

INDOOR MEETINGS 2015/16

Unless shown otherwise, meetings will take place on Wednesdays at 8 pm, in Room 109 in the Palmer Building at Reading University.

September 23rd 2015	Richard Pople, Freelance speaker <i>India its Birds, People and the Taj Mahal</i> Richard also visits Keoladeo National Park, (Bharatpur Reserve) and the foothills of the Himalayas. NB. At Maiden Place Community Hall, Lower Earley (RG63HE)
October 7th 2015	Mike Toms, BTO and author of <i>Owls</i> The author revisits the topic of his 2014 book, which explores our relationships with owls and the ways in which we seek to exploit, protect and conserve these birds
October 21st 2015	Mark Avery, Campaigner and writer <i>Fighting for birds - current conservation issues</i> Mark has chosen to leave the topic open-ended so that he can tackle whatever he feels is are the most urgent topics at that time.
November 4th 2015	Keith Betton, Author & Hants County Recorder <i>Peregrines</i> After three years of studying peregrines - finding (and building!) nests. This year 18 pairs nested in Hampshire. Keith talks about the species' adaption to living with man.
November 18th 2015	AGM plus... Alan Davies & Ruth Miller, Tour leaders and writers <i>Birding in North Wales.</i> The "Biggest Twitch" team take a close look at birding in their home territory of North Wales
December 2nd 2015	Jackie Garner, Wildlife artist <i>Focus on the Falklands</i> During a working tour, the wildlife artist is assaulted by an albatross and pecked by a penguin
December 16th 2015	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING A new format will include short presentations, table- and wall-quizzes, and a shorter team quiz, with more time for social interaction, Plus food and drink of course. NB: at Earley St Peter's Hall, Church Road, RG61EY
January 6th 2016	Richard Stansfield, BOC member <i>Birding in Southern Turkey</i> Richard talks about a birding trip to see and photograph birds and other wildlife in this little-known region.
January 20th 2016	Renton Righelato presents the film: <i>Emptying the Skies</i> By special licence we will show this sometimes harrowing chronicle of the rampant poaching of migratory songbirds in southern Europe.
February 3rd 2016	Jonathan Forgham, Freelance speaker and author <i>The Natural History of an East Hertfordshire parish.</i> Jonathan gives an account of a prolonged local study which resulted in a book which celebrating the wildlife of his adopted home.
February 17th 2016	Conor Jameson, RSPB and author <i>Looking for the Goshawk</i> As in the book of the same title, Conor travels in search of the Goshawk, a magnificent raptor which is still rarely seen in Britain.

March 2nd 2016	PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION Judges Dickie Duckett and Mike Lane will consider entries of bird pictures in three categories, with the overall winner receiving the Gordon Langsbury Cup.
March 16th 2016	Estelle Bailey, CEO of BBOWT <i>Wildlife in the balance</i> BBOWT's Vision to 2025 with Strategic Plan for 2016-2020.
April 6th 2016	Tom Way, Wildlife photographer <i>Wildlife Photography Workshop</i> Tom will look at the challenges and skills of wildlife photography in a two-part talk: "The wildlife on your doorstep" and "Exciting Wildlife from around the World" NB: At Earley St Peter's Hall, Church Road, RG61EY
April 16th 2016	SOCIAL AFTERNOON This is a new Saturday afternoon event (2.30 to 5 pm) which will include displays and sales; a presentation; tea, snacks and chat. Bring a friend and meet new people. NB: at Earley St Peter's Hall, Church Road, RG61EY

FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2015/16

Where both are available, postcodes are used first and grid refs are in brackets

Saturday 5th September 2015

Weekend Coach trip to MINSMERE with East Berks RSPB: Cost £20
As the seasons change, this flagship reserve could hold all sorts of birds, including the chance of a rarity or two. Who knows what might turn up?
Meet at 7.00 at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 1DX (SU892798)
Book with Ernie Allen 01628 625324

Thursday 17th September 2015

Mid-week trip by car to HENGISTBURY HEAD
We will be looking for migrants at this fine site where anything is possible, from wildfowl and waders to passerines, and with sea-birds as a bonus.
Meet at 8.30 in Hengistbury Head car park on Broadway, off the B3059: BH6 4EL (SZ164912)
Contact Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October 2015

Long-weekend trip by car to NORTH NORFOLK
This trip was announced in the 2014/15 programme but there might be spaces left if you book quickly. We will spend the weekend on the coast looking for migrants and possible rarities.
Contact Bill Nicoll treasurer@berksoc.org.uk or 01344 455403

Sunday 18th October 2015

Weekend trip by car to KEYHAVEN/PENNINGTON/MARSHES
At this season the marshes can produce rare waders, newly-arrived wintering birds and passage migrants - and there could well be interesting birds on the sea too.
Meet at 8.30 in the car park at Keyhaven: SO41 OPT (SZ305914) Some free parking, but charges otherwise apply.
Contact Rob Godden 07543 800921

Sunday 8th November 2015

Weekend trip by car to FARLINGTON MARSHES

The main passage will be over, but there is a good chance that the Brent Geese will be back in numbers, that some winter raptors or owls will be present, and that bearded tits will show at this fine site.
Meet at 9.30 at Farlington NR car park (grid ref SU678044, access sharp left on roundabout exit south from A27 to A2030.) Nearest toilets are at Petersfield services or at a nearby filling station.
Contact Chris Foster 07779 302347

Thursday 19th November 2015

Mid-week walk at LITTLE MARLOW GP

At this season we might expect some early winter thrushes, as well as an increase in gull and wildfowl numbers. And possibly something a bit scarcer. If wet, stout boots or wellingtons are advisable.
Meet at 10.00 by Little Marlow Church: SL7 3RZ (SU 874879)
Contact Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Sunday 6th December 2015

Weekend day trip by car to the ISLE OF SHEPPEY

Starting at Shellness, then Harty Ferry, then to Elmley if time allows. Raptors, owls, waders, wildfowl, seabirds – almost anything is possible in this major wintering area.
Meet at seafront car park at Leysdown on sea at 08.30 (grid ref TR044697)
Contact Colin Wilson: colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk or 01252 837411

Tuesday 15th December 2015

Mid-week walk at TITCHFIELD HAVEN and Christmas Lunch
This estuary site features a range of habitats, which host winter waders, wildfowl and the occasional rarities, with sea-ducks, scarce grebes or divers possible on the Solent. If weather is poor, there are plenty of hides. After morning birding, we will have a seasonal lunch. (Menu and cost available nearer the date)
Meet at 10.00 at visitor centre at PO14 3JT (SU536024) Plenty of free parking. Entry charge £4 or £3.75.
Book with Carole White 01344 452058

Thursday 7th January 2016

Mid-week trip by car to BLASHFORD LAKES/BLACKWATER ARBORETUM

The woodland species are usually well represented, while the lakes hold large numbers of wintering wildfowl and waders, with some rarer gulls in recent times. Grebes, bittern and great egret might well show up too. We might well try the hawfinch roost on the way home.
Meet at 9.30 at the visitor centre: BH24 3PJ (SU151083)
Contact Marcus T Anson 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Sunday 17th January 2016

Weekend Coach trip with local RSPB group to SLIMBRIDGE

The BOC trip to this site in 2015 was a huge success, with the wild areas producing a number of cranes and masses of wildfowl, lots of waders, a bittern, water rail etc. You can't go too often!
Depart at 7.30 at Finchampstead Village Hall: RG40 4JU, with pick-up at 8.00 in Reading (Whiteknights Park, Main entrance) RG6 6UR
Booking and details and from Ian Payne 07437600343

Sunday 24th January 2016

Weekend trip by car to LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

Great reserve set in the heart of the urban area. Site well-known for bittern and other scarcities, including green-winged teal on our last visit. Meet at 9.30 in car park (SW13 9WT – access from A4, mile or so south of Hammersmith Bridge) Entry charge for non-WWT members. Contact Colin Wilson: colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk or 01252 837411

Sunday 7th February 2016

East Berks RSPB Weekend Coach trip to FINGRINGHOE WICK/ABBERTON RESERVOIR (cost £20)

Colne Estuary marshland reserve, with fine reservoir close by. Good chance that the list will include scarcer species, and great spectacle. Meet at 7.00 at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Maidenhead, SL6 1DX (SU892798) Book with Ernie Allen 01628 625324

Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th February 2016

Long-weekend trip by car to NORTH NORFOLK

A highlight of the BOC year, with superb winter birding and chance of rarities. The trip takes in many iconic sites around the area. Prepare yourself for a busy weekend! Early booking is essential Book with Colin Wilson: colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk or on 01252 837411

Thurs 18th February 2016

Mid-week walk at JUBILEE RIVER

There is always plenty to see including wildfowl, winter passerines and waders. With good paths, there are no hides, just a few viewing screens. Meet at 10.00 in car park off Lake End Road, Dorney SL4 6QS (SU928795). Contact Bill Nicoll treasurer@berksoc.org.uk or 01344 455403

Thursday 17th March 2016

Mid-week walk at THEALE GRAVEL PITS

Exploration could turn up some good birds and also provides an ideal venue for those who wish to take a drink or meal together afterwards. Meet at 10.00 in the car park of the Fox and Hounds at Sheffield Bottom (opposite Hosehill Lake) RG7 4BE (SU649698) Contact Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Thursday 14th April 2016

Mid-week walk at COWLEAZE WOOD/ASTON ROWANT NR

There is a good chance of ring ouzels, but otherwise we will enjoy a lovely walk on some moderate gradients and see what we can find. Meet at 10.00 at Cowleaze Wood car park (2 miles north of Christmas Common, grid ref SU725955) Contact Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Thursday 21st April 2016

Mid-week trip to FARMOOR RESERVOIR

Passage terns and hirundines can be present, along with a chance of little gulls, waders, wagtails and other passerines. The weather will dictate what we find, but the early start will increase our chances. Meet at 8.30 in the reservoir car park off Cumnor Rd. OX2 9NS (SP445065) (£2 payable on exit) Contact Ray Reedman 0118 9864338. Leader Adrian Brown

Saturday 7th May 2016

East Berks RSPB Weekend Coach trip to Dungeness - Cost £20

There could be all sorts still coming in, but some species will be settled on this special gravel habitat. Sea-watching from the shore can also be superb. Meet at 7.00 at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 1DX (SU892798) Book with Ernie Allen 01628 625324

Thurs 19th May 2016

Mid-week trip by car to OTMOOR RSPB

This site is great for warblers, along with breeding waders, ducks etc. Cranes attempted to breed in 2015. Marsh harrier, hobbies turtle dove are possible. Dragonflies and butterflies too! Meet at car park at 7.30 (Access via Beckley down lane northwards near the Abingdon Arms). OX39TD is the closest reference (but go half a mile further north along Otmoor Lane to SP570126). Contact Bill Nicoll treasurer@berksoc.org.uk 01344-455403

Thursday 9th June 2016

Evening trip to PADWORTH

The main target is nightjar, but woodcock, owls and others are possible. Site not far parking area. Expect to leave the site no earlier than 10.00 pm. Meet at 8.30 pm at the east of Padworth village in the top of Silver Lane: RG7 4QR (SU648652). Parking is limited, so car-sharing advised. Contact Rob Godden 07543 800921

Sunday 19th June 2016

BOC Coach trip to LAKENHEATH FEN (cost £21)

A superb place to stroll through marsh, riverside meadow and plane plantations. Bitterns, harriers, hobbies, cuckoos, bearded tits, dragonflies, butterflies and maybe barn owl, garganey, crane or even golden oriole! Depart at 7.00 Reading (Whiteknights Park, Main entrance) RG6 6UR Pick-up at 7.30 Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 1DX (SU892798) Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

Tuesday 28th June 2016

Evening walk on the BERKSHIRE DOWNS at ALDWORTH

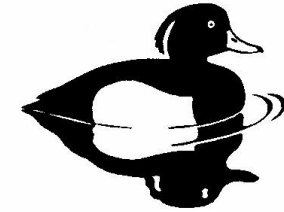
A good selection of downland species, along with the odd surprise - a badger and cubs in 2014! If it is a fine evening expect a late finish. Meet at 7.30 p.m. just past Starveall Farm (1 mile north of Aldworth, grid ref SU945560) Contact Renton Righelato 0787 9812564

Saturday 20th August 2016

BOC Weekend Coach trip to the BIRDFAIR (cost £35 incl. entry)

This fixture provides something for everybody, with exhibitors and displays on everything to do with birding, interspersed with talks by top ornithologists and presenters. And great bird watching around the reserve as well, with ospreys top of the league. A truly great day out. Depart at 7.00 Reading (Whiteknights Park, Main entrance) RG6 6UR With pick-up at 7.30 at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd, Maidenhead, SL6 1DX (SU892798) Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

**BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
2015/2016**



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

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Iain Oldcorn Chris Foster

Club Web site: www.berksoc.org.uk

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