



Hertfordshire Natural History Society – Herts Bird Club

February 2019

Welcome to the first Hertfordshire Natural History Society newsletter for 2019!

Bird Club - BTO Conference Saturday 2 March

We do hope you will be able to join us for the Bird Club - BTO Conference on **Saturday 2 March 2019** at the offices of **Affinity Water, Tamblin Way, Hatfield AL10 9EZ** from 2 until 5.30pm. The programme is, as usual, packed with bird watching, monitoring and natural history interest including presentations on:

- Swifts (Vicky Duxbury)
- Whinchats (Martin Ketcher)
- Owls (Hugh Hanmer, BTO Research Ecologist)

Graham Knight and Stuart Cossey will be providing the ever-popular 'Review of the Year' for 2018. Admission is £5 on the door. There will be a range of stalls to visit at tea time, including bargain book offers at the HNHS bookstall. Thanks, once more, go to Affinity Water for kindly hosting this event. For further details visit: hnhs.org/meeting/herts-bird-conference-2019

Help our mammals, amphibians and reptiles survey succeed in its final year!

The survey for the Hertfordshire Mammal, Amphibian and Reptile Atlas project (Herts MARA) has entered its final year – and special efforts are being made to achieve the best possible, countywide coverage.

Be sure to send in your sightings, including road-kill, tracks and other signs such as molehills. Records of common species like Grey Squirrel and Rabbit are still needed, and – as spawning gets underway – the MARA team are keen to hear from pond owners about any frogs, toads or newts.

Records can be submitted via the HNHS website, where the mapping system has recently been upgraded, making it even easier to generate a grid reference for sightings: hnhs.org/submit/mammals-amphibians-and-reptiles

Information about the species so far sighted in individual tetrads can be found at www.mammal-atlas.hnhs.org. By checking, you could become the first person to record a particular species in your area! If you are willing to travel, you can also help the project by visiting the few remaining tetrads where there has been little or no monitoring to date: email: mammal-atlas@hnhs.org

Creating an online archive for the Society's Transactions

Good progress is being made creating a searchable, online archive of the Society's *Transactions* (nowadays consisting of the *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and the *Herts Bird Report*) going back to 1875. The journals have been scanned, but we would welcome more volunteers able to spend a few hours checking questionable spellings in the index, created by optical character recognition. Our bespoke software (Windows only) makes this easy. Contact Ian Carle: orthoptera@hnhs.org

2019 subscriptions now due

If you have not already renewed your membership, please note that 2019 subscriptions are now due. Rates for 2019 are, again, unchanged

£18: individual membership plus *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report*

£12: individual membership plus *Herts Bird Report* or *Hertfordshire Naturalist*

£22: family membership plus *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report*

You can pay by:

- Standing order or bank transfer: our Lloyds Bank account number is 02994402, sort code 30-94-08
- Credit/debit card using the Virgin Money Giving link our website www.hnhs.org
- Cheque - payable to 'Hertfordshire Natural History Society' and mailed to **Geoff Hill, Membership Secretary, 84 Park Avenue, Bushey, Herts. WD23 2BB.**

Gift aid will increase the value of your subscription to the Society by 25%, if you are a UK taxpayer. For information e-mail Geoff: membership@hnhs.org

HNHS Management Committee

Could you help HNHS with its work by joining the management committee? The committee would especially like to hear from any member with relevant experience or skills to become our Treasurer. But other expressions of interest in becoming a committee member are also welcome. Contact David Utting: secretary@hnhs.org

For further news about HNHS and the Bird Club, visit hnhs.org and hnhs.org/herts-bird-club