

INDOOR MEETINGS 2013/14

Unless shown otherwise, meetings will take place on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Room 109 in the Palmer Building at Reading University. Members admitted free – the usual admission fee for non-members is £4

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| Saturday Sept 28 th 2013 at 2 p.m. | KATRINA VAN GROUW , Artist and scientist <i>The Unfeathered Bird</i> <i>Consideration of the anatomy of birds, as depicted in Katrina's stunning new book. N.B. This is a BOC-sponsored public event at Reading Museum and Art Gallery.</i> <i>BOC members please reserve free ticket in advance with Ray Reedman (01189864338).</i> |
| Oct 9 th 2013 | GWEN MAGGS , Researcher, Reading University <i>Conservation in Mauritius of the Olive White Eye</i> <i>Gwen outlines the work done to save an endangered endemic species</i> |
| Oct 23 rd 2013 | DAVE CROMACK , Former editor and publisher <i>Sri Lanka</i> <i>Birding the rich tropical habitats of this special island</i> |
| Nov 6 th 2013 | KEN WHITE , BOC member and Berks BTO Rep <i>Australia</i> <i>An account of a wide-ranging trip to see birds and other wildlife down under</i> |
| Nov 20 th 2013 | AGM followed by BOB FLOOD , Pelagic Ornithologist <i>North Atlantic Storm-petrels</i> <i>Identification and life-styles of these elusive sea-birds – plus a few salty tales</i> |
| Dec 4 th 2013 | CHRIS WARD , Natural History Photographer <i>The Quetzal Quest</i> <i>Chris takes us to the exotic climes of Costa Rica</i> |
| Dec 11 th 2013 | Christmas Social and Quiz <i>A light-hearted quiz and social supper.</i> At Earley St Peter's Parish Rooms |
| Jan 8 th 2014 | TIM BALL , Berks ringing group <i>The Black-headed Gull ringing project</i> <i>Tim outlines the work and findings of an on-going study of Berkshire's most-numerous gull species</i> |
| Jan 22 nd 2014 | DAWN BALMER , BTO Atlas co-ordinator <i>The New BTO Atlas</i> <i>Dawn presents the work and conclusions of the comprehensive survey of the birds of the British Isles</i> |
| Feb 5 th 2014 | KEITH OFFORD , Naturalist and tour leader <i>Aristocrats of the Air</i> <i>A celebration of the importance, skills and beauty of bird flight</i> |
| Feb 19 th 2014 | KEITH BETTON , Hampshire County Recorder Twelve Places to Go to See Birds Before You Die <i>The title says it all!</i> |
| March 5 th 2014 | PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION , Judged by Dickie Duckett . (Second judge to be announced later) <i>The annual feast of birds posing, birds active and birds in flight.</i> |
| March 19 th 2014 | JAMES PEARCE-HIGGINS , BTO scientist Birds and Climate Change <i>A look at the winners and losers in our fast-changing world.</i> |
| April 9 th 2014 | Ray Reedman: Id. Workshop: Waders revisited. <i>A chance to brush up your identification skills with this difficult family.</i> At Earley St Peter's Parish Rooms. |

FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2013/14

Please check with named contact beforehand, as trips are subject to change or cancellation.

All members are welcome, plus family and friends, where space allows.

There are a number of coach trips this year, but most trips are by private car, when lifts can sometimes be arranged if you ask.

Costs are approximate and will be confirmed.

Bring food/drink for full day outings.

There may be a charge for parking or entry to reserves.

Trips involve walks of various lengths, sometimes on footpaths, so please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Mid-week walks are usually morning walks on the third Thursday of the month, meeting at 10:00am (unless another time is stated).

For further information about trips and walks talk to the named contact and check the website www.berksoc.org.uk.

Saturday 7th September 2013

Coach Trip to Dungeness, Kent with East Berks RSPB (Full day) Cost £18.

One of the best hot-spots for migrants and sea-birds. Almost always produces something special.

Meet at 7 a.m. at Bray Wick (Sports Club, Braywick Road, SL6 1BN at SU891799)

Book with Ernie Allen 01628 625324

Thursday 19th September 2013

Titchfield Haven, Hampshire (Full day by car)

Fine wetland reserve with numerous hides. Terns, gulls, waders and wildfowl.

Woodland and scrub for migrants. Reed-beds have bearded tit and Cetti's warbler, plus sea-birds along the shore. Fully-equipped visitor centre etc.

Meet at 9.30 a.m. on Meon sea front near Stubbington (SU529024).

Entry charge £3.50/£3.90.

Contact Carole White 01344 452058

Sunday 6th October 2013

Oare Marshes / Cliffe Pools, Kent (Half or Full day by car)

Oare Marshes (RSP day) or whole day for those keen to try more: we could come back via RSPB Cliffe Pools. Waders, wildfowl, migrants etc and a good chance of a rarity.

Meet at 9.30 a.m. Oare Marshes car park (TR013647). Just under 2 hour drive.

Contact Colin Wilson 01252 837411

Thursday 17th October 2013

Moor Green Lakes (Mid-week walk)

Late migrants and early wintering wildfowl etc.

Meet at 10 a.m. in car park off Lower Sandhurst Road (SU806628)

Contact Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Sunday 3rd November 2013

Farlington Marshes, Hampshire (Morning only, or possibly full day)

An area of grazing marsh in Langstone harbour with large wader flocks, wildfowl, and winter raptors. We may move to another location nearby in the afternoon. There are no hides or facilities, but there is a petrol station/supermarket on the A2030 about ¼ mile north of the car park.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Farlington Marshes CP (SU677043) north of Portsmouth N.B. sharp left at yellow barred entrance off SE side of the large A2030/A27 roundabout.

Contact Bill Nicoll 01344 455403

But if you only want a short trip out, there will also be a

Ringling demonstration at Padworth Common

10 a.m. to midday. Car park at corner of Rectory Road (SU619648)

Contact Tim Ball 07886 461215 or Email: tim.ball@rbring.co.

Thursday 21st November 2013

Queen Mother Reservoir (Mid-week walk)

This site may just produce a few scarce birds and even a rarity.

Day permits will be issued to non-permit-holders - please bring a photo ID document, such as a driving licence.

Meet at 10 a.m. at QMR entrance (TQ016770).

Contact Renton Righelato 0118 9264513

Tuesday 17th December 2013

Dinton Pastures (Mid-week walk) and Christmas Lunch*

Wintering wildfowl etc and possibly a wintering bittern in the reed-beds.

*Meal venue and cost (circa £20) to be decided.

Advance booking and deposit by 20th November.

Meet at Lavell's Lake Car Park (SU786726) at 10 a.m. (£1.50 charge)

Contact Carole White 01344 452058

Thursday 16th January 2014

Hurley (near Maidenhead) Mid Week Walk

A leisurely walk through the fields and beside the Thames.

Meet at 10am at the Priory car park at the north end of the High Street (SU825840).

Contact Bill Nicoll 01344 455403

Sunday 19th January 2014

BOC Coach trip to Ouse Washes (Full day) Cost £19

A wildfowl and wader spectacular at an RSPB fenland site with plenty of hides. Nothing quite like it!

Meet at 7.00 a.m. in Reading (Whiteknights Park main gate, RG6 6UR)

Or at 7.30 a.m. at Bray Wick (Sports Club, Braywick Road, SL6 1BN at SU891799)

Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Saturday 2nd February 2014

Coach Trip to Minsmere with East Berks RSPB (Full day) Cost £18

The reed-beds, pools, scrapes, woodland, heath and sea-watching give opportunities for birds of all sorts.

Meet at 7 a.m. at Bray Wick (Sports Club, Braywick Road, SL6 1BN at SU891799)

Book with Ernie Allen 01628 625324

Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th February 2014

Norfolk (Weekend trip by private car)

Approx cost for dinner, B&B will total £140, plus travel costs (shared) and lunches.

One night based Great Yarmouth, two nights Hunstanton. This trip usually provides about 130 species, often with several rarities. Further details will be published nearer the date, but *early booking is essential*.

Email colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk for details or to reserve your place.

Thursday 20th February 2014

Dorney Wetlands (Mid Week Walk)

A walk of 2 to 3 miles along the Jubilee River. There should be a good variety of ducks and winter passerines, with a chance of finding water rail or bittern.

Meet at 10am at Dorney Wetlands car park (additional roadside parking north of the river if car park is full).

Contact Bill Nicoll 01344 455403

Thursday 20th March 2014**Sonning Eye Gravel Pits (Mid-week walk)**

In March you never know what might be lingering or arriving. Pot luck!
Meet at 10 a.m. in lane south of Caversham Park/Henley Rd interchange
traffic lights (SU737754)
Contact Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Thursday 27th March 2014**Forest of Dean and Newport Wetlands (Full day by car)**

Hope for local specialities, especially goshawk
Meet at 9 a.m. at Nagshead RSPB reserve near Lydney Glos. (SO606085).
Approx. 2.25 hour drive. Quick tour of Nagshead; visit to New Fancy
Viewpoint for raptors and finish day at Newport Wetlands RSPB.
Contact Colin Wilson 01252 837411

Sunday 6th April to Friday 11th April 2014**Raptormania in Andalucia (7-day trip to Spain by air and minibus)**

Cost £620 (shared) and £650 (single)
Incoming raptor migrations and a huge variety of other specialities of marsh,
scrub, lake and mountain habitats. (See BOC website for past reports).
Places are limited, so contact Ken White as soon as possible:
Tel 01635 268442 or email white.zoothera@gmail.com

Thursday 10th April 2014**Aston Uphorpe Downs, Oxfordshire (Mid-week walk)**

Possible passage migrants and downland species.
Meet at 10 a.m. by grain store (SU550844) on lane south (sign-posted
Ridgeway off A417) at crossroad near Aston Uphorpe.
Contact Martin Sell 0118 9471170

Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April 2014**Portland area, Dorset – Long weekend**

This is peak migration season so, if conditions are good, we could find
almost anything. We shall watch the sun rise at Portland Bill before visiting
several reserves in the area. Passage skua and whimbrel are likely, waders
should be numerous on the wetlands, while falls of chats and warblers are
possible.
Contact Bill Nicoll (01344 455403) during January 2014 to reserve a place.

Thursday 8th May 2014**Cholsey Marsh, Oxfordshire (Mid-week walk)**

Spring warblers abound on this Thames-side site.
Meet at 10 a.m. at bottom of Ferry Lane off A329 at Cholsey (SU600855)
Contact Martin Sell 0118 9471170

Saturday 10th May 2014**Coach Trip to Rutland Water with East Berks RSPB (Full day) Cost £18.**

(A follow-up trip to RSPB talk on ospreys).
Meet at 7 a.m. at Bray Wick (Sports Club, Braywick Road SL6 1BN at
SU891799)
Book with Ernie Allen 01628 625324

Sunday 18th May 2014**Selsey Bill sea-watch and Pagham Harbour, West Sussex (Full day by car)**

Sea-watch for skuas etc. Incoming migrants, passage waders in harbour.
After (optional) sea-watch, we re-group at Sidlesham to explore the harbour.
Meet from 7 a.m. at viewpoint east of Selsey Bill car park (charge) (SZ856922)
OR meet at 9 a.m. at Pagham Harbour RSPB Reserve, south of Sidlesham on
B2145 (SZ857966)
Contact Carole White 01344 452058

Thursday 22nd May 2014**Fobney Marsh (Mid-week walk)**

Possibly waders and certainly warblers etc.
Meet at 10 a.m. at the car park at Fobney Lock, accessed from Island Road
(SU706710)
Contact Renton Righelato 0118 9264513

Tuesday 10th June 2014**Berkshire Downs (Evening Mid-week walk)**

Downland specialities
Meet at 7.30 p.m. at Starveall Farm, 1 mile North of Aldworth (SU545809).
Contact Robert Godden 07543 800921

Thursday 19th June 2014**Pirbright, Surrey (Evening Mid-week walk)**

Nightjars and other heathland species
Meet at 8.00 pm at Pirbright Village Green (SU945560)
Contact Colin Wilson 01252 837411

Saturday 16th August 2014**BOC Coach to British Birdwatching Fair, Rutland**

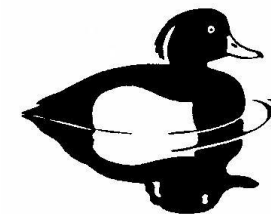
Approx cost £30 incl. entrance fee.
Plenty of talks, plus marquees full of optics, art, photography, travel, books etc,
plus the opportunity to watch for osprey, passage waders etc. from the hides.
Meet at 7.00 a.m. at Reading (Whiteknights Park main entrance, RG6 6UR)
Or at 7.30 a.m. at Bray Wick (Sports Club, Braywick Road, SL6 1BN at
SU891799). Leave Rutland at 5 p.m.
Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

30th August to 5th September 2014**Raptormania in Andalucia (7-day trip to Spain by air and minibus)**

Cost £620 (shared) and £650 (single)
At this time of year migrants start to pass through the area in huge numbers.
This trip is timed to coincide with mass-movement of Honey-Buzzards in
particular, but there will be plenty more to see in this vibrant region.
Places are limited, so contact Ken White as soon as possible:
Tel 01635 268442 or email white.zoothera@gmail.com

Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th October 2014**Cornwall (Long weekend by private car)**

Late migrants and the chance of rarities on the coasts, estuaries and moors of
Devon and Cornwall.
Further details will be published nearer the date, but *early booking is essential*.
Email colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk for details or to reserve your place.

BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB**2013/2014****OFFICERS and COMMITTEE**

Presidents Emeritus:
Robert Gillmor, Andy Swash

President: Neil Bucknell

Acting Chairman: Neil Bucknell

Secretary: Mike Turton
Tel: 0118 9694197
email: secretary@berksoc.org.uk

Treasurer: Bill Nicoll

Membership Secretary: Iain Oldcorn
Tel: 01344 625883
email: membership@berksoc.org.uk

Programme Secretary: Ray Reedman

Conservation Officer: John Lerpiniere

Newsletter Editor: Ted Rogers

Chairman of Editorial Board, Birds of Berkshire Annual Report:
Ken Moore

Committee:
John Walker Carole White
Martin Sell Tim Ball
Becky Thomas Iain Oldcorn

Club Web site: www.berksoc.org.uk

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