



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, August 2008

Hello again. Your Committee has decided to go for a full winter programme this year with a meeting every month. Lack of support for the winter meetings some years ago resulted in the Committee putting a reduced winter programme into place as a short term remedy.

Winter Programme

The full winter programme has now been arranged and all the meetings will continue to be held in Gallery 3 at Paisley Museum. The events until the end of this year are:

Thursday 4th September **Neil Gregory** *Moth Myths*

Moths are fascinating creatures. They come in all shapes, sizes and colours but not all fly by night. Find out more about these fascinating insects and learn the truth about the wonderful world of moths. Neil is the Chairman of the Glasgow and South-West Scotland Branch of the British Butterfly Conservation Society. He is also the Moth Recorder for Renfrewshire. So, who better to tell us about the Moths to be found in our area.

Thursday 2nd October **David Clugston** *Alaskan Adventure*

David's intriguing talk will take you on a voyage of adventure to discover the wildlife of the remote Pribilof Islands in Alaska followed by a return to the mainland to look at the birds, flowers and animals of the Denali National Park during his three week tour. Not to be missed.

Thursday 6th November **Gordon Todd** *Treasures from the Earth*

Scotland is rich in minerals and gemstones so come along and discover the wealth that lies beneath our feet and see some fine examples of Scottish gems as local expert Gordon Todd reveals this magical world. He grew up in India where his interest in geology (and natural history) was awakened. Gordon has taken every opportunity to add to his collections while living in Scotland, New Zealand and travelling in Europe and North America. His talk will feature examples from his extensive personal collections.

Thursday 4th December **Christmas Social** Details will be given in the November issue of the Newsletter.

Forthcoming Outings

Sunday 31st August **Bat Walk at Castle Semple**

contact Nicola Macintyre **0141 8406171**

Pat Emslie of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Ranger Service and Clyde Bat Group will be leading an evening bat walk around Castle Semple. Meet at 7.30 pm in the Visitor Centre at Castle Semple.

Sunday 21st September **East Coast Bird Foray**.

contact Tom Byars (evening) **01294 466393**

This outing will be made to view the autumn bird migration at various locations on the south east coast.

Reports on Recent Outings

Scone Palace (March 2008) The current Scottish stronghold for Hawfinches in Scotland is in the deciduous woodlands around Scone Palace. A small group of members visited the site and they did see the birds but only as silhouettes in the treetops. Little improvement in the weather resulted in the group visiting the Tay Marshes where one member claimed to hear the call of the rare Bearded Reedling which has been known to breed there in recent years.

RSPB Baron's Haugh Reserve (April 2008) Good weather resulted in a cacophony of bird calls in the scrub and woodlands surrounding the ponds on the reserve. Members present found difficulty in separating the different species but our chairman, Tom Byars, did an excellent job of identifying the various songs. All the local warblers were present except the elusive Lesser Whitethroat which may have been yet to arrive. Good views were had of a Kingfisher on the nearby River Clyde.

Endrick Mouth Reserve (May 2008) The walk from Gartocharn to the river mouth took place on a brilliant sunny day. Large numbers of Orangetip butterflies were seen feeding on the abundance of spring flowers which carpeted the sun dappled woodlands. A botanical highlight was Globeflower flowering along the edge of Loch Lomond. Over towards the ponds at Wards Farm we did see two Ospreys but at a considerable distance. The scratchy song of Sedge Warblers filled the air from the willow scrub surrounding Aber Bog.

SWT Glen Moss Reserve (June 2008) Our walk around this wetland site was in good weather and the members present saw butterflies such as Ringlet and Meadow Brown in the grassy areas surrounding the marsh and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries feeding on Marsh Thistle flowers at the edge of the marsh. Orchids present were the colourful Northern Marsh, the diminutive Coralroot and one flower only of the Greater Butterfly orchid which flowers erratically on the grassland parts of the site. Large Red and Common Blue Damselflies were present as were newly emerged Four-spotted Chaser dragonflies.

Committee

Your committee has decided to ask the membership for their e-mail addresses. It is planned to send the newsletter and reminders about imminent talks and outings by e-mail. Our Publicity Officer, Nicola Macintyre, will collate the information.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 7pm in the Bull Inn, Paisley on Thurs 20th November.

T. Norman Tait