



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, November 2006

Coming Events

Thursday 7th December 2006 Christmas Social

Come and join our informal Christmas Social and do bring a friend with you. An annual feature is the sociable but infuriating 'Name Game' – unique to PNHS. Curious? Then why not come along and find out about it. There are other quirky quizzes and general frivolity is generated. Will members please remember that a contribution to the festive fare is welcomed?

Thursday 1st February 2007 The Scottish Wildlife Trust

Gill Smart, who is the SWT Reserve Manager South West, will talk about the work of the Scottish Wildlife Trust in general but mostly about the wide range of wildlife to be found on the 17 Ayrshire and Renfrewshire Reserves. Gill became responsible for SWT Glen Moss at the beginning of this year and after organising the construction of 200 metres of new path work, organised a well-attended public outing around the reserve.

Reports on Recent Events

Muirshiel Hen Harriers – Indoor Meeting, Thursday 7th September

John Clark from Muirshiel Country Park came along and gave a highly informative talk about the Hen Harrier project at Muirshiel. He brought along video-clips of the nesting bird and we witnessed nature red in tooth and claw. The infra-red camera monitored the nest at night and we watched the female harrier being attacked by a fox while sitting on three newly-hatched chicks. She escaped the attacks but she did not return until the following morning by which time two of the chicks had died of exposure. The following evening the bird was attacked again by the fox but this time she repelled the attack and continued to feed the chicks during the day. Next morning the fox returned and the bird finally abandoned the remaining chick to its fate.

East Coast Migrants - Outing, Sunday 24th September

Despite appalling weather conditions our chairman, Tom Byars, led an outing to some East Coast sites to look out for waders and other migrants. At Musselburgh good sightings of little stint, shoveller duck and snipe feeding were obtained. After drying-off at the SOC headquarters at Waterstone House, the intrepid birders then ventured to Gosford Bay where grey plover, knot and bar-tailed godwit were seen.

Butterflies of South West Scotland – Indoor Meeting, Thursday 5th October

Richard Sutcliffe from Glasgow City Council (Museums) came along and gave a fascinating account of the present status of butterflies in the area. We were informed that 32 species had been observed on a regular basis in South West Scotland over the past 10 years of detailed recording. A further three species were recorded as occasional visitors. Richard then discussed each species in detail with illustrations taken from a recent publication by the Glasgow and South West Branch of Butterfly Conservation.

Subscriptions

Please note that in accordance with our new constitution, subscriptions are now due on the 1st January each year. They are as follows :- Ordinary £6; Family £8; Unwaged £3. Subscriptions for 2007 may be paid to the Treasurer, Marian Coates at the next meeting in February 2007.

Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn, Paisley on Thursday 1st March.