

January 2024

Tuesday 9th January

Talk Wildlife and Birds of Poland

Presented by: Richard Bashford-our RSPB Local Group Officer

Richard has worked for the RSPB for many years and is a knowledgeable and experienced birder. He has made many trips to Poland over the last twenty years, and this talk will feature the world-famous Biebrza National Park Marshes that are home to iconic species such as Corncrakes and Cranes. Also featured will be the atmospheric primeval forests of Białowieża, where most of the European woodpeckers can be found.

Saturday 13th January

Visit to: Lee Valley Wildlife Discovery Centre

The new Wildlife Discovery Centre which has replaced the old bittern information point. Visitors can observe the bespoke wetland and grassland habitats from a two-tier viewing platform that allows visitors to look out across the mosaic of lakes and countryside.

There are many other hides and lakes offering excellent viewing opportunities and at this time of year there is a good chance of seeing a Bittern or visiting Smew.

Thursday 25th January

A short, sociable, local bird walk

Location: Bell Street Public Car Park, Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth, CM21 9AA

A pleasant walk taking in open countryside, arable land and country lanes. This is a clockwise loop to the west of Sawbridgeworth with Allen's Green being the most westerly point.

Please check our website for the latest information
group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley



The Stort Valley RSPB Local Group

Where friendly, like-minded people meet to share, enjoy and learn more about birds and wildlife

We are run by volunteers and everyone is welcome from beginner to expert. Just come along and enjoy our activities. We organise a programme which features.

1) Monthly Meetings Start at 7.30pm and are on the second Tuesday of the month (not August) at Bishop's Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4DA. Parking at Tesco.

2) Visits to Reserves. Take place at **weekends. Meet at the reserve at 10.00am.** We have an excellent variety of outstanding reserves to visit and our programme aims to reflect the range of habitats and species.

3) Short, sociable, local bird walk. Start at 10.00 am. These are sociable, weekday (**day and meeting point varies**) walks of 3 to 4 miles. Featuring a variety of habitats, they are local to Bishops Stortford. The route is flexible to allow for conditions and participants wishes and ends at a venue for refreshments.

Reminders and further details of all activities will be sent out by email shortly before each event

Group Annual Membership is £12.00 per annum, children under 16 are free. Admission to the meetings/talks is £3.00 for members and £5.00 for non-members.

For more information on Group and Talks

Contact Peter Allen, Group Leader

Mobile 07876295456 or email Peter2349@sky.com.

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RSPB

Stort Valley

Local Group

Programme of

Walks, Talks and Events

September 2023- January
2024



September 2023

Tuesday 12th September

Talk The Return of the Ospreys

Presented by Ralph & Brenda Todd

Ralph and Brenda Todd will take us through the history of Ospreys, how they came back from the brink of extinction and how this was achieved through immense conservation efforts. Today, the story continues to develop and Ospreys are expanding into England and Wales and increasing in numbers.

October 2023

Thursday 5th October

A short, sociable, local bird walk

Location: St Andrews Church, Church Lane, Much Hadham, SG106DH

A clockwise circular walk offering views across the Ash valley and a chance to see the sculptures of Henry Moore at Perry Green. Starting from St Andrews Church, Much Hadham- where parking is available, the route crosses Danebridge Road and continues to Green Tye and the Prince of Wales. The route then continues via Bucklers Hall to Perry Green offering views of the Henry Moore's sculptures before returning to Much Hadham.

Tuesday 10th October

Talk: The Wonders Of Bird Migration- Part 2

Presented by The returning John Buckingham

Last year John gave us a wonderfully entertaining insight in to migration with his talk "The Wonders Of Bird Migration" This focussed on the worldwide long distance bird journeys and how we monitor them. At the end of the talk, he was asked " How do the birds know the route to take ?" with the answer being "That's in another talk" We are very happy and privileged to welcome John back to present his talk which will explain how migrating birds know their route.

Sunday 15th October

Visit to: Waterford Heath and the River Beane

A former sand and gravel quarry, this wonderfully varied reserve has a range of habitats. Visitors have a chance to see birds of prey hunting over the open ground of the North Heath, dragonflies and kingfishers by the River Beane and woodpeckers and treecreepers among the large oak, ash and hazel trees in Great Mole Wood. In the autumn and winter fieldfares and redwings are regular visitors.

November 2023

Tuesday 7th November

A short, sociable, local bird walk

Location: Broxted Village Hall, Brick End, CM6 2BQ

Leaving Broxted in an easterly direction the route passes through Moor End Farm, The Grange and Tilty Church and the remains of the abbey. The return leg to Brick End is via Malting Bridge and The Maltings.

Tuesday 14th November

Talk: Birds In A Cage

Presented by Derek Niemann

Derek Niemann is the author of "Birds in a Cage" which is the true and inspiring story of four young men who were taken prisoner in the Second World War, and who overcame hardship and fear in captivity by studying birds. They went on to become post-war giants of conservation. One of their number was Peter Conder, who, as director, transformed the RSPB into a powerful force for conservation.

Sunday 19th November 2022

Visit to: Essex Wildlife Trust Fingringhoe Wick

Fingringhoe is Essex Wildlife Trust's first nature reserve and visitor centre and is now a SSSI (Site Special Scientific Interest), set in a spectacular position overlooking the Colne Estuary. A wide range of habitats are on view here, including; grassland, heathland, lakes, ponds and the recent reserve expansion and creation of a nationally important intertidal area.

December 2023

Wednesday 6th December

A short, sociable, local bird walk

Location: Brewery Tap, Furneux Pelham, SG9 0LL

Our pre-Christmas walk offers good views, old churches, woods, wild flowers and the Patmore Heath nature reserve before retiring for a festive lunch in The Brewery Tap Inn. Starting from Barleycroft End the route heads south to Albury Church. This is the most southerly point and the northwards return is via Patmore Heath.

Tuesday 13th December

Talk: The Wonders of Norfolk, A Birdwatchers Guide to the Hotspots.

Presented by Jono Forgham

An entertaining and enjoyable evening is certain with Jono and we welcome his return. Jono is a renowned local naturalist and conservationist and many of you will be familiar with his Independent column. He has an incredible knowledge of birding in Norfolk- the places to go, the species to be seen and the less well known places of the beaten track to visit. In this brand new talk, he will be sharing his knowledge of birding in Norfolk mixed in with anecdotes, people met along the way and local hostelrys visited- all presented in his unique style.

Sunday 17th December

Visit to Blue House Farm Nature Reserve-Essex Wildlife Trust

Managed by Essex Wildlife Trust Blue House Farm is a fantastic place to watch the change of the seasons and see which wildlife it brings with it.

As autumn arrives, many birds on migration will again pass through this reserve. In the late afternoon keep an eye out for short-eared owls gracefully hunting along the ditches.

In the winter, listen to the large shuffling flocks of up to 2,000 dark-bellied brent geese that have travelled all the way from Siberia. They are joined by huge numbers of other wildfowl and wading birds, including golden plover, dunlin, wigeon and teal.