



The Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter

April 2018

Dear Birders

I am sure that Spring will be with us very soon! The birds are now singing first thing in the morning and migrants are starting to arrive with sightings of Wheatear in the county. Hopefully we shall get some warmer and drier days soon as it's a great time to get out to enjoy birds and nature. We look forward to seeing you at one of the events below.

Happy Birding Emma

EBwS March Indoor Meeting

Join us on **Friday 6 April** at 7:30pm for the AGM followed by a talk about:

KAKAPO - OWL PARROT OF NEW ZEALAND by Ed Keeble

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

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

Ed Keeble introduces us to the endemic Kakapo, one of the world's rarest and most extraordinary birds. It came close to extinction in the latter half of the 20th Century and is currently subject to one of the most intensive recovery programmes ever attempted.

EBwS April Field Trip Meeting

Sunday 8 April

RUTLAND WATER RESERVE

Rutland Water in the Midlands is home to the annual 'Bird Fair' in August and the successful 'Osprey Reintroduction Programme'. It offers many opportunities to see Kingfisher, Willow Warbler, Bullfinch, Common Buzzard, Red Kite and a host of additional early summer migrants from the many hides, not forgetting Osprey!

For more details, latest sightings and a map of the reserve go to the [website](#).

Coach trip commences from Trinity Church (opposite the County Hotel) at 07:15am for 07:30am, Chelmsford only. 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.

Event

Saturday 21 April

Spring Bird Migration Day at EWT The Naze Centre

10:00am – 4:00pm

Essex Birdwatching Society will be supporting this event and we hope to see you there. There will be display stands in the visitor centre, including Essex Birdwatching Society, Swallow Birding, British Trust for Ornithology, Wader Quest and Optics sales. Also a programme of guided walks, short talks, photo ID and bird questions slots designed for people to bring their bird photos for identification or bird questions they'd like to ask. Parking is in the pay and display car park; admission to the event is free.

EBwS News

EBwS Conservation Conference March 2018 – Coastal and Marshland Birds of Essex

On Saturday 17 March it was the society's 4th conservation conference. It was a snowy morning when we all arrived at Writtle College to start setting up for the day; we just hoped that all our delegates and speakers would still be able to make it despite the weather conditions. However we needn't have worried the entrance hall was soon full with people, catching up with friends and viewing the stands.

My task for the day was selling the raffle tickets, it was great to meet so many of you and I hope that I was able to sell you a winning ticket. The talks provided by our guest speakers throughout the day were all very interesting and informative. They all in particular highlighted the importance of our wildlife charities and your bird recordings in the conservation of our coastal and marshland birds of Essex. I very much enjoyed the day and being part of the committee team. A further write up will be in your next edition of Essex Birding.



*Photos by
Lesley Collins*

EBwS Data Protection

Please remember to return your Declaration Correspondence Form to confirm the various methods the Society may contact you and to continue receiving the emailed newsletter. The completed signed form must be returned to us by 1 May 2018.

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



Volunteers Required

Little Tern Project

More volunteers are needed to help monitor Little Terns this coming breeding season see - <https://www.littleternproject.org.uk/ways-to-help/>

Seabird Count

Help is required to assist in the co-ordination of the Essex effort with the on-going Seabird Count run by JNCC working with the SMP Partnership. For Essex, it looks like it involves co-ordinating nest counts for gulls and terns. Please contact Rob Bleach BTO at essexnebto@gmail.com

Wetland Bird Survey

Your help is needed for WeBS counts go to <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs> to find vacant sites in Essex.

Local Wildlife Group Events

Field Trip Meetings

Saturday 14 April

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

EWT Abberton Reservoir

Get out and about on the nature reserve and around the reservoir to see how many birds you can identify. Our expert will help you with your basic identification skills. For more information and booking details see -

<http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

Saturday 14 April

Introduction to the Birds and other Wildlife of the Ingrebourne Valley

EWT Ingrebourne Valley

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 and booking details see - <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

Saturday 28 April

Coach Outing - RSPB Paxton Pits, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

RSPB Havering Local Group

Paxton Pits nature reserve covers 77 hectares of lakes, meadow, grassland, scrub and woodland where you can enjoy a wealth of wildlife all year round. The reserve is famous for its nightingales and cormorants and is home to a wide variety of other birds, insects, mammals and flora. Please book before: 20 April. For more information and booking details see - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering>

Indoor Meetings

Wednesday 4 April

Gwyn Williams – RSPB Head of Conservation Investment

Saving the UK's most threatened birds.

RSPB South East Essex Local Group

For more information see - <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk>

Thursday 12 April

Operation Turtle Dove

RSPB Chelmsford & Central Essex Local Group

Emma Stobart, the RSPB's Turtle Dove Conservation Advisor for Essex, will be presenting this talk. Turtle doves were once abundant summer visitors to our countryside but over the last half century we have seen a dramatic decline in their numbers. These iconic birds face many challenges, both in the UK and across their flyway. Join us to learn about the work that the RSPB is doing through Operation Turtle Dove, in the UK and with partners in other countries, to try and reverse this decline and combat the challenges that these beautiful birds face. For more information see - <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chelmsford>

Friday 13 April

A Year on my Patch

RSPB Havering Local Group

Simon Ginnaw will talk about his local patch Mote Park in Maidstone, Kent. Simon has been watching his local patch for over 10 years. Once a country estate owned by knights and by Royalty, Mote Park was one of Kent's first deer parks, and is now a 480 acre leisure facility open to all. Simon has known and loved Mote Park since early childhood, recording over 140 bird species, 23 butterflies, 8 bats and much more! During this talk, enjoy a heart warming look at the seasons, discovering secrets behind our commonest wildlife, all themed to birdsong and music as he recalls a year on his local patch. For more information see -

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

*These field trips/meetings are only a selection of activities from across the Essex area.
Please see your relevant local wildlife groups for further activities.*