



WAVENEY BIRD CLUB OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

We recently had a committee meeting to discuss the events programme for next year. One of the highlights of next year's programme is a Waveney Bird Club Trip to the **SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS 21st April – 28th April 2023**. We anticipate this trip will be very popular, there are limited spaces available and **we are taking bookings now**.

We hope to be staying at Pine House, a self-catering house near Grantown-on-Spey. (<http://www.thepineshouse.com/#!/gallery/c63g>).

I have attached a **Draft** itinerary to this newsletter. If you are interested, please contact Kathy as soon as possible on: - **01986 893311**.

Anyone on the trip will have to make their own way up to Grantown-on-Spey. There are various options, flying, driving or going by train, but once confirmed Kathy will send out a booking form and further details, you will also have to send in a **deposit of £125 to secure your place**. This is very important because we have to pay a deposit for the house and this will confirm your place on the trip. We anticipate that most of the group will choose to take the 90-minute flight from Luton Airport to Inverness. Currently, airfares are priced at £60 return plus baggage. You will be responsible for booking your own flights, but Kathy would be pleased to help. A minibus will be hired to transport people from Inverness Airport and then daily from site to site. Please note - **Do not book anything until you have heard from Kathy that your place on the trip is confirmed**.

Other highlights of our 2023 programme include, a talk on Swifts, a trip to look at sites occupied by swifts around Cambridgeshire, a talk on The Wildlife of Finland and a talk on Little Terns. There will be the usual indoor events during the year and as usual as soon as everything is finalised it will be on the Web Site

SWIFT TOWER UPDATE

This is an exciting project that will involve the building of the first swift tower on the Suffolk coast. After a setback at Walberswick, we are now planning to build our tower within the grounds of the Eelsfoot Inn at Eastbridge. The project has been welcomed by Adnams (the landowners), the pub landlord, the Parish Council and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. We have submitted a Planning Application and this is likely to be determined in late-October. The swift tower will take the form of a beautifully-carved cedar totem pole with a dovecot chamber on top to house several swift boxes. Church tower-like louvers will clad the chamber and audio equipment will be used to attract breeding swifts. We are grateful to our grant providers Suffolk Coast and Heaths (AONB) and to those who have made donations. As with the Access for All Path (see below), Rob Gooderham has freely provided detailed drawings to complement our submissions and Bob Flyndall (WBC Project Officer) has shared his planning knowledge and written our Planning Application.

ACCESS FOR ALL PATH UPDATE

Following a number of setbacks, the “Access for All Path” at RSPB Minsmere is finally under construction and work is progressing well (please see website for photos showing the weekly construction progress). For the past five years, this has been the club’s flagship project with an aim to raise funds in partnership with RSPB Minsmere. The principal objective was to provide access for those less mobile to Minsmere’s East Hide that provides some amazing views of East Scrape. We have been frustrated by delays caused by Covid restrictions and a steep rise in material costs arguably due to Brexit. The path will take the form of a boardwalk including ramps from the North Wall and a new bridge across the dyke close to the hide. East Hide has been extended to host more people and particularly those with wheelchairs. Benches will be strategically placed along the route to allow visitors to rest and enjoy the wildlife. It is anticipated that the work will be completed at the end of October and an official opening will be held in December to which our sponsors and those who have made significant contributions will be invited. We owe a huge thank you to Rob Gooderham and Kathy Piotrowski for their continued enthusiasm and to Katie Fairhurst (RSPB Minsmere) for managing the project so well.

UPDATE ON EVENTS

We had a very successful trip to Lincolnshire in September. The highlights included views of a Long Tailed Skua, a Cattle Egret, an impressive early arrival of Pinkfeet as well as Curlew Sandpipers and little Stint in large numbers. The final species list was 101. We hope to repeat this trip again next year. Eliza Leat from the RSPB started off our autumn meetings with a talk on her Turtle Dove Project which was well attended.



Sea watching in Chapel St Leonards outside the Admiral Benbow pub.



We're raffling this Naturewatch Proteam nestbox camera. The list price is £90 and the camera will be available to view at the next three indoor events. Proceeds will go towards the Swift Tower project. The winner will be drawn at the indoor meeting on December 13th. Tickets can be purchased at the indoor meetings for £2 each.

The box is a little tatty but the camera is new and unused.

EVENTS STILL TO COME FOR 2022

We still have a number of events before the end of the year and all details are on the Waveney Bird Club Web site. **Dates for your diary**

Tuesday 11th October, Tracking Migrating Birds, Speaker - Dr Ieuan Evans

Sunday 16th October, Migrant Hunt: Gunton Wood, Gunton Warren and Corton Wood

Thursday 10th November, A Day in North Norfolk with Moss Taylor.

Tuesday 15th November, Black Tailed Godwit in Suffolk and Beyond, Speaker – Ed Keeble

Sunday 4th December, Buckenham Marshes and Stubbs Mill

Tuesday 13th December, Ospreys at Home and Away, Speaker – Paul Stammers. Followed by Night Parrots of Australia - Speaker George Swan (from Australia)

Details of all of these events can be found on the WBC website

<https://waveneybirdclub.com/programme-of-events/>

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

For the AGM in April 2023, we intend to do a review of the year covering Waveney Bird Club events and birding highlights. If you have any photos taken at WBC events that would help us to put the review together, please send them to Mark at broughton.m@btinternet Good photos of rare or unusual species in our area would be very useful as would photos of WBC activities.

Regards

The Waveney Bird Club Committee

