



# DURSLEY BIRDWATCHING AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## AUGUST 2025



### CHIT CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

As I write the heat wave continues and I know I don't need to remind you all to make sure your birdbaths are topped up and that a smaller ground level dish of water is available for small mammals.

It's a known fact that one in six species is facing extinction due to climate change, so how is our wildlife coping?

During prolonged droughts/ heat waves when worms are difficult to access Badgers will use their incredible sense of smell to locate and dig out ground nests of bees and wasps and eat their larvae. Rabbit kits will also be taken.

Climate change causes stress in our deer species that results in body mass declines and as the animals become smaller there can be repercussions for future generations.

The small mammals, i.e. voles etc. that the likes of foxes feed on face challenges regulating body temperature, as do young birds, that can often lead to heat stroke and result in death.

Our migrating birds are short stopping or in the case of the Cuckoo moving further north in the summer and are more numerous in Scotland than they would have been twenty years ago.

I suffer in the extreme heat and find it quite worrying that our wildlife is suffering just the same. Even now after decades of warnings from meteorologists, conservationists and environmentalists there are world leaders sticking their heads in the sand hoping that the problem will go away.

Stay hydrated everyone keep out of the sun as much as possible or use plenty of sunscreen and do what you can for the wildlife in your garden.

#### **Bird of the Month - Barn Owl (Tyto alba)**

- my favourite UK owl with the lovely heart shaped face and those dark eyes. A pale ghostly shape in the twilight.

Dot



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### **Proposed Residential Trip - Friday 26th - Monday 29th September**

Our residential trip this year is a new destination for our society. We're going to be heading to Kent in September. Kent has a wealth of birding hotspots and our timing is designed to coincide with autumn migration as birds make their way South from Northern breeding grounds towards Europe and beyond.

We've blocked booked 5 rooms in the Sandwich Bay bird observatory (4 twin rooms and one single. So room for 9 members - travelling via 3 cars. Costs are roughly £40.00 per person for accommodation plus a share of petrol and food.

To sign up please let Simon know: via email at [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com) by **1st September**. Currently we have possibly 4 spaces left.

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## FORTHCOMING TRIPS - Please contact Simon to book

### Somerset Levels

Leader: **Simon Ashley**

**Sunday 3rd August** - Trip postponed from 27th July.

Depart Stroud at 8:30am; Meet at Ham Wall at 10:00am Home around 5:00pm

### Arne

Leader: **Simon Ashley**

**Sunday 10th August**

Arne is a flagship RSPB reserve not only a brilliant Dorset bird watching spot, it's also one of the few remaining places where all six of the UK's native reptiles can be found. - I've still yet to see a smooth snake - may this time?

Arne is located on Poole Harbour and sits within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It has a rich patchwork of habitats, home to a huge array of wildlife.

We'll have almost a full day there and plenty of time to explore heathlands, ancient oak woodland and wetlands.

Our Target birds are: Dartford Warbler, White-Tailed Eagle, Spoonbill, Avocet, Osprey, Waders

Arne has great facilities including visitor centre and café.

It's free to RSPB members (£5 otherwise)

It'll be a car share trip from - We'll aim to arrive on site around 10:00am - Which will mean a departure from Stroud 07:30. Expect to return around 6:30 / 7:00pm

### Chipping Sodbury Common

Leader: **Mike Tranter**

**Sunday 31st August**

Meeting at 08:30, park on the roadside verge near Newhouse Farm (ST 73822 83566). We'll walk across the common targeting refuelling passage migrants amongst the resident birds. Past years have seen Whinchat, Wheatear, Common Redstart, Spotted Flycatcher and occasionally a Wryneck in late August. It will also be a late chance for warblers before they fly south; Willow, Common and Lesser Whitethroat.

The terrain is flat, but can be very muddy. Watch for update on WhatsApp in the week ahead.

### Titchfield Reserve

Leader: **t.b.c.**

**7th September**

Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve is managed by Hampshire County Council and is home to an abundance of birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and plants. There's so much to see all year round. From soaring birds of prey to the most delicate butterfly. Previous list from 2019 visit turned up amongst others: Turnstone, Peregrine falcon, Kingfisher & Snipe

Titchfield Haven, Cliff Road, Hill Head, Fareham PO14 3JT

Google Maps <https://maps.app.goo.gl/BM3YB3J6JZQLsV648>

**Entrance** to the reserve - Adults: £6.50 Senior citizens: £5.50; there is a kiosk selling hot and cold drinks and snacks, and ice cream.

**Nearest parking** is the local Fareham Borough Council car parks near the sailing club or the sea front. Both areas are pay and display.



## FURTHER DIARY DATES

### Frampton in Autumn

5th October - further details to follow

### Autumn visit to Slimridge

26th October - further details to follow

### Chew Valley Lakes - further details to follow

9th November

### Cotswold Water Park - further details to follow

23rd November

### Severn Beach/Aust

7th December

**NB: If any trip is in doubt or cancelled because of bad weather or unexpected circumstances , we will try and contact everyone by email or through the WhatsApp group. It is important therefore that we have your contact details. We will also put a notice on the website.**

To be added to the WhatsApp Group, **or to book on a trip** please contact Caroline Sandrey (Membership Secretary) [caroline.sandrey@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.sandrey@gmail.com) or Simon Ashley (DBWPS Secretary) [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

If you are able to lead a walk around your favourite birding 'patch' or you know someone who might be a good leader for a walk either locally or further afield please do let Simon know. We're always in need of extra leaders. Email: [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com) 😊

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## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

One of the great joys of bird watching - is that things can turn up almost at any time. This happened earlier this month on the evening of a committee meeting no less.

Nick Goatman our regular walk leader for our trips around Frampton - had found a White-winged Black Tern flying around the sailing lake.

The temptation was too great and completing our meeting in record time 6 of the committee headed to Frampton to see if we could connect with the tern. We were in luck, and we could pick it out readily flying around the lake, occasionally resting among the weeds on the water. It truly was a stunning bird and a lifer for all six of us! Frampton is a great place to go birding - and we also saw the resident yellow legged gull along with a hobby that also flew across the lake.

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You can refer to the Gloster Birder web site for up to date bird sightings in the county. Please enter your sightings at <https://theglosterbirder.co.uk>  
Do let us know of anything rare or unusual you see.

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## TRIP REPORTS

### Frampton in Summer

Sunday 13th July

Report from: Dot Jones

Around a dozen of us met in the little car park at the end of the green, which was full when I arrived at 0810, for a few hours bird watching before it got too hot (temperatures were expected to get to about 30 degrees). The temperature at 0830 was quite pleasant and more spaces became available in the car park as the early dog walkers vacated.

Expectations on the number of species we'd see was quite low given the time of year and the heat-wave conditions so we were pleasantly surprised that by the end of the morning we had managed to see or hear 49 species.

Keeping to the shade as much as possible we surveyed the Sailing Lake for terns and hirundines before moving onto Court Lake. Lots of evidence of moulting with feathers everywhere. We saw young Great Crested Grebes as well as plenty of Mute Swans and Barnacle Geese. Behind Court Lake in the first wooded area Nick picked up Spotted Flycatcher and young and then further round, walking parallel to Perry Way a Marsh Tit was seen which is a new bird for the area! Ollie managed to get a few photos. A Marsh Harrier circled lazily above us.

A quick visit to the back of the Sailing lake to get better views of the terns also a Common Sandpiper and a Grey Wagtail with a youngster before we headed back towards the car park.

My thanks to Nick who makes his walks interesting and it's always an easygoing few hours.

**Bird list:** Ross's Goose, Greylag Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mute Swan, Mallard, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Moorhen, Coot, Common Sandpiper, Black-headed, Herring Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Common Tern, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Reed Warbler, Swallow, House Martin, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Wren, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Spotted Flycatcher, Robin, Dunnock, Grey Wagtail, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch

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## FROM OUR MAILBOX

### TERN RAFT

The Reserve Team at Slimbridge constructed a temporary Tern raft to accommodate a pair of Terns that appeared to be looking for a nesting site.

DBWPS have given them a £500 grant to construct a more permanent raft.

More details to follow in the future.

Rebecca

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### STROUD VALLEYS DIPPER PROJECT - Dr Mark O'Connell

There are currently 57 volunteer surveyors

1. PRELIMINARY RESULTS (up to 15<sup>th</sup> July) are included in the document sent with this Bulletin
2. EXTENDING THE 2025 SURVEY ?

This was a 'pilot' year due to run until the end of July. Surveyors have been asked if they are willing to continue monthly surveys until the end of the year.

### 3. COLOUR RINGING

A small grant has been obtained to pay for some Dipper colour rings. This will allow identification of individual birds in the catchment. Ringing will start in August and continue through the winter months.

### 4. CATCHMENT POPULATION ESTIMATE

The key objectives for the 2025 survey were: (i) to collect preliminary data [a baseline] on Dippers in the catchment; (ii) to see what sort of spatial coverage we could achieve; (iii) to identify any methodological issues e.g. difficult to survey sections, etc; (iv) to use the data to help develop a modified river habitat survey in 2026 - see below. But we were also interested in trying to make a preliminary assessment of the size of the Dipper **population** in the Frome catchment. From the data on the website mapping tool, we already have a good idea of those sections with evidence of breeding activity (see the attached file). But we would also like to gather additional information on *specific* nest sites.

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## SOCIETY BUSINESS

**GIFT AID** - The Society has not claimed Gift Aid for many years, and our records will now be out of date. If you are a UK Tax payer, and would like the Society to claim Gift Aid please complete the attached form and return to the Membership Secretary (see address below) OR scan and return via email: [caroline.sandrey@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.sandrey@gmail.com). OR send an email including your full name and address giving us permission to claim Gift Aid on your membership.

Claims can be backdated to 2021 so if you have been a member since then please enter that year. If you are a newer member, we can claim from your joining date.

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## THANK YOU

Thank you to Dot Jones, Oliver Paisey and Simon Ashley for their contributions this month, and a special thank you to Sheila LaPorta for her many years preparing and serving refreshments at indoor meetings. Sheila has retired from DBWPS tea making and I hope will be able to enjoy a cup of tea made for her at future meetings. Our thanks also to Peter Steele who has been a stalwart committee member and has decided to resign after a spell in hospital - we wish him a speedy recovery.

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## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee members, please note the next committee meeting will be held at: 2 Hanover Lodge, Hunters Way, Stroud GL5 4UH on 9th September at 1900 hrs.

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### Dursley Birdwatching and Preservation Society - Officers & Committee 2025-2026

<b>Chair</b>	Dot Jones	<a href="mailto:dorothy.jones3@me.com">dorothy.jones3@me.com</a>	07478 662363
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Amanda Sultan-Black	<a href="mailto:amanda.sultanblack@gmail.com">amanda.sultanblack@gmail.com</a>	07419 843042
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Tranter	<a href="mailto:mike.tranter22@gmail.com">mike.tranter22@gmail.com</a>	07421 102412
<b>Secretary</b>	Simon Ashley	2 Victoria Villas, Spillmans Patch, Stroud GL5 3LU <a href="mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com">simonashley65@gmail.com</a>	07825 668389
<b>Outdoor programme</b>			
<b>IT &amp; Communications</b>			
<b>Indoor Programme</b>	Rebecca Paisey	<a href="mailto:crazypaisey@hotmail.com">crazypaisey@hotmail.com</a>	01453 811408
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Caroline Sandrey	15 Spey Close, Thornbury, Bristol BS35 2NR <a href="mailto:caroline.sandrey@gmail.com">caroline.sandrey@gmail.com</a>	07972 125959
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>			
<b>Bulletin Distribution</b>			
<b>General Committee</b>	Ken Cservenka, Colin Greenfield		



Secretary: [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com)



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