

■ Meetings

Held via Zoom or in Maulden Village Hall. All meetings begin at 8.00 other than the AGM in February which begins 7.45 pm.

Zoom links and instructions will be sent out by *email prior to the meetings.

Maulden Village Hall is at the junction of Ampthill and Flitwick Road, Maulden MK45 2DN (TL049381). Doors open at 7.30 pm.

■ Field Trips

We do not run a booking system for our Field Trips, just come along, but please keep an eye on *emails in case, in exceptional circumstances, we have to make a last-minute cancellation.

*Emails will be sent to Members of Bird Club & members of the bedsbirds io group

September

■ Tuesday 26—Indoor Meeting, Maulden Andy Sands: Ancient Trees and Woodlands.

Andy has had many images of British wildlife published and recently received an award for his work from The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain. He has photographed everything from birds to beetles and spiders to slime-moulds.

October

■ Sunday 15—Field Trip

Broom East CWS, led by Matt Burgess, meet 8.00 am. Gypsy Lane East, Broom, SG18 9NJ (What3Words: ///season.remaking.fatherly – Grid Ref: TL 17841 43639). A morning's walk, c2.5 hours, at this County Wildlife Site to look for passage migrants and water birds, meet at the main gate.

■ Tuesday 24—Indoor Meeting, Zoom

Mark James Pearson: Bempton Cliffs & Filey Bay - Seabird Nirvana.

He describes himself as a nature writer, public speaker, field ornithologist, nature guide and communications specialist. Mark's nature writing is widely published in print and online, including recent articles for Birdwatch magazine, Birdguides and Birdwatching magazine among various others.

November

■ Saturday 11—Field Trip

Poppy Hill Langford, led by Greg Nunn, Meet 8.30 am. Morning walk to look for farmland birds, c2.5 miles + extension on farm tracks with a long incline. Meet Gardeners Lane car park, Henlow, SG16 6DJ; TL 179 389; Parking: /// clauses.sidelined.estimate

■ Tuesday 28—Indoor Meeting, Zoom **Greg Conway: Nightjars**

Greg has worked on a variety of research projects for BTO involving birds in farmland, upland margin and woodland habitats. His main responsibilities have involved the development, organisation and analysis of national surveys for Nightjar, Woodlark & Dartford Warbler, Ringed Plover & Little Ringed Plover, Nightingale and Woodcock, as well as many other habitat and species assemblage focused research.

December

■ Tuesday 19—Indoor Meeting, Maulden **Richard Bashford: Annual Review.**

Join us as we go to the movies for the always entertaining review of the year through the eyes of members' video and photographs, seamlessly edited into a very enjoyable movie by our very own Richard Bashford.

■ 22nd Annual Christmas Bird Hunt

The quick rules are that birds must be seen (or heard) in Bedfordshire between 00:00 on 25/12/2023 and 24:00 on 31/12/2023.

In 2021 we found 113 species and in 2022 we found 106 species giving an average over the 20 years of 112. The full list of species seen will be on the dedicated page on the bird club website and daily updates will be posted on the bedsbirds email group.

January 2024

■ Tuesday 23—Indoor Meeting, Zoom **James Lowen: Much ado about Nothing**

An award-winning writer, James's speciality is bringing nature to life for the non-specialist. In June 2016, he guested on *BBC Springwatch Unsprung*. In

September 2016, he was on *BBC Countryfile*. He also writes regularly on nature and wildlife travel for publications such as *The Telegraph*, *Nature's Home*, *BBC Wildlife*, *The Countryman*, *Bird Watching* and *BirdLife*.

February

■ Sunday 11—Field Trip

Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, meet 8.30 am in the carpark – led by Richard Bashford. High St, Little Paxton, Saint Neots PE19 6ET (Grid ref: TL 1956 6292) A morning walk to this reserve with a rich mosaic of wildlife habitats. Visitor Centre should be open 11.00-15.00, has facilities and a range of snacks and drinks.

■ Tuesday 27—Indoor Meeting, Maulden **AGM will begin 7.45 pm followed by Graham White. 20 years after LIFE - is the future of Bittern assured?**

Graham White recently retired as Head of Reserves Ecology at the RSPB, has devoted his working life to wildlife conservation and natural history education. In the 1980s he played a key role in persuading the St Albans Sand and Gravel Company to create a nature reserve at Amwell. He devoted much of his spare time at Amwell digging ditches, ponds and working to create what has become one of Hertfordshire's premier wetland habitats.

March

■ Saturday 9—Field Trip

Clifton Bury Farm, led by Terry Osborn and Kathy Blackmore, meet 8.30 am for a flat walk on farm and grass tracks, 2.5 + miles. Address: Clifton Bury Farm, Church Street, Clifton, SG17 5EX. (NB don't go down the tree lined drive to Clifton Bury)

■ Tuesday 26—Indoor Meeting, Zoom

This is the first of 2 Memorial Lectures which will be held to commemorate the contribution the late Scott Stalham made to Birding in Bedfordshire.

Dusty Gedge: Scott Stalham Memorial Lecture 1: Black Redstarts

Dusty has been a birdwatcher all his life and has

broad interest in nature whether it be wild bees, butterflies or wildflowers. Birds led to his career in green infrastructure and he is a recognised authority, designer and consultant on green roofs and green infrastructure.

April

■ Sunday 14—Field Trip

Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve, Wildlife Trust BCN, meet **8.00 am**, led by **Jon Palmer** for a 2-3 miles' walk with steep hills and narrow uneven tracks to look for spring passage migrants. Please park considerately in the village or nearby lay-bys. Meet in the vicinity of The View carpark then Jon will lead us across the road to enter the reserve. Location details for the carpark: SG5 3JX OS Grid ref: TL 1211 3027

May

■ Saturday 11—Field Trip

Strawberry Hill Nature Reserve, Wildlife Trust BCN, led by Chantelle Warriner, meet 9.30 am for a flat walk but paths can be narrow and overgrown. Chantelle is confident we will hear Nightingales. No fee but donations welcome. Meet in the car park which will be open grid ref TL005626 Post code MK44 1AA. Please do NOT park on the grass verges.

June

■ Saturday 8—Field Trip

Marston Moretaine, led by **Bob Hook & Neil Wright**. Meet **8.00 am** in the carpark of The Forest Centre, Station Rd, Marston Moretaine, Bedford MK43 0PR (Grid ref: TL 0049 4171). Parking fees apply. There may be an entrance fee to the reserve £2.50 adults/£1.75 concessions. The Centre opens 9.00 and has facilities and a café.

■ Tuesday 25—Field Trip

Joint Bird Club & BNHS evening walk to Sandy Smith Nature Reserve, meet **7.00 pm**, led by Stefan Baltruschat and Sue Raven, an evening walk, on established tracks, there is a steady incline. Address – near Speeds Dairy Farm, Beadlow, SG17 5PL; Parking: [///inflating.nickname detonated](http://inflating.nickname detonated) – Grid reference of reserve entrance – TL109387

Summer walks in July & August may be arranged, members will be notified by *email

To join the io group:

<https://groups.io/g/bedsbirds>

BBC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

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For membership information contact:

Kathryn Hindley (BNHS Membership Secretary)

<https://www.bnhs.co.uk/2019/membership.php>

Bedfordshire Bird Club



Programme 2023-24

Website:

bedsbirdclub.org.uk

The ornithological section of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society Registered Charity No: 268659

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