

**Tuesday 11th June**  
**Evening Talk: My Life with Birds- featuring Red Kites, Swifts & Turtle Doves**

**Presented by Dr Andre Farrar**

Andre has worked for the RSPB for over 40 years in various capacities including leading the media team and developing major.

His talk features three very special birds which can be seen locally and have been chosen for their very different recent histories. Red Kites have been a major and visible success story. However, the beautiful Turtle Dove is enduring very difficult times requiring special measures and Swifts are struggling in challenging times.

**Thursday 20th June**

**A summer solstice special led by Lee Jaques**

**Evening Event**

**Visit to: RSPB Fowlmere Nature Reserve**

Our celebration of the summer solstice begins with a picnic at the reserve followed by a leisurely walk through the reserve. In 2023 it was a splendid summers evening with many birds seen and even more heard.

**July 2024**

**Tuesday 2nd July**

**A short, sociable, local bird walk**

**Location: The Dukes Head, Hatfield Broad Oak, CM22 7HH**

**Evening Event**

With the longer summers evening this is an evening walk and an opportunity to enjoy a wander around the delightful and varied countryside that surrounds Hatfield Broad Oak. Following the walk, we plan to retire to The Dukes Head for refreshments.

**REVISED**

**Tuesday 9th July**

**Short AGM Talk: The Wonders Of Bird Migration- Part 2**

**Presented by The returning John Buckingham**

The welcome return of year John recently gave us a wonderfully entertaining insight in to 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 ?" Postponed from Autumn we are very happy and privileged to welcome John back to present his talk which will explain how migrating birds know their route.

## **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](mailto:Peter2349@sky.com).**

**Please check our website for the latest information**

**[group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley](http://group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley)**

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**RSPB**

**Stort Valley  
Local Group**

**Programme of**

**Walks, Talks and Events**

**February 2024- July 2024**



## February 2024

**Saturday 3rd February**

**Visit to: RSPB Wallasea Island**

RSPB Wallasea Island is a magical landscape of newly-created marshland, lagoons, ditches and sea. Walk along the seawalls to see the saltmarsh, mudflats and lagoons, where huge flocks of waders and wildfowl arrive in winter. Take a stroll around the grassland to catch a glimpse of short-eared owls or marsh harriers.

**Tuesday 13th February**

**Talk: British Birds- A journey through the species and habitats**

**Presented by Roger Hance**

This promises to be an entertaining and informative combination of wonderful birds and outstanding images. The talk features the diverse range of birds that can be found in Britain's wide variety of habitats.

**Wednesday 21st February**

**A short, sociable, local bird walk**

**Location: St Mary the Virgin Church, Brent Pelham, Buntingford, SG9 0HE**

This route is a mixture of farmland, country tracks and some road walking in the villages. Given that this is a winter walk the exact route will be decided in early February. The route will take in Anstey, Meesden and possibly Brent Pelham.

## March 2024

**Saturday 9th March**

**Visit to: Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve**

Wicken Fen is the National Trust's first nature reserve, with 2 acres bought in 1899 and over the years since then the reserve has expanded to over 2000 acres. Wicken Fen, one of Europe's most important wetlands, supports an abundance of wildlife.

**Tuesday 12th March**

**Evening Talk: A Birdwatchers Year-the other two seasons**

**Presented by Steve Magennis**

In March 2023 we enjoyed a great evening with Steve and we were all captivated by Steve's enthusiasm,

knowledge and approach to birding which was combined with incredible images. We welcome Steve back to present the Spring and Summer seasons.

**Tuesday 19th March**

**A short, sociable, local bird walk**

**Location: Café Yeomans, 14 Lower Street, Stansted, CM24 8LP**

A varied route taking in Alsa Wood and Aubrey Buxton nature reserve. The route leaves Stansted via Lower Street and heads in a northerly direction to Ugley Green. Leaving Ugley Green the route passes under the M11 before skirting Alsa Wood and passing Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve. The return to Stansted is through Lower Street.

## April 2024

**Tuesday 9th April**

**Evening Talk Welney Through The Seasons**

**Presented by Tony Winchester**

Our group visited Welney in December 2023 and greatly enjoyed the talk "Welney through the Seasons" which was given by Tony Winchester. He gave us a real insight into the four seasons at Welney and how it changes through the year. We now welcome him to our group for a repeat performance which will be complimented by a visit to Welney.

**Sunday 14th April**

**Visit to: WWT Welney Wetland Centre**

Run by the WWT Welney takes in 1,000 acres of the northernmost part of the Ouse Washes and is Britain's largest area of seasonally-flooded land. With the changing seasons and water levels Welney offers four completely different seasons for visitors to experience. This visit compliments the talk given by Tony Winchester "Welney through the Seasons" and allows us to see a Welney in a different season.

**Thursday 25th April**

**A short, sociable, local bird walk**

**Location: St John the Baptist, Ware Road, Widford Ware, SG12 8RL**

This is a circular walk which incorporates the beautiful Ash Valley and excellent views of the countryside. Leaving Widford in a northerly direction the route follows

an anti-clockwise direction to Wareside with the delightful Chequers pub before returning to Widford.

## May 2024

**Tuesday 14th May**

**Talk: Finding W H Hudson-The Writer Who Came to Britain to Save the Birds**

**Presented by Conor Mark Jameson**

Our meeting features W H Hudson who is perhaps our most significant and most neglected writer -naturalist and wildlife campaigner.

W H Hudson had a deep influence on the creation of the Bird Society (which became the RSPB) by its founding women. He became a household name through his nature writing and the Bird Society had achieved its goal of creating the first global alliance of bird protectionists.

## REVISED

**Saturday 18th May**

**Visit to: Essex Wildlife Trust-Abberton Reservoir.**

This is one of Europe's top wetland sites and is of international importance as a safe haven for wild ducks, swans and other water birds. Visitors can enjoy walks on our nature reserve, whilst taking in stunning panoramic views across the reservoir from the three accessible hides.

**Wednesday 22nd May**

**A short, sociable, local bird walk**

**Location: Coach and Horses, Thorley, CM23 4AS**

**Evening Event**

This is an evening walk which offers the chance to see Thorley Wash at a busy time of year and the potential to see Barn Owls in action.

The plan is to cross the railway line using the footbridge and enter Thorley Wash reserve. We then go through the reserve to the brick bridge crossing the Stort and return to the start along the river.

## June 2024

## REVISED

**Thursday 6th June**

**A short, sociable, local bird walk**

**Location: All Saint's Church, Wicken Bonhunt, CB11 3YL**

A walk along mostly ancient trackways on high ground with extensive views of the beautiful countryside. There should be an abundance of wild flowers and skylarks.