



The Essex Birdwatching Society Newsletter

August 2018

Dear Birders

Hope that you are all currently enjoying our very warm summer. You will have now received your next issue of Essex Birding and Fixture List for the new season. For me the new birding season starts with the Bird Fair in August, where you can attend talks, mingle with celebrities, catch up with friends, and shop till you drop on everything and anything bird related. Essex Birdwatching Society will be running a coach trip on the Sunday and we do hope that you can join us.

Happy Birding Emma

EBwS August Field Trip Meeting

Sunday 19 August
THE BIRD FAIR

The Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre at Egleton reserve on Rutland Water is home of the annual 'Bird Fair', where you have the opportunity to see and try latest products; attend events and talks; mingle with personalities; view fine art or taste some great food. You might see an Osprey or a Red Kite. Internet entrance pre-booking is possible with discount for RSPB/EWT members. (Valid membership cards must be presented on entry). For more details, see <https://birdfair.org.uk/>

Coach trip commences from Trinity Church (opposite the County Hotel) at 06:45 am for 07:00 am, Chelmsford only. Currently 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 trip cost.

EBwS New Website

I do hope that you have visited our new much improved website. Big thanks go to Andrew Ducat who has made this possible and spent many hours getting it set up. To submit your sightings you will need to reactivate your account by going to the Log In page and selecting 'Reset account'. Your login will now be your email address. An email with a link will be sent to set up your password (this email may go into your junk folder). Please do let us know what you think or if you have any problems at 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



Appeal for Essex Bird Reports

We are currently looking for short papers on Essex birds for the 2016 and 2017 Essex Bird Reports. The paper can be on identification, a particular site or indeed anything bird related provided that Essex is involved. For examples of previous papers, please see old Reports. If anyone thinks they have something suitable please contact Simon Wood through the following email essexbirdwatchingsociety@gmail.com.

EBwS June Field Trip Report

RSPB LAKENHEATH FEN by Gerry Johnson
Photos by Steve Grimwade

It was an excellent turnout for the final Field Trip Meeting of the current programme for 2017-2018 on a dry, mild June morning. Before moving out of Essex a Red Kite was seen from the coach before taking the A11 from the M11 into Suffolk.

Walking through the wooden area of the reserve we were soon overlooking the first reedbed where Kingfisher was seen with Reed Bunting, Sedge and Reed Warbler. A pair of Mistle Thrush were seen amongst the trees and Hobbies hawked over the reedbed for dragonflies and Cuckoos were heard and seen in good numbers.

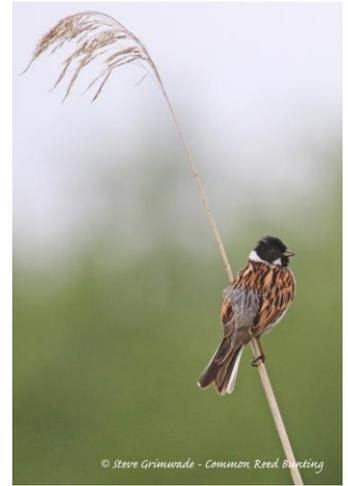
The sun broke through the thin clouds, raising the temperature to 22C as we moved from morning to afternoon. Common Buzzard circled on thermals, Marsh Harrier quartered the vast reedbed and a Bittern flew from the reedbed near Mere hide giving great views as it flew very close, calling as it went. This Bittern reappeared to give a fly pass.

We eventually arrived at Joist Fen viewpoint where the first of seven or eight Bittern were seen! Three Bittern moved about the reeds just 20 metres from where we stood and others flew to and from the reeds. Probably the most Bitterns seen on an EBwS Field Trip. Reed Bunting, Cetti's Warbler, Red Kite and Blackcap were also seen at this viewpoint. More Hobby and Marsh Harriers were seen and some of the Group were fortunate to see two Common Crane for a brief view.

On other parts of the reserve Water Rail, Curlew, Lapwing, Shoveler, Curlew, Oystercatcher and Kestrel were some of the species identified amongst the 71 seen by the group. Sadly the beautiful song of the Golden Oriole is no longer heard at this reserve, and no longer seen at Lakenheath, the last site in East Anglia where they once breed.

We had again been blessed with fine weather and seen the target species, in the case of the Bittern, extremely well.

With the new programme for 2018-2019 coming out soon we look forward to members and guests joining us on more fantastic friendly Field Trip Meetings later this year.



SWIFT AWARENESS WEEK



**UK Swift
Awareness
Week**

National UK "**Swift Awareness Week**" was held from **16th to 23rd June**. The Society responded with two events in Chelmsford. The first was at the Chelmsford Museum, Oaklands Park, in Moulsham Street and the second was held at the High Chelmer Shopping Mall. Alongside the Society's display items we had photographs of Swifts, literature, Swift booklets and badges available to those interested. Both events had several people making in depth inquiries about how to install a Swift project on their homes. A representative from the "Essex County Council" was also keen to find out more.

The busy Shopping Mall had people from all walks of life making inquiries and many were newly introduced to our Swift as an iconic bird now in decline and the reasons for it. We had the call device operating throughout the day and it evoked much interest (and not one complaint!). Two people thought that there were Swifts flying outside and above the atrium! Several people had information on where in Essex there were locations of Swift "screaming" parties that we were not aware of. "Springwatch" had further promoted the event on their last programme. Thanks must go to both venues for providing first class facilities and providing a prime area to site the events. The event was nationally coordinated at county level by the voluntary sector led by Peta Sams and Nick Brown which must have been no mean feat to manage.

Events

Hen Harrier Day at Rainham Marshes 2018

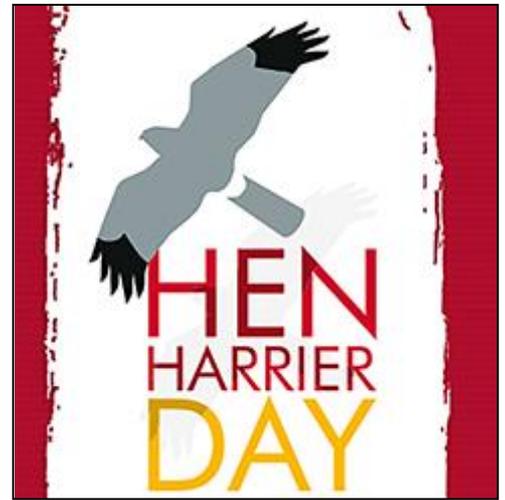
On Saturday 11th August at 11am RSPB Rainham Marshes is hosting an event organized by Birders Against Wildlife Crime to mark Hen Harrier Day 2018 – to celebrate hen harriers and publicise their plight.

We'd like to invite you to join us for this rally, which will include speakers and activities suitable for all, including for families! Speakers confirmed so far include David Lindo (The Urban Birder) and RSPB Director of Conservation Martin Harper. All money raised goes to Birders Against Wildlife Crime and they'll be giving an update about their raptor satellite tagging project too.

We're anticipating a busy day and are urging people to use public transport – the reserve is just a ten minute walk from Purfleet station on the C2C line. Additional car parking is also available in Purfleet at the public car park just west of the train station.

The car park will open at 8am, and the main rally with speeches is set to start at 11 am. The speeches will take place in the marquee field near the Marshland Discovery Zone so leave yourself 15 minute or so to wander down.

Join us in saying 'We want our Hen Harriers back'! Watch this space and @HHDdayLondon for more updates. Look forward to seeing you there! For more info see - <http://henharrierday.org/>



Wildlife Fair - The Beth Chatto Gardens

On Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 August 2018 10am-4pm, Essex Birdwatching Society will be supporting the The Beth Chatto Gardens Wildlife Fair. A host of wildlife experts and societies gather in the beautiful Beth Chatto Gardens over two days for a fun filled summer day out for the family. Try your hand at pond dipping, taste some local honey, go on a bee safari, enjoy a variety of demonstrations, craft activities and lots more at our friendly wildlife and countryside charity stands. Please do come along and say hello. For more details and entrance costs please see - <http://www.bethchatto.co.uk/courses/wildlife-fair18.htm>

Volunteers Required

Broomfield Hospital and Birding Survey Help

David Jackson is the Sustainability Project Coordinator at Mid-Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust (MEHT) – based at Broomfield Hospital. David previously worked with bats for four years prior to joining this role a year ago, and whilst his skills are improving certainly more of an amateur bird watcher. Are there any local members who would be interested in helping them with an initial bird population/species survey? Broomfield is proud to be managing two acres of woodland alongside a variety of garden space on the site. They are currently in the process of designing their second woodland management plan, with a focus on conservation and habitat enhancement. They also have a variety of community engagement activities, with 260 volunteers dedicating >1,900 hours last year alone in helping them maintain this natural space. Promoting the wildlife to those visiting the site is a core aim in the therapeutic benefits experienced, and it'll also help them with conservation efforts moving forwards. If you are interested to find out more, please contact David at David.Jackson2@meht.nhs.uk

Project Godwit – Can you help them by keeping an eye out for their special birds

Project Godwit is a partnership between RSPB and WWT. The project aims to secure the future of black-tailed godwits in the UK. The godwits have been colour ringed at Nene and Ouse Washes to help understand more about the birds' movements in the breeding and non-breeding season. All godwits colour ringed under the project have a lime colour ring on the right hand leg with the black letter E stamped on ring. To record your sighting and for more information see - <https://projectgodwit.org.uk/>

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> .

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please email “unsubscribe” to essexbirdwatchingsociety@gmail.com**