



### 03) Rare Birds: The Society's Guidelines

The general policy of the **Essex Birdwatching Society** is that news of rare birds should be made available to everyone, but only through the correct channels and by approved procedures with the following provisos.

- 1) **Birds in public areas.** Details can be circulated by the usual established channels except where large numbers of birders would create a public nuisance either by car parking or by trespass on private property to gain access. In which case the follow the guideline below as if the bird is on private land.
- 2) **Birds on private land.** The cooperation and permission of the landowner must be obtained before any details are circulated. The Society will not condone any trespass on private property without the landowner's permission. Should the landowner have doubts, birders should suggest permanent 'wardening' of the site during the bird's stay. Viewing may have to be controlled by limiting numbers of observers at any one time and/or limiting the time of viewing to allow other observers to see the rarity. The offer to ask observers for contributions to a charity of the landowner's choice may sway his or her decision to allow news of the bird to be publicised.
- 3) Birders must remember that generally breeding birds are protected from any disturbance BY LAW. Should a rarity occur in the vicinity of a breeding bird named in Schedule 1 of the '*Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*', birders should seek advice before publicising news of the rarity.
- 4) Rare birds must **not** be harassed under any circumstances. Think carefully about the welfare of the bird before you tell anyone about it. Remember your actions could be accountable in the eyes of the law.
- 5) For further detailed guidance and advice when a rare species is located refer to section 5 of the Information Sheet No 04, covering all aspects of '*Birding Protocol and Etiquette*'.