

## INDOOR TALKS

*Unless stated otherwise, these meetings take place in Room 109 of the Palmer Building at Whiteknights Park, Reading University, starting at 8.00 p.m.*

**6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**

### **Birdwatching in Yunnan**

**Jeff Blincow, wildlife photographer and traveller**

This talk highlights the superb birds seen on a trip to south-west China in the winter. Yunnan has a varied landscape with snow-capped mountains, lakes, deep gorges and rich sub-tropical forest in the south.

**20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**

### **A Journey from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth**

**Ian Silvester, photographer**

On his way to a Test Match in South Africa, Ian visited a variety of birding habitats with a local guide over seven days and recorded many endemic and rare birds.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021**

### **Warbler Wonderland**

**Neil Glenn, freelance writer and bird tour guide.**

We'll take a look at spring migration through Ohio and Michigan, including Magee Marsh, which is famed for its warblers. In Michigan there are wildfowl, waders and the endangered Kirtland's Warbler.

**17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

**The AGM** will be followed by

### **Project Owl: Secrets of the Night**

**Hugh Hanmer, BTO Research Ecologist**

This talk will discuss all the owls of the UK, and what we know and don't know about them. Project Owl, a set of interrelated owl research projects, aims to fill in some of the gaps in the interests of conserving our owls.

**1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021**

### **Reserves past, present and future**

**Gwynn Williams, RSPB**

Gwynne will talk about the acquisition of land for nature and how the current network of 222 sites is managed. He considers the future, and how the acquisition and management of nature reserves is being geared to help address the twin crises of climate and nature.

**5<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**

### **Our African Migrants (by Zoom)**

**Will Cresswell, Professor of Biology at St Andrews University**

Will studies the ecology of migrant birds to understand the factors determining the density and distribution of Palearctic migrants wintering in West Africa so that we can address their continuing

declines.

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

### **The Behaviour of Cuckoos**

**Nick Davies, FRS, Professor of Behavioural Ecology at the University of Cambridge.**

His work on the Dunnock and on cuckoos and cowbirds has been published in award-winning books: *Cuckoos, cowbirds and other cheats* and *Cuckoo – Cheating by Nature*.

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022**

### **Commemorative Talk for BOC 75th Anniversary.**

We are 75 years old in 2022 and would like to recognise this by having a little celebratory evening with three different talks by members with cake and soft drinks. Renton Righelato, Neil Bucknell and Andy Swash will give us topical talks about conservation and a history of the club. Please join us!

**16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022**

### **Otmoor – A Wetland Rediscovered**

**David Wilding, RSPB**

With 17 years of experience working on Otmoor, David will discuss its history and how the RSPB has turned arable fields into an incredible wetland oasis – home to breeding bittern, marsh harrier, crane and snipe. He will then take a journey through the seasons, looking at wildlife and the work which is undertaken to maintain this amazing place.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022**

### **The work of the BTO**

**Juliet Vickery, CEO of BTO**

As an academic researcher, lecturer and practical conservationist, working variously in universities, at the RSPB and the BTO, Juliet is uniquely placed to discuss the work of the major organisation which she now leads.

**16<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

### **Photographic Competition**

We are anticipating the usual high quality photographs of birds in the categories Portrait, Flight/Action and a new category – Attention to Detail.

**30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

### **The Natural History of Upper Teesdale**

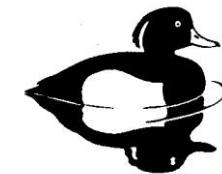
**Andy Sands, Wildlife photographer**

Upper Teesdale is an area of outstanding natural beauty which includes upland farms and hay meadows surrounding managed grouse moors. The ancient hay meadows are the best examples in Europe with a rich flora unequalled anywhere in the UK. The contentious subject of grouse moor management is covered.

**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

Berkshire Ornithological Club

2021/2022



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Presidents Emeritus:

Neil Bucknell, Robert Gillmor, Andy Swash

President: Renton Righelato

Chairman: Robert Godden

Secretary: Jane Campbell

Tel: 07980076128

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Treasurer: Eleanor Pitts

Membership Secretary: Iain Oldcorn

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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:

Editors: Robert Godden, Sally Wearing

Committee:

Sue Charnley, Chris Foster, Ray Reedman,  
Andy Tomczynski, Marek Walford, Sally Wearing

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

Registered charity no. 1011776

## Outdoor Programme

Everyone is welcome, but please give all leaders 3 days notice of your wish to attend and of the inclusion of anyone under 18.

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

#### Evening Bat Walk at Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve

Join an experienced bat watcher and conservationist for an introduction to the bats of this surprisingly diverse area. This is a small lake and woodland area, with easy paths.

**Meet at 19.30 at the duck feeding platform on Maiden Erlegh lake (SU75014 71018 or *///passes.dance.axed*). Parking on Instow Road (RG6 7PH), or Lakeside Road (RG6 5QH)**

**Contact Elaine Charlson: [elainemcharlson@gmail.com](mailto:elainemcharlson@gmail.com)**

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

#### Mid-week walk at Greenham Common

We can expect some heathland specialists, but at this season hope for some migrants too.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Control Tower car park (SU499650, RG198DB, *///hers.chart.launch*)

**Contact Chris Foster: [c.w.foster@outlook.com](mailto:c.w.foster@outlook.com), 07779 302347**

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021

#### Day trip by car to Titchfield Haven, Hants

At this time of year there can be a wide variety of birds on passage down the Meon valley, as well as sea birds on the Solent.

**Meet at 9.30 a.m. on Meon sea-front (SU535 023, PO14 3JT, *///racks.comic.promising*)**

**Contact Chris Foster: [c.w.foster@outlook.com](mailto:c.w.foster@outlook.com), 07779 302347**

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

#### Mid-week walk to explore the meadows and waterways of Kennet Valley in Reading.

The area has a good range of lowland habitats and is popular with passage and overwintering migrants. The walk will cover approximately 7 kilometres and take about 3 hours. It is mostly level ground but is likely to be very muddy and possibly wet in a few places. **Meet at 10:00 a.m.**

**Please email the walk organiser before the event for details of the meeting point, which will be in the Coley area, approximately 2 km from Reading town centre.**

**Contact Adrian Lawson: [348948@gmail.com](mailto:348948@gmail.com)**

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

#### Day trip by car to Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes, Hants

This area offers a mix of marsh, meadow, gorse scrub and sea. It can produce a huge list, ranging from raptors to Dartford warblers, from divers to sandpipers. A real pre-Christmas treat!

**Meet 09.30 a.m. in Keyhaven at the limited parking area at *///handbag.nearing.shepherdess* or SZ3081 9158; there are other car parks and a toilet nearby. Note all parking in vicinity is now pay and display.**

**Contact Robert Godden: tel 07543 800921**

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

#### Christmas walk and/or Christmas lunch (choose either or both) at Hosehill Lake and the Fox and Hounds, Theale.

The walk round the lake is fairly easy but may be muddy in parts.

There should be a variety of water and woodland species. Lunch should be possible, but conditions may change. Booking and deposit essential for meal. Menu and costs will be announced later.

**Meet for walk at 10.00 a.m. and for lunch at 13.00 at the car park of the Fox and Hounds (SU649 698, RG7 4BE, *///dated.soaks.bump*)**

**Contact Carole White: tel 01344 452058 or [carole.ann471@btinternet.com](mailto:carole.ann471@btinternet.com)**

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

#### New Year walk at Moor Green

This site usually abounds with wildfowl and other water birds, but winter finches, raptors and others may also be seen. It is a good place to start a year list.

**Meet at 10.00 a.m. at the car park off Lower Sandhurst Road (SU805 627, RG40 3TJ, *///gathering.remarking.levels*)**

**Contact Robert Godden: tel 07543 800921**

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

#### Day trip by car to Blashford Lakes, Hants

The lakes here can host all sorts of wildfowl, waders and gulls, while the woodland hide can often reveal a few difficult species. Birds such as Water Rail and Water Pipit are not uncommon and the site boasts a good list of other scarce and rare birds.

**Meet at 09.30 a.m. at the visitor centre (SU151 079, BH24 3NU, *///topples.afraid.mingles*)**

**Contact Gray Burfoot: tel 07766 679362**

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022

#### Mid-week walk at Wishmoor Bottom

This mix of heathland and mainly conifer woodland is a good place to find Dartford Warbler, Stonechat, Crossbill and others. It can also turn up a few rarities. It is a relatively easy walk, but there are muddy spots.

**Meet at 10 a.m. at the north end of Kings Ride, Camberley (SU875 621, GU15 4NG, *///rinsed.drooling.socket*)**

**Contact Robert Godden: tel 07543 800921**

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

#### Day trip by car to Stanpit Marsh, Christchurch, Dorset

The marsh here is fronted by Christchurch Harbour and is a winter home to many species of wader and wildfowl, with assorted passerines found in the marginal scrub. Rarities are possible.

**Meet at 09.30 at Stanpit Marsh car park, Stanpit Rd (SZ172 924, BH23 3ND, *///chemistry.folds.tricks*)**

**Contact Robert Godden: tel 07543 800921**

### Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

#### Mid-week walk at Little Marlow Gravel Pit

Cormorants and herons breed here in good numbers and there is usually a range of other species present on the lake and in surroundings.

**Meet at 10.00 a.m. in the car park up lane past church (SU875 876, SL7 3RY, *///sundial.kickbacks.youthful*)**

**Contact Ray Reedman: tel 0118 9864338; [meander2@hotmail.com](mailto:meander2@hotmail.com)**

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

#### Day trip by car to the New Forest

Woodland and heathland birds will be in full voice, but early passage will be under way and the Goshawks will almost certainly be displaying. This iconic site is always worth a visit.

**Meet at 09.30 at Acres Down car park (SU267 097, SO437GA, *///confronts.lushly.opposing*)**

**Contact Robert Godden: tel 07543 800921**

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022

#### Mid-week walk in Whiteknights Park

The park attracts a variety of birds to its lake and woodland areas and may produce a few surprises. This is an easy walk, but some paths can be muddy.

**Meet at 10 a.m. at the Pepper Lane entrance (SU733 714, RG2 7DN, *///grand.admiral.racks*)**

**Contact Chris Foster: [c.w.foster@outlook.com](mailto:c.w.foster@outlook.com), 07779 302347**

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

#### Mid-week walk in the meadows and waterways of Kennet Valley in Reading

The area has a good range of lowland habitats and is popular with passage and breeding migrants. The walk will cover approximately 7 kilometres and take about 3 hours. It is mostly level ground but is likely to be very muddy and possibly wet in a few places

**Meet at 10:00 a.m. Please email the walk organiser before the event for details of the meeting point, which will be in the Southcote area, approximately 3 km west of Reading town centre.**

**Contact Adrian Lawson: [348948@gmail.com](mailto:348948@gmail.com)**

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

#### Early morning birdsong walk at Dinton Pastures

It is an exciting time of year, with up to nine warbler species, Common Tern, Cuckoo and Hobby all possible among others.

**Meet at 7.30 a.m. at Lavells Discovery Centre car park (SU786 725, RG10 0SU, *///dragon.dash.spicy*) (Parking charge £1.50/hr)**

**Contact Brian Bennett: [btbennett1@gmail.com](mailto:btbennett1@gmail.com)**

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2022

#### Weekend walk at the Jubilee River

This site, and the adjacent pools of Dorney Common, can produce an assortment of water birds, as well as a range of warblers, buntings etc.

**Meet at 10.00 a.m. at the car park (immediately left after bridge). (SU928 795, SL4 6QT, *///achieving.bother.basin*)**

**Contact David Fuller: [mail@david-fuller.com](mailto:mail@david-fuller.com)**

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

#### Evening walk on the Aldworth Downs

On a summer evening, this area of the Downs can reveal an assortment of buntings, finches and warblers, as well as game birds, raptors and a variety of other wildlife. Be prepared for a good walk.

**Meet at 19.00 hrs at Starveall Farm (SU544 810, RG8 9TX, *///tequila.pounce.atlas*)**

**Contact Andy Tomczynski: [andy.tomczynski@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.tomczynski@btinternet.com)**