

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING 11 DECEMBER 2012
MINUTES

Present: Andrew Chick, Robert Carr, Bill Sterling, Colin and Sheila Jennings, John Clarkson, Phil Espin, Janet Eastmead, Anne Goodall, Mike Harrison and Ian Macalpine-Leny.

Apologies for absence: Phil Hyde, Roy Harvey, John Badley, Grahame Hopwood.

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

Matters arising:

Coastal Grazing Marshes: Andrew had approached them with an offer of Barn Owl nest boxes but this had been declined.

Membership Secretary: a list of non-payers had been circulated, although not all Committee members had received this.

Website: some difficulties with the use of the Contact section; to be monitored.

BAP: see later item.

Discussion items: Sadly there had been no applicants for the joint BTO/LBC training day and it had been cancelled. The lack of young members is a matter of continuing concern with us and the LNU. The Secretary will write to Chris Gunn who had organised the event to offer continued support.

Calendar: no progress made so it will be postponed for a year.

AGM: Mark Avery had been contacted and had agreed to speak.

Martin Garner talk: see later item.

LCCP: Andrew distributed a newsletter, as well as one from the Grazing Marshes project.

SoBiL: at the printers, but delayed for a month. Andrew will investigate other printers.

Data search income: see later item.

Gibraltar Point: no data received yet; Andrew will investigate.

2003-7 Report: unfortunately seems to have stalled.

BBS: agreed not to pursue this further.

Janet Eastmead: there was a lengthy discussion about supplying data to anti-wind farm groups. It may be that we will receive fewer requests if we charge the full rate, but it was agreed that this is what we should do. If there was no professional ecologist involved, then data on sensitive species would be provided in summary form.

Officers' reports:

Treasurer: Report circulated. Subscription income down from last year also reduced data search income and increased postage costs. Publication sales have risen. The LWT costs of setting up the DD are a one-off.

Sales: Report circulated. 97 Reports sold so far this year.

Secretary: Nothing noteworthy.

Membership secretary: 333 including 7 paid up for next year. 219 have paid for this year but 80 still have not yet paid.

County recorder North: Nothing new.

County recorder South: Echoed the comments of John Clarkson.

Rarities committee: Not present.

Chairman and Webmaster: Contact details will be updated and made "live" on the website.

Martin Garner talk: This is part of a national tour, but there are no events in neighbouring counties so we may attract some new faces. Mike Harrison will be present as will Bill Sterling and John Watt will take charge of refreshment sales.

BAP: Anne Goodall gave a presentation of what we have agreed to do for this partnership. There are many action plans, not just for Birds. We have signed up for 2 large and 2 small areas in the Bird section.

Bittern monitoring: currently adequate if we continue to provide reports.

Gardens and allotments: no further action possible; we will continue to run the GBS.

Farmland birds: AO1 (Make information available on trends and status): done for 2011. AO2 (Set up schemes to monitor populations): is ongoing; we encourage member to do a BBS and we get data from the BTO which can be used. AO3 (Identify sites with breeding Snipe, Redshank and Curlew): completed; Phil may be able to get access to BTO Atlas data for Lincs. AO4(Survey possible wet grassland sites): a new survey will need to be undertaken; we will contact the original observers and ask for volunteers if needed. AO8 Winter feeding stations for farmland birds: it is possible that some ringing groups are able to provide data.

Urban birds: AO1 (Make information available on trends in populations): has been done; AO2 (Set up schemes to monitor populations): is the GBS – see later item for discussion.

Items for discussion:

Garden Bird Survey: there was some discussion about the future of this survey. Since the form has only been available on the website this year, rather than being sent out, the number of participants has dropped to about 60. It would be possible to put the form on the website and for data to be entered online which would make the collation and analysis easier, but many felt that a paper document was easier to use. There is also the issue of the BTO GBS which also runs in the county. Phil will find out whether we can have access to their data to pass on to the Partnership. It was suggested that our survey be advertised by the LNU and the LWT.

GLNP: It was agreed that we should join the Partnership. The question of whether we should supply data (free) for them (to sell) was aired. If we do not contribute, our data may simply not be used and the demand for data searches may fall. It was agreed that Andrew should approach the LERC to discuss the matter.

AOB:

Resignation: Colin and Sheila Jennings have indicated that they wish to step down from the Committee, after the next AGM. Thankfully they wish to continue to input data – but the problem of finding a successor would be great.

Meeting closed at 21h55.