

INDOOR MEETINGS 2017/18

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

October 4 th 2017	Jan Stannard, local activist Swift Conservation Swift nest sites are being lost as buildings are modernised, and Jan discusses what can be done, and has been done, to persuade architects and builders to provide solutions.
October 18 th 2017	Prof. Tim Birkhead, University of Sheffield, Author Guillemots Based on 44 years of research on Skomer, Tim has the knack of making the science accessible. His books include 'The Most Perfect Thing', 'Bird Sense' and 'Ten Thousand Birds'.
November 1 st 2017	John Eyre, Hants OC The Birds of Wallacea – Where Continents Collide Returning to speak about the birds of Sulawesi and Halmahera, in the intermediate zone between Asia and Australasia - an area studied by Alfred Russel Wallace.
November 15 th 2017	Members' Magazine Evening A Compilation of Shorter Presentations Mike Turton talks about his other great interest, dragonflies; Renton Righelato updates us on conservation matters; David Massie shows us the wildlife of Spitzbergen.
November 29 th 2017	AGM plus Mike Lane, Photographer A Lane in a Midlands Forest Mike is well known to us for his 'A Lane in...' series. This time he will be talking about the wildlife of an under-publicised area of new and old forest habitat in Warwickshire, illustrated with his own wonderful pictures
December 6 th 2017	Mike Leach, Photographer In Search of the Flower Kissers. What can be as small as a paperclip, have a heart rate of 1000 beats/minute, fly backwards, and be breathtakingly beautiful? Mike's photographic introduction to the huge, but little-known hummingbird family, will be a real treat.
December 13 th 2017	Social Evening and Quiz This informal and fun evening will include the odd informal presentation and plenty of food. NB: At Earley St Peter's Hall, Church Road, RG61EY (SU745721)
January 10 th 2018	Rob Robinson, BTO researcher Why Do We Ring Birds? By 2002, bird ringing was about 100 years old and the BTO had enough data to publish a weighty 884-page volume on migratory behaviour based on its ringing data. Rob will discuss why this activity has been so useful.
January 24 th 2018	Graham Lenton, Photographer Black, White, Grey and Gold in Finland The colours are those of assorted grouse, owls and eagles among others. Graham says that the place to photograph birds is on the Finnish-Russian border, but warns that we need to don plenty of thermals to do so, even in April.
February 7 th 2018	Prof Mark Fellowes, University of Reading Red Kites & other Urban Birds Mark will be discussing the results of his department's research into the interaction between humans and birds. We may just need to rethink our habits.

February 21 st 2018	Prof. Alex Kacelnik, University of Oxford Bird Intelligence Birds know more than you might think, making complex decisions and using tools. Supported by videos, this talk focuses on work done with crows and cockatoos.
March 7 th 2018	Photographic Competition Two experienced judges will evaluate our photos in three categories. Rules and details are on the web site. Whether a photographer or not, there is always something to learn.
March 21 st 2018	Chris Foster, BOC, University of Reading A Guide to Insects and the Birds that Depend on Them. Insects are integral to the life of birds. Chris will use a birder's techniques of identifying jizz and song to provide a way into understanding the complex insect world.
April 11 th 2018	Ray Reedman: Workshop on Landbirds Designed to refresh our identification skills of an assortment of garden, woodland, heathland and downland birds. N.B. This takes place at Earley St Peters Hall

FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2017/18

Saturday, 9th September 2017

Weekend Coach trip with East Berks RSPB to RSPB Arne, Dorset
Arne is a heathland reserve which abuts the marshes of Poole Harbour. Every chance of Dartford Warbler, Hobby and passage migrants, as well as a variety of waders etc. And the Sika Deer herds will be in their prime.
Depart at 7.00am from Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)
Book with Helen Pearson: email HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com or tel 01628 639648. Cost £20.

Thursday 21st Sept 2017

Weekday day trip by car to Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve, Hants (Entry charge £4/£4.25)
There is always a chance of seeing something of interest on the sea here, but seasonal movement through the site can bring anything from a rare tern to an Osprey, and this is the best time to see Bearded Tits.
Meet at 8.30am on the Meon sea front (near Hill Head/Stubbington) (SU529024/ PO14 4HN)
Contact Bill Nicoll: 01344 455403

Friday 6th – Sunday 8th October 2017

Long weekend trip by car to North Norfolk
Based in Hunstanton, we will visit sites along the iconic North Norfolk coast to look for migrants. Rareties are usually on the menu.
N.B. This trip was advertised and booked earlier, but there may still be a chance to be included. To be repeated in October 2018 (see below)
Contact Marcus I'Anson: 01344 773072 or 07801219007

Sunday 22nd October 2017

Weekend day trip by coach to Dungeness, Kent: Cost £21
The day at this migration hotspot will include visits to the RSPB reserve, the shore for passing seabirds and time to explore the shingle hinterland in the search for migrants. Almost anything may turn up.
Depart at 7.00am from Whiteknights Park, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719 / RG6 6UR)
Book with Ray Reedman: 0118 9864338 or meander2@hotmail.com

Sunday 12th November 2017

Weekend day trip by car to Farlington Marsh, Hants
Large flocks of Brent Geese, ducks and waders at this site. Short-eared Owls are fairly reliable and a good chance of raptors, while scarce grebes and Spoonbill are also possible.
Meet at 8.30am at Farlington Marshes car park (SU678044 / PO6 1UN is nearest but is north of the A27). The car park is just after the traffic lights on the slip road from the A27 to the A2030 (south), via a sharp left under a yellow bar: park at end of track.
Contact Marcus I'Anson: 01344 773072 or 07801219007

Thursday 23rd November 2017

Mid-week morning walk at Little Marlow Gravel Pit, Bucks.
This site contains a variety of water birds, plus trees and scrub for other species. There is always something odd or interesting here.
Meet at 10.00am near the church in Church Lane at Little Marlow (SU874878 / SL93RZ)
Contact Ray Reedman: 0118 9864338

Sunday 3rd December 2017

Weekend day trip by car to the WWT London Wetland Centre
(Entry non-members of WWT £12.26/£9.17)
Attracts a wide variety of wild birds, including Bittern and Peregrine, and is always worth a visit, since rare or unusual birds often stop over. Centre also has excellent provision of hot meals and snacks.
Meet at 9.30am at the entrance (TQ 226767 / SW13 9SA)
Contact Bill Nicoll: 01344 455403

Tuesday 19th December 2017

Mid-week morning walk & Christmas lunch at Hosehill, Theale
Walk to check out the birds on and around the lakes – there should be plenty to see. Following the walk there will be a Christmas lunch at the Fox and Hounds. Join in either or both of these events.
Meet for the walk at 10.00am at the Fox and Hounds car park (SU649698 / RG7 4BD)
Menu etc. and booking (essential) via Carole White on 01344 452058 or carole.ann471@btinternet.com

Thursday 4th January 2018

Mid-week morning walk at Dinton Pastures, Hurst
Get your year-list off to a good start, or just come to enjoy some fresh air and the company. The birds are always be in good supply here.
Meet at 10.00am at Lavell's Lake car park, Sandford Lane (SU786727 / RG10 OSU) (Parking permits from machine in CP on opposite side of road)
Contact Marcus I'Anson: 01344 773072 or 07801219007

Sunday 14th January 2016

Weekend Coach trip with Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB to WWT Slimbridge
Come to see the Bewick's Swans, Cranes and masses of wildfowl and waders that gather at this major conservation site.
Depart at 7.30am from Finchampstead Village Hall (SU792631 / RG40 4JT)
Pick-up at 8.00am Whiteknights Park, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719 / RG6 6UR)
Book with Ian Payne: 07437600343. Cost £15 (coach) plus Entry.

Sunday 21st January 2018

Weekend day trip by car to Keyhaven/Pennington marshes, Hants
A huge variety of waders and wildfowl, and a good chance too of sea-ducks, divers and scarce grebes. The area rarely fails to produce.
Meet at 9.00am at Keyhaven car park (SZ308916 / SO41 OTR nearest) for limited free parking; there is a paying car park nearby.
Contact Rob Godden: 07543800921

Sunday 4th February 2018

Weekend Coach trip East Berks RSPB to RSPB Minsmere, Suffolk,
A winter magnet for many species – wildfowl and waders on the marshes/pools, seawatching from the shore. All sorts can turn up here.
Meet at 7.00am from Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)
Book with Helen Pearson: email HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com or tel 01628 63964. Cost £20.

Thursday 22nd -Sun 25th February 2018

Long weekend in Suffolk and Norfolk by car
Following the traditional pattern of visiting the Suffolk coast, an overnight stay in Great Yarmouth, before two further nights at Hunstanton. The trip list for this weekend is always impressive.
Early booking is essential. Full details provided to participants.
Contact Colin Wilson tel 01252 837411 or email: wilson.blakeney@gmail.com

Thursday 8th March 2018

Mid-week morning walk at Twyford lakes and the Loddon
It will be pot luck as to what birds are around but the walk and optional pub visit for some social time over a drink or lunch will be enjoyable.
Meet at 10.00am in the car park of the Waggon and Horses (SU 784760 / RG10 9GA)
Contact Ray Reedman: 0118 98634338

Thursday 22nd March 2018

Mid-week morning walk at Wishmoor (near Sandhurst/Camberley)
Mixed habitat of heath and woodland, which can produce a variety of special birds, such as Dartford Warbler, Crossbill, Woodlark and Great Grey Shrike. Always something of interest here.
Meet at 10.00am at the extreme north end of Kings Ride, Camberley (SU875620 / GU15 4LY)
Contact Renton Righelato: email renton.righelato@berksoc.org.uk; call or text 07879812564

Thursday 12th April 2018

Weekday trip by car to Combe Hill, Inkpen
Migrating Ring Ouzels, Wheatears etc. stop to feed on this magnificent limestone ridge. Ravens are certain plus chance of a variety of raptors.
Meet at 9.00am at the Combe Gibbet car park at the top of the ridge (SU370620 / RG17 9EL nearest)
Contact Chris Foster: 07779302347

Sunday 22nd April 2018

Weekend day trip by car to Farmoor Reservoir
Early start for late-staying wintering divers, wildfowl, gulls and terns, passage waders, ospreys, wagtails etc. Much depends on the weather.
Meet at 8.30am at the reservoir car park (SP451060 / OX29LU)
Contact Ray Reedman: 0118 9864338

Saturday 5th May 2018

Weekend trip by coach to Rutland Water with East Berks RSPB
Visit starts at the Lyndon Centre with an introductory talk and a guided walk to see the nesting Ospreys. Coach transfer to Egleton Birdwatching Centre where there are a number of hides to visit in search of the wide variety of breeding birds. The hides are spread out, so be prepared for a walk if you want to visit them all.
Depart at 7.00am from Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)
Book with Helen Pearson: email HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com or tel 01628 639648. Cost £20.

Friday 18th-Sun 20th May 2018

Long weekend trip by car to Kent
Kent has some wonderful sites: Cliffe, Elmley, Oare Marshes, Grove Ferry and Dungeness to name a few. Trip will cover a number of these at one of the most productive seasons. This corner of the country can produce much.
Early booking is essential. Full details will be provided to participants.
Contact Rob Godden: 07543800921

Thursday 14th June

Evening trip by car for a walk on the Berkshire Downs
This walk usually finds us many of the downland specialities - buntings, finches, larks, pipits and partridges, but we will be seeking out the odd rarity too. It's a good walk, so expect to get home late.
Meet at 7.30pm just past Starvall Farm: 1 mile north of Aldworth (SU544810 / RG8 9TX)
Contact Renton Righelato email renton.righelato@berksoc.org.uk; call or text 07879812564

Thursday 28th June 2018

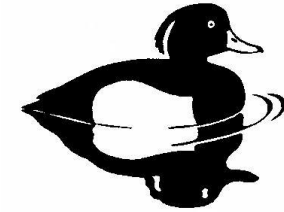
Evening trip by car to Padworth Common
This trip is about Nightjar, Woodcock and anything else that performs as the evening light fades. Activity usually climaxes at around 10 p.m.
Meet at 8.00pm at the car park at the junction of Reading Rd/Baughurst Rd and Rectory Rd. (SU 619 648 / RJ7 4JB)
N.B. a bit closer to Aldermaston than the site visited in previous years
Contact Chris Foster: 07779302347

Possible Extra Event in July 2018: Great Bustard Project in Wiltshire
Given sufficient interest, we will arrange a small-group visit by car to see where the reintroduced birds are now living and breeding. Participants will need to be flexible as to date, time and car sharing. Lifts can be arranged
Contact Ray Reedman: 0118 9864338 to register interest as soon as possible. Cost of entry £15.

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th October 2018

Long weekend trip to North Norfolk
Based close to the iconic reserves of this bird-rich coast, this has become a regular event. The variety and quantity of birds at this season offer a rewarding weekend for birders of all experiences.
Early booking is essential. Full details will be provided to participants.
Contact Marcus P'Anson: 01344 773072 or 07801219007

**BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
2017/2018**



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Presidents Emeritus:
Robert Gillmor, Andy Swash

President: Neil Bucknell

Chairman: Mike Turton

Secretary: Sally Wearing
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Treasurer: Eleanor Pitts

Membership Secretary: Iain Oldcorn
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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:
Sue Charnley John Swallow
Adrian Lawson Jake Bishop
Andy Horscroft Becky Thomas

Club Web site: www.berksoc.org.uk

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