

Indoor Meetings 2023-24

All meetings start at 7.30pm

In person: meetings take place on Wednesdays, starting at 7.30 pm, in Room 109 in the Palmer Building, Reading University, which is accessible.

Online: all the meetings will also be livestreamed via Zoom. Please check our website at <http://berksoc.org.uk/club-news/programme/> for up-to-date information about each meeting, including the Zoom link. We will also email members before each meeting.

October 18 th 2023	Peregrine Monograph – Steve Watson & Richard Sale Following the recent publication of their book, this talk will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about Peregrines illustrated with fantastic photos and videos!
November 1 st 2023	Vancouver Island & Canadian Rockies – Lee Morgan Vancouver Island is one of the top wildlife watching destinations in the world.
November 15 th 2023	AGM then Saving the Stone Curlew – Keith Betton After the AGM Keith, who has been involved in Stone Curlew conservation for fifteen years, will tell us about this enigmatic bird and explain how farmers are helping to save it.
November 29 th 2023	What's the difference between a Bittern and a Curlew? – Mike Coker Mike will tell the stories behind the attempted conservation of several bird species and look at whether project management is an unnecessary bureaucratic overhead or an essential tool when it comes to nature conservation.
December 13 th 2023	Christmas Social It's our annual social event with Christmas refreshments. We will attempt to entertain you further with a quiz from Neil (a bit easier this time!) and one or two other little items! Please come!
January 10 th 2024	Birds of Southern Portugal – Jono Forgham Jonathan will tell us of birds found along the coast, then venture inland for vultures, eagles and highland species such as Black-eared Wheatear and Lesser Kestrel.
January 24 th 2024	Conservation of the Houbara Bustard – Paul Goriup The Asian Houbara has been hunted by falconry for sport and consumption; this talk will illustrate conservation measures to assure the bird's survival but why it has still not been achieved.
February 7 th 2024	Svalbard/Lake Kerkini – Paul Alistair Collins Paul takes us on a fantastic photographic journey through some of Europe's birding hotspots, from Greece to the Arctic tundra.
February 21 st 2024	How Science can Support Species Recovery – Kevin Cox, Chair of Council, RSPB Our annual University lecture. Kevin will talk about species recovery, and how science can support declining and endangered species to make a comeback.

March 6 th 2024	Nest Record Scheme – Lee Barber This talk will cover what the scheme is about and how to record the information needed, while prioritising the birds themselves.
March 20 th 2024	Photographic Competition 2024 Our annual competition for both experienced and budding photographers. Three categories: Flight/Action, Portrait and Birds in Berkshire.
April 3 rd 2024	The Silent Spring – Conor Jameson Conor looks at the impact made by Rachel Carson's momentous book, Silent Spring, and what happened next. The talk reveals the heroism of its author, the flak she took, and her lasting, inspirational legacy.

Outdoor Programme 2023-24

Everyone is welcome, but please give leaders at least three days' notice if you wish to attend, including whether anyone under 18 will be present.

More outings may be arranged later, so look out for details in emails or on the Club's website at <http://berksoc.org.uk/club-news/programme/>

Accessibility: Please contact the relevant leader for information about accessibility on outdoor events.

Monday 18th September, 2023 A Joint NDOC/BOC field trip by car to the Mudeford, Christchurch Harbour and Hengistbury Head area To reserve a place and for meeting details contact Bob Lyle: jandblyle@gmail.com
Saturday 23rd September 2023 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Hosehill Lake LNR and Bottom Lane GP A walk of about 3 miles. Meet in the Fox & Hounds Car Park at 09:00. what3words: ///dated.soaks.bump Public transport Theale railway station, 16 minutes walk Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com , 07585 112301
Monday 2nd October 2023 Joint NDOC/BOC field trip by car to Pennington To reserve a place and for meeting details contact Bob Lyle: jandblyle@gmail.com
Saturday 21st October 2023 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Padworth Lane GP A circular walk of about 2 miles. Optional lunch at Butt Inn after walk. Meet in Butt Inn car park at 09:00. what3words: ///trying.stuck.steadier. Public transport via rail to Aldermaston Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com , 07585 112301
Monday 30th October 2023 Joint NDOC/BOC field trip by car to Farlington Marshes & Hayling Island To reserve a place and for meeting details contact Bob Lyle: jandblyle@gmail.com

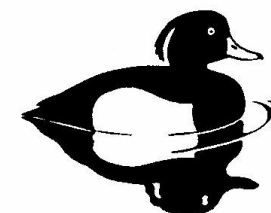
Thursday 9th November 2023 Midweek walk at Moor Green Lakes and Fleethill Farm Meet at 9:30 at the car park off Lower Sandhurst Road (SU805 627, RG40 3TJ or ///gathering.remarking.levels) Contact Elaine Charlson: elainemcharlson@gmail.com
Monday 13th November 2023 Joint NDOC/BOC field trip by car to Lepe & Testwood Lakes To reserve a place and for meeting details contact Bob Lyle: jandblyle@gmail.com
Saturday 25th November 2023 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Searles Farm Lane GP A walk of about 4 miles. Meet in the Cunning Man car park at 09:00. what3words: ///fairly.clots.arrive. Public transport Reading Buses 2 and 2a, alight at Cunning Man Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com , 07585 112301
Monday 27th November 2023 Joint NDOC/BOC field trip by car to Upton Country Park & Poole Harbour To reserve a place and for meeting details contact Bob Lyle: jandblyle@gmail.com
Sunday 3rd December 2023 Day trip by minibus to Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes (£18, accompanied juniors travel free) Priority given to BOC members until November 3 rd . Depart 08:00 Reading University car park 1A, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719, RG6 6UR). Free parking. Contact Robert Godden: robert.godden@berksoc.org.uk
Saturday 9th December 2023 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Fobney Island & Fobney Meadow A walk of about 3 miles. Meet in the Island Road Car Park at 09:00. what3words: ///solar.sweat.runs. Public transport Reading Buses 50-Greenwave or 600, alight at Kennet Island turn, 10 minutes walk Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com , 07585 112301
Monday 11th December 2023 Joint NDOC/BOC field trip by car to Pagham Harbour To reserve a place and for meeting details contact Bob Lyle: jandblyle@gmail.com
Thursday 4th January 2024 Joint NDOC/BOC field trip to Walbury Hill Circular walk of about 6km. Meet at 10:00 at Walbury Hill parking area (SU370620 or ///ballooned.cricket.boardroom) Contact Debby Reynolds: reynolds.debby7@gmail.com
Saturday 13th January, 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Padworth Lane Gravel Pit A circular walk of about 2 miles. Optional lunch at the Butt Inn after walk. Meet in the Butt Inn car park at 09:00. what3words: ///trying.stuck.steadier. Public transport via rail to Aldermaston, 5 minutes walk. Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com , 07585 112301

<p>Sunday 14th January 2024 RSPB Wokingham & Bracknell Local Group day trip by coach to Slimbridge WWT Cost TBA, additional entry charge for those not members of WWT. Pick-ups 07:30 at Finchampstead Village Hall and 08:00 at Reading University car park 1A, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719, RG6 6UR). Free parking. Contact Doug Burr: d.burr@ntlworld.com</p>
<p>Thursday 1st February 2024 Late afternoon outing at Gorrick Plantation, Crowthorne A short walk to see Woodcock .Meet and park at 15:00 along Nine Mile Ride at SU820653 or ///luxury.wisdom.caller Contact Robert Godden: robert.godden@berksoc.org.uk</p>
<p>Saturday 10th February, 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Theale Main Pit & Moatlands Gravel Pit A walk of about 4 miles. Meet in the Sheffield Bottom Lock car park at 09:00. what3words: ///hips.giant.shield. Public transport Theale railway station, 8 minutes walk. Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com, 07585 112301</p>
<p>Thursday 15th February 2024 Day trip by car to Blasford Lakes, Hants Meet at 09:30 at the visitor centre (SU151 079, BH24 3NU, ///grafted.walnuts.overheat) Contact Gray Burfoot: 07766 679362</p>
<p>Saturday 9th March 2024 Weekend Day trip by car to Kent Details will be decided closer to the date according to what offers the best day's birding. Contact Robert Godden: robert.godden@berksoc.org.uk</p>
<p>Saturday 23rd March, 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Combe Gibbett Meet in the Combe Gibbett car park at 09:00. what3words ///frock.optimists.breezy. Public transport - not really viable, ask about car sharing Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com, 07585 112301</p>
<p>Sunday 31st March 2024 Day trip by minibus to Paghham Harbour Priority given to BOC members until February 29th. Charge £18 (accompanied juniors travel free). Depart 08:00 from Reading University car park 1A, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719, RG6 6UR). Free parking. Contact Robert Godden: robert.godden@berksoc.org.uk</p>
<p>Saturday 20th April, 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Decoy Heath, BBOWT Reserve A level walk of about 2 miles. Meet in the Decoy Heath Car Park at 09:00 (it will be unlocked for the occasion). what3words: ///dummy.debit.appeal Public transport Reading buses 2a Lime Green to Brimpton Common, alight at Easter Park, 6 minutes walk Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com, 07585 112301</p>

<p>Sunday 28th April 2024 Early morning birdsong walk at Dinton Pastures Meet at 07:30 at Dinton Discovery Centre car park (SU786725, RG10 0SU or ///dragon.dash.spicy) (Parking charge £1.50/hr) Contact Brian Bennett: btbennett1@googlemail.com</p>
<p>Saturday 18th May, 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Fobney Island & Fobney Meadow A walk of about 3 miles. Meet in the Island Road Car Park at 09:00. what3words: ///solar.sweat.runs Public transport from Reading Reading Buses 50 Greenwave or 600, alight at Kennet Island turn, 10 minutes walk Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com, 07585 112301</p>
<p>Wednesday 5th June 2024 Evening walk on the Berkshire Downs Be prepared for a good walk of about 4 miles. Meet at 19:00 in West Ilsley at the start of the track to Sheep Down near The Harrow PH, at SU469826 or ///upstarts.flies.trendy Contact Andy Tomczynski: andy.tomczynski@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Saturday 22nd June 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Padworth Common, BBOWT Reserve A walk of about 2 miles. Meet in the Padworth Common car park at 09:00. what3words: island.midwinter.onto Public transport from Reading Reading Buses 2 and 2a Lime, alight at Mays Lane, 5 minute walk Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com, 07585 112301</p>
<p>Saturday 13th July 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Woolhampton Gravel Pit A walk of about 3 miles. Meet in the Rowbarg PH car park at 09:00. what3words: ///regal.pulses.ties Public transport Midgham railway station, 5 minutes walk Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com, 07585 112301</p>
<p>Saturday 13th July 2024 Day trip by minibus to Global Birdfair, Rutland Showground Priority given to BOC members until June 13th. Charge £20 (accompanied juniors travel free) plus admission fee Depart 07:00. Reading University car park 1A, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719, RG6 6UR). Free parking. Contact Sally Wearing: chair@berksoc.org.uk, 07939 488971</p>
<p>Saturday 21st September 2024 Introduction to Berkshire Birding Outing: Hosehill Lake LNR and Bottom Lane GP A walk of about 3 miles. Meet in the Fox & Hounds Car Park at 09:00. what3words: ///dated.soaks.bump Public transport Theale railway station, 16 minutes walk Contact Peter Driver: peterdriver.art@gmail.com, 07585 112301</p>

BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

2023-24



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Presidents Emeritus:
Neil Bucknell, Andy Swash

President: Debby Reynolds

Chairman: Sally Wearing

Secretary: Jane Campbell
07980 076128
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Treasurer: Edwin Bruce-Gardner

Membership Secretary: Iain Oldcorn
01344 625883
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Indoor Programme Secretary: Sue Charnley
Outdoor Programme Secretary: Robert Godden

Chair of Conservation Sub-committee: Neil Bucknell

Newsletter Editor: Iain Oldcorn

Editors of Birds of Berkshire Annual Reports:
Robert Godden and Sally Wearing

Committee:
Chris Foster, Bob Lyle, Andy Tomczynski, Marek Walford, Elaine Charlson, Anna Mortimer and Robert Godden

Website: www.berksoc.org.uk

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