

famous for its Pied Flycatchers, Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers and Wood Warblers. We may also catch sight of Spotted Flycatchers and Redstarts. On the return journey we may stop off at one of a number of other reserves around the Exe Valley.

Pick-up: Worcester 06:40; Malvern 07:00; **Leave approx:** 16:30.

July 2024

12–14 July Global Birdfair 2024, Rutland.

<https://globalbirdfair.org>

New Venue: Lyndon Top, Rutland LE15 8RN

INDOOR VENUE

All indoor meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month either over Zoom (where noted) or in-person at Powick Parish Hall, **WR2 4RT** on the A449, the Malvern–Worcester road.

'What3words': **'odds.extension.strapping'**

There is a car park at the rear of the hall.

Entrance fees for indoor meetings and Zoom talks: Adults £2.50; Students £1; Children free.

PICK-UP POINTS FOR COACH TRIPS

The pick-up point in Malvern for day trips is Priory Road car park (opposite Malvern Splash). Postcode for satnav: **WR14 3DS**

The pick-up point in St. John's, Worcester, for day trips is on Malvern Road, at the junction with Hanbury Park Road. Nearest postcode for satnav: **WR2 4PA**. 'What3words': **'Cloud.sooner.call'**.

Please park along the broad part of the road between there and Whites Road, with due regard for residents.

WALKS INFORMATION

Please note that it is advisable to contact the Walks Coordinator to reserve a place if you intend joining one of these walks. Many of the venues have restricted car-parking and so numbers may need to be limited in order to enable safe parking. Please try to share transport wherever possible.

Please note more walks are planned for this year and dates and information will be given in the Local Group Circulars.

GROUP CONTACTS

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GROUP SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/worcester>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RSPBWorcesterMalvernlocalgroup/>

Twitter: [@WorcMalvRSPB](https://twitter.com/WorcMalvRSPB)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS



The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home

WORCESTER & MALVERN LOCAL GROUP

Indoor & Outdoor Programme

January – June 2024

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

January 2024

26–28 January — RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Join the world's largest garden wildlife survey.

February 2024

Saturday 10 February — Attenborough Nature Reserve

This Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust reserve with its flooded sand and gravel pits and islands provides habitats for a variety of birds and other wildlife. The winter brings waterfowl such as Goldeneye, Goosander and a large proportion of the county's Shovelers and Great Crested Grebes. Facilities include a visitor centre with café, shop and toilets, 4 hides and several viewing points.

Pick-up: Malvern 07:30; Worcester 07:50. **Leave approx:** 16.30.

Wednesday 14 February, 19:30, Submitting Bird Sightings — Craig Reed NB: ZOOM MEETING

Craig Reed, the County Bird Recorder for Worcestershire, will be telling us about the rarer species in the County and advising us how to submit records, especially by Birdtrack. We will also have updates from some of our project leaders.

Saturday 24 February, 09.30, Monkwood

Looking for winter woodland birds in this well-known Worcestershire Wildlife Trust reserve near Hallow. It will be wet and muddy underfoot so wellies are recommended. Please meet walk leader Vanessa Chaplin in the car park at the reserve **Grid Ref:** SO804607.

Please book your place by contacting the Walks Coordinator — contact details on the reverse.

Please also read the **Walks Information** on the reverse, for further information.

March 2024

Wednesday 13 March, 19:30, My lifetime's passion for the UK's only venomous snake, the Adder — Nigel Hand

Nigel has been at the forefront of Adder research and has worked with the media and TV including the BBC's Wild Isles.

Saturday 16 March — RSPB Newport Wetlands and Goldcliff

Newport Wetlands is an area of wetland, reedbed and estuary between the Severn Estuary and the River Usk in South Wales. We will start our visit at the RSPB Newport Wetlands reserve where we should see Curlews, Redshanks, Dunlins and Oystercatchers feeding on the estuary. We will also visit the nearby Goldcliff Lagoons, home to a number of breeding waders including Avocets, Lapwings and Ringed Plovers.

Please bring RSPB membership card to ensure free entry.

Pick-up: Worcester 08:00; Malvern 08:20. **Leave approx:** 16.30.

April 2024

Wednesday 10 April, 19:30, The importance of colour in the bird world — John Medlock

John, our newsletter editor, will be explaining why songbirds near the equator really are hotter, colour-wise.

Saturday 13 April 2024 — RSPB Burton Mere

Burton Mere Wetlands on the Dee Estuary is a mosaic of freshwater wetland habitats, mixed farmland and woodland. The area is bursting with wildlife, hosting Avocets, Harriers and Redshanks. Reedbeds come alive with warblers in spring, with Herons, Egrets and Kingfishers often seen on the lookout for food.

Please bring RSPB membership card to ensure free entry.

Pick-up: Malvern 07:00; Worcester 07:20. **Leave approx:** 16.30.

May 2024

Wednesday 8 May, 19:30, AGM at Powick Parish Hall, followed by Members' Wildlife Photos

The AGM, after which we will be inviting members to show their own bird photos on the big screen at this meeting, ahead of the June closing date for submissions to our Photographic Calendar competition. There will also be some more updates from our project leaders.

Friday 10 May, 06:45, Wildgoose Nature Reserve

An early morning walk around this lovely reserve listening to birdsong and spotting summer migrants, led by Janet Jones and Nick Skilbeck, and followed by a delicious breakfast in Bonnie's Tea Room for those who wish to indulge. After breakfast, we can visit Church Farm and Camp Lane Pits, Grimley, to add a few more species to the morning's tally.

Booking essential. Please contact Janet at pjonesosteopath@btinternet.com or on 01905 426393 to book a place, order breakfast if required, and obtain directions to Wildgoose nature reserve if needed.

Saturday 11 May — RSPB Lake Vyrnwy

With its range of habitats including open water, native woodland and peatland bogs, Lake Vyrnwy offers opportunities to see or hear a range of birds including Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Wood Warbler and Siskin. There is also a chance of seeing Dippers nesting by the rocky streams, Goosanders bobbing on the water or a Peregrine hunting overhead.

Please bring RSPB membership card to ensure free entry.

Pick-up: Malvern 07:00; Worcester 07:20. **Leave approx:** 16.30.

Saturday 25 May 2024, 10:00–15:00, Beginning Birding Open Day at Wildgoose Nature Reserve, near Grimley

The Group's annual Beginning Birding day will again hope to attract people into our fulfilling hobby and to show them how they can make a difference by getting involved in our conservation projects. Activities will include guided walks around the reserve and bird ringing demonstrations.

For further details or to volunteer your assistance with the event, please contact Janet Jones – details in group contacts overleaf.

June 2024

Saturday, 8 June — Yarner Wood, Dartmoor

Yarner Wood forms part of the East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve. It is an ancient oak wood, home to a range of woodland birds and particularly