

Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter



EBwS.org.uk

Connecting Essex birders for over 60 years

Registered Charity No: 1142734

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November 2017

Dear Members

In the month of November we can now enjoy our winter birds and still see some birds moving through. So even though the days will start to get shorter and colder, it is a great time to get outside and enjoy our birdwatching.

Happy Birding Emma

EBwS Field Trip

Sunday 5 November

HICKLING BROAD NWT RESERVE

Hickling Broad and the Stubbs Mill Raptor Watch Point has in the past provided sightings of Bittern, Barn Owl, Common Crane, Hen Harrier, Whooper Swan, Merlin, Chinese Water Deer, winter thrushes and the spectacle of up to 100 Marsh Harriers returning to roost.

See [here](#) for further details on the site. *An entrance charge will apply for non-members of Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Please note that the track down to the watch point can get very muddy.*

*Coach trip commences from Trinity Church (opposite the County Hotel) at 07:15am for 07:30am, with **Stanway pick up** as required at 07:50am. 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'. **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 3 November** at 8pm for a talk about:

INVOLVEMENT IN BIRDING FROM THE YOUNGER GENERATION; VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION WORK AND 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 2017 in Ithaca, New York, USA, gives not 1, not 2, but 3 very different short talks from a young birders perspective.

Max is an avid birder with a very keen interest in everything involving the natural world, an interest which he has had for as long as he can remember, and he is especially passionate about ornithology, ecology and conservation. Max is also a trainee bird ringer, has a keen interest in moths and butterflies, a regular volunteer at Rainham Marshes, and has spent 3 1/2 weeks volunteering at Fair Isle Bird Observatory this summer.

EBwS News

Sunday 5 November

Wader Quest Day at EWT Fingringhoe Wick

Essex Birdwatching Society will be in one of the coastal hides at Fingringhoe Wick Nature Reserve from 10.30 till 12:30 supporting Wader Quest Day. Please come along and join us in this world watch event.

October Field Trip – RSPB Minsmere

An enjoyable day was spent at RSPB Minsmere for our October field trip. The weather conditions were not ideal, it was still quite windy after Storm Brian the day before, but we all persevered and saw 80 species across the group. The scrape area had good numbers of wildfowl these included Gadwall, Shoveler, Teal and Wigeon. There were also a number of gulls which included a Yellow-legged Gull. Other birds seen were Little Stint, Snipe and Wheatear. The walk along the beach produced sightings of a Dartford Warbler in the scrub, also a Gannet and Snow Bunting. Other species seen across the reserve included Bittern, Water Rail, Bullfinch, Kingfisher, Redwing, Marsh Harrier and a lucky sighting of a Bearded Tit feeding at the bottom of the reeds. The day was of course not complete without a visit to the cafe with a warming drink and a delicious cake.

New Book - The Barn Owl Guardian of the Countryside by Jeff R. Martin

Jeff has secured a 20% discount for EBwS members. Go to <http://www.booksystemsplus.com/>, which will take you straight to the book. The book is normally £30, however using the discount code - Essex20, the total cost will be £24 with free postage. The book is not available anywhere else for less. For more details on the book see the last page.

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 18 November

RSPB Wallasea Wildlife Wander Winter is coming - Wildfowl and Waders

In November our wintering flocks of wildfowl and waders are building up towards their winter peak and can be an impressive sight as they swirl around high tide roosts or feed at the edge of the saltmarsh. Flocks of farmland birds will be taking advantage of the wild bird cover for winter food and hopefully a few raptors will be around. For more information see - <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk>

Sunday 19 November

Birdie Birds - Ladies Birdwatching Group EWT Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre

A Sociable Birdwatching Club for Women. Join our friendly and knowledgeable and enjoy a walk around Hornchurch Country Park and surrounding areas spotting and identifying birds and other wildlife along the way. Beginners welcome. For more information see - <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

Saturday 25 November

RSPB Havering Local Group Coach Trip to RSPB Pulborough Brooks, West Sussex

Pulborough Brooks is set in the sheltered Arun Valley within the South Downs National Park. The Visitor Centre and reserve are open all year and boast a great variety of habitats including wetlands, woodland, and heathland. Pulborough Brooks is a haven for a wide range of wildlife and the reserve offers a good cross-section of passerines, waders and wildfowl. For more information - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering>

Other Talks

Thursday 9 November

Indoor meeting - Update from Stour Estuary, Cattawade and Flatford by Rick Vonk RSPB Colchester Local Group

Rick Vonk, RSPB Site Manager will talk about all the latest goings-on from these local RSPB reserves. For more information see - <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/colchester>

Thursday 9 November

Indoor Meeting - Unravelling the Mysteries of Bird Migration - Ieuan Evans RSPB Chelmsford & Central Essex Local Group

Ieuan Evans from the British Trust for Ornithology will give an overview of the BTO's exciting tracking work involving GPS tags and geolocators on species such as Swift, Cuckoo & Nightjar. He will reveal the latest from a number of projects of how cutting-edge technology is being used to push forward our understanding of bird migration at an amazing pace. For more information see - <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chelmsford>

Thursday 23 November

Illustrated Talk: Wallasea Island EWT Southend and Rochford Local Group

An illustrated talk with RSPB's Rachel Fancy and Simon Carpenter. An update on the Wallasea Island Wild Coast project - a landmark conservation and engineering scheme, on a scale never before attempted in the UK and the largest of its type in Europe. For more information see - <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

*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.*

The Barn Owl Guardian of the Countryside

Jeff R. Martin

This is certainly not the only book to be published on barn owls, but it is the first to go beyond describing this, our most treasured bird, and to examine how our changing environment is affecting its future. It is illustrated with colour photographs throughout, and the text is supported by maps, charts, and tables.

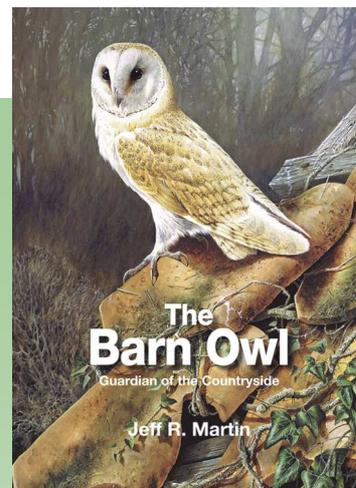
The briefest glimpse of this beautiful bird swooping across a field reassures us that all is well in our beloved countryside—but is that really the case?

With its universal appeal, it is no surprise that the barn owl is one of the most studied birds in the world. In this book Jeff Martin has compiled both his own research findings and those of the world's leading experts to give a detailed insight into the barn owl's fascinating lifestyle and behaviours.

The barn owl *Tyto alba* belongs to the worldwide genus of *Tyto*, which presently comprises some 12 species of barn owl and 13 other closely related species. How this family of birds has managed to spread itself around the world has been a puzzle to ornithologists for many years, and Jeff is the first one to address this question formally by presenting some thought-provoking theories. He also discusses the origins of the name and the history that has brought the barn owl to the forefront of wildlife conservation.

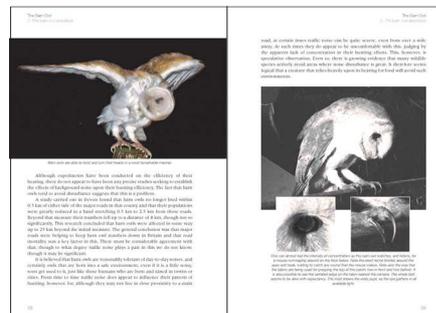
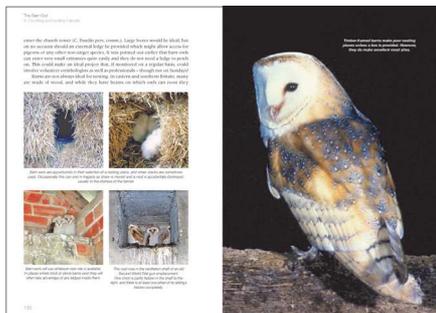
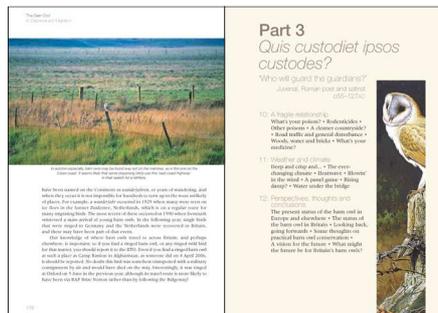
The more we learn about barn owls the more we need to look at their environment. How fragile is their future? How dependent is their existence on our conservation efforts? Jeff explores the issues and discusses possible longer-term strategies to ensure that barn owls will continue to thrive in Britain. If we get things right for the barn owl, our countryside will benefit too.

Jeff Martin is a naturalist and conservationist with a passion for studying owls and the species they rely upon. As an established writer, he has had a number of articles published, and this is his second book on barn owls. He lives near Colchester in Essex.



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| ISBN 13 | 978 1 873580 89 9 |
| Publisher | Whittet Books |
| Author | Jeff R. Martin |
| Format | 240 mm x 165 mm |
| Binding | Hardback (PPC) |
| Extent | 256 pages |
| Illustrations | Colour throughout |
| (Photographs, charts, tables, maps) | |
| Publication | October 2017 |
| Price | £30.00 |

'This book deserves to be read in its entirety and not just dipped into from time to time, as we so often do with other books on owls. I warmly recommend Jeff Martin's book to both the layman and to the professional ornithologist.'
Heimo Mikkola (the world's best-known owl expert)



ORDERING INFORMATION

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