

## INDOOR MEETINGS 2014/15

Unless shown otherwise, meetings will take place on Wednesdays at 8 pm, in Room 109 in the Palmer Building at Reading University. Members admitted free – the usual admission fee for non-members is £4

Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> 2014	<b>Dominic Couzens, Author and trip leader</b> <b>Puffins Near and Far</b> A look at the Puffin's more familiar life at home, and also at the mysterious life it leads on the ocean during the long winter.
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> 2014	<b>Mike Read, Photographer</b> <b>Aotearoa - Land of the Long White Cloud</b> Among the wonderful land and sea birds of New Zealand, Mike sees the impact of human settlement on many native species.
Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2014	<b>Emily Joachim, Hawk Conservancy</b> <b>Little Owls</b> Emily shares with us some of the secrets gleaned during her years of studying this enigmatic little bird.
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> 2014	<b>Colin Wilson, BOC member</b> <b>Morocco</b> We hear about the latest adventure of the "Thrifty Three", as they explore the avian treasures of North Africa.
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup> 2014	<b>AGM &amp; Andrew Cleave, Author/Lecturer</b> <b>Bermuda Petrels</b> Rescued from the brink of extinction by brilliant conservation work. But how safe are they now? Andrew went to find out for himself.
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2014	<b>David Massie, BOC member</b> <b>A Birding Trip to Cuba</b> Island endemics and plenty of exotic beauties are revealed during a Caribbean adventure. The Cuban Tody is guaranteed!
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup> 2014	<b>Social evening/quiz (N.B. at Earley St Peter's Hall)</b> The usual mix of challenge and fun with a plenty of refreshments. It is competitive, but be assured that all knives are plastic!
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> 2015	<b>John Eyre, Hants OC</b> <b>The Secret Lives of Heathland Birds</b> John is a foremost authority on the birds of the Thames Valley heaths - Dartford Warblers, Woodlarks, Nightjars and the like.
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> 2015	<b>Graham Whitehead, BOC member</b> <b>The Birds of Kuwait</b> Deserts, oases, mud-flats and reed-beds – all at the crossroads of two major migration routes. Graham tells us what he found in this promising area.
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup> 2015	<b>Rob Fuller, BTO</b> <b>Hard times for nightingales and other woodland birds</b> Rob looks at the pressures on our woodland species and at challenges for their conservation.
Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> 2015	<b>Tony Jones, Researcher</b> <b>Wood Warblers of the New Forest</b> Tony has conducted a long-term study of the South's last stronghold of this scarce warbler. His observations reveal years of success and failure.
Mar 4 <sup>th</sup> 2015	<b>Photographic Competition</b> <b>Judges: Our own Dicky Duckett and wildlife photographer, Paul Keene, FRPS</b> You don't need to be a photographer to enjoy and learn plenty.

Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> 2015	<b>Conor Jameson, RSPB and author</b> <b>Looking for the Goshawk</b> In keeping with his widely-acclaimed book, Conor talks about his quest to find the elusive goshawk, and what it means to us. There are a few surprises.
Apr 15 <sup>th</sup> 2015	<b>Ray Reedman, BOC member</b> <b>I.D. Workshop: Shades of Grey</b> This session aims to sort out the basic gulls and terns with tips on how to identify and age them. (N.B. at Earley St Peter's Church Hall)

## FIELD TRIPS AND MID-WEEK WALKS 2014/15

**Please check with named contact beforehand, as trips are subject to change or cancellation.**

All members are welcome, plus family and friends, where space allows. There are a number of coach trips this year, but most trips are by private car, when lifts can sometimes be arranged if you ask. Costs are approximate and will be confirmed. Bring food/drink for full day outings. There may be a charge for parking or entry to reserves. Trips involve walks of various lengths, sometimes on footpaths, so please wear suitable clothing and footwear. Mid-week walks are usually morning walks on the third Thursday of the month, meeting at 10:00am (unless another time is stated). For further information about trips and walks talk to the named contact and check the website [www.berksoc.org.uk](http://www.berksoc.org.uk).

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014**  
**Raptormania in Andalucia (Pre-booked)**  
Ken White (email: [white.zoothera@gmail.com](mailto:white.zoothera@gmail.com))

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014**  
**East Berks RSPB Coach trip to Titchwell, Norfolk**  
Cost £20  
A migration hot-spot at this season and rarities are possible, even probable. Meet at 7 a.m. at the entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1DX (SU892798). Book with Ernie Allen on 01628 625324

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014**  
**Weekday trip by car to Hook by Warsash**  
A mixture of seashore, estuary, woodland and grassland attracts a wide variety of birds. At this season there should be numerous passage migrants.. Meet at 10 a.m. in the Passage Lane public car park (with toilets), Warsash SO31 9FW (SU489062)  
Contact Bill Nicoll by email [treasurer@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@berksoc.org.uk) (or 01344 455403)

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
**BOC Coach trip to Dungeness, Kent**  
Cost £21  
Another migration hotspot. We will spend the morning in the RSPB reserve and in the afternoon move to the area round the observatory and power station to watch the sea and to check for migrants. Meet at 7 a.m. at Reading, Whiteknights Park, Main entrance, (RG6 6UR) Pick up at 7.30 a.m. at Bracknell, the Ring outside Charles Square car park. RG12 1DR (SU872692) (N.B. Please check when booking) )  
Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
**Long weekend by car to Cornwall (Book urgently if wish to join)**  
Migrants and rarities in South West  
Contact Colin Wilson: [colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk) or on 01252 837411

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**  
**Mid-week walk at Wraybury GP**

Due to parking problems at Wraybury the Mid-week Walk on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November will now be around **Twyford Gravel Pits**. The meeting time is 10am in the car park beside the Wagon & Horses pub on the Old Bath Road, west of Twyford (at SU784760). A similar variety of winter water birds and passerines are to be expected. Please note that, given the recent rain, the paths may be muddy. Contact Bill Nicoll by email [treasurer@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@berksoc.org.uk) (or 01344 455403)

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014**  
**Weekend day trip by car to the Isle of Sheppey**  
Starting at Shellness, then Harty Ferry, then to Elmley for the afternoon. Raptors, owls, waders, wildfowl, seabirds – almost anything is possible in this major wintering area. Meet at seafront car park at Leysdown-on-Sea at 8.30 a.m. (TR044697)  
Contact Colin Wilson: [colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk) or on 01252 837411

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014**  
**Mid-week walk at Dinton Pastures, followed by Christmas Lunch at the Wheelwright Arms, Hurst (N.B. attend either or both)**  
Dinton is a prime wintering area for wildfowl. Bitterns are often present. Two-course lunch cost: circa £20. Please book with £5 deposit by 19<sup>th</sup> November (AGM)  
Meet at Lavell's Lake Car Park at SU786726 at 10 a.m. (£1.50 charge)  
Contact Carole White on 01344 452058

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**Mid-week walk Woolhampton GP**  
This is a prime winter site for wildfowl, with a rarity always possible. Meet at 10 a.m. in the car park by next to the Rowbarg Inn (RG75SH) (SU 572665)  
Contact Ray Reedman 01189864338

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**BOC Coach trip to WWT Slimbridge, Glos.**  
Cost £21 Non-WWT members will also need to pay an entrance of £8.25 (concession) or £10.80)  
There will be no end of wildfowl and waders at this season, and cranes from the reintroduction programme. There is a huge collection of wildfowl and an excellent restaurant for those who don't want to sit in hides all day. We will stay for the spectacular floodlit feed. Meet at Reading, Whiteknights Park main entrance, (RG6 6UR) at 7.45 a.m.  
Book with Ray Reedman on 0118 9864338

**Sunday 8 February 2015**  
**East Berks RSPB Coach trip to Arne, Dorset**  
Cost £20  
Prime heathland habitat and wintering waders and wildfowl in Poole Harbour  
Meet at 7 a.m. at the entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1DX (SU892798).  
Book with Ernie Allen on 01628 625324

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Long weekend by car to Norfolk**

This perennial favourite is based for one night in Great Yarmouth and two at Hunstanton. That way we cover a huge range of sites and habitats in one of the best areas for wintering birds. Rarities are regular. *Advanced booking is essential.*

Contact Bill Nicoll by email [treasurer@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@berksoc.org.uk) (or 01344 455403)

**Thursday 19th February 2015**

**Mid-week afternoon walk at Bury Down**

Downland finches, buntings and thrushes may be augmented by a few raptors and owls.

Meet at 2 p.m. at Bury Down car park, just off the A34 near West Ilsley (SU 490840)

Contact Peter Burden 0118 9784453

**Thursday 19th March 2015**

**Mid-week walk at Wishmoor Bottom**

Finches, woodpeckers and heath-land birds, with maybe a few treasures among them.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the north end of Kings Ride (GU15 4NG) (SU880622)

Contact Colin Wilson: [colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:colin.wilson@berksoc.org.uk) or on 01252 837411

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB Coach Trip to Newport Wetlands**

Depart Finchampstead Village Hall, Fleet Hill, (SU 792631) at 7.30 a.m.

Pick up at Reading, *opposite main entrance* of Whiteknights Park, (RG6 6UR) at 8 a.m. (Cost and timings to be confirmed when booking)

Book with Ian Paine on 07806432458 (call or text)

or email: [i.paine@ntlworld.com](mailto:i.paine@ntlworld.com)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Mid-week walk at Greenham Common**

At this season there is a strong chance of passage migrants, as well as some classic heath-land species.

Meet at the Control Tower car park off Burys Bank Rd (SU 499651) at 10 a.m.

Contact Renton Righelato on 0787 981 2564

**Sunday 26th April 2015**

**Weekend day trip by car to Hurst Spit and Keyhaven**

Sea-watching for late divers and scoters, passage skuas, auks and gannets, newly-arrived terns etc. Then to the marshes to seek out waders and passerines.

Meet at 8.30 a.m. off the lay-by at lower end of New Lane, Milford on Sea (off Milford to Keyhaven Road) (SU299908)

Contact Chris Foster on 07779 302347

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**East Berks RSPB Coach trip to Portland Bill and Radipole**

Cost £20

Passage sea-birds; nesting auks and kittiwakes; possible ravens and peregrines; and incoming migrants – and that is just the morning. Add ducks, waders and more passerines in the afternoon.

Meet at 7 a.m. at the entrance to Braywick Park (Braywick Sports Ground), Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1DX (SU892798).

Book with Ernie Allen on 01628 625324

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Mid-week walk at Thursley Common**

This unique site contains heath, bog, and woodland, and a variety of birds to match.

Meet at 10 a.m. in the Moat car park off Thursley Road, south of Elstead (GU8 6LW) (SU 900416)

Contact Carole White on 01344 452058

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Weekday trip by car to the New Forest**

Meet EITHER at Bolderwood Car Park (SU242086) at 7 a.m. for early morning woodland walk with the possibility of wood warbler, firecrest, hawfinch, crossbill, spotted flycatcher etc.

OR at 10.30 a.m. in the car park at Acres Down (SU268097) for a raptor watch, with goshawk and honey-buzzard possible.

Contact Ray Reedman on 0118 9864338

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Weekend trip by car to North Wales.**

A chance to see birds we don't see in the south, including Chough, Puffin, and Black Guillemot. With breaks on the journeys there and back in search of Dippers and Pied Flycatchers. We will probably be based in Betws-y-Coed.

Contact Carole White (01344 452058) before end of December if interested.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Evening mid-week walk on the Downs at Churn**

Typical Downland species – partridge, corn-bunting, yellowhammer and yellow wagtail, but also the chance of a rarity of two

Meet at 7.30 p.m. at the far end of Boham's Road (2 miles) at SU 510833 (turn left opposite garden centre on the A417 at the west end of Blewbury village)

Leader Adrian Brown. Contact Ray Reedman on 0118 9864338

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2015**

**BOC Coach to the British Bird-watching Fair, Rutland**

Cost (estimated) £35 incl. entrance fee

Talks, exhibitions and birding – the choice is yours when you visit the top event of its kind in Britain at the Egleton Nature Reserve. Always a wonderful day out.

Meet at 7.00 a.m. at Reading (Whiteknights Park main entrance, RG6 6UR)

Or at 7.30 a.m. at the entrance to Bray Wick Sports Club,

Braywick Road, SL6 1BN (SU891799)

Leave Rutland 5 p.m.

Book with Ray Reedman 0118 9864338

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**Weekend trip by car to North Norfolk**

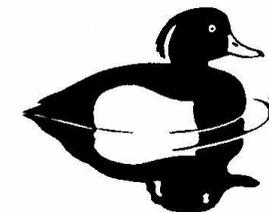
At this time of year North Norfolk has a huge variety of resident and passage birds, often very different from the February population. There is a strong chance of passage rarities

*Advance booking (by early August) is essential in order to secure good accommodation*

Contact Bill Nicoll by email [treasurer@berksoc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@berksoc.org.uk) (or 01344 455403)

**BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB**

**2014/2015**



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

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