



Dear Birders

I do hope that you are all enjoying Spring/Summer birding with the extra hours of daylight and the warmer days. In particular I have enjoyed hearing Cuckoos and Nightingales at our Essex reserves. This month is our last field trip of the season and we do hope that you can join us. Our fixture list for 2018-2019 will be sent with the next issue of Essex Birding in early July. The next issue of the newsletter will then follow at the end of July. Happy Birding Emma

EBwS June Field Trip Meeting

Sunday 10 June

LAKENHEATH FEN RSPB RESERVE

A Fenland delight where we can expect species such as Common Crane, Bearded Tit, Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, Hobby, Cuckoo, Cetti's Warblers plus lots more.

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 07:15 am for 07:30 am, 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.

EBwS Data Protection

Please be aware that this will be the last newsletter that you will receive unless you have returned your Declaration Correspondence Form confirming the continued receipt of emails from Essex Birdwatching Society.

Please see our website for the [form](#) or email - essexbirdwatchingsociety@gmail.com

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



EBwS May Field Trip Report

RSPB TITCHWELL RESERVE by Gerry Johnson

A group of 31 members and guests traveled on the luxury coach from Chelmsford to Titchwell on Sunday 13th May for an excellent day's bird watching.

The East trail produced good numbers of Warblers - Chiffchaff, Whitethroat, Sedge and Reed. At Patsy's reed bed Marsh Harrier quartered the reeds with Cuckoo heard and seen.

Taking the West Bank path towards the beach Little Gulls were seen flying with Black-headed Gulls. Amongst the reeds Bearded Reedling flew over the reed bed and at least three Cuckoos were heard and seen.

From Parrinder hide Mediterranean Gulls mingled with the Gull colony, two Red-breasted Pochard swam around the lagoon, Grey Plover looked stunning in the sunshine and a fine male Ruff displayed to a female. Brilliant.

From the beach we added Gannet, Common Scoter and Red-throated Diver.

Throughout the splendid day the group identified 101 species!

SWIFT AWARENESS WEEK

Saturday 16 June – Saturday 23 June

"This summer, Britain will become the first country in the world to dedicate a national week in support of Swifts.

There will be events and publicity all around the country, organised by dozens of local Swift groups. These events aim to raise awareness of Swifts and bring a focus to their plight, and of course provide information about how to help them. The Swift is one of the few endangered species that individuals really can help in their own property and there are many groups across the country working hard to try to halt their dramatic decline of 50% in just 20 years" see - <http://actionforswifts.blogspot.co.uk>



Essex Birdwatching Society will have a table top display at Chelmsford Museum in Oakland's Park on Wednesday 20 June and in the High Chelmer Shopping Centre in Chelmsford on Friday 22 June.

Photographs and information about Swift will be available and a Swift nest box will be on display. FREE back issues of 'Essex Birding' journal will be handed out to everyone interested in birds.

Volunteers Required

BTO Grey Herons and Little Egrets – Census

Rod Bleach the BTO Regional Rep for NE Essex is asking for help with the Grey Heron and Little Egret Census. This year is the 90th anniversary of the start of the census. The aim is to count as many heronries as possible each year and to ensure that newly established sites are quickly discovered and brought into the programme of annual counts. In north-east Essex, counts in recent years have been a bit sketchy. If you do know the location of any grey heron or little egret nest sites in Essex or you would like to take on the role of Regional Organiser for the count, please email Rod at essexnebto@gmail.com

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

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

Local Wildlife Group Events

Field Trip Meetings

Saturday 2 June

Coach Trip to RSPB Minsmere

RSPB Havering Group

There's so much to see and hear at the RSPB's flagship nature reserve Minsmere: splendid woodland, wetland and coastal scenery, rare birds breeding and calling in on their migrations, shy wildlife like otters, the booming call of bitterns in spring, beautiful bugs and colourful wild flowers in summer. As well as seven hides and a public viewing platform. Minsmere has it all a trip not too be missed! Please book before: 25 May. For more information and booking details see - <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/havering>

Sunday 3 June

Wildlife Walk: Wrabness

EWT Colchester Group

A walk round EWT Wrabness Nature Reserve to look for summer migrants. In recent years Turtle Doves and Nightingales have been present so we hope to see or hear them. For more information and booking details see - <http://www.essexwt.org.uk/events>

Saturday 9 June

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 30 June

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>

*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.*