

INDOOR MEETINGS 2014/15

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

Sept 24 th 2014	Dominic Couzens, Author and trip leader Puffins Near and Far A look at the Puffin's more familiar life at home, and also at the mysterious life it leads on the ocean during the long winter.
Oct 8 th 2014	Mike Read, Photographer Aotearoa - Land of the Long White Cloud Among the wonderful land and sea birds of New Zealand, Mike sees the impact of human settlement on many native species.
Oct 22 nd 2014	Emily Joachim, Hawk Conservancy Little Owls Emily shares with us some of the secrets gleaned during her years of studying this enigmatic little bird.
Nov 5 th 2014	Colin Wilson, BOC member Morocco We hear about the latest adventure of the "Thrifty Three", as they explore the avian treasures of North Africa.
Nov 19 th 2014	AGM & Andrew Cleave, Author/Lecturer Bermuda Petrels Rescued from the brink of extinction by brilliant conservation work. But how safe are they now? Andrew went to find out for himself.
Dec 3 rd 2014	David Massie, BOC member A Birding Trip to Cuba Island endemics and plenty of exotic beauties are revealed during a Caribbean adventure. The Cuban Tody is guaranteed!
Dec 10 th 2014	Social evening/quiz (N.B. at Earley St Peter's Hall) The usual mix of challenge and fun with a plenty of refreshments. It is competitive, but be assured that all knives are plastic!
Jan 7 th 2015	John Eyre, Hants OC The Secret Lives of Heathland Birds John is a foremost authority on the birds of the Thames Valley heaths - Dartford Warblers, Woodlarks, Nightjars and the like.
Jan 21 st 2015	Graham Whitehead, BOC member The Birds of Kuwait Deserts, oases, mud-flats and reed-beds – all at the crossroads of two major migration routes. Graham tells us what he found in this promising area.
Feb 4 th 2015	Rob Fuller, BTO Hard times for nightingales and other woodland birds Rob looks at the pressures on our woodland species and at challenges for their conservation.
Feb 18 th 2015	Tony Jones, Researcher Wood Warblers of the New Forest Tony has conducted a long-term study of the South's last stronghold of this scarce warbler. His observations reveal years of success and failure.
Mar 4 th 2015	Photographic Competition Judges: Our own Dicky Duckett and wildlife photographer, Paul Keene, FRPS You don't need to be a photographer to enjoy and learn plenty.

Mar 18 th 2015	Conor Jameson, RSPB and author Looking for the Goshawk In keeping with his widely-acclaimed book, Conor talks about his quest to find the elusive goshawk, and what it means to us. There are a few surprises.
Apr 15 th 2015	Ray Reedman, BOC member I.D. Workshop: Shades of Grey This session aims to sort out the basic gulls and terns with tips on how to identify and age them. <i>(N.B. at Earley St Peter's Church Hall)</i>

FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2014/15

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 30th August to Friday 5th September 2014
Raptormania in Andalucia (Pre-booked)
Ken White (email: white.zoothera@gmail.com)

Saturday 6th September 2014
East Berks RSPB Coach trip to Titchwell, Norfolk
Cost £20
A migration hot-spot at this season and rarities are possible, even probable. Meet at 7 a.m. at the entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1DX (SU892798). Book with Ernie Allen on 01628 625324

Thursday 11th September 2014
Weekday trip by car to Hook by Warsash
A mixture of seashore, estuary, woodland and grassland attracts a wide variety of birds. At this season there should be numerous passage migrants. Meet at 10 a.m. in the Passage Lane public car park (with toilets), Warsash SO31 9FW (SU489062)
Contact Bill Nicoll by email treasurer@berksoc.org.uk (or 01344 455403)

Sunday 5th October 2014
BOC Coach trip to Dungeness, Kent
Cost £21
Another migration hotspot. We will spend the morning in the RSPB reserve and in the afternoon move to the area round the observatory and power station to watch the sea and to check for migrants. Meet at 7 a.m. at Reading, Whiteknights Park, Main entrance, (RG6 6UR) Pick up at 7.30 a.m. at Bracknell, the Ring outside Charles Square car park. RG12 1DR (SU872692) *(N.B. Please check when booking)*
Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th October 2014
Long weekend by car to Cornwall (Book urgently if wish to join)
Migrants and rarities in South West
Contact Colin Wilson: colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk or on 01252 837411

Thursday 20th November 2014
Mid-week walk at Twyford Gravel Pits
Water birds and winter passerines. Be advised, it could be muddy after rain. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Waggon & Horses pub car park, Old Bath Road, Twyford, (SU784760)
Contact Bill Nicoll by email treasurer@berksoc.org.uk (or 01344 455403)

Sunday 7th December 2014
Weekend day trip by car to the Isle of Sheppey
Starting at Shellness, then Hartly Ferry, then to Elmley for the afternoon. Raptors, owls, waders, wildfowl, seabirds – almost anything is possible in this major wintering area. Meet at seafront car park at Leysdown-on-Sea at 8.30 a.m. (TR044697)
Contact Colin Wilson: colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk or on 01252 837411

Tuesday 16th December 2014
Mid-week walk at Dinton Pastures, followed by Christmas Lunch at the Wheelwright Arms, Hurst (N.B. attend either or both)
Dinton is a prime wintering area for wildfowl. Bitterns are often present. Two-course lunch cost: circa £20. Please book with £5 deposit by 19th November (AGM)
Meet at Lavell's Lake Car Park at SU786726 at 10 a.m. (£1.50 charge)
Contact Carole White on 01344 452058

Thursday 15th January 2015
Mid-week walk Woolhampton GP
This is a prime winter site for wildfowl, with a rarity always possible. Meet at 10 a.m. in the car park by next to the Rowbargate Inn (RG75SH) (SU 572665)
Contact Ray Reedman 01189864338

Saturday 24th January 2015
BOC Coach trip to WWT Slimbridge, Glos.
Cost £21 Non-WWT members will also need to pay an entrance of £8.25 (concession) or £10.80
There will be no end of wildfowl and waders at this season, and cranes from the reintroduction programme. There is a huge collection of wildfowl and an excellent restaurant for those who don't want to sit in hides all day. We will stay for the spectacular floodlit feed. Meet at Reading, Whiteknights Park main entrance, (RG6 6UR) at 7.45 a.m.
Book with Ray Reedman on 0118 9864338

Sunday 8 February 2015
East Berks RSPB Coach trip to Arne, Dorset
Cost £20
Prime heathland habitat and wintering waders and wildfowl in Poole Harbour
Meet at 7 a.m. at the entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1DX (SU892798).
Book with Ernie Allen on 01628 625324

Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th February 2015

Long weekend by car to Norfolk

This perennial favourite is based for one night in Great Yarmouth and two at Hunstanton. That way we cover a huge range of sites and habitats in one of the best areas for wintering birds. Rarities are regular. *Advanced booking is essential.*

Contact Bill Nicoll by email treasurer@berksoc.org.uk (or 01344 455403)

Thursday 19th February 2015

Mid-week afternoon walk at Bury Down

Downland finches, buntings and thrushes may be augmented by a few raptors and owls.

Meet at 2 p.m. at Bury Down car park, just off the A34 near West Ilsley (SU 490840)

Contact Peter Burden 0118 9784453

Saturday 14th March 2015

Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB Coach Trip to Newport Wetlands

Depart Finchampstead Village Hall, Fleet Hill, (SU 792631) at 7.30 a.m. Pick up at Reading, *opposite main entrance* of Whiteknights Park, (RG6 6UR) at 8 a.m. (Cost and timings to be confirmed when booking)

Book with Ian Paine on 07806432458 (call or text)

or email: i.paine@ntlworld.com

Thursday 19th March 2015

Mid-week walk at Wishmoor Bottom

Finches, woodpeckers and heath-land birds, with maybe a few treasures among them.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the north end of Kings Ride (GU15 4NG) (SU880622)

Contact Colin Wilson: colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk or on 01252 837411

Thursday 16th April 2015

Mid-week walk at Greenham Common

At this season there is a strong chance of passage migrants, as well as some classic heath-land species.

Meet at the Control Tower car park off Burys Bank Rd (SU 499651) at 10 a.m.

Contact Renton Righelato on 0787 981 2564

Sunday 26th April 2015

Weekend day trip by car to Hurst Spit and Keyhaven

Sea-watching for late divers and scoters, passage skuas, auks and gannets, newly-arrived terns etc. Then to the marshes to seek out waders and passerines.

Meet at 8.30 a.m. off the lay-by at lower end of New Lane, Milford on Sea (off Milford to Keyhaven Road) (SU299908)

Contact Chris Foster on 07779 302347

Saturday 9th May 2015

East Berks RSPB Coach trip to Portland Bill and Radipole

Cost £20

Passage sea-birds; nesting auks and kittiwakes; possible ravens and peregrines; and incoming migrants – and that is just the morning. Add ducks, waders and more passerines in the afternoon.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1DX (SU892798).

Book with Ernie Allen on 01628 625324

Thursday 14th May 2015

Mid-week walk at Thursley Common

This unique site contains heath, bog, and woodland, and a variety of birds to match.

Meet at 10 a.m. in the Moat car park off Thursley Road, south of Elstead (GU8 6LW) (SU 900416)

Contact Carole White on 01344 452058

Thursday 18th May 2015

Weekday trip by car to the New Forest

Meet EITHER at Bolderwood Car Park (SU242086) at 7 a.m. for early morning woodland walk with the possibility of wood warbler, firecrest, hawfinch, crossbill, spotted flycatcher etc.

OR at 10.30 a.m. in the car park at Acres Down (SU268097) for a raptor watch, with goshawk and honey-buzzard possible.

Contact Ray Reedman on 0118 9864338

Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th June 2015

Weekend trip by car to North Wales.

A chance to see birds we don't see in the south, including Chough, Puffin, and Black Guillemot. With breaks on the journeys there and back in search of Dippers and Pied Flycatchers. We will probably be based in Betws-y-Coed.

Contact Carole White (01344 452058) before end of December if interested.

Thursday 18th June 2015

Evening mid-week walk on the Downs at Churn

Typical Downland species – partridge, corn-bunting, yellowhammer and yellow wagtail, but also the chance of a rarity of two

Meet at 7.30 p.m. at the far end of Boham's Road (2 miles) at SU 510833 (turn left opposite garden centre on the A417 at the west end of Blewbury village)

Leader Adrian Brown. Contact Ray Reedman on 0118 9864338

Saturday 22nd August 2015

BOC Coach to the British Bird-watching Fair, Rutland

Cost (estimated) £35 incl. entrance fee

Talks, exhibitions and birding – the choice is yours when you visit the top event of its kind in Britain at the Egleton Nature Reserve. Always a wonderful day out.

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

Or at 7.30 a.m. at the entrance to Bray Wick Sports Club,

Braywick Road, SL6 1BN (SU891799)

Leave Rutland 5 p.m.

Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October 2015

Weekend trip by car to North Norfolk

At this time of year North Norfolk has a huge variety of resident and passage birds, often very different from the February population. There is a strong chance of passage rarities

Advance booking (by early August) is essential in order to secure good accommodation

Contact Bill Nicoll by email treasurer@berksoc.org.uk (or 01344 455403)

BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

2014/2015



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Presidents Emeritus:
Robert Gillmor, Andy Swash

President: Neil Bucknell

Chairman: Tim Ball

Secretary: Mike Turton
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Treasurer: Bill Nicoll

Membership Secretary: Iain Oldcorn
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Programme Secretary: Ray Reedman

Chair of Conservation Sub-committee : Renton Righelato

Newsletter Editor: Ted Rogers

Chairman of Editorial Board, Birds of Berkshire Annual Report:
Position Vacant

Committee:
John Walker Robin Dryden
Martin Sell Becky Thomas
Iain Oldcorn Chris Foster

Club Web site: www.berksoc.org.uk

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