

## INDOOR MEETINGS 2012/13

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

Members are admitted free - the usual admission fee for non-members is £4.

Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> 2012	<b>Mike Read, Photographer:</b> <i>Corsica - Mountains in the Mediterranean</i> Mike tells of spring migration, special residents, wildflowers, and spectacular scenery on this little-known French island
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> 2012	<b>David Lindo: <i>The Adventures of the Urban Birder</i></b> David takes us on a birding journey around some of the world's urban - and sometimes not so urban areas!
Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> 2012	<b>Jackie Garner, Wildlife artist:</b> <i>Wildlife in Ancient Egyptian Art</i> Jackie traces how tools, pigments and methods were used by the artists in the depiction of wildlife. This talk will be of interest to artists and historians too, so bring a friend.
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> 2012	<b>Nicholas Watts, Vine House Farm:</b> <i>Farming and Wildlife</i> A lifetime's work of farming and studying the birds on the farm. The talk describes why our farmland birds are in decline and what we can do about these declines.
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup> 2012	AGM, followed by <b>Colin Wilson and Ted Rogers: <i>Birding Catalonia</i></b> An account of a birding trip in 2011 featuring photos by Photographic Competition winner Brian Winter.
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> 2012	<b>Ian Newton, Ornithologist and Author:</b> <i>Bird Migration</i> A brief look at Ian's superb volume in The New Naturalist series will tell you that this is a talk you mustn't miss.
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup> 2012	<b>Christmas Social and Quiz</b> <i>(N.B. At Earley St Peter's Parish Rooms)</i> Don't miss the company and competition of a fun evening.
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> 2013	<b>Berkshire Atlas Team:</b> <i>A report on the findings of the 2007-11 surveys</i> The managing team of the new Berkshire Bird Atlas present an up-date on the progress and findings of the recent seasons of surveys.
Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2013	<b>Douglas Russell, Curator, NHM:</b> <i>The Most Beautiful Thing in the Universe.</i> A unique insight into the importance of the Natural History Museum's 300,000 Bird Egg Collection in research.
Feb 6 <sup>th</sup> 2013	<b>Simon Towers, Thames Valley Police: <i>Wildlife Crime</i></b> Simon recounts the vital work of a Wildlife Crime officer in combating the abuse and exploitation of our natural world.
Feb 20 <sup>th</sup> 2013	<b>Alan Davies and Ruth Miller: <i>The Biggest Twitch</i></b> The story of the ultimate challenge, a breathless whirl through 27 countries to record a new world record of over 4,000 species logged in a single year. Crazy, but fascinating!
Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> 2013	<b>Photographic Competition:</b> <b>Judges: David Cromack and Margaret Welby</b> David is joined this year by Margaret, a successful wildlife photographer who regularly exhibited her work alongside that of Gordon Langsbury at the Rutland Bird Fair.
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup> 2013	<b>Nigel Clark, BTO: <i>Waders, Estuaries and Man</i></b> Nigel will examine studies conducted over the last twenty years to consider how man and birds can coexist in the modern world.
Apr 10 <sup>th</sup> 2013	<i>I.D. Workshop (to be announced)</i>

## FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2012/13

All members are welcome, plus family and friends, where space allows. Check with the named contact in advance, as trips are subject to change or cancellation. We have seven coach trips this year (with local RSPB), but most trips are by private car, although 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, or Bill Nicoll (01344 455403) and check the website [www.berksoc.org.uk](http://www.berksoc.org.uk).

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

#### ***Pagham Harbour NNR, East Sussex (Full day trip by coach)***

Accessible estuary reserve good for autumn passage, migrant waders, warblers, raptors and more. Reserve centre has basic facilities and there are small hides. Pick-up at 7:00am at the lay-by at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1BN (SU891799)  
Provisional cost is £18.00 per person.  
Contact: Ernie Allen (East Berks RSPB organiser) on 01628 625324.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

#### ***Fleet Pond, Hampshire (Mid week walk)***

This attractive and well managed reserve attracts a good selection of migrants to augment the broad range of resident birds. No hides or other facilities. Meet at the car park at west end of the lane off Fleet Road (A3013) between Farnborough & Fleet (SU828554)  
Contact: Colin Wilson (01252 837411)

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

#### ***Dungeness RSPB reserve, Kent (Full day trip by coach)***

A good time to visit this reserve for late scarce passage migrants. Most of the day on the reserve but also expect to visit the lighthouse area. Coach will leave Reading University main gate in Shinfield Road at 7:00am and The Ring, Bracknell outside the Charles Square multi storey car park (SU872692, parking charge £1.20 for the day) at 7:30am. Cost about £20.  
Contact: Ray Reedman (0118 9864338)

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

#### ***Jubilee River, near Maidenhead, Bucks/Berks (Mid week walk)***

This fairly new wetland area on the Thames flood relief channel attracts a wide selection of birds. We might also visit neighbouring Dorney Common. Meet at the Dorney Wetlands car park beside the B3026 Lake End Road north of Dorney village (SU928795).  
Contact: Bill Nicoll (01344 455403)

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

#### ***Pennington/Keyhaven area, Hampshire (Full day)***

A walk (3 to 4 miles) through an interesting mixture of marshes, fields and scrub. No facilities at the meeting place, but some in Keyhaven. Meet at 9:00am at the public car park in Lower Pennington Lane, off the A337 south of Lyminster (SZ318926).  
Contact: Bill Nicoll (01344 455403)

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

#### ***Thatcham Discovery Centre, near Newbury, Berkshire (Mid week walk)***

This area produced more species than almost anywhere else in Berks during the BTO Atlas survey. Facilities at the centre and several hides. Meet at Discovery Centre, off Lower Way, Newbury, RG19 3FU (SU506670)  
Contact: Graeme Stewart (01635-866942)

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012**

#### ***Elmley RSPB, Isle of Sheppey, Kent (Full day trip by coach)***

In winter wildfowl, raptors, owls, divers and waders take refuge on Sheppey and most can be found at Elmley. Basic facilities at the reserve, with good walk out to the hides, but the birds make it worth the effort. Come prepared for winter weather. Coach will leave Reading University main gate in Shinfield Road at 7:00am and The Ring, Bracknell outside the Charles Square multi storey car park (SU872692, parking charge £1.20 for the day) at 07:30am.  
Contact: Ray Reedman (0118 9864338)

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

#### ***Wraysbury Gravel Pits, Berkshire/Surrey (Mid week walk)***

Always plenty to see at Wraysbury at this season, with goldeneye, goosander and maybe smew on the lakes, parakeets overhead plus winter thrushes and finches. Meet in cul-de-sac at Hythe End (close to M25 junction 13) (TQ018726)  
Contact: Carole White (01344 452058)

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

#### ***Slimbridge WWT (Full day coach trip with Wokingham RSPB group)***

Coach will leave The Village Hall, Fleet Hill, Finchampstead (SU792631) at 7:30am and pick up from Reading University main gate in Shinfield Road at 08:15. Leaving Slimbridge at 4:30pm, arriving back by 7.00pm. The cost will be about £20 plus an entry charge (£7-50 to £11-00 depending on status) for non members of WWT.  
Contact: Ian Payne (Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB) on 01189 793701

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013**

#### ***Titchwell RSPB (Full day coach trip with East Berks RSPB)***

Famous RSPB reserve with full facilities. The scrub, reedbeds and shore support many birds and winter visitors feature possible twite and bittern. Pick-up at 07:00am at the lay-by at entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1BN (SU891799). Provisional cost is £18.00 per person.  
Contact: Ernie Allen (East Berks RSPB organiser) on 01628 625324.

### **Thursday to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

#### ***North Norfolk (Weekend trip by private car)***

This trip has been a great success for many. Last year's best birds were a hawfinch flock, a flock of mixed swans, an arctic redpoll and several bitterns, supported by the usual selection of raptors, cranes and buntings. Book early because places are limited.  
Contact: Colin Wilson (01252 837411)

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013**

#### ***Bury Down, West Berkshire (Mid week walk)***

Winter birdwatching on the Downs can provide a good selection of species, including corn bunting and grey partridge, plus winter raptors. Meet at Bury Down Car Park, just off the A34 near West Ilsley (SU480840) at 2:00pm  
Contact: Peter Burden (0118 9784453)

### **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

#### ***Wishmoor Heath, Surrey/Berkshire (Mid week walk)***

This is a good time to visit. There might be redpolls and crossbills around, woodlark could be singing along with a selection of commoner woodland and heathland species. Meet at the north end of Kings Ride, Camberley (SU875621)  
Contact: Colin Wilson (01252 837411)

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013

#### *Pagham Harbour, East Sussex (Full day)*

Early spring arrivals, with garganey or sandpiper species a possibility on the pool. Plenty of wintering waders and wildfowl so an interesting day in store. Meet at 9:00am at Pagham Nature reserve car park, Sidlesham (SZ856963). Contact: Robert Godden (07543 800921)

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2013

#### *Titchfield Haven, Hampshire (Full day)*

Fine wetland reserve, with numerous hides for passage terns and waders. Woodland and scrub for migrants and reedbeds have bearded tit and cetti's warbler, plus eider and sea birds along the shore. Fully equipped reserve centre opens at 9:30am. Entry charge £3 to £4. Meet at 9:30am on Meon sea front near Stubbington (SU529024) Contact: Ted Rogers (01344 883237)

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

#### *Raptor watching in Andalusia, Spain*

This trip, announced in last year's programme, was full before the rest of the 2013 programme was compiled, but we expect to operate a trip in 2014 (see below). The 2011 & 2012 trips were very successful, see report at - [http://www.berksoc.org.uk/members/trip\\_reports/andalusia\\_april\\_2011.shtml](http://www.berksoc.org.uk/members/trip_reports/andalusia_april_2011.shtml)

### Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013

#### *Greenham Common, Berkshire (Mid week walk)*

Large area of heath, woodland and pools holding scarce or local species in Berkshire. Access to some areas is limited in the breeding season. Meet at the old control tower car park off Bury Banks Road, Greenham Common (SU499652). Contact: Graeme Stewart (01635 866942)

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013

#### *Hengistbury Head and Christchurch Harbour, Dorset (Full day)*

Migrant passerines on the headland, possible skuas offshore, plus other seasonal seabirds passing and in the harbour. We can expect to find a good selection of waders, some in breeding plumage. Meet at Hengistbury Head car park, southwest of Christchurch (SZ164912) at 8:30am: (pay and display). Contact: Ray Reedman (0118 9864338)

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013

#### *Biebrza Marshes & Bialowieza Forest, NE Poland.*

Visiting the best areas in northeast Poland for birds - Biebrza Marsh and Bialowieza Forest. Spending about 3 or 4 days in each area, looking for all the specialities and expecting to find many of them. We could see 20 raptor species, 10 woodpeckers, owls, warblers including river, aquatic, marsh, barred and others. Scarce mammals are also possible, such as bison and both martens. Accommodation will be simple but comfortable. Cost will be about £1250 including flights (but excluding discretionary items such as alcoholic drinks). The trip will be organised in Poland by Marek Borkowski Contact Renton Righelato ([renton.righelato@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:renton.righelato@berksoc.org.uk)) or 0787 981 2564) by end October if you want to go.

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013

#### *Minsmere RSPB, Suffolk (Full day coach trip with East Berks RSPB)*

A visit to one of the top reserves in England at the height of spring passage is not to be missed. Lots to see and hope for an east wind bringing passerines ashore and pushing skuas in to the coast. Pick-up at 7:00am at the lay-by at entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1BN (SU891799) Provisional cost is £18.00 per person. Contact: Ernie Allen (East Berks RSPB organiser) on 01628 625324.

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013

#### *Strand Water and Widbrook Common (Mid week walk)*

A nice area of fields, woods, lakes and unimproved meadow where we have a good chance of finding a variety of passage migrants, and where uncommon species are regularly reported. Meet at National Trust car park ¼ mile west of Cookham village (SU893853) Contact Bill Nicoll (01344 455403)

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013

#### *Grove Ferry & Stodmarsh NNR, Kent (Full day)*

This reedbed reserve (with some fields and woodland) is always worth a visit and can be outstanding. Nightingale, turtle dove, bearded tit and hobby are found here, along with many more birds and other wildlife. Basic facilities at the car park and on the 4 mile walk to Stodmarsh. Several hides. Meet at 9.00am at Grove Ferry car park, off the A28 east of Canterbury, near Upstreet (TR235631). Contact: Bill Nicoll (01344 455403)

### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013

#### *Yorkshire (Weekend trip by private car)*

Visit some of the best reserves including Bempton Cliffs, Blacktoft Sands, Tophill Low, and more. Selection of seabirds (e.g. puffin), reedbed species (e.g. bearded tit) plus many other less-common birds such as yellow wagtail and turtle dove. The cost for accommodation will be £120 for a single room or £95 (sharing) per person; for 2 nights; bed, breakfast & dinner if you contact the leader by 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Later bookings might cost more and all reservations are subject to availability. Deposit of £30 per person required. Contact the organiser, Ken White (Tel: 01635 268442 or email [white.zoothera@gmail.com](mailto:white.zoothera@gmail.com)) as soon as possible.

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013

#### *Padworth Common - Nightjar evening (mid week walk)*

We should find some heathland and woodland birds before it gets too dark, when the woodcock and nightjars usually become active. Meet at 8:30pm at car park in Silver Lane (SU628653), about 3 miles west of Mortimer station. Contact: Martin Sell (0118 9471170)

### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2013

#### *Rutland Water Birdfair (Full day coach trip)*

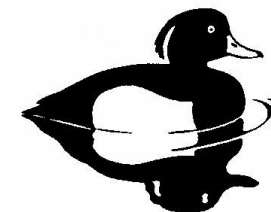
At this popular annual event you will find almost everything you can imagine that is connected with bird watching including optics, travel, books, art, lectures and more. And from the hides you can see ospreys, tree sparrows and more. Coach will leave Newbury, the Wharf at 6.30am, Reading University main gate in Shinfield Road at 7:00am and Braywick Park entrance, Braywick Road, Maidenhead at 7:30am. Cost will be about £33 (including entry). Contact: Ray Reedman (0118 9864338)

### September 2013 and April 2014 Andalusia, Spain

#### *Raptor migration - Andalusia, Spain - advance notice of possible trips*

We hope to operate one or more repeats of this extremely popular trip. We shall visit a variety of habitats near the Straits of Gibraltar, concentrating on raptor migration, but we could see around 130 bird species including storks, bee eaters, red-rumped swallows and 9 raptor species plus other resident and passage birds scarce in Britain. Some non-birding activities may be possible, e.g. visit to Cordoba. The cost is likely to be about £500 per person sharing, including flights, transport in Spain and B&B. If you are interested in these future trips, contact the organiser, Ken White (Tel: 01635 268442 or email [white.zoothera@gmail.com](mailto:white.zoothera@gmail.com)) as soon as possible. Exact dates will be decided nearer to the event.

## BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB 2012/2013



### OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

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Conservation Officer: John Lerpiniere

Newsletter Editor: Ted Rogers

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

Committee:  
Fraser Cottington      Carole White  
Martin Sell              Tim Ball  
Bill Nicoll

Club Web site: [www.berksoc.org.uk](http://www.berksoc.org.uk)

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