

SPRING 2020
NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE

PG. 2-3

Goodbye winter, hello Spring – we take a look back at the winter season and wonder what happens next.

PG. 4

Staying connected with nature from home – there are many ways that you can get your daily nature fix from home and we share some of these with you.

STAY HOME SAVE LIVES



GOODBYE WINTER...

The Bird Wise team certainly packed a lot into the 2019/20 winter season.

This season we arranged our own guided walks which provided people an opportunity to learn more about some of our coastal locations and the amazing birds that depend on the habitats they provide. We were treated to some fabulously calm weather with perfect conditions to enjoy wildlife and spectacular sunsets to finish the day.

It wasn't always calm and clear though, our wet weather clothing was put to the test on many occasions this season. Some extremely stormy weather passed through in February, combined with very high tides this made life really tough for our wintering birds, and our Rangers! Cars became mobile offices but we had to be careful where we parked as the puddles grew.

We have enjoyed giving talks to various local groups across north Kent and our travelling exhibition has visited libraries in Medway.

The part of our jobs that we most enjoy is speaking to coastal users out on site about birds and other wildlife. This year we enjoyed setting up our scope and showing people the birds we had spotted in lots of different locations, explaining the amazing journeys that these awesome birds undertake to spend the winter on our shores.

Our 'Migration Game' was a big hit with the Gillingham Beaver Group who enjoyed rolling the dice to help their gosling make the long journey from Siberia to Kent and back again. The game uses fun to explain the hazards these birds face during migration, and how we can help to reduce disturbing them.

This season we have spoken to around 3,500 people on-site and at events, and reached more through our library exhibitions and online platforms. That's a lot of Bird Wise people out there and we look forward to reaching even more next season.





HELLO SPRING!

As the days grow lighter for longer and the weather starts to warm up, it is time to say goodbye to our wintering birds as they head back to their breeding grounds for the summer. Sadly it also means we have to say goodbye to our seasonal rangers, Julie and Mel, but we look forward to welcoming them back, with the birds, at the end of September.

Normally this section of the newsletter would detail the events we will be attending over the summer but this year it is rather different. The current situation we find ourselves in with the Covid-19 pandemic is one we have never experienced before, and the lockdown means that all of the events we were due to attend have been cancelled.

Most nature reserves and country park car parks have been closed and we encourage people to stay home and save lives, so for the time being this means no on-site engagement for Bird Wise.

We haven't stopped working though, our project manager Hayley is posting content on our website and sharing pictures, videos and stories on our social media pages. We will also be making plans for the next winter season, ensuring it will be our biggest and best yet!



STAYING CONNECTED

We know that staying connected with nature is hugely beneficial for mental and physical health and this doesn't have to stop as we stay indoors.

We are still allowed out for one walk a day, and this should be walking distance from home, so that's another opportunity to spot wildlife each day. Many people are keeping 'Lockdown Lists' of all the birds they have spotted around their homes.

With less human activity out on site, those birds that breed here over spring and summer will actually face less disturbance as a result of the current lockdown. If there is one positive to come from these crazy times it is a small comfort to know that some wildlife will benefit from our changing behaviours.

Technology is helping people to stay connected with each other and with nature. Chris Packham has started the Self-Isolating Bird Club on Twitter with live daily broadcasts and the opportunity to share sightings @SIBirdClub. The RSPB are holding a daily #BreakfastBirdwatch on Twitter and Facebook weekdays from 8-9am.

There are also many live webcam feeds that show nature across the world, you never know what you might spot. The Wildlife Trusts have a great range that you can find [here](#)

At Bird Wise we will be posting blogs that our rangers have written on our website which you can access [here](#). Our social media pages will be kept updated with local sightings and content that we hope you will enjoy us sharing.

We would love you to stay in touch with us using the contact details below. Tag us in your photos or stories, drop us an email or just pop over to our website to have a read.

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



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