

## Newsletter 14

The fourteenth meeting of the ILB's was held on 17 April 2018 at Belfairs Woodland Centre and 13 ladies plus Kris Mee attended.

Indoor Meeting by Rita Merrick:- As the speaker about Goshawks was unable to attend, Gwyn Williams, 'Head of Conservation Investment at RSPB came instead and spoke about 'saving UK's most threatened birds'.

Gwyn introduced us to the 'red' list of endangered species of which there were many, amongst them the House sparrow, he then proceeded onto the 'amber' list. Looking into habitats, trying to improve areas of farming, waterways, seas, even below the surface, fisheries, and reeds etc. Examples of improved numbers are, over the years, red kite and bittern.

In the second half Gwyn looked at the corn crake in depth, including migration, farm management discussions with various people, together with many interesting facts, figures and graphs.

Local Sightings by Anne Sanford:- Waxwing at Oakengrange Drive Southend, Willow Warblers at Wakering Stairs, Peregrine Falcons at RSPB Bowers Marsh, Swallow at Lower Road Hockley, Sandwich Tern at Southend Pier,

1st Local Summer Migrant - Cuckoo at Two Tree Island

1st Local Summer Migrant - Mediterranean Gull, Black Cap, Chiffchaff and Whitethroat at Two Tree Island

Outings by Anne Sanford:- 20 people including one ILB attended the walk at Abberton on Monday. The weather was warm, at last, and 54 species were seen including a juvenile black swan, yellow wagtails, cuckoo, swallow, black cap and chiffchaff. There was also an Egyptian goose chasing mallards from the pond by the Visitors Centre it had claimed for itself and Graham photographed a rook feeding on the bird feeder but missed the jackdaw doing the same.

The swift boxes that will be put up on the Belfairs Woodland Centre will each cost £36 and the ladies agreed that the money collected at coffee mornings can be donated towards a box. The boxes will transmit swift calls to encourage the birds to use them, unfortunately cameras are too expensive for now but will be considered if the birds use the boxes this year.

Fourteen ladies attended the lunch at the Royal Oak on Thursday 19 April at 1pm, regrettably two ladies had to cancel. Thanks to Diana for the following rhyme.

The ILB's First Anniversary Lunch

The ILBs are one year old.  
What better way to celebrate  
Than meet again at the Royal Oak  
For an Anniversary date.

The group has proved a great success  
And has grown throughout the year  
We've enjoyed our trips to see the birds  
Which of course we hold so dear.

We also like our monthly meet  
For coffee and a natter  
And catch up on the birding news  
The most important matter.

The ILBs enjoyed their lunch  
Enjoyed the sunshine too  
And thanks to Kris for all our gifts  
And everything you do.

Happy Anniversary to a great group.

The next indoor meeting will be the last of this season and is Wednesday 2 May at the Belfairs Woodland Centre and the speaker Peter Gasson will be talking about Pantanal in Brazil.

The next walk is at EWT Chafford Gorge Sunday 29 April meet at 10.00am. This reserve is in a disused quarry so there is a long downhill path from the visitors centre where there are toilets and a café with fine views across the quarry.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting will not be until October 2018.

Any lady requiring transport to attend Indoor meetings or to go on any field trip please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **15 May 2018** 10:00am for a walk or else 10:30am for a coffee 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.

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

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