

Newsletter 11

The eleventh meeting of the ILB's was held on 16 January 2018 at Belfairs Woodland Centre and 13 ladies plus Kris Mee attended.

Indoor Meeting:- Graham Ekins gave an excellent talk on the Andean wildlife of Bolivia accompanied by magnificent photos although I did not appreciate the photograph and story about an enormous spider.

Local Sightings:- Steve Sanford's garden brambling has been back. On Monday 15th January there were three male goosander at Lake Meadows, Billericay and 4 hawfinch in EWT Pound Wood. There have also been two whooper swans moving up and down the R. Crouch between Paglesham and Wallasea

Outings:- Eight hardy souls, including two ILB, attended the walk at Wallasea, on Tuesday 2nd January, where the time was spent in the Marina Bar drinking coffee.

15 people including 2 ILB went on the Southend Pier walk on Sunday 14 January where 17 species were seen including great northern diver, kittiwake and guillemot.

Graham photographed a Mediterranean gull and looked up it's ring to find that it was first rung 12/6/2010 at Antwerp, Belgium and has been seen on Southend Pier every winter since. On 2/4/2003 and March 2005 it was also spotted at Icklesham, Rye, Sussex by Rye Bay Ringing Group.

At the coffee morning the ladies were asked to consider the Local Group trip to Warley Place on Monday 19th March and names provided to Kris in order that transport can be arranged for everyone. It would be hoped to see goldcrest and firecrest as well as the snowdrops and fritillaries. There are no facilities at Warley Place itself but it is next door to a very nice public house where teas, coffees and food are served.

The response to Drew's suggestion that we have an Eastern Region Big Birdwatch Competition between local groups was favourably received and it was suggested that the ILB's also compete with our local group to see who can see the most species. More on this later.

It was proposed that we have two outings this year, one to the Royal Oak to celebrate our first birthday round about Easter as well as the trip to Southwold in July/August.

It was also proposed that we have some guided walks, one in Belfairs Woods, one on Wallasea Island and one at EWT Ingrebourne if it can be arranged.

Since the coffee morning Graham has received notification from RSPB HQ that the Information Commissioners Office (formerly Data Protection) rules will be changed to come into effect May 2018. These new rules will affect every club and society and although this should not affect any of you it does mean that the Local Group has a lot more paper work to complete regarding permissions to record and hold members personal details. We are still trying to get clarification on exactly what we have to do and are hoping that we do not have to anything until the start of the new season in September. However I will have to verify how it affects ILB records from May as we continue to meet through the summer unlike the rest of the local group. The fines for non-compliance are huge so please be understanding if we have to ask for written permissions to hold data.

The next indoor meeting is Wednesday 7 February at the Belfairs Woodland Centre and the speaker is Richard Brooks "A Passion for Owls".

The next walks are at Bluehouse Farm on Sunday 4 February, meet at 10:00am and Hockley Woods on Monday 19th February, meet at 9:00am.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting is Thursday 25 January, Rachel Langley, EWT Living Seas Coordinator will be speaking Any lady requiring transport to attend Indoor meetings or to go on any field trip or to get to an EWT Meeting please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **20 February 2018** 10:00am for a walk or else 10:30am at the Belfairs Woodland Centre, Eastwood Rd North, Leigh on Sea, which can be reached from Eastwood Road North on the 29 bus.

Alight at the Co-op and continue along Eastwood Rd North, past the traffic lights and the Green House Restaurant and turn right down the track on the bend before the children's playground and the three flags. It is safer to cross the road at the traffic lights and not on the bend. The Belfairs Woodland Centre is at the end of the track where there are also car parking spaces.