



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, November 2007

Coming Events

Thursday 6th December 2007 Christmas Social

Christmas is coming! No doubt some will say "Bah! Humbug!" - however, if you feel lacking in festive cheer at this early date, why not come along to the PNHS Christmas Social and practice being cheerful. There will be three natural history quiz games plus social chat and plenty of snacks. Our evening is informal so bring along a friend – or two! Please remember that a contribution to the festive fare is welcomed.

Thursday 1st February 2008 Hedgehogs on Uist

Andy and Gay Christie from Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre at Beith will visit our society and talk about Hedgehogs. As you probably know, Hedgehogs were introduced to the Uist islands where they have thrived for many years. During the nesting season an increasing number of Hedgehogs have been eating the eggs of breeding wading birds such as Dunlins, Redshanks etc. Bird conservation groups were concerned about the decline in the breeding success of these birds and began a series of selective culls of the animals. Andy and Gay Christie, and others, were outraged at the fate of the Hedgehogs and began a programme of collecting live animals from the islands and re-homing them at selected areas on the mainland. It will be most interesting to find out how successful the project has been.

Reports on Recent Events

Wild Bird Photography – Indoor Meeting, Thursday 6th September

Darren O'Brien gave an excellent talk on his approach to bird photography. He claimed that this was his first public lecture. He did not disappoint us. Camouflage and careful stalking were his techniques and Darren showed many remarkable bird images. Notable among these were shots of an Osprey flying around Endrick Mouth, Swallows in flight and young Cuckoos being fed by their foster parent at Dumbuck Moor. We eagerly await his next talk.

East Coast Migrants - Outing, Sunday 24th September

Our chairman, Tom Byars, led some enthusiastic members to Musselburgh Lagoons on the east coast to search for waders and other migrants. Good sightings were had of Ruff and Black-tailed Godwits. Out at sea, Pintail and Velvet Scoter were spotted. A quick visit to Gullane resulted in sightings of Great Skuas.

A History of Wildlife Photography – Indoor Meeting, Thursday 4th October

Norman Tait, a member of the PNHS Council, gave a talk featuring the work of pioneer Scottish wildlife photographers. Photographs taken by Charles Reid of Wishaw, Charles Kirk of Glasgow, Seton Gordon of Skye and Harry Macpherson of Kingussie were shown.

The *Fungus Forays* to Chatelherault C.P. (Sat. 6th October) and Loch Libo (Sat. 13th October) were each attended by a few PNHS members. The fungal flora was poor this year and no notable fungi were found.

Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2008. They are as follows:- Ordinary £6; Family £8; Unwaged £3. Subscriptions may be paid to the Treasurer, Marian Coates at any of the meetings.

Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn, Paisley on Thursday 13th March 2008.

T. Norman Tait