

# The RSPB Macclesfield Local Group



giving  
nature  
a home

## The Heron



## Newsletter - January 2022

### Happy New Year

**We start the New Year with a Zoom Presentation  
by Julian Hughes entitled *The State of Birds in Wales***

Julian joined the Young Ornithology Club (now Wildlife Explorers) when he was about nine years old and has been hooked on wildlife ever since. In 2008 until 2019 he achieved one of the highlights of his life so far and became warden of RSPB Conwy reserve. As a birdwatcher it is not surprising that Julian has a 'Twitter' account @penrhynbirder with over 1,500 followers.

He is now *Head of Public Affairs* for RSPB Cymru and has been a member of the editorial team for the new *Birds of Wales*. It is almost 30 years since the first avifauna was published for all of Wales and much has changed. Knowledge of the status of many species has increased and we have a better understanding of how humans have affected birds in Wales. The *Birds of Wales* synthesises the new information and sets in context the history of each species in Wales.

#### DIARY DATES

#### JANUARY 2022

Tuesday 11 Log in from 7:30 pm to start 7:45 pm	<b>Zoom meeting: <i>The State of Birds in Wales</i> by Julian Hughes</b> <b>Booking essential</b> - email <a href="mailto:membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk">membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk</a> for registration and joining instructions if you are new to the Group. Local Group Members Free, Visitors £2 and Under 18 Free.
Sunday 23 Departs 8:00 am	<b>Coach Trip to Carsington Water with the Guild for Lifelong Learning Birdwatching Group (GFLBGG)</b> Depart at 8:00 am from Wilmslow Guild, Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD Contact: Steve McGann 01625 533652
Saturday 29 Starts 10:00 am	<b>National RSPB Event: <i>Big Garden Birdwatch</i> at West Park, Macclesfield</b> Contribute to monitoring the state of bird populations across the country by taking part in The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch with help from RSPB Macclesfield and Wildlife Explorers' experienced birdwatchers. There will be advice on using binoculars and help with identifying common garden birds, as well as helpful hints on completing your own survey at home. Meet outside the West Park café, Prestbury Road, Macclesfield, SK10 3BJ 10 am to 12 noon Contact Tina Hanak 07870 804413

## FEBRUARY 2022

Tuesday 8  Log in from 7:30 pm to start at 7:45 pm	<p><b>Zoom meeting: Magic in the Wind: Nature and Conservation in the Falkland Islands by Sacha Cleminson</b></p> <p>Zooming in from The Falkland Islands, Sacha will give an introduction to the islands, some of the history which explains how it is today, its wildlife and the conservation work in which the RSPB are involved.</p> <p><b>Booking essential</b> - email <a href="mailto:membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk">membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk</a> for registration and joining instructions.</p> <p>Local Group Members Free, Visitors £2 and Under 18 Free.</p>
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### NEWS FROM THE RSPB AND THE COMMITTEE

**S**adly, Avian Influenza or Bird Flu is in our local area. Dead swans, geese and other waterfowl are being seen by the general public at well known sites where we go to watch and feed the birds e.g. Redesmere. To help prevent the spread of the H5N1 virus variant which causes Bird Flu it is suggested we stop feeding birds at these public places and possibly even in our gardens especially if we see any evidence of dead or diseased birds. Should you wish to continue feeding the birds in your garden, particularly as they may depend on your food in the bad weather conditions, please increase your bird feeder/table hygiene routine, washing your feeders with soapy water and remember to wash your own hands afterwards. Bird-to-human transmission of avian flu is very rare and has previously only occurred a small number of times in the UK but a case has been reported recently in the South West of England.

The advice from the RSPB is :-

- Not to approach or touch any sick or dead birds.
- To wash hands and footwear thoroughly when returning home from walks.
- To keep dogs on a short lead to reduce the chance of them coming into contact with sick or dead birds.
- To report dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, to the Defra helpline 03459 33 55 77

**O**n a happier note. Alastair McKee RSPB Local Group's Officer came to the December indoor meeting and surprised four members of the audience with their volunteer long service awards. All were suitably disguised as the photographs (below) by David Beer show. The length of time for each award is denoted by a bird in a pin badge; 5 years Denis Wood and Derek Bailey a swift, 20 years Lydia Taylor an osprey and 35 years David Tolliday a red kite. In addition, Marjorie Latham and Jeanette Liggett who didn't make the meeting will receive swift pin badges for their 5 years of volunteering. Congratulations to all recipients for the time they have given the RSPB. In addition, Derek Bailey received the *RSPB British Birds of Prey* book from the RSPB to recognise his service as our Local Group Treasurer.



Ian Taylor  
Newsletter Editor