

Newsletter 35

The thirty fifth meeting of the ILBs' was held on 21 January 2020 at Belfairs Woodland Centre and 9 ladies and Kris Mee attended.

Indoor Meeting 8/01/2020: - Thanks to Rita Merrick.

Duncan MacDonald from Speyside spoke of his trip to Yellowstone Park. Grand Teton is to the south where there is a vast number of wildlife. Black, brown and grizzly bear and coyotes, which differ from wolves by the black tip to their tails. Enormous bison, fox, elk and a large variety of birds. Beavers keep the willows small which has brought about changes in the ecology and improved the environment for birds. This is a mountainous region which has hot springs. The foxes are either highland or lowland and have latitudinal colour differences and the two never mix. Ground squirrels live below ground most of their lives and are only seen above ground for a few months each year. There are also harlequin ducks, but only the males are seen in Spring, and only the females in Autumn!

There were 51 attendees at the meeting this month including 1 new member, 12 ILBs and 1 visitor.

Local Sightings: - Thanks to Anne Sanford.

Blue House Farm – Rock Pipit, Bewick Swan. Fobbing Marsh/Coryton – Yellowhammers.

Wallasea – Short-eared Owls, Hen harrier, Marsh Harrier, Great White Egret, Merlin.

Abberton – Smew, Black throated Diver, Great White and Cattle Egret, Ring necked and Long tailed Duck, Scaup, White fronted Geese.

Margaret Fisk – Goldcrest in garden. Maureen Hooker – Flocks of Knot Leigh sea front

Kris Mee – Snowdrops, Mahonia, Hellebore, Hesperantha, in flower and Shrubby Lonicera with Buff tailed Bumblebees on the flowers. Margaret Fisk – Violets and Primroses. Hilary Le Marie – Badgers digging up the lawn. All – Squirrels digging up bulbs

Walks Report

Barton Hall Creek Sunday 18 December - 14 attended and 67 species were seen.

Wallasea Sunday 12 January – 15 attended and 43 species were seen.

Southend Pier Wednesday 22 January – 17 attended and 16 species were seen through the fog.

Anne Sanford spent Christmas in Goa with family and saw Fruit Bats, White Heron, Black Cormorant, Brahminy Kites and White bodied Sea Eagle



Please note: - May Bank Holiday will be Friday 8 May and not Monday this year.

Also, when dating cheques and important documents it is advisable to write the year in full 2020 so it cannot be altered.

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.

Maureen Beesley is arranging this trip and will provide details soon.

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 5 February 2020 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Saving the Albatross by Nina DaRocha RSPB.

The next Field Trip is Tuesday 4 February at RSPB Bowers Marsh. Meet at 10:00am in the car park.

And Sunday 23 February at EWT Abberton. Meet at Layer Breton Causeway at 10:00am.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting is 27 February 7.45pm. Wood Ants with Tristan Colaço, EWT Ranger at Belfairs Woods
Any lady requiring transport to attend **any** event please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **18 February 2020** at Belfairs Woodland Centre. Meet at 10.00am for a walk or 10:30 for a coffee and chat.

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.

*The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity
England and Wales no.207076, Scotland no.SC037654*