

Spring 2020

Welcome to the latest edition and I hope that you are all keeping well in these difficult times. Following the Government's guidelines, many of us are having to self-isolate, therefore not being able to visit family, friends or the local nature reserves. It is a difficult situation that we find ourselves in, however, at present, we are still permitted a daily, one-hour outdoor exercise. I would love to know what differences you have noticed in the wildlife in your garden, or from your window, or if you are able to, on your daily exercise outing. Please e-mail me at newsletter@rspbgravesend.org.uk

For further information on the Government's guidelines, please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care



Whilst on your daily walk, or from home, why not take some photographs of your wildlife and print them ready to be entered into our Christmas social evening competition on Thursday December 10th. We would love to see as many as possible on the night - two photos per entrant. Our group leader, Paul and his daughter, Emily have set up two new groups on social media. The first is on Facebook:

Gravesend RSPB Stay-at-Home Group where you can submit your photos/sightings, join in the conversations and enjoy a quiz or two. The second can be found on Instagram here: @rspb_gravesend They are free to join and have some good features – we look forward to seeing you there.

Also on Facebook, there are numerous new groups regarding wildlife, but my favourites are:

RSPB breakfast birdwatch – weekdays between 0800 – 0900

Chris Packham's Bird isolation Club – weekdays at 0900, live from the New Forest

On YouTube – Steve Backshall – Wednesday 0930

Bird facts

If you just can't get the hang of which fork for which course perhaps you should take a tip from the great tit – its beak changes shape (very slightly) over the year as its food supply changes from insects to nuts and seeds – very clever!

It's possible that the blue for a boy, pink for a girl tradition stems from starlings. You can tell the sexes apart by the colour of the base of the bill – blue for males, pink for females!

Norfolk – an article by Louise and Neville Lunness-Barnes

Louise and I fell in love with Norfolk twenty years ago. We had never been to Norfolk before and picked the county at random for a week's holiday in a rented cottage after plans for a short break with family fell through due to illness on the part of our planned hosts. It's difficult to say why we fell in love with Norfolk. It wasn't the birdlife - at the time we weren't specifically interested in birds, although we were generally interested in nature and in being outdoors. But Norfolk was quieter and friendlier than Kent and - especially - London, where I was working, and the Norfolk countryside and coast held a wealth of walks, pubs, towns and villages all ripe for exploration.

The cottage we had rented was right on the North Norfolk coast, in the village of Stiffkey. We quickly decided that we would try to buy a small cottage in the area to allow us to escape at weekends, and within eighteen months we were the proud owners of a two-bedroom cottage, a mere ten metres from the first cottage we had rented in Stiffkey. We kept that cottage for sixteen years, and in that time we made friends, we explored North Norfolk and we decided that we'd eventually retire to the area. We also got interested in birds. It's impossible to spend a lot of time in Norfolk without occasionally seeing a row of parked cars in the middle of nowhere, with a stream of people moving away, all festooned with expensive-looking binoculars, and we became aware of Norfolk's status as a birding hotspot. However, we actually became interested in birds not because of Norfolk, but by getting involved with the Gravesend RSPB Group through the "No Airport At Cliffe" campaign.



Having decided that we would one day retire to the area, we started looking at suitable properties. Our lovely little low-maintenance cottage was never going to be big enough for us and all our stuff (and dogs!) for a prolonged period, and we also wanted a bit of land. While we started looking for our "forever home" several years before either of us planned to retire, we always said that if we found the right house, we'd buy it and keep it going until we retired. Four years ago we found that house - about ten miles inland in Fakenham.

While only being ten minutes' walk from the town centre, the two-acre garden feels like it's in the middle of the countryside. It feels slightly fraudulent to call it a "garden" - when we bought the house, the furthest area of the garden was best described as unkempt and we haven't

done much since to change that situation. We keep about a quarter of the garden as mown lawn, but the rest of it is left fairly wild - which is the way we like it. Much of the garden is bounded on three sides by water - shallow drainage ditches - with the land on the other side of these ditches either being neighbours' equally wild gardens, or land grazed by livestock under management by the Hawk & Owl Trust (who run the Sculthorpe Moor nature reserve, 5 minutes' drive from the house). We have recently planted a hedge across the garden to provide more wildlife habitat and also with the aim of creating a secure space for our dogs to run in, and we enlisted friends from the Gravesend RSPB Group to help with that work.



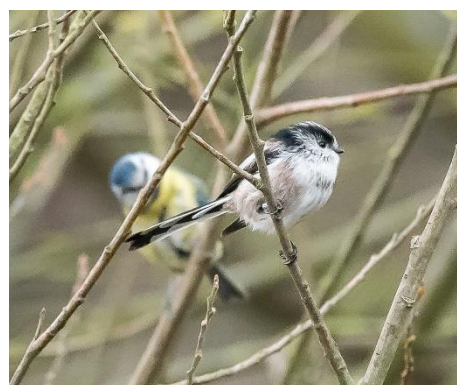
The fact that our garden is bounded by water makes it relatively unusual - many of our neighbours' gardens are surrounded by tall fences or have at least a small area protected by a tall cage of plastic mesh. The reason for our neighbours' defensive measures is also the reason why we haven't made much effort to cultivate "normal" garden plants - muntjac deer are common in the area and treat our garden as their own. Muntjac deer are small deer (standing only 45-52cm tall at the shoulders) introduced from China in the early twentieth century as an ornamental addition to the British landscape. We can often see between two and four deer from the house, but there's a lot of garden and undergrowth that we can't see into from the house so there could be more - and they're always bounding away from us as we walk down the garden. Having said that, they're quite happy to come very close to the house - even with the dogs barking at them from behind glass doors - and they stand and watch as we pull up in the car at night, their eyes shining as they reflect the car headlights. We're not entirely sure what they eat. A lot of the time they do a good impression of grazing on the grass, but the fact that I still have to cut it once a fortnight suggests they're not eating much of it. Similarly, we have a lot of nettles and thistles, and the deer don't seem to eat them either. They're fond of primroses - just the flowers - and stand on their hind legs to get at the tender leaves of the laurel plants that make up some of the hedges. Given that laurel leaves contain small amounts of cyanide, the deer clearly have a strong constitution!



The bottom of the garden has an area of mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland, patches of nettles and thistles, a small area of lawn, and a good-sized pond. We're told that the pond was formed when a large tree fell over and the hole left by the root system filled with water. Closer to the house are some specimen trees, including an American red oak, a Chinese dove tree and a very large crack willow. As well as providing interest, colour and habitats, the trees are useful to hang bird feeders from ...

Every month since January 2017 we've kept a list of the wildlife we've seen in (or from) the garden that month. The list is divided into "birds" and "mammals and everything else". The "mammals and everything else" section always includes muntjac deer and grey squirrel; common frog and toad are also regularly seen, and common newts feature occasionally - especially if my gardening tasks have involved digging around in the log piles around the garden. Various butterflies, moths, dragonflies and damselflies also feature in this section in the appropriate season - given the presence of so much water and so many nettles, this isn't surprising. However, it must be admitted that the number of butterfly and moth species we record increases dramatically when we have more knowledgeable visitors who can help us with the identification!

As for birds, the feeders quickly attract jackdaws and rooks when we fill them up - especially the fat balls and suet block. Smaller passerines include blue tits - who fly to the windowsills with sunflower seeds before hammering at them to extract the kernels - great tits, long-tailed tits and coal tits. Robins, blackbirds, dunnock, chaffinch and goldfinch all visit on a more-or-less regular basis, while the robins and blackbirds follow me when I'm weeding. Being close to water means that mallards are also regular visitors, with greylag geese visiting from time to time. And the resident pheasants Hoover up the crumbs from beneath the feeders.



Red Kites – Natalie Jaworska

Why red kites matter

Perhaps one should begin by asking ‘why does any species matter?’ Why should we conserve a species that has evolved over thousands of years to fit perfectly into its own specific niche within a complex ecosystem? Why should we respect a species that plays a pivotal role in maintaining ecosystem health; an ecosystem that we are in no doubt intrinsically entwined in and dependent on (more often than not, obviously so)?

The unfortunate truth is this: humans are fundamental to a species’ survival. In an age where we inhabit and utilise almost every habitat on our increasingly shrinking planet, no stone remains unturned, no habitat remains untouched. The second unfortunate truth is this: humans are innately selfish (if you take the musings of Richard Dawkins as gospel). In our regrettably short lifespan, we often fail to appreciate that the human race will continue long after we have perished, as will the flora and fauna that we inhabit the Earth with. We are the (at times unconscious or unwilling) custodians of this planet and as such, we have a duty to uphold. This duty, to conserve global ecosystems, is in the best interests of all those involved; there are no losers.

Being of higher intelligence, awareness is not usually enough; humans also require understanding. For understanding awakens appreciation, appreciation leads to admiration, and admiration invokes respect, and the resulting desire to protect. This is where the red kite holds a trump card. Not many species on Earth are such a magnificent sight to behold, majestically soaring through the skies, that characteristic forked rufous tail leading the fortunate observer to the unmistakable conclusion that they are indeed witnessing a scene that their ancestors shared hundreds of years before: the scene of a red kite gracing the firmament above.

Indeed, it is this gliding behaviour that inspired their Old English name ‘glead’ or ‘gled’; a name immortalised in history in towns such as Gleadthorpe and Gledehill. Yet there is so much more to appreciate about the red kite than merely its aesthetic features.



This iconic species was once persecuted to near extinction in the UK during the late 1800s, hanging on by a thread of only two breeding pairs in the remotest parts of Wales. Their cataclysmic decline can be mostly attributed to bounty hunters, egg collectors, illegal poisoning, and habitat loss. In summary, human persecution was to blame. Historically, public support strongly correlated to human requirements; red kites were revered in the Middle Ages and protected by royal decree for their services in keeping the streets clean. Astonishingly, red kites were once as common on the Thames as gulls are today. Their persistent thieving from washing lines for nest lining even earned them a reference in Shakespeare’s ‘A Winter’s Tale’.

However, humans are a fickle species. The mid-1500s witnessed a reversal of public support when red kites were labelled as vermin and rewards were bestowed on members of the public who slaughtered them to ‘protect’ food production under the Preservation of Grain Act. The resulting inevitable decline in red kite populations was further exacerbated by egg collectors who cashed in on this now rare species.

In 1903, just as Atropos of the Moirai raised her shears to deliver her swift conclusion to the fate of *Milvus milvus*, a small collective of scientists in Wales formed the first ever Kite

Committee dedicated to saving this epochal species, which is now the longest running conservation project in the world. Thanks to the tremendous efforts and foresight of those few individuals, and an annual reward scheme offered to landowners with breeding kites in the



mid-1900s, red kites began to claw their way back from inexorable decline. Despite this, there was still great debate among the ornithological community as to whether this species would ever moult its rare status.

Notwithstanding this, restoration of the population was further secured with a series of highly successful reintroduction schemes supplemented from their European counterparts, enabling one of our most iconic birds to continue gracing our skies.

Throughout history there have been countless examples of the significant importance of red kites as a top predator, many of which have afforded great benefits to humans. Their role as scavengers, for one, was a considerable asset to our cities; perhaps one of the earliest examples of an ecosystem service, the magnitude of which cannot be underestimated. By contributing to disease prevention that was so rife during the Middle Ages, red kites no doubt saved countless lives and large sums of public funding. Red kites are primarily scavengers in their natural environment; one of their most important ecosystem roles. Additionally, they act as pest control by supplementing their diet with small mammals, bestowing yet another service to farmers and landowners.

As with all raptors, red kites are excellent environmental barometers, providing invaluable information about the health of our ecosystems and an early warning system to alert conservationists of any foreboding drivers. Furthermore, the vast range of habitats that red kites inhabit extends their ecosystem contributions far and wide.

Red kites have more than cleared their conservation programme debt by enticing enthusiasts to visit reintroduction sites and generating over twenty full time jobs in Scotland alone. The Galloway Kite Trail is a highly successful ecotourism attraction, with in excess of 70% of its visitors hailing from outside of Scotland. Over a ten-year period, it is estimated that these tourists have contributed a whopping £54.6 million to Dumfries and Galloway's economy; an impressive figure that should not be taken lightly. It appears that the red kite has advantageously morphed into a golden goose.

Perhaps most importantly in today's anthropogenic epoch, these highly successful red kite reintroduction programmes could provide reproducible models for preserving other endangered raptors, such as the red status hen harrier. Promisingly, red kites are now thriving despite continued cases of persecution from illegal baiting and secondary poisoning (mainly in Scotland); in fact, they are too numerous in the Chilterns to be accurately counted. The current UK population, estimated at over 2,000 breeding pairs, is a 1000-fold increase from the early 1900s; certainly a conservation success to be celebrated. It would not be naïve to assume that British red kites may one day be required to recompense their overseas relatives by supplementing the sadly, rapidly declining population in southern Europe.



There is much that can be gleaned from the tumultuous fluctuations of red kite populations throughout the UK. Most evident of all, however, is how sensitive species are to human activity, and ultimately, the overriding contribution we bear on their survival. One hopes that

their conservation victory is a harbinger of avian conservation success for the rest of the world, and surely demonstrates why red kites do, indeed, matter.

Conservationists can now rest assured that the future of Britain's red kites is set to soar, and generations to come will be able to experience their wonder rather than merely hearing their echoes in Shakespeare plays or place names. This raptor, rightfully voted 'bird of the twentieth century', has won the hearts of the British public, and thus will triumphantly remain embedded in the heart of ecosystems forevermore.

A comment on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the work of the RSPB by Martin Harper RSPB's Global Conservation Officer

Since I last wrote on 17 March, our whole way of life has been upended. From a personal perspective, it's probably been the most challenging period of my career and arguably some of the most challenging weeks in the long history of the RSPB. We've closed our nature reserves, halted our field work, postponed some vital conservation work such as the Gough Island Restoration Programme, brought home colleagues from across the world, spent long days working through how we keep our people safe and what Government guidelines mean for our work.

It's been incredibly difficult and some tough choices remain. But amidst the worry and the challenges I have been struck by the amazing response from my colleagues from every corner of the organisation. It's been very humbling to see how the RSPB (and the wider BirdLife International) family has supported each other, and no doubt, will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months.

The scale and speed of the transformation is brought into sharp relief for me today, as this week I was due to start my sabbatical. I know it is only a little thing, but it did jolt me when I remembered it this weekend.

One of the perks of working for the RSPB is that after working for the organisation for five years, you are entitled to a month to do something different to develop new perspectives or capabilities. I hadn't previously taken a sabbatical so was determined this year to benefit from the scheme.

If it were not for the wretched virus, over the next few weeks I would have first visited some of the RSPB's most iconic landscape-scale projects to reacquaint myself with the scale of achievement and ambition. This would have included Abernethy, Insh Marshes, Dove Stone Haweswater and Geltsdale. My intention then was to visit two European countries to be inspired by what others are doing a) Norway with the Cairngorm Connect team to experience landscapes which are analogous to what we are trying to restore in our uplands and b) Holland with colleagues from the Wildlife Trusts and statutory agencies to visit some of the largest habitat recreation/natural climate solution projects to serve as inspiration for what we can do in an equally densely populated country.

I wanted to learn the lessons from what we have already achieved to help us deliver the step change that we need to address the climate and nature emergency.

As I have written before, if we are successful in securing (through the new UN global deal for nature) a new target of 30% of land to be well protected and managed for nature by 2030, we need a six-fold increase from where we are today, which based on condition assessments of terrestrial protected areas in the UK is just 5% of the UK.

I am sure my sabbatical would have been brilliant. But that, like so many things has to wait.

Instead, like you, I am now at home spending my days in virtual meetings (via Zoom, Skype or Microsoft Teams) and worrying about friends, family and colleagues who have been affected by the virus. But alongside managing the immediate challenges we face, we are also taking significant steps to ensure the long-term health of the organisation so that we emerge from this in a fit state to have the impact we need for our mission. Because, when the restrictions are lifted, there are some things which will not have changed.

The UK will still be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. The UK Government (and devolved administrations) will still have to introduce new policies, funding and laws to meet its commitment to restore nature in a generation and replace the losses from the past fifty years. It will still have responsibility to reduce its environmental footprint abroad, to save nature on its 14 Overseas Territories and to play a leadership role in addressing the ecological and climate emergency internationally. And we shall remain a critical friend and partner in delivering that ambition.

The key principles of nature conservation still stand. We will still need to provide more space for nature by delivering more, bigger, better and joined protected areas, by taking targeted action to recover threatened species and by reforming land and sea use so that we live in harmony with nature. And we shall still need to wean ourselves off fossil fuels to prevent catastrophic climate change.

Nature will still provide huge benefits to people. While the RSPB believes in the intrinsic value of nature, we know that people continue to benefit from a healthy natural environment. The lockdown has brought this into sharp relief which is why we have been promoting ways to connect to wildlife to lift their spirits such as #BreakfastBirdwatch. It works for me. My garden has been watched like never before and I am paying more attention to the returning migratory birds on my daily run round the common near home. Nature still provides cultural and spiritual benefits as well as essential services such as flood management, carbon storage and the products we consume. We shall still need nature based solutions to tackle some of our biggest societal challenges.

In short, after this is over we shall still need to invest in nature.

For now though, stay safe and stay well.

The female of the species quiz.

1. This is a common bird, often seen in gardens. Its size (25cm) and shape mark it out as a type of thrush. It is almost uniformly brown with paler underparts and with some mottling, but no clearly defined spots, on its breast. Which species am I describing:

Ring ouzel

Redwing

Blackbird

Fieldfare

2. This female is obviously a duck but which one? It is mostly mottled in various shades of brown and white, but clearly has a purple speculum (the patch of secondary feathers visible towards the tail when swimming), edged in white. Which duck is this?

Mallard

Gadwall

Teal

Shoveler

3. This female is a member of the warbler family. It has fairly undistinguished markings of brownish grey back and wings with much paler underparts. It has a prominent reddish-brown top to its head. Which species do you think it is?

Grasshopper warbler

Whitethroat

Blackcap

Willow warbler

4. This female is a large (about 52 cm) bird of prey. It appears mostly all dark brown, with variable amounts of cream on its breast (sometimes absent) and some cream on its shoulders. There is always a cream-coloured cap to its head, visible from quite a distance. Which raptor is this?

Buzzard

Golden eagle

Goshawk

Marsh harrier

5. A familiar garden bird, this female is about 14 cm long. It has a streaky brown back and wings (sometimes with variable amounts of white). The underparts are buff-coloured. The head is light brown with a diagnostic buff stripe from the back of the eye. Which female is this?

House sparrow

Willow warbler

Reed bunting

Great tit

6. Predominantly a woodland species, this female is a summer visitor, often amongst the last to arrive in springtime.

It has a pale grey head and back. The wings are darker with a prominent white patch. The underparts are mostly white with small amounts of buffy-brown. Which female is this?

Pied flycatcher

Wood Warbler

Redstart

Tree pipit

7. A common garden bird, this female is about 15 cm long. The upper parts are mostly greenish-brown and the underparts are greyish brown, sometimes with a faint flush of pink. the wings appear dark in flight with white shoulders and wing-bars. this species usually walks and hops with a distinctive jerky gait. Which female is this?

Yellowhammer

Brambling

Linnet

Chaffinch

8. A common large game bird about 60cm long (about a third of that is its tail), this female is cryptically coloured. It is mostly mottled brown but individuals can vary widely from dark brown to pale buff. This bird often 'explodes' unexpectedly from cover with a loud cackling call, making the observer jump. Which female am I?

Moorhen

Ptarmigan

Quail

Pheasant

9. This female is a type of duck, she usually nests along fast-flowing upland streams and rivers and is only rarely found on the sea. Her body is mostly a grey colour, there is a clearly defined white throat patch and a clear dividing line between the neck and the brown head. There is a short downward crest from the head which is not always visible. Which female duck am I?

Red-breasted merganser

Goosander

Smew

Goldeneye

10. This species is something of an oddity; it is classed as a wader but spends much of its time swimming and in breeding plumage the female is more brightly coloured than the male.

In breeding plumage the female has a grey head with a white throat. It has a broad, bright orange/chestnut stripe running from its nape down the sides of its neck. Its back is grey and its wings are heavily streaked with dark brown and golden yellow. Which beautiful female is this?

Green sandpiper

Spotted redshank

Red-necked phalarope

Black-tailed godwit

Birdwise news from Hayley Taylor.

It only seems like 5 minutes ago that we were welcoming our Rangers back for another winter season on the north Kent marshes, and it's already time to say goodbye to them. The world feels like a completely different place to the one we were enjoying walking around in October. On the whole we were lucky with the weather, a largely mild winter meant we didn't get stopped by the snow, but the extremely stormy weather combined with high tides in February brought challenges for both the birds and the Rangers! On one occasion, Julie had to divert cars away from a car park that was likely to become flooded as the tide was rising. On another occasion, after getting thoroughly drenched with no sign of the rain stopping, Mel decided to set up the scope inside her car and stayed there for the whole shift using the car as a hide / office.



We produced our first film in November, with our very own ranger dog taking a starring role, showing people how they can be Bird Wise when visiting the coast. You can see this on our YouTube channel by searching for Bird Wise North Kent, or it is also available to view on our website. Over the last 6 months we engaged with around 3,500 people out on-site and at events we attended. We led guided walks across the north Kent marshes at Higham, Cliffe, Hoo, Riverside Country Park, Faversham, Oare Marshes and Seasalter, and were treated to some perfect conditions to show participants the huge variety of birds that visit our coast every year. At our Seasalter walk we were really lucky that a black redstart was showing well and very obligingly posed for photos (one attached). As well as walks out on the coast, we have also given talks to various local interest groups, including recently the Gravesham 50+ Forum. We love sharing tales about our experiences as rangers, as well as telling the stories of the migratory journeys our amazing birds undertake year on year.

Sadly, our on-site engagement had to stop earlier than planned this year due to the Covid-19 situation, as we had to ensure the safety of our team and encourage people to stay home as per Government guidelines. Our Rangers spent the last 2 weeks of the season writing blogs and other pieces to be posted on our website over the summer, they finished the season on 31 March but will be returning again at the end of September.

Whilst we are currently unable to engage with people on site, we have switched our focus to engaging online. We know how important it is to connect with nature, so we will do whatever we can to help people stay connected when they are self-isolating, by bringing them the sights and sounds of the north Kent marshes as well as sharing pictures from our gardens and local

surrounding area. Our project manager is very lucky to live within a 10 minute walk of the Estuary so is using the daily exercise allowance to take pictures and videos which are shared on our social media pages.

You can find our pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using @Birdwisenk or by searching for Bird Wise North Kent, or you can visit our website for news and blogs at www.birdwise.org.uk

It can seem overwhelming with the constant bad news being streamed at us all the time, but there are small positives to be found every day in nature, and with Spring in full flow it is a really exciting time of new life that we can watch unfold from home. With less people out and about, nature is bouncing back, and, who knows, it could be a bumper year for our coastal birds! We have to cling onto these little pieces of good news but we will get through this together, and next season the wintering birds will return as they always do along our Rangers.

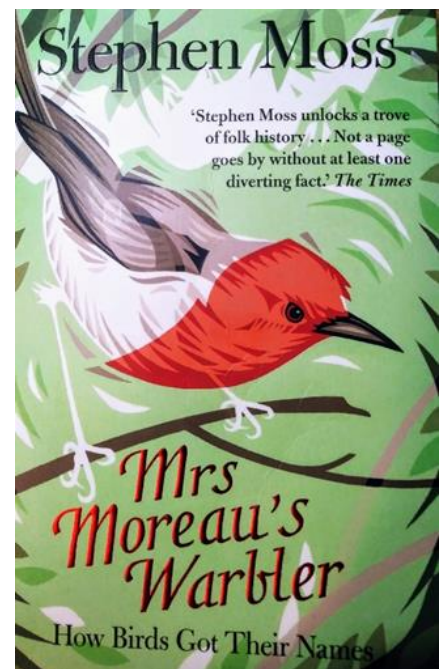
Until next time, we hope you stay well, stay safe and stay connected.

A book review by Paul Yetman.

Mrs Moreau's Warbler – How Birds Got Their Names by Stephen Moss. Published by Guardian Faber.

Swallow and starling, puffin and peregrine, blue tit and blackcap. Do you ever pause to wonder about the origins of the names we call birds? What they mean? And where they came from? Stephen tells a story taking us on an epic journey through the ages revealing how the names we use today for birds are wrapped up in our history, language and culture; the result of epic journeys, ornithological rivalries, and even romantic gestures. Every page is filled with fascinating details in a well told narrative. To quote a passage from Stephen's book:

"..my fascination with the history and origin of bird names – whether of common and familiar, or rare and unusual species – is ultimately because these names hold within them the incredible variety of birds around the globe, and the rich stories of their interactions over time with us."



I greatly enjoyed reading this book and recommend it to everyone who on seeing or hearing a bird has called out its name or jotted it down in their notebook, to know not only what that bird is called, but how it came to be called that name.

Stephen Moss is a naturalist, broadcaster, television producer and author. In a distinguished career at the BBC Natural History Unit his credits include Springwatch, Bird Britannia and The Nature of Britain. Other titles by Stephen include A Bird in the Bush, Wild Hares and Hummingbirds, and The Robin: A Biography.

Bird fact

Barn owls can raise up to 11 eggs in a single brood. The greatest known age for a barn owl in the whole of Europe is 21 years. Old enough to get a key to the front door.



Sandra and Norman at Elmley last year: what do you think is being said here? Answers please to newsletter@rspbgravesend.org.uk

Red admiral (Vanessa atalanta)



Where to find it

Widespread across the UK, particularly in gardens. Most red admirals migrate to the UK in summer from central Europe.

Foodplants

Caterpillars feed on nettles. Adult red admirals feed from flowers such as buddleia, bramble and ivy, as well as on the juices of fallen fruit. Their proboscis comes in handy for this – while it may look like a straw, it's actually made up of two tubes which lock together to form the feeding tube. With a diet of nectar and sticky fruit, it's useful to have mouthparts that can be split into two for easy access to clean up.

Did you know?

The black and spiny red admiral caterpillars create protective tents for themselves by folding nettle leaves together, emerging to feed on other leaves.

From me and all of the committee, please stay safe and well. Fingers crossed so that we can all get back to normality soon and enjoy our lovely countryside again.

Steve Cullum – Newsletter Editor.