

Mid-Herts Local Group



Herts and Middlesex

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE MID-HERTS LOCAL GROUP - OCTOBER 2017 - MARCH 2018



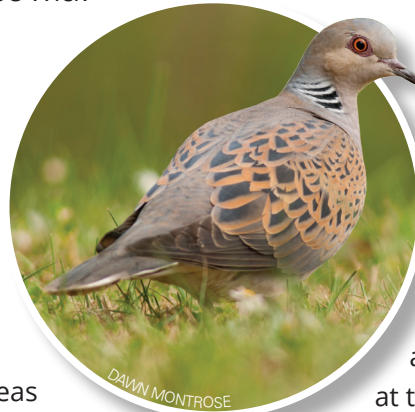
DAVE LAMING

Another six months of wildlife treats has flown by! In January we enjoyed a successful Mystery Local Birdwatch planning our venue the week before as opposed to 12 months so as to take advantage of the Herts Bird Club sightings list. We ended up on our doorstep at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits and before we knew it our bird list was up to 30 species including two magnificent great white egrets and a little egret, peregrine falcon, tree sparrows and a glimpse of water rail.

In April we immersed ourselves in the beauty of the Essex Wildlife

Trust's Fingeringhoe Wick reserve where the hides provided amazing close-up, high tide views of numerous waders including stunning godwits in full breeding plumage. The woodland edge areas provided a constant exquisite nightingale serenade - a fantastic place to celebrate the arrival of spring migrants. We also dropped by the nearby Abberton Reservoir for a guided walk by the RSPB warden who told us about their habitat management scheme to attract now rarely seen turtle doves.

Only a week later we were once again training our ears to nature's nocturnal music this time the loud rasping rolling croak 'err...errr...errr'. of the rare natterjack



DAWN MONTROSE

Turtle dove

Grass snake

toad which can be heard from up to 2km away on quiet nights. Thanks to wonderful habitat management numbers are increasing annually at the RSPB HQ in Sandy.

In June at the Commons Nature Reserve, supported by its Chairman Glyn Dimond and David Willis of the Herts Herpetological society, we had close encounters with slow worms and a grass snake. Most attendees, child and parent alike, had never seen either before and were blown away by their gorgeous markings. Helping nature light up peoples lives is what we do this for and we hope that it will help recruit more people to support the superb conservation work undertaken by our Wildlife Trust across Herts & Middlesex.



DAVE LAMING

Little egret

MID-HERTS LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP EVENTS OCTOBER 2017 - MARCH 2018

Venue for all indoor evening events: Howlands Baptist Church, The Commons, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4RS. Adjacent to Commonswood School. Suggested donation £3/5 for members/non-members unless otherwise stated. Families welcome. Please check for pushchair and wheelchair accessibility at outdoor events. Contact: Neale Holmes-Smith 01707 324313 or Penny Fanthorpe 07761712245 penny.fanthorpe@ntlworld.com

Sunday 8 October 12pm - 4:30pm

Apple Day at Tewin Orchard

Join the Trust for the annual celebration of all things apple at Tewin cricket ground on Upper Green Road, Tewin. There will be apples for sale along with apple juice, preserves, tea, coffee and cake. Experts will be on hand to identify varieties of apple and provide advice on fruit tree care. No booking required.

Tuesday 24 October 8pm

Brazil- A Naturalist's Paradise

Take a photographic tour of the Atlantic Coastal Forest. Followed by the tropical wetlands of the Pantanal in Mato Grosso do Sul State for dramatic encounters with jaguars, caiman, giant anteaters and more plus the 1,700 bird species that share their world. Meet 8pm at Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required

Sunday 19 November 8.30am - 4.30pm

RSPB Rainham Marshes

A full day event on the medieval marshes right next to the river Thames, one of the few ancient landscapes remaining in London. With the help of our reserve guide you can expect to see large flocks of wildfowl, birds of prey and rare birds at this important place for wildlife. Car share available from Campus West, Welwyn Garden City (local charges apply plus petrol contribution). Reserve free to RSPB members, non-members: £5 adult and £3 child. Car park: voluntary £1 donation. Booking essential with Ian Cogger on 01920 484373 / 07598 758672 or ianogger53@gmail.com

Tuesday 28 November 8pm

Wildlife Crime

The RSPB Special Investigations team assists UK and International statutory agencies to investigate crimes against wild birds in the UK. Hear about the fascinating detective work and commitment to the protection of our wildlife from Operational Investigators Guy Shorrocks and Mark Thomas from RSPB HQ. Meet 8pm at Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required.

Wednesday 27 December 09.30am - 4pm

Post Christmas walk from Fishers Green

Enjoy this wildlife haven with large expanses of reedbeds to spot wintering birds. including bittern. Walk will be 5-6 miles. Car share from Welwyn Garden City or meet at 10.00am in car park Fishers Green. Stubbins Hall Lane Waltham Abbey Essex EN9 2EF Grid Ref TL377032 . Lunch available in Waltham Abbey. Booking essential with Neale Holmes-Smith on 01707 324313

Sunday 14 January

Tewin Orchard work party 10.00am - 3.00pm.

Annual Work Party at Tewin Orchard. Meet at the entrance to Tewin Orchard on Upper Green Road, Tewin. Pass the cricket ground on the left. Immediately after a bend turn right at sign into Tewin Orchard (TL268155). Tea and coffee provided but bring lunch if required. Booking essential with Ian Cogger on 01920 484373 / 07598 758672 or ianogger53@gmail.com

Tuesday 23 January 8pm

Fungi, Bees and Parasitic Wasps

Savour the outstanding photographic skills of Andy Sands as he introduces us to rare, strange and vividly colourful UK fungi plus the fascinating rarely-witnessed lives of bees, cuckoo bees and parasitic wasp. Meet 8pm at Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required.

Sunday 11 February 8.30am - 4.30pm

Visit to Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire

Winter sightings at this wonderful reserve include barn owl, fieldfare, stonechat, bittern, snipe and both marsh and hen Harrier. Entrance fees apply (free for NT Members). Car share from Campus West, Welwyn Garden City (local charges apply + petrol contribution). Booking essential with Robin Cole 01438 813403 or 07814 524928; robin.cole@hotmail.com

Tuesday 27 February 2018 8pm

Hares and Foxes

An illustrated evening discovering the world of hares and foxes with the Hare Preservation Society. Meet 8pm at Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required.

Sunday 11 March 10.00am -12.00pm

Mad March Hares at Monks Green, near Hertford

Explore this wonderful farmland countryside on public paths. Booking essential with Vicky Davies victoria.davies481@gmail.com

Tuesday 27 March 2018 8pm -10pm

Poetry evening

Listen, discuss & be inspired by poetry on wildlife, nature and the local landscape. Well-known and contemporary poems chosen and read aloud by members of local poetry groups: U3A, Ver Poets and Poetry ID. If you would like to read aloud a poem of your own choice please contact Claudia on 07754 145029 or claudia.harflett@gmail.com. Meet 8pm at Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required.

