

Newsletter 36

The thirty sixth meeting of the ILBs' was held on 18 February 2020 at Val Kinsler's home, as it was half term so very busy at the usual venue, and 9 ladies and Kris Mee attended. Thank you very much to Val for stepping in at the last minute. The decorating has finally finished at Kris' and things almost back to normal.

Indoor Meeting 5/022020: - Thanks to Jenny Williams.

Nina DaRocha gave a very interesting and knowledgeable talk on saving the Albatross. These birds only produce one egg every two years and not until they are about eight years old. This means that they do not naturally recover their numbers easily. She had some lovely pictures of these fantastic birds, also some gruesome ones showing numbers of birds that had been inadvertently killed by the fishing industry. She supported her talk with several graphs and statistics (perhaps too many for some of the audience) all of which she did without referring to any notes. The fishing industry is slowly being educated and persuaded to introduce methods which will reduce the number of fatalities. Hooks can be covered with plastic shields which automatically open at a certain depth in the water and trawl lines marked with 'flags' which stop the birds flying into them. There were 42 attendees at the meeting this month including 1 new member and 7 ILBs.

Local Sightings: - Thanks to Anne Sanford.

Wallasea – Short-eared Owls, Hen harrier, Marsh Harrier, Great White Egret, Barn Owl, Common Buzzard.

Abberton – Smew, Long tailed Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Whooper Swan, Brambling.

Belfairs Nature Reserve – Goldcrest, Coal Tit. Wat Tyler – Bullfinch.

Sandra Howells – Long tailed Tits in garden. Rita Merrick – Coal tits at Ingrebourne

Kris Mee – Gorse, Euryops, Wallflowers, Kerria, Crocuses. Mavis Sanders – Daffodils, Hellebores

Hilary Le Marie – Wallflowers in flower. Jenny Williams – Camellia

Walks Report

RSPB Bowers Marsh 4 February – 11 attended and 54 species were seen

EWT Abberton Reservoir 23 February - 8 braved the wind, 45 species were seen, and Kris, feeling guilty about leaving Graham alone in the visitors centre, left the hide too early and got soaked through.

Forthcoming Events: -

The next Coach Trip will be to Minsmere on 10 May 2020 Phone Cath to book.

The ILB outing is to Fingringhoe on Sunday 17 May 2020 for £20 a head.

Contact Maureen Beesley before 29 February if you wish to go.

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 4 March 2020 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Orsett Wildlife Hospital by Sue Schwar.

The next Field Trip is Wednesday 11th March 2020: Hockley Woods. Meet at 10:00am in the car park next to the Bull PH.

And Sunday 15th March 2020: EWT Thameside Nature Park. Meet at 10:00am in the car park.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting is 26 March 7.45pm. Film The Living Thames

Any lady requiring transport to attend **any** event please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **17 March 2020** at Belfairs Woodland Centre. Meet at 10.00am for a walk or 10:30 for a coffee and chat.

Shoveler, Pochard, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Teal, Mallard, Goldeneye sheltering from the wind, EWT Abberton Reservoir, from the Layer Breton Causeway.

Photo - Graham Mee



This newsletter will be available on the local group website at: -<http://www.southendrspb.co.uk> . Click on ILBs on the Menu Bar.

*If you no longer wish to hear from the RSPB South East Essex Local Group, please contact **Kris Mee 01702 525152** krismee28@googlemail.com confirming your name and address and stating that you wish to unsubscribe from the RSPB South East Essex Local Group's communications.*

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