



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, August 2006

Hi Folks, After such wonderful summer weather it is with some reluctance that we now think about the dark winter months ahead. Don't worry! Your Committee has arranged a varied selection of speakers and events which will help to fill up a few of these evenings.

Winter Programme 2006

The meetings will continue to be held on Thursdays at 7.30pm in Gallery 3 at Paisley Museum.

Thursday 7th September **John Clark** Muirshiel Hen Harriers

John graduated with a zoology degree from Glasgow University last summer. While there he was involved in University field expeditions, research on the Great Skua or Bonxie in Shetland and the Scottish Highlands. Last autumn John started work for the RSPB at Lochwinnoch nature reserve before moving up to Muirshiel Visitor Centre as this season's Hen Harrier information officer.

Thursday 5th October **Richard Sutcliffe** Butterflies of South West Scotland

Richard Sutcliffe works for Glasgow City Council (Museums) as Research Manager (Natural History), based at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, Nitshill. He has been interested in butterflies since the early 1980s and has held various positions in The Glasgow and South West Branch of Butterfly Conservation including Chairman, Secretary and Branch Recorder since the branch was founded in 1985. Richard is a co-author of a recently published *Butterflies of South West Scotland* produced by members of the Branch.

Thursday 7th December **Christmas Social** Details will be given in the November issue of the Newsletter.

September Outing

Sunday 24th September - East Coast Migrants Tom Byars will lead an outing to some East Coast sites to look out for waders and other migrants. Meet at 9.00am at Cotton Street car park in Paisley.

Reports on Recent Events

RSPB Leighton Moss (April 2006) A great day out was enjoyed by many of our members thanks to Ewan Douglas who organised this bus outing which was joint with the Renfrew RSPB Local group. Many interesting birds were seen but one of the highlights of the day was being only a few feet from dozens of Black-headed Gulls which were nesting in front of one of the hides. Another highlight was seeing Brimstone butterflies which are not seen in Scotland.

Heads of Ayr, Girvan (May 2006) This outing was a joint meeting with members of the RSPB. Tom Byars led a group of 10 enthusiasts on an unsuccessful search for the elusive Lesser Whitethroat. This was a disappointment because on the previous week Tom had established that 3 or 4 pairs were holding territories and had ringed some of the birds. Maybe they did not want to meet him again!

Gleniffer Braes C.P. Paisley (July 2006) Cathy Gillen led a small but enthusiastic group of members to four suitable areas. In total 338 Greater Butterfly Orchids were counted but no Lesser Butterfly Orchids were located. A total of 130 Common-spotted Orchids were found and on one site the Heath-spotted Orchids were described as "too many to count".

Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn, Paisley on Thursday 16th November.

T. Norman Tait