

INDOOR MEETINGS 2019/20

Meetings will take place on Wednesdays starting at 8 pm and will be in Room 109 in the Palmer Building, Reading University
Unless stated otherwise in information below

October 2 nd 2019	In the Jungles of Sarawak Chris Rose and Dr Angelika Wosegien A wonderful talk, taking us to the jungles of Borneo to experience the sights and sounds of some of the world's most exotic bird species, insects, animals and amphibians
October 16 th 2019	A Lane in Europe - Mike Lane Mike is back to tell us about his travels in Eastern Europe, a very exciting region to see and photograph wildlife, including White Tailed Eagles, Wallcreepers and Jackals!
October 30 th 2019	Bird Disease - Dr Daria Dadam (BTO) Daria will show us how parasites and infectious diseases are affecting bird populations at home and around the world
November 13 th 2019	AGM and BTO's Wetland Bird Survey Neil Calbrade (BTO) The Club's Annual General Meeting will be followed by a talk about the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). Neil will tell us about changes that we are seeing in the UK
November 27 th 2019	Challenges Facing Bird Conservation Kevin Cox (Chairman RSPB) After telling us about some of the special birds of his home Dartmoor, Kevin will discuss some key RSPB projects, highlighting the species recovery work for birds like Curlew, Turtle Dove and Cirl Bunting and some of the issues that the conservation movement faces
December 11 th 2019	2019 Christmas Social - 'Christmas Conversations' Do come to our new-style Christmas social at the Palmer Building where you will be plied with tasty snacks and entertained by some of our members who will tell you of their exotic travels in Peru and beyond!
January 8 th 2020	A History of Greenham Common - Ian Paine We will hear how Greenham Common returned to heathland in the 1990s and became one of Berkshire's top birding spots with the regular heathland birds and one or two surprises! (Note: Meeting in Earley St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley)
January 22 nd 2020	Nocturnal Bird Migration - Simon Gillings (BTO) Simon will explore how audio recording and radar are starting to shed light on nocturnal activities such as display flights and movements to nocturnal foraging grounds
February 5 th 2020	Birds of The Gambia - Ashley Grove Ashley always entertains us with magnificent photos of the birds he loves and tonight will be no exception! Featuring some of the birds he has seen on his visits to The Gambia
February 19 th 2020	Shearwaters - Professor Tim Guilford (Oxford University) Shearwaters are among the most elusive of birds, spending most of their lives out at sea, and coming to land only to breed. Tim will introduce us to their fascinating world of travel and navigation
March 4 th 2020	The Biking Birder - Gary Prescott Gary will be telling us of his amazing adventures as the Biking Birder across the UK and Peru, all undertaken in the most environmentally friendly way; along with the birds, mammals and people he met

March 18 th 2020	Photographic Competition It's our annual photographic competition again where members can show off their talents at capturing wonderful images of birds. Why not enter YOUR photographs!
April 1 st 2020	The Reserves of Lincolnshire - Stephen Lovell There are nearly 100 reserves in Lincolnshire. Stephen will tell us how the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is helping to secure the future of many important habitats and species. (Note: Meeting in Earley St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road, Earley.)

FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2019/20

Thursday 5th September 2019

Day trip by car to Titchfield Haven

At passage time, many species of waders, passerines, terns and raptors gather at this coastal launch pad. Excellent time to look for Bearded Tits.
Meet at 9.30 a.m. on Meon sea-front (SU535023/ PO14 3JT)
Contact Carole White: 01344 452058 or email carole.ann471@btinternet.com

Saturday 14th September 2019

Weekend day trip by coach to Fingringhoe Wick RSPB and Abberton Reservoir with East Berks RSPB: Cost £20

These two North-east Essex sites should contain a good mix of woodland and estuarine species and maybe a few surprises.
Meet at 7.00 a.m. at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)
Book with Helen Pearson: 01628 639648 or email HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th October 2019

Long weekend by car to North Norfolk

Based in Hunstanton, this trip will take in a variety of sites along this iconic coast. In 2017, the list included Red-necked and Grey Phalaropes, Rosy Starling, three skua species, etc, with a flock of over 20 Cranes at Welney on the way home. Check with the leader in case there is a late place, or make sure of your place on the repeated trip in 2020 (see below).
Contact Marcus I'Anson: 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Wednesday 23rd October 2019

Mid-week walk at Southcote/Fobney

This is a 4m/7k return walk which follows the River Kennet through the Fobney Island reserve to Fobney Meadow. Some areas may be muddy. This area is very varied and we will be looking out for lingering summer visitors and for newly-arrived winter migrants.
Meet at 10.00 a.m. at Circuit Lane, Southcote. Parking is limited (alt. no 25 bus). (SU692717/RG30 3HH)
Contact Adrian Lawson: 07716348948 or email 348948@gmail.com

Thursday 14th November 2019

Mid-week walk at Woolhampton

This is an area of lakes and scrub adjacent to the Kennet and Avon Canal, which has a wide variety of water birds, winter thrushes etc. and sometimes hosts rarer grebes and divers. Much will depend on the prevailing weather.
Meet at 10.00 a.m. in the car park if the Rowbarge Inn (SU572664 /RG7 5SH)
Contact Chris Foster: 07779 302347

Sunday 24th November 2019

Weekend day trip by car (morning and part afternoon) to Farlington Marshes, Hampshire

An area of grazing marsh in Langstone harbour that attracts large wader flocks and wildfowl, and there could be raptors too. There are no hides or facilities at Farlington, but nearby toilets.
Meet at 9.00 a.m. at Farlington Marshes car park north of Portsmouth (SU679044/no relevant postcode.)
(N.B. The car park is south of the A27, along the little lane at the bottom of the slip road off the large roundabout where the A27 meets the A2030. Facilities at Sainsbuys PO6 1RR ¼ mile away.)
Contact Bill Nicoll: w.a.nicoll@btinternet.com or 07752 349927

Tuesday 17th December 2019

Mid-week morning walk at Moor Green and/or Christmas Lunch at a local pub-restaurant (venue to be decided)

We will walk around the lakes (possibly a short walk for some and a longer walk for others) to look for wildfowl, wintering finches etc., and maybe owls and raptors.
Or simply join us for lunch at 1.30 (details later).
Meet at 10.00 a.m. at Moor Green NR car park for the walk. (SU805627/ RG40 3TJ)
Menu etc. and Booking (essential) via Carole White on 01344 452058 or email carole.ann471@btinternet.com

Thursday 2nd January 2020

New Year walk at Dinton Pastures

Great chance to get the year-list under way, with a walk around one of the most varied sites in the area. There will be an assortment of wildfowl and other water birds, with such as winter thrushes, finches and other passerines. An optional pub lunch is also proposed.
Meet at 10.00 a.m. at Lavell's car park (charges apply) (SU786727 /RG10 OSX)
Contact Marcus I'Anson: 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Sunday 12th January 2020

Weekend Coach trip with Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB to WWT SLIMBRIDGE (Cost £15-17 to be advised) (Entry non-members of WWT, circa £12.50/£9.50)

Come to see the Bewick's Swans, White-fronted Geese, Cranes and masses of wildfowl and waders at this major conservation site.
Depart: 7.30 a.m. at Finchampstead Village Hall (SU792631/ RG40 4JT)
Pick-up: 8.00 a.m. Whiteknights Park, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719 / RG6 6UR)
For booking and details, contact: Ian Paine: 07437600343 or email: ian.paine61@gmail.com.
N.B. The closing dates for bookings will be 10th December 2019

Saturday 25th January 2020

Weekend day trip by car to North Kent

There's several excellent birding sites in north Kent with Cliffe Pools, Shellness and Oare Marshes perhaps the best known, with habitat for wintering ducks, geese, waders and birds of prey. The actual itinerary will be decided closer to the date. Wrap up warm for this one!
Meeting Arrangements: Contact leader in advance for details of meeting time and place.
Contact Robert Godden: 07543 800921

Saturday 8th February 2020

Weekend day trip by coach to Arne RSPB, Dorset, with East Berks RSPB: Cost £20

Arne has heathland and wetland, with views of Poole Harbour. All sorts of birds are possible.

Meet at 7.00 a.m. at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground)

Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)

OR at 7.30 a.m. Whiteknights Park Whiteknights Park, Shinfield

Road main entrance (SU728719 / RG6 6UR)

Book with Helen Pearson: 01628 639648 or

email HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com

Thursday 20th February 2020

Mid-week trip by car to Blashford Lakes, Hants

There is always a lot to see at this site: woodland birds abound; the lakes are frequented by Bitterns, Great Egrets, and an assortment of wildfowl and waders. Rarer gull species are a frequent feature of this trip. There are toilets, but no catering facilities.

Meet 10.00 a.m. at the visitor centre (SU150080/ BH24 3PJ nearest)

Contact Marcus P'Anson: 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Sunday 15th March 2020

Weekend day trip by car to Pagham Harbour

Offering the chance to see large numbers of wintering waders and ducks in the harbour as well as sea duck and grebes offshore. With favourable weather conditions we may even see some early spring migrants.

Meet at 9.00 a.m. at the Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre (SZ856966/PO20 7NE)

Contact Robert Godden: 07543 800921

Tuesday 7th April 2020

Mid-week walk at Greenham Common

This heathland habitat may reveal passage birds, such as Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, Wheatear and Ring Ouzel. And a good chance of finding resident Dartford Warblers, Stonechats and Woodlarks.

Meet at 10.00 a.m. at the central control tower car park (SU498651/ RG19 8DB)

Contact Chris Foster: 07779 302347

Thursday 23th April 2020

Mid-week walk at Southcote/Fobney

A 4m/7k return walk along the River Kennet through the Fobney Island reserve to Fobney Meadow. May be muddy. Expect lingering winter birds, the main targets will be incoming spring migrants.

Meet at 10.00 a.m. at Circuit Lane, Southcote. Parking is limited (alt. no 25 bus). (SU692717/RG30 3HH)

Contact Adrian Lawson: 07716348948 or email 348948@gmail.com

Sunday 26th April 2020

Weekend day trip by car to Farmoor Reservoir (N.B. There will be a small parking charge, circa £2)

There may be passage terns, waders, Osprey, wagtails, hirundines etc. Much depends on the weather. The early start is essential to get the best out of the day, as passage birds often move on by midday.

Meet at 8.30 a.m. at the reservoir car park (SP451060 / OX29LU nearest)

Contact Ray Reedman: 0118 9864338

Thursday 7th May 2020

Evening Bat Walk at Whiteknights Park

We hope to encounter three or four species during this walk

Meet at 8.00 p.m. at the entrance to the Harris Garden (behind School of Biological Sciences) (SU 737714/ RG6 6UR) Parking is available in Pepper Lane and in car park 1A in Whiteknights.

Contact Elaine Charlson: email elainemcharlson@gmail.com

Saturday 16th May 2020

Weekend day trip by coach to Minsmere, Suffolk. Cost £20

A fascinating time of year at the RSPB's flagship reserve for myriad breeding waders, Bittern etc, and probably the best season to visit the reserve.

Meet at 7.00 a.m. at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground)

Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)

Book with Helen Pearson: 01628 639648 or

email HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com

Friday 29th to Sunday 31st May 2020

Weekend trip by car to Anglesey, Wales

Lots of birds we don't see in the south, including chough, puffin and black guillemot. We shall break the journeys at interesting places for dippers, flycatchers, warblers, etc. Early starts are optional, but late risers will miss some birds. The cost of accommodation is likely to be around £100 to £200, depending on single/double room requirements. Meals are additional and petrol will be shared per car (about 650 miles altogether).

Contact Bill Nicoll: w.a.nicoll@btinternet.com or 07752 349927 before Christmas 2019.

Thursday 11th June 2020

Mid-week walk at Thursley Common

This site contains extensive heathland and a large area of bog, making it one of the most interesting sites for a range of birds, plants and insects. Possibility of Redstart, Woodlark, Tree Pipit, Dartford Warbler, Cuckoo, Hobby etc.

Meet at 10.00 a.m. at the car park to east of Thursley Road (south of Elstead) (SU900415 /GU8 6LW)

Contact Ray Reedman: 0118 9864338

Thursday 25th June 2020

Evening trip by car to Padworth Common

This trip is about Nightjar, Woodcock and anything else that performs as the evening light fades. Activity usually climaxes at around 10 p.m. at this time of year.

Meet at 8.00 p.m. at the car park at the junction of Reading Rd/Baughurst Rd and Rectory Rd. (SU 619 648 / RJ7 4JB)

Contact Chris Foster: 07779 302347

Friday 2nd October to Sunday 4th October 2020

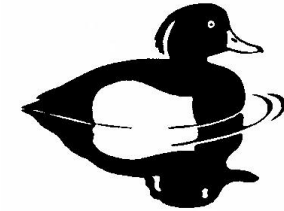
Long weekend by car to North Norfolk

This is a popular annual trip, based in Hunstanton. The birding depends very much on the weather prevailing at the time of the trip but we can usually expect some very interesting results. Advanced booking essential.

Contact Marcus P'Anson: 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

2019/2020



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Presidents Emeritus:

Neil Bucknell, Robert Gillmor, Andy Swash

President: Renton Righelato

Chairman: Position Vacant

Secretary: Sally Wearing

Tel: 0118 9463125

email: secretary@berksoc.org.uk

Treasurer: Eleanor Pitts

Membership Secretary: Iain Oldcorn

Tel: 01344 625883

email: membership@berksoc.org.uk

Indoor Programme Secretary: Sue Charnley

Outdoor Programme Secretary: Ray Reedman

Chair of Conservation Sub-committee: Renton Righelato

Newsletter Editor: Iain Oldcorn

Chairman of Editorial Board, Birds of Berkshire Annual Report:

Position Vacant

Committee:

Robert Godden John Swallow

Adrian Lawson Jake Bishop

Andy Horscroft Ken Moore

Club Web site: www.berksoc.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1011776

Accessibility: our indoor meetings are held in accessible venues. Please contact the relevant leader for information about accessibility on our field trips and mid-week walks.