



PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Newsletter, November 2009

News

East Coast Bird Foray

The September East Coast Bird Foray was attended by four intrepid members of the society who managed to spot a considerable number of bird species including Bar-tailed Godwit, Knot, Scoter, Velvet Scoter, Great Crested Grebe, Red-throated Diver, Arctic Skua and a rare visitor from North America the Lesser Yellowlegs. For a full report of the trip visit the *Reports Section* of the Society's website.

Scottish Birds

The September 2009 edition of Scottish Birds published by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club includes a paper in the 'Short Notes' section by our Chairman, Tom Byars entitled 'Unprecedented spring passage of Long-tailed Skuas over Saltcoats during May 2006'.

A copy of this report can also be found in the *Library Section* of the Society's website.

International Year of Biodiversity

2010 is International Year of Biodiversity and Paisley Natural History Society has signed up to the IYB-UK partnership. IYB-UK is an informal network of organisations that plan to promote understanding of biodiversity during the International Year of Biodiversity.

We hope to do our bit to raise awareness of biodiversity through our involvement with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnership and through our own evening talks and summer excursions programme. For more information on International Year of Biodiversity visit the Natural History Museum website at <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/international-year-biodiversity/index.html>

Questionnaire

The committee will soon be looking at organising the summer outings programme, but as many of the outings have been poorly attended by members we are looking for your views to try and find out what you want from the summer outings programme. Please fill in the attached questionnaire and either return by post with your membership form or hand it to any member of the committee at the next meeting.

Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2010. They are as follows: **Ordinary £6, Family £8, Unwaged £3.**

Subscriptions can be paid at the meetings to our Treasurer, Marian Coates or by sending a cheque along with membership form to Paisley Natural History Society C/o Paisley Museum.

Please find a membership form enclosed with this newsletter .

P.T.O

Thursday 3rd December **Christmas Social**

There is no talk this evening but we will be getting together to celebrate the festive season with food, drink, games and quizzes, so please come along. One of the quizzes will be a 'how many....' quiz so if you want to win that prize start swotting up on your wildlife knowledge.

Thursday 7th January 2010 **Wildlife of South America by Darren O'Brien**

Brazil is considered to have the greatest biodiversity of any country on the planet with the most known species of plant, freshwater fish and mammals. Brazil also ranks third on the list of countries with the most number of bird species and fifth for reptiles. Darren, a keen wildlife photographer, visited the Pantanal in Brazil, the world's largest wetland area and home to species such as the Capybara and the endangered Hyacinth Macaw.

Thursday 4th February **Lost Species – The Aspen and the Beaver by Joe Greenlees of BULB**

The beautiful Aspen is a rare feature of Britain's woodlands with only 3 native trees remaining in Renfrewshire. However, BULB is working to change the status of this tree in Renfrewshire from one of the rarest to one of the commonest. Joe will be talking about BULB's work to propagate this species with the long-term plan of re-planting parts of Renfrewshire and about the re-introduction of Beavers to Britain and what this would mean to the health of our environment.

Thursday 4th March **The life and times of the Marine Biological Station at Millport by Professor Geoff Moore**

The history of the station at Millport reaches back more than 100 years to the earliest days of organised marine biology in Scotland and has attracted a stream of scientists and students to study the rich fauna and flora that the Clyde Sea has to offer. Geoff will be talking about the historical significance of the station, its links with Paisley, some of the current research being undertaken and the status of the local marine environment.

Please note that in April we will be holding a joint meeting with the Glasgow and Hamilton Natural History Societies. This meeting is to be held in the Graham Kerr Building at the University of Glasgow on Tuesday 13th April.

More details will be made available in the next newsletter but we are hoping for a good turn out from our society members.

[Winter Outings Programme](#)

Sunday 21st February **Mersehead RSPB Reserve** **Contact Tom Byars 01294 466 393**

Mersehead RSPB Reserve on the Solway Firth is a haven for many bird species. Huge flocks of Svalbard Barnacle geese, Teal, Wigeon and Pintail arrive here in autumn staying through to early spring. Feeding waders can be seen on the saltmarshes and farmland birds feed in the stubble fields, occasionally disturbed by hunting Peregrine and Hen Harrier. Please notify the leader if you plan to come along. Meet at the Watermill Hotel car park, Paisley at 9.00am.

Sunday 7th March **Scone Palace** **Contact Ewan Douglas 0141 886 5232**

The mixed woodlands around Scone Palace are the current Scottish stronghold for the Hawfinch. These large finches have bred at Scone since 1948. This is a joint meeting with Renfrewshire RSPB local group. If you're interested in going please notify the leader beforehand to find out meeting times and arrange lifts and car sharing if necessary.

[Society Website](#)

The address is www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk
information please contact me at Paisley Museum.

Any member wishing to add new