



## PAISLEY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Newsletter, November 2010

#### News

##### **East Coast Bird Foray (3/10/2010) by Tom Byars**

This was a joint outing with the Renfrewshire RSPB and PNHS to the East Lothian coast, looking in particular for any rarities that had been discovered previously. The main news on the local grapevine was of two Barred Warblers seen at Barns Ness - a well known rarity hot spot. Over ten members were gathered around an overgrown area, locally known as the wire dump, peering through telescopes at two juvenile Barred Warblers which were feasting on elderberries. Cracking views as they roosted in the gorse and my camera was back in the car - serves me right! After lunch there we then set off for Gosford Bay, to look for Divers and Grebes. We found some Red-throated Divers, a single Great Northern Diver and at least nine Slavonian Grebes. There was also plenty of Common and Velvet Scoters and my favourite sea duck - the Long-tailed Duck. Our party then split up, some headed back to Paisley for tea but the remaining hard core went to Aberlady Bay, where we saw some Grey Plover and plenty of Pinkfeet.

Our last port of call was Musselburgh Lagoons to look for passage waders. The lagoons were sparsely populated. This was due to some lost looking walkers, who had stumbled over the rise and wandered around the reserve, right there in front of the hides, spooking every bird into the air - but not before I managed to find a juvenile Curlew Sandpiper feeding amongst a flock of Dunlin!

##### **Biological Recording**

The sightings page of the website has been a bit scarce of late so if any members have any records from the Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire or Inverclyde area that they would like to submit please send them to me at [nicola.macintyre@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.macintyre@renfrewshire.gov.uk) and I'll update the website. All records are also put into the biological records database and play a vital role in helping us to understand what species are present in the local area.

To be viable all biological records need to have the following basic information of:

Species name

Date seen

Location

Number

Along with your own contact details.

#### Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions are now due for 2011. They are as follows: **Ordinary £6, Family £8, Unwaged £3.**

Subscriptions can be paid at the meetings to our Treasurer, Anne Gray 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.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 the name game devised by Anne Gray and entitled 'Poetry Posers'. All contributions of food and drink most welcome.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011**                      **Wildlife of Fuerteventura by T. Norman Tait**

Many of the plants and animals which live on this volcanic island are specially adapted to living in an arid environment. Certain birds, such as the Stone Curlew, the Houbara Bustard and the Cream-coloured Courser have evolved excellent camouflage which renders them almost invisible on the featureless coastal plains. In contrast the mountainous regions host fertile valleys with lush vegetation home to a variety of birds and insects.

This photographic journey is a wildlife spectacular not to be missed.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

**This is a joint meeting with Glasgow and Hamilton Natural History Societies which we will be hosting.**

**First a short presentation by Neil Gregory (County Moth Recorder) on the moth records contained in the John Morgan Diaries followed by...**

**'Goatfell – Everything but the Goats' by Kate Sampson National Trust for Scotland – Arran Ranger Service**

Take a closer look at the conservation and mountain wildlife of the magnificent Goatfell Property on the Isle of Arran.

Golden eagles soar overhead, red deer roar in the glens, and black adders hiss at your feet. Come along and find out more about these and some of the more unusual mountain wildlife of Goatfell and some of the conservation projects aiming to improve key habitats.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**Amber – Tears of the Gods! By Dr Neil Clark of the Hunterian Museum**

Once a treasure more valuable than gold, amber has had a fascinating and turbulent history, a history that shaped the economies of the Baltic States.

The mysterious qualities of Amber have caused it to be collected, treasured and admired since ancient times. Over thousands of years, many strange theories have been advanced as to amber's origin and nature, including many myths and legends, but for all its varieties, colours and forms, every piece of amber originated as tree resin, fossilised over millions of years.

From ancient 40 million year old forests; the palaces of European royal families and the strange and superstitious practices of the Scottish Highlands to the modern palaeontologist discovering insects new to science, amber is still the highly prized jewel of bygone times.

Neil will also be bringing copies of his book 'Amber – Tears of the Gods!' to the meeting should anyone wish to purchase a copy, at the reduced price of £10 for society members only.

**Society Website**

The address is [www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.paisleynaturalhistorysociety.org.uk)  
information please contact me at Paisley Museum.

Any member wishing to add new