

INDOOR MEETINGS 2018/19

All meetings will take place on Wednesdays starting at 8 pm in Room 109 in the Palmer Building at Reading University.

October 3 rd 2018	Mike Alibone, Birdwatch Magazine Birding Israel An exploration of Israel's diverse habitats and birds, including an overview of key sites and recent conservation initiatives for migrants, wintering and breeding birds.
October 17 th 2018	Ashley Grove, Tour Leader and Photographer Lammergeiers of the Spanish Pyrenees This talk explains about the Bearded Vulture's life history, where they can be found and shows other birds that share their world, such as Golden Eagles and other vulture species.
October 31 st 2018	Lynne Derry, Great Bustard Group Great Bustards A fascinating update on the reintroduction of the heaviest flying birds in the world to the rolling Wiltshire countryside.
November 14 th 2018	Barry Oxley, Wildlife Photographer Tantalising Tubenoses A look at these many truly amazing 'pelagic' birds, including albatrosses, shearwaters and petrels, which spend most of their lives at sea.
November 28 th 2018	AGM plus Andrew Cleave MBE, Writer and Photographer Birding in Belarus A brief visit to the vast forests and marshes of Belarus during the breeding season when the air is filled with birdsong. Familiar UK species are found here but rarities also find a home in the undeveloped landscape. Some are benefiting from skilled habitat management while other species thrive in the open countryside.
December 12 th 2018	Conservation at Christmas Something exciting and new. Several short talks with the latest news from our local conservation groups. Along with festive nibbles to get us in the Christmas mood!
January 16 th 2019	Ian Cowgill, FIBOT Director A History of Fair Isle The interesting history of the observatory which was founded in 1948 on this remote Shetland island - famous for its numerous rare bird records..
January 30 th 2019	Kevin Cox, Chairman of the RSPB Challenges Facing Bird Conservation Kevin, who has been the Chair of the RSPB since October 2017, will tell us in more detail about the many challenges that bird conservation is facing.
February 13 th 2019	Mike Leach, Author and Photographer The Penguin - A Fish with Feathers Sailors on first seeing them called them 'strange geoses!' We will learn more about the identification, myths, breeding and pure fascination with these incredible birds.
February 27 th 2019	Paul Cropper Radar and Migration We welcome Paul back again from his home in Yorkshire to tell us how radar is being used to help us understand and interpret bird movement and migration.
March 13 th 2019	Photographic Competition With images of birds getting more and more detailed, our annual competition is one not to be missed!

March 27 th 2019	Bea Walecki WWT Llanelli Wetlands Bea is a student at Reading University doing an internship as a reserve warden. She will tell us about the reserve and its management and, of course, the birds that are seen there.
April 10 th 2019	Keith Betton, Author and Hampshire Bird Recorder Hampshire's Special Birds We'll be hearing about the changing make-up of the bird population, such as Little Egrets arriving and Willow Tits going.

FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2018/19

Monday 10th September 2018

Day trip by car to Titchfield Haven

Titchfield is good for terns, with passage raptors, waders and song birds too. Bearded Tits can be seen and there is always some off-shore interest.

Meet at 8.30 a.m. on Meon sea-front for sea watch etc or 9.30 at reserve centre. Park at the sailing club because of ultra high tide expected. (SU535023/ PO14 3JT)

Contact: Carole White 01344 452058 or carole.ann471@btinternet.com

Saturday 15th September 2018

Weekend day trip by coach to Portland Bill and Radipole Lake, with East Berks RSPB – Cost £20

Sea-bird passage and migratory movement of land birds at Portland Bill, while Radipole often has a surprise or two in its reed-beds and open water.

Meet at 7 a.m. Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead. (SU892798/SL6 1DX)
OR at 7.30 a.m. at Whiteknights Park, Shinfield Road main entrance. (SU728719/RG6 6UR)

Book: Helen Pearson: HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com or 01628 639648.

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th October 2018

Long weekend in North Norfolk

This trip will take in a variety of sites. In 2017, the list included Red-necked and Grey Phalaropes, Rosy Starling, three skua species, etc, with a flock of well over 20 Cranes at Welney. Check with the leader in case there is a late place, or make sure of your place on 2019 trip (see below).

Contact: Marcus I'Anson 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Thursday October 25th 2018

Mid-week walk at Southcote/Fobney

A 4ml/7km walk following the River Kennet through the Fobney Island reserve. A wide variety of birds in the diverse habitats of this area.

Meet at 10 a.m. at Circuit Lane, Southcote. Parking is limited (alt. no 25 bus). (SU692717/RG30 3HH)

Contact: Adrian Lawson 07716348948 or 348948@gmail.com

Saturday 10th November 2018

Day trip by car to Rainham Marshes Purfleet, Essex

A bird oasis with marsh, pools and scrub which attract wildfowl, waders, gulls and passerines, including rarities. Surprisingly close, via the M25.

Meet at 9.30 a.m. at the reserve car park at New Tank Hill Rd, (TQ547787/RM19 1SZ)

Contact: Ray Reedman 01189864338 or meander2@hotmail.com

Thurs 22nd November 2018

Mid-week walk at Jubilee River, near Maidenhead

The Thames relief channel attracts a wide selection of wetland and farmland birds. Dorney Common can also hold some interesting birds.

Meet at 10 a.m. at Dorney Wetlands car park beside the B3026 Lake End Road north of Dorney. (SU928795/SL46QS nearest).
Contact: Bill Nicoll 01344 455403

Saturday 8th December 2018

Day trip by car to Pagham Harbour

A winter paradise for many species of wildfowl, gulls and waders, along with raptors. Off-shore can have divers, sea ducks and grebes.

Meet at 9.30 a.m. at the Ferry Pools RSPB centre, Selsey Rd. (SZ856966 / PO20 7NE)

Contact: Chris Foster 07779 302347

Tues 18th December 2018

Mid-week morning walk and/or Christmas lunch at Hosehill, Theale

Check out the birds on and around the lakes. Followed by Christmas lunch at the Fox and Hounds. Join in either or both of these events.

Meet at 10 a.m. for the walk at the Fox and Hounds car park. (SU649698 / RG7 4BD)

Menu and Booking (essential) via Carole White on 01344 452058 or carole.ann471@btinternet.com

Thursday 3rd January 2019

Mid-week walk at Moor Green (with an optional pub lunch)

Open your year-lists at one of the richest local winter sites. Gulls and wildfowl, with a chance of owls, raptors, winter thrushes and finches.

Meet at 10 a.m. at Moor Green car park off Lower Sandhurst Road (SU805 628 / RG40 3TJ)

Contact: Marcus I'Anson 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Saturday 12th January 2019

Day trip by coach to WWT Slimbridge - Cost £20 plus entry fee

Extensive wetlands - a patchwork of water, marsh and fields, with many wild birds. Rarities frequent. Excellent facilities.

Depart 7.30 a.m. Whiteknights Park, Shinfield Road main entrance. (SU728719 / RG6 6UR)

Book: Ray Reedman: meander2@hotmail.com or 0118 9864338

Thursday 24th January 2019

Mid-week trip by car to Blashford Lakes

Site with woodland and lakes, and plenty of hides, with a wide variety of birds. Gull roost can hold scarcer species.

Meet 10 a.m. at the visitor centre. (SU150080/ BH24 3PJ nearest)
Contact: Marcus I'Anson 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Sunday 3rd February 2019

Weekend day trip by coach to Dungeness,

with East Berks RSPB – Cost £20

Famous for its sea-birds and waders, in winter there will be raptors, owls, scarce grebes, maybe Smew and Black Redstarts. Never disappoints.

Meet at 7 a.m. at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead. (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)

Book: Helen Pearson: HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com or 01628 639648.

Thursday 14th February 2019

Mid week walk on Berkshire Downs

A walk along Ridgeway. Expect winter thrushes, finches and buntings, and an owl, shrike or raptor might show too. Optional pub lunch.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Bury Down car park near West Ilsley off the A34. (SU478841/ OX12 8QX nearest)

Contact: Robert Godden 07543 800921

Sunday March 17th 2019

Weekend day trip by car to Portland and Weymouth

Early migrants; sea-birds will be arriving or passing and maybe the odd rare wader. Plan flexible to allow for news etc. It will be a fairly early start, so have an overnight stay or come on the day.

Please contact the leader at least a week before for details.

Contact: Robert Godden 07543 800921

Sunday 24th March 2019

Weekend walk at Southcote/Fobney

This is a 4ml/7km walk following the river through Fobney Island reserve. Arriving spring migrants, including possibly Wood Sandpiper, Garganey and Grasshopper Warbler.

Meet at 10 a.m. at Circuit Lane, Southcote. Parking is limited (alt. no 25 bus). (SU692717/RG30 3HH)

Contact: Adrian Lawson 07716348948 or 348948@gmail.com

Sunday 7th April 2019

Week-end trip by car to Warsash

Passage migrants in hedges, fields and marshes, waders in the wet areas and sea-birds offshore. A rewarding area at this time of year.

Meet at 10 a.m. in the Passage Lane public car park (with toilets), Warsash. (SU489062 / SO31 9FW)

Contact: Bill Nicoll 01344 455403

Thurs 25th April 2019

Week-day trip by car to RSPB Otmoor

This site, with its varied habitats, is a magnet for birds. Warblers will be singing. Marsh Harriers, Bittern breed, with waders and wildfowl. Plus Cuckoos and hopefully also the iconic Turtle Doves.

Meet at the car park at 10 a.m. (SP569125/OX3 9TD nearest)

Contact: Marcus I'Anson 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

Saturday 4th May 2019

Weekend day trip by coach to Titchwell, Norfolk - Cost £20

A long way, but not when someone else is driving. Top reserve for its richness and special birds. Who knows what might turn up?

Meet at 7 a.m. at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798 / SL6 1DX)

Book: Helen Pearson: HelenEBRSPB@gmail.com or 01628 639648

Thurs 23rd May 2019

Day-trip by car to the New Forest

Early meet for early risers, or later if preferred. A chance to see and hear some of the local specialities - Redstart, Firecrest and Wood Warbler. Later at the raptor viewpoints for Goshawk, Tree Pipit and Woodlark.

Meet at 7 a.m. at Bolderwood car park (SU244083/ SO43 7GE nearest) OR at 10 a.m. at Acres Down car park

Contact: Ray Reedman 0118 9864338 or meander2@hotmail.com

Sunday 9th June 2019

BOC Coach trip to RSPB Ham Wall, Somerset - Cost £20

At the heart of the area used for the reintroduction of Cranes, but just as famous for breeding Bitterns, Great Egrets and other much scarcer herons. Explore this highly esteemed site - a new summer venue for us.

Depart 7 a.m. Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead (SU892798/ SL6 1DX)

Pick up: 7.30 a.m. at Whiteknights Park, Shinfield Road main entrance. (SU728719 / RG6 6UR)

Book: Ray Reedman: meander2@hotmail.com or 0118 9864338

Thursday 27th June 2019

An evening walk at Wishmoor Bottom

A visit to this heathland site for Dartford Warbler, Tree Pipit and Woodlark while waiting for the dusk flights of Nightjar and Woodcock. A magical time of day, given calm conditions. Keep an eye on the weather forecast.

Meet at 8 p.m. at the north end of Kings Ride, Camberley.

(GU15 4NG / SU880622)

Contact: Ted Rogers 01344 883237 or ted.rogers@btinternet.com

Thurs July 25th 2019

An evening bat walk at Whiteknights Park, Reading

For most of us bats are a mystery, but BOC member Elaine Charlson knows them well and will lead us on a walk to find and identify local species. Might even get some owls. Don't expect an early night of course!

Meet at 8.45 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 at elainemcharlson@gmail.com

Saturday 17th August 2019

BOC Weekend Coach Trip to the British Birdwatching Fair - Cost £34 (including entry)

A trip to the biggest gathering of bird enthusiasts. Extensive variety of exhibitions, free talks by leading experts, and special bird watching too. (N.B. This trip will now be biennial, so your next chance will be in 2021.)

Depart 7.00 a.m. Whiteknights Park, Shinfield Road main entrance (SU728719 / RG6 6UR)

Pick up: 7.30 a.m. at Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground) Braywick Rd Maidenhead. (SU892798/ SL6 1DX)

Book: Ray Reedman: meander2@hotmail.com or 0118 9864338

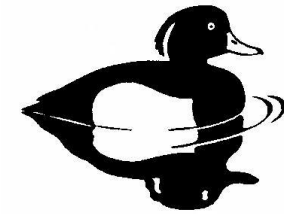
Friday October 18th - Sunday 20th October

Long weekend by car to North Norfolk

The leader will organise car-shares and very good value accommodation at a well-trusted guest house. An early start on Friday ensures a good day's birding. We then have a full day at some of the best sites in the country and use the return trip to visit other exciting sites. This is a great introduction to a wide variety of birds, but it also throws up some real rarities too. Book early to guarantee a place.

Book: Marcus I'Anson: 01344 773072 or 078012 19007

**BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
2018/2019**



OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Presidents Emeritus:

Neil Bucknell, Robert Gillmor, Andy Swash

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Chairman: Richard Stansfield

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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:
Position Vacant

Committee:

Sue Charnley John Swallow

Adrian Lawson Jake Bishop

Andy Horscroft Ken Moore

Club Web site: www.berksoc.org.uk

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