAR PARK AT 9am

A trip to the north-east of the county starting at the Naze and around the John Weston reserve area for winter migrants such as Short-eared Owl, Fieldfare, Redwing, Wheatear, Firecrest, Brent Geese and the possibility that a rarity might be found like Yellow-browed Warbler or Ring Ouzel or Wryneck. Then on to Holland Haven Country Park during the afternoon to complete the day in north-east Essex.

EBwS Bird Records

Thank you for adding all your bird sightings on our website - www.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. You can view these sightings on our website at the address above and by following us at:

@essexbirdwatchingsociety



@EssexBirdNews



Message from Chairman

Vice President Malcolm Chettleburgh sadly passed away at home on 21st September 2018 following a short spell in hospital, just a month prior to his 86th Birthday. Malcolm has always been a loyal supporter of the Bradwell Bird Observatory in so many ways. Malcolm financially supported the Observatory and always encouraged the ringing activities along with the recording undertaken there over many years. Malcolm will be greatly missed by all that had the privilege to know him.

Volunteers Required

BTO Tawny Owl Point Survey

"BTO are at present in the middle of a Tawny Owl Point Survey (TOPS) – it is not too late to sign up for this if you live or have easy access to a square request area. To complement this a Tawny Owl Calling Survey has also just kicked off. It's easy to do, just take 20 minutes each week to listen out for Tawny Owls and record whether or not you hear them. If you can't do each week, no matter, just do it when you can.

Full details and instructions at:

<https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/project-owl/tawny-owl-calling-survey>

Help BTO find out more about this intriguing bird."



EBWS September Field Trip Report

SNETTISHAM RSPB RESERVE by Gerry Johnson Sunday 16th September

It was a mild September day for our trip to Snettisham Reserve. There was a stiff, warm breeze blowing as we walked through the bushes from the car park on the way to the sea wall. With the 11:30 high tide we had time to watch the water push many waders towards the shore and us. But the sight of hundreds of Knot wheeling over the tide line was fantastic, followed by murmurations of Golden Plover which were all appreciated by our group.

Scanning across the vast mud flats huge flocks of Oystercatchers were resting. Ringed Plover, Redshank, Shelduck, Black-tailed Godwit, Lapwing, Dunlin and Sanderling. Even an Avocet was seen. The odd Little Egret were easy to spot as were five Spoonbills.

The walk along the sea wall produced Reed Bunting, Linnets, Green and Goldfinch. The sheltered lagoons had good numbers of wildfowl. Greylag Geese, Canada Geese, Pochard, Teal and Wigeon all featured.

A small island in front of a hide was covered with Bar and Black-tailed Godwit, most of them standing on one leg! A further four Spoonbills were also present. Along the edge of the lagoons Yellow Wagtail showed well as did a large flock of Starling molting into smart winter plumage.

Raptors in the form of Kestrel, Common Buzzard and Peregrine were seen across the fields behind the sea wall.

As the tide retreated a Curlew Sandpiper was identified on the mud in front of the chalets.

During the day 85 species were seen by the group on a splendid day.

Migration Day at Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve

Sunday 28th September

by Steve Grimwade

Weather wasn't favourable for our annual Migration Day event at Fingringhoe Wick but despite this, plenty of people turned up for two guided walks during the day. The first group were treated to great views of two SPOONBILLS feeding out on the intertidal area from the excellent Margaret Hide plus AVOCETS, KNOT, RINGED, GOLDEN & GREY PLOVERS, BAR-TAILED & BLACK-TAILED GODWITS and DUNLIN all side by side so we could pick out the key identification points.

A quick stop off on the way back to the centre at the scrape provided us with close up views of roosting GREENSHANK and a single SPOTTED REDSHANK.

Whilst having lunch and a chance to dry off, we had distant views of a female MERLIN perched out on the Geedon Marsh.

Rain cleared through for our second walk to Margaret Hide and although the tide had receded, there were plenty of waders to see in good light. Sunshine encouraged COMMON BUZZARDS & MARSH HARRIERS to fly. Three KINGFISHERS were seen along with the usual waders, but unfortunately there was no further sign of the Spoonbills.

It was then back to the centre for some well-deserved coffee and cake and for a finale, a juvenile HOBBY put on a flying show in front of the centre.

Thanks to the staff and volunteers for organising the day and we look forward to the next one on 27th January 2019!

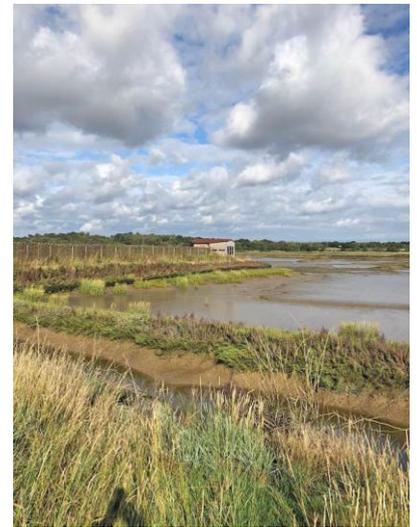


Photo by Pete Webster



Photo by Steve Grimwade



Photo by James Hume

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