



Wexford Naturalists' Field Club,
c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford, Ireland.

WNFC Newsletter

Issue number 35

September

2014

Welcome to the September issue of WNFC newsletter.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

October

Saturday 11th Field trip to explore the Bannow Island area. Meet at 2pm in the carpark at Bannow Island (S822 072). Leader Jim Hurley.

November.

Thursday 6th: “Progress in the Conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel in Ireland” by Dr. Evelyn Moorkens.

Saturday 22nd: *Note change of date* Coach outing to Dublin to visit the Natural History Museum. See below for more details.

December.

Thursday 4th. “Great Spotted Woodpecker: A Welcome new Dimension in Irish Woodland” by Dick Coombes, BirdWatch Ireland.

Saturday 13th. Winter Walk in Raven Wood Nature Reserve. Meet at 11am at the barrier entrance to the wood (T111 267). **Leader:** Dave Daly.

Our regular monthly lectures take place in The Pumphouse, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve at 8pm

COACH OUTING TO THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we will be unable to visit the Natural History Museum, Dublin on Saturday 8th November. The trip will now take place on **Saturday 22nd November** and we will visit the Natural History collections research building, which is not normally open to members of the public. Nigel Monaghan, Keeper of the Natural History Division of the National Museum of Ireland will give us a guided tour of the facility which houses the museum “behind the scenes” and includes most collections, library and staff offices. Depart Wexford 9am, pickup points in Enniscorthy and Gorey, if required. Coach fare €16, admission to the museum is free. To book a place contact Marion Brady - 086 8290163 or email info@wexfordnaturalists.com There is a café in the National Print Museum, which is part of the campus, where we can have tea/coffee and snacks or lunch.

NOTE TO MEMBERS

If you wish to receive emails with reminders of upcoming club events, and details of other events which may be of interest, please ensure that Nicholas Egan, Membership Secretary, has an up to date email address for you. Since events may change due to unforeseen circumstances please check for last minute updates on our website, www.wexfordnaturalists.com or phone Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, (076) 1002660.

Where available bring field guides, lenses, binoculars etc. to field events. Don't forget a notebook and pen/pencil to record all you see and hear! There are a number of guide books in the Club Library. Check these out on www.wexfordnaturalists.com/library or find out more details from Will Warham, Club Librarian.

WELCOME

Special welcome to the following new members Michael Dore, Dublin; Tara McGeary, David McGeary, Aaron Byrne Castlebridge; Marguerite Shekleton, Screen.

HAVE YOUR SAY

The committee is currently finalising the 2015 Programme of Events which, like previous programmes, is based on members' suggestions. If anyone would like to see a particular topic included in future programmes, or has a suggestion regarding any aspect of Club activities, please drop a note into the “Suggestion Box” on lecture nights, post it to WNFC Secretary, c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford or email info@wexfordnaturalists.com

Please let us know how we are doing. Ideas, comments and constructive criticism always welcome.

ODONATA UPDATE

(Dragonfly and Damselfly recording)

Many thanks to everyone who submitted records during the past year, we had 17 new species records. If anyone has any outstanding records, could they please be forwarded on to us at records@wexfordnaturalists.com or info@wildside.ie We will be working on putting together a book on the distribution of Dragonflies / Damselflies over the coming months and we are now looking for photos to illustrate this publication, so if you have images for possible inclusion please forward them to us at newsletter.wnfc@gmail.com

RECORDING

A new biodiversity app for smartphones has been developed for the National Biodiversity Data Centre and allows users to record photos, locations, and details of species and then upload same to the data management and mapping system of the NBDC. The app is available for free on the itunes Appstore and on Google Play, just search for "Biodiversity Data Capture".

For those who do not wish to use the App to submit records, remember records can still be submitted through the online WNFC recording form or can be given to Michael O'Donnell, WNFC Club Records Officer at records@wexfordnaturalists.com. Postal records can be sent to Records Officer c/o Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North Slob, Wexford or dropped into the suggestion box at any lecture.

And don't forget you can also send us your photographs via Facebook if you need any help with identification. Similarly, if you have any identification skills, if you know your buzzard from your bumblebee, we would love to have you with us on Facebook to help identify the many photographs we receive.

The pages are moderated by Michael, Deborah and Nicholas and they would be delighted to welcome more members to the page (see www.wexfordnaturalists.com for details)

WILD IRELAND TOUR

On his tour around Ireland, Liam Lysaght visited Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and met with some WNFC members. He did this to highlight the contribution that WNFC are making to promote nature and wildlife in the county.



Liam Lysaght meeting with WNFC members at the Pumphouse.
(Photo C. Wilson)

CLUB JACKETS

Regatta jackets in blue, green or black with the club logo embroidered are available to order from Blazing Embroidery & Logos, Crescent Quay, Wexford. Current price €55.

ART EXHIBITION

Wildlife artist, and WNFC member, Dave Day will hold his annual Art Exhibition at The Pumphouse, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, from 10am to 5pm each day from Saturday 25th October up to and including Sunday

2nd November. Official opening at 4 pm on Saturday 25th October.

2014 GOOSE FESTIVAL

This year's Goose Festival is being held from October 25th until November 2nd at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve. All events are free during the week. For further information on the events being organised, please visit www.facebook.com/wexfordwildfowlreserve or phone 076 1002660 or 076 1002664.

Wanted: Volunteers to run the stall for the Goose Festival Book Fair on Sunday 26th October in the Visitor Centre of the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve from 11 to 4.30, two would be ideal. Also wanted are any books on nature and related topics that Field Club members may not need anymore. All proceeds will go to BirdWatch Ireland. Over €100 was raised last year. For further information contact John Kinsella, WWR Guide at wwreducation@ahg.gov.ie or phone 076 100 2664.

WNFC 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Our 10th anniversary celebration was held on the 13th September in the Irish National Heritage Park and it was a great success. People spent time looking through the Club archives of the past 10 years and also admiring all the entries in the Club's photography competition. The MC for the night was Alan McGuire. We heard from both Lorcan Scott, one of the founding members of the Club, and Mary Foley, the current Chair of the Club. The winners of the photography competition were announced with both 1st and 2nd prize going to Edno Delaney, and 3rd prize going to Tara McGeary. An entry from Ber Atkinson was "Highly Commended" and entries from Ruth Allen, Tim O' Brien and Marion Brady were "Commended".

The lecture on the night was given by Jack Malins and was a presentation on "The Flora & Fauna of the High Arctic" with many photos of King and Stellar's Eiders, Ivory Gulls, Reindeer and Polar Bears to name but some.

JAMESTOWN NATURE RESERVE

Wild Food Foraging Workshop Saturday 18th October.
Nature Walk Saturday 25th October. For further details see www.jamestownnaturereserve.com or contact Will Warham on 0872052266.

KEERAGH ISLANDS LEAFLET

Anyone who wants a copy of the Keeragh Islands leaflet distributed at the October lecture can get one on request and free of charge by emailing Jim Hurley at swc@eircom.net.

ARTICLES FOR NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be published in December. This is your newsletter, and natural history articles are always welcome. Items for inclusion may be passed on to me, Nicholas Egan, at newsletter.wnfc@gmail.com; or 086 0757976.



Photography Competition

Top left: 3rd prize, "Male Common Blue Feeding"

Left: 2nd prize, "Fritillary in Flight"

Below: 1st prize, "Pine Marten"





A selection of photographs from the WNFC 10th Birthday celebrations.
(Photographs courtesy of Michael O'Donnell and Michael O'Connor)

