



for birds
for people
for ever

The Heron



Newsletter - September 2005

FOR YOUR DAIRY

- Sun 9 October **Coach Trip** – SPURN
Depart at 7.30 am from Wilmslow Guild, Bourne Street, Wilmslow
- Tues 11 October **Indoor Meeting** – CHASING THE DAY by Keith Offord
- Sun 23 October **Outdoor Meeting** – NOTTINGHAM GRAVEL PITS
A new venue from which to witness the autumn migration.
Depart at 8.00 am from Duke Street Car Park for an all day trip.
Leader: Ray Evans 01625 432635
- Sat 29 October **A National RSPB Event** - FEED THE BIRDS DAY
Your local venue is Bollington Arts Centre, 27 Wellington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield, where you can:
- Join the RSPB Wildlife Explorers anytime between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm for a family event making interesting food for the birds.
Contact: David Tolliday 01625 432105
- Experience the award winning film 'Winged Migration' chronicling the incredible journeys of a variety of birds covering forty countries, each of the seven continents and landscapes ranging from the Eiffel Tower and Monument Valley to the remote reaches of the Arctic and the Amazon.
- Start 7.00 pm.
- Adults £3.50 Children £1.50
- Tickets available at our Indoor Meetings or by post from Gordon Howard, 67 Thirlmere, Macclesfield, SK11 7YJ. Cheques should be made payable to the RSPB, Macclesfield Local Group. If applying by post, please send a stamped SAE or collect tickets on the door.
- View the entries in our 'Brushes with Wildlife' Art and Photography Competition/Exhibition.

OUTINGS REMINDER!

Next Sunday 18th September we are meeting at Duke Street Car Park at 8am to visit Parkgate & Wirral for some exciting autumn migration birdwatching. Our first stop will be the Old Baths Car Park at Parkgate arriving in good time to watch the 9.98m high tide at midday. Please remember to bring your RSPB Membership Card as, following the high tide, we will walk around the area possibly taking in some RSPB sites. Gordon Howard will be leading this trip so, if you want to meet at the venue or ask any questions, please contact Gordon or me at the Indoor Meeting or phone 01625 420055.

Please speak to me at any Indoor Meeting or call 01260 275248 if you are interested in the 'Short Weekend Away' to Dumfries & Galloway in February or the 'Weekend Away' to Pembrokeshire in May.

Ian Taylor

Did you Know?

Little grebes were known as dabchicks; and lapwings, peewits (from the sound of their call).

CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

DEAR Friends,

I hope that you all enjoyed the summer break and wish to welcome you to a new season of the Group's events and activities. The next few months are always some of the most exciting in the birding calendar with the departure of our summer visitors and the return of those birds that spend each winter with us. Furthermore, during this period there is always the possibility of a rarity turning up among the many passage migrants who drop in to refuel on their journeys south to warmer climes. Our resident birds are beginning to return to our gardens in greater number as their food sources dwindle in the fields and hedgerows. So now is the time to increase the amount and variety of food available at our birdtables and feeders.

On a personal note, I wish to thank everyone who has helped at events during the summer and with the production and distribution of our 2005 – 2006 Programmes and the accompanying packages. I hope that you enjoy the programme that your Committee has put together and look forward to another successful year.

Ray Evans
Group Leader and Chairman of Committee

COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAMME

Through Counter Top collecting boxes and sales of Pin Badges at local events and in local shops, garden centres, and public houses, the Macclesfield Local Group has raised nearly £1000 since April of this year.

The new wildlife badges, which came out in early summer have proved very popular, especially with children. A "Wildlife Week" at King's School saw three of our young Wildlife Explorers forfeiting their lunch hour and break times to sell Pin Badges and raising a magnificent £355.

This money, together with other initiatives such as the re-cycling of mobile phones and inkjet cartridges goes directly to the RSPB to help with conservation, education and campaigning on behalf of birds.

Can you help?

I am looking for volunteers to look after Pin Badge boxes in and around the Macclesfield area. It involves visiting the location, (an authorisation letter will be supplied), taking the money from the box and re-stocking with Pin Badges where necessary. The visits will depend on how good the location is, but generally three or four times a year will suffice. Monies collected can be passed to me at the indoor meetings or sent to me by post for banking.

If you feel you can help in this way, please see me at the meeting or contact me:
by phone: 01625 420055
by e-mail: rita@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk

Rita Howard

DRAGONFLY SAFARI ON 17 JULY 2005

Twelve intrepid explorers turned up for our first dragonfly safari bringing with them beautiful weather and lots of enthusiasm and interest.

Despite Alders changing to British Home Store, we managed to meet up in the car park and then set off across the vast grasslands of Handforth Dean to find the sixteen ponds in the area. Amongst the species encountered were emperor dragonflies, four-spotted chasers, brown hawkers, common darters, and several damselflies, including emerald. We had lunch under the trees next to a pond, where several brown hawker females were ovipositing. A beautiful male banded demoiselle fluttered across the last pond we visited making a fitting end to a good day.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the safari and I hope that next year's dragonfly outing (please see the programme) will be as successful.

Trish Thompson

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAMPS

Are you aware that The RSPB can benefit financially from used stamps? Each of us can contribute by saving the stamps from all the mail we receive during the year. All we need to do is cut the stamp(s) carefully from the envelope and, if possible, trim them to leave a ¼ inch margin on all sides. Please don't try to physically remove the stamps themselves from the envelope backing as this could damage them rendering them worthless. Moreover, I am sure that Robin Corlett and his team will be even more pleased if we sort the stamps into the following three categories, Foreign, British commemoratives (special e.g. Christmas) and British definitives (non-pictorial).

LET US TAKE THE STRAIN!!!

Staff at Ribble Discovery Centre, Fairhaven Lake, Lytham St Annes are desperate to get hold of specialised mud-dipping equipment – namely your old tea strainers. They use them when taking schools and community groups out on the mud flats to sieve the mud and reveal the tiny shrimps, worms and snails that birds flock to the estuary to eat. Mud-dipping is a firm favourite with visiting schools, when the children learn about the creatures that live in the mud and why the estuary is so important to migrating birds. Unfortunately, the increasing popularity of tea bags is leading to the demise of the tea strainer as an everyday item. Why not take a look at the back of your kitchen drawer to see if you have a strainer that you no longer use? I'm sure that we can give it a new lease of life in very different surroundings. There will be a tea strainer collecting box available for your donations at our next Indoor Meeting in October.

BIRDFOOD UPDATE

The source of our birdfood and the way it is packaged has changed. Our new Birdfood Officer, David Taylor is obtaining bulk supplies of the most popular foods, which he is weighing and bagging ready for sale. To make life easier for everyone, David has introduced a simplified pricing structure whereby all bagged food will be presented for sale at £2 or £4 with the weight of each type of food supplied adjusted accordingly dependent upon its price per kilo. We assure you that our birdfood continues to remain competitive and represents excellent value for money for a quality product.

'THANK YOU' FROM THE WOOLSTON EYES CONSERVATION GROUP

The open day on 26 June at Woolston Eyes was a huge success, with around 400 visitors on a beautifully hot summer's day. Quite a few Macclesfield members joined the parties being shown around No 3 Bed. Chris Revitt enthused to me of the classic views of black-necked grebes that had put on a good show right in front of the hide. They had young on their backs "Just like you see illustrated in the bird guides", she said. "Why haven't we visited Woolston before?"

The Macclesfield Group lent three gazebos for the day in case of rain, and, as a thank you, The Woolston Eyes Conservation Group have offered our Group a free visit to the reserve in May 2006. Not only will the black-necked grebes be back displaying, but, with luck, lots of warblers will be singing to hold territory or to attract mates at this time.

'FEED THE BIRDS DAY' FILM SHOW

This year we will be screening the spectacular award winning film **'Winged Migration'** at Bollington Arts Centre on Saturday, 29 October 2005.

The film chronicles the incredible journeys of a variety of birds in forty countries and each of the seven continents. Why not visit www.sonyclassics.com/wingedmigration/index_flash.html for a preview?

The evening will commence at 7.30pm with the awarding of prizes to the age group winners in the Junior Section of 'Brushes with Wildlife'. However, to allow sufficient time beforehand for those of you who wish to view the artwork and photographic exhibits, doors will open at 7.00pm.

Tickets are available at our Indoor Meetings or by post from Gordon Howard, 67 Thirlmere, Macclesfield, SK11 7YJ at a cost of £3.50 (Adults) and £1.50 (Under 16). Cheques should be made payable to 'The RSPB Macclesfield Local Group'. If applying by post, please enclose a stamped SAE or collect tickets at the door.

Did you Know?

The temperature of the North Sea has risen by 2°C in the past 20 years. Good news for keen swimmers but bad news for birds such as kittiwakes, guillemots and razorbills that depend for food on an abundant supply of sand eels, numbers of which have reduced dramatically as a result of the temperature rise.



STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

Climate change now threatens billions of people across the world, particularly the poorest. By 2050, up to one third of species on land may be on the pathway to extinction, unless we take urgent action now.

Do you want to help?

If so, please logon to The RSPB website at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/climate> and add your name to the **STOP CLIMATE CHAOS** petition. What's more, you can demonstrate how seriously you take climate change by pledging to reduce your own energy use by adopting one or more of the suggested ways and means. If you want to know more about the campaign and why it's so important that you sign the petition look in the 'Get The Facts' section accompanying the petition.

PLEA FOR HELP

The Group's day, this year, for manning the Christmas Card Charity Shop in Wilmslow Library is Wednesday 9 November.

Could you help for a morning or afternoon selling all charities cards and gifts. If so, please ring

Trish Thompson on 01625 526546

Or see her at Indoor Meetings - you'll find her slaving over a hot teapot!

WANTED!!!

OLD BINOCULARS AND TELESCOPES

Do you have an old or unwanted pair of binoculars or a telescope collecting dust in a cupboard? Anything that is slightly out of alignment or just in need of a good clean can be put to use in a worthy conservation or education project somewhere in the world, where it will be gratefully received. All you have to do is just bring any binoculars to one of our meetings and we will do the rest. Since the Second-hand Binocular Donation Scheme started in 1985 more than 5,000 pairs have been donated to around 90 countries, mainly in Europe and Africa but more recently to India and Indonesia. Further details of the scheme can be found at: www.rspb.org.uk/birds/whatyoucando/secondhandbinocular/index.asp



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COPY YET?

60 delicious recipes supplied by Macclesfield Group members and their families and friends - all tried and tested.

It will make a superb Christmas present for anyone who likes baking.

£4.50 at indoor meetings or send to

**Trisha Thompson
6 Hawthorn Park
Wilmslow Cheshire
SK9 5BP**

**(Add 50p for postage)
tel: 01625 536546**

RSPB MACCLESFIELD LOCAL GROUP 25TH ANNIVERSARY RECIPE BOOK OF TEA-TIME FAVOURITES



Please pass on a copy of this newsletter to any member or non-member of the Group that you know who may be interested

Health and Safety

In the event of fire or other emergency necessitating evacuation of the building, please leave in an orderly manner via the nearest available Emergency Exit or as instructed by a designated Committee member. Emergency Exits, indicated by the internationally recognised symbol of a 'running man' on a green background, are situated through the door at the rear of the hall either straight down the corridor or directly on the right through the main entrance with further exits to the right and through the door to the left of the stage.

If required, there is a first aid kit in the kitchen off the entrance corridor. *(If you do have an accident, however minor, while here tonight please report it directly to a Committee member who, amongst other things, will ensure that details are logged in the Accident Report Book.)*