

**LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING 9 JULY 2013**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Andrew Chick, Robert Carr, Bill Sterling, John Watt, John Badley, Phil Hyde, Mike Harrison, Phil Espin and Chris Gunn (BTO rep N Lincs, by invitation).

**Apologies for absence:** Janet Eastmead, Anne Goodall, Grahame Hopwood, Roy Harvey, John Clarkson and Ian Macalpine-Leny.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Agreed to be a true record.

**Matters arising:**

**Joint meeting with BTO:** Chris Gunn outlined the plan for the event on 3<sup>rd</sup> November – a varied programme of talks and speakers. It will be at Whisby and has already been advertised on the LBC website. We will donate a raffle prize and put together a stand.

**Sponsorship for Adrian Slater:** He has been given £150 for his starling project; no feedback as yet.

**Garden Bird Survey:** John Badley told us that some RSPB local groups will circulate the recording form with a mailing, if we can get the form and a covering letter organised in time. Current participation is uncertain and will not be known until the forms are returned at the end of the summer.

**Rare and Scarce report 2003-7:** GPC has submitted the first draft and has been paid. Andrew Chick will work on this as time allows, but he is keen to start on the 2012 Report so that it is ready for the next AGM. Some help will be sought.

**2011 Report:** all agreed it is of a very high standard.

**LRC:** Andrew Chick has spoken to them about the use of our records but the situation has not been resolved.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker survey:** could not be organised in time and John Badley will try again next year.

**Officers' reports:**

**Treasurer:** A copy of the current position was circulated. The balance at the bank was out of date as the June statement had not yet arrived. John pointed out that subscription income was insufficient to meet the costs of publishing reports. Although we have reserves, it seems sensible to consider an increase in subscription rates: this will have to be put to the membership at the next AGM.

**Secretary:** A letter had been received offering public liability insurance on payment of an annual fee. Since the places where we hold meetings have their own insurance, it was agreed that we should ignore the letter. A letter had also been received from a member, which dealt with the AGM and the late start to the meeting after the talk by Martin Avery. There was some discussion as to the alternatives: different organisation, start time, location, time of day and even the day itself. There is no perfect solution as all have associated problems. Andrew Chick will formally reply to the letter.

**Sales secretary:** copy of sales accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. 33 copies of the recent report had been sold, which is a drop from last time. Possible reasons were discussed.

**Membership secretary:** No actual figures to hand, but payments are trickling in. There have been liaison problems with the LWT.

**County recorder South:** nothing to report.

**County recorder North:** not present, but nothing to report (per Phil Espin).

**Rarities committee:** not present.

**Chairman and Webmaster:** had met with Kevin Wilson to discuss the late submission of data for the bird report. Although the data for 2012 had been promised by the start of this July, it had not yet arrived. Part of the problem may have been due to the work being done by Gib Point to put all their old records into electronic form, and a request was made to the LBC to help fund the completion of this work. The committee

were reluctant to make a contribution without further details of the amount required and likely benefit to the club. Andrew Chick would seek clarification.

**BAP:** Anne Goodall had circulated a report. Phil Espin will provide the BBS details required. Andrew Chick will pass on the data on farmland species and will put a request for volunteers on the forum next year when asked. The committee are grateful for the work undertaken.

**Manby:** Phil Espin gave an update of the situation. He and John Clarkson had met the two farmers concerned (Roger Taylor and Martin Chapman), who expressed a desire to link Manby Flashes and Levee Doors, but this would need the support of a third landowner. Both farmers are applying for an extension to the Higher Level Stewardship grant scheme, but the future of this is uncertain financially.

**AOB:**

**Media issues:** will be dealt with by Andrew Chick.

**John Badley:** will meet the Birdtrack team at the Birdfair to discuss whether our data could be merged with theirs and what the benefits might be to both organisations.

**Andrew Chick:** apologised for the omission of the Escape section of the bird report; it will be included as an addendum in the 2012 report.

**Under-reporting of common species:** is a recurring theme on the forum. The most useful data is from BBS surveys and we should encourage more members to participate in this.

Meeting closed at 21:52.