

**Birds of Hertfordshire - a new Avifauna**

This long awaited book will be published in February. A **pre-publication offer** to buy the book at a reduced price is now open see the enclosed leaflet. You can order and pay with your credit/debit card through our website or by post. Anyone buying the book will be invited to one of the book launch events. More details are on the website.

**Herts Bird Club/BTO conference on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

from 2.00 to 5.15. Thanks to the generosity of Affinity Water the meeting will be held at their premises in Hatfield Business Park, Tamblin Way, Hatfield, AL10 9EZ, a new venue for us. The programme will include presentations on the changes in the fortunes of our birds over the last 40 years and a speaker from BTO, See the website for details.

**2015 Festival of Wildlife** we will be joining forces with the Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust again to host a series of events in July, many aimed at families.

**HNHS Autumn Meeting** and AGM will be in October, date to be announced.

**HNHS and Welwyn Natural History Society invited lecture** will be on Wednesday 25 November in Welwyn Civic Hall, note the date, details to follow

**Other events** - Check our website for all the latest news and a monthly list of all the wildlife meetings and events in the county, compiled from the activities of all the wildlife organisations in the county.

**Committee news** - Trevor James has taken up the role of Chairman of the Society, other members of the Society's Management Committee remain the same. However we are seeking new people to come forward to join the Management Committee to ensure the Society can function effectively and face new challenges - so volunteers welcome.

**Hertfordshire Naturalist 2015** - We hope you liked the balance of short notes and longer more 'in depth' papers in the 2014 Herts Naturalist. Could you write a paper or short note on something of interest that you have observed? If so please talk to Stuart Warrington, 01707885676 or email [stuart.warrington@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:stuart.warrington@nationaltrust.org.uk). The deadline for articles is 30 April 2015.

**Hertfordshire Bird Report 2013** is on track for publication in the spring.

**Countywide survey for mammals, amphibians and reptiles starting January 2015**

We are inviting all members of the Society to take part in this countywide survey to collect data to produce a new county atlas. The last organised county survey was started in 1970 and resulted in the publication of Michael Clark's book, *Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles of Hertfordshire*, in 2001.

The Society has set up a small team, including Jenny Jones (County Recorder), Ian Flack, Chantal Helm, Tim Hill, Ian Carle (Herts Environmental Records Centre) and Dave Willis, to manage the project.

The methods, which have yet to be finalised, will have several components including:

- roving records for all species,
- targeted visits to priority tetrads (2x2km squares),
- targeted surveys for small mammals and reptiles,
- records at/near your home.

We hope to achieve full coverage but at the least we will ensure one intensively surveyed tetrad per 10x10km square. We will be upgrading the records submission pages of our website to enable you to enter accurate grid references for the locations of sightings, this really adds value to your records. We are also developing a mammals atlas website with maps for each species to track progress with the survey, as we did for the Herts Bird Atlas.

There will be information to help with identification of species likely to be encountered in Hertfordshire together with guidelines on evidence needed to support records. We are also setting up a system for validating records. Full details will be on our website soon and can be sent by post on request.

**Come to an Atlas Training Day** - we are organising two workshops to give volunteers additional training in the survey methods. The provisional dates are Saturday 31 January and Saturday 21 February at University of Hertfordshire campus at Bayfordbury. There will be a modest charge per person and we will be asking participants to commit to surveying at least four tetrads (chosen at the training day) over the next two years. Booking will open via the website in January.

**Bugs have their own web page.** Our new bugs - Terrestrial Heteroptera - recorder, Joe Gray has set up a special webpage for this group with photos and information. We can do this for any species group, please get in touch with Linda Smith.

*HNHS and Herts Bird Club are run entirely by volunteers and funded by subscriptions from members.*

*Address 24 Mandeville Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7JU; telephone 01707 330405, email [secretary@hnhs.org](mailto:secretary@hnhs.org)  
Website: [www.hnhs.org](http://www.hnhs.org) HNHS was established in 1875 and is Registered Charity No 216418.*

## Please renew your membership for 2015

It is time to renew your membership of the Society and the Herts Bird Club.

Your subscription not only pays for your copies of the Hertfordshire Naturalist and Bird Report but also funds our very successful websites and supports our research and monitoring projects, development of new books and other publications and of course the mundane things like admin and insurance cover.

### The subscription rates are unchanged for 2015

- £18 individual membership plus Hertfordshire Naturalist and Herts Bird Report
- £12 individual membership plus Herts Bird Report
- £22 family membership plus Hertfordshire Naturalist and Herts Bird Report

There are four ways to pay - your usual payment method is highlighted:

- Standing order
- Credit/debit card via Virgin Money Giving link our website [www.hnhs.org](http://www.hnhs.org)
- Cheque - payable to 'Hertfordshire Natural History Society' to Linda Smith please
- Internet/telephone banking, our account number is 02994402, sort code 30-94-08

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The Society is set up to receive Gift Aid. You can increase the value of your subscription to the Society by 25%, if you are a UK taxpayer and the annual tax you pay on income and/or savings is more than the tax that the Society will reclaim (£4.50 on £18 subs).

- You have signed up for Gift Aid - thank you
- You have not signed up, if you are eligible and able to add Gift Aid please let me know, by email or letter.

We do hope you will continue your membership.

Please make your payment by 31 January 2015 - it is expensive to have to send a reminder

**Linda Smith - HNHS Secretary, 24 Mandeville Rise, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 7JU**  
**Telephone 01707 330405: email: [secretary@hnhs.org](mailto:secretary@hnhs.org), website: [www.hnhs.org](http://www.hnhs.org).**

## Congratulations to our oldest member

Evelyn Barron will be 100 years old in February. Many of you will remember Evelyn who has been a member of the Society for many years and was a local programme secretary for the Welwyn area. She is now living in a care home in Hatfield and keen to keep in touch with the Society.



We will be sending her a card, please let Linda know if you would like to add your good wishes.

## Your wildlife records for 2014

Please submit your records as soon as you can either via the website or direct to the **Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre**, at Grebe House, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SN or by email to [enquiries@hercinfo.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hercinfo.org.uk). More information at [www.hercinfo.org.uk](http://www.hercinfo.org.uk) or telephone Ian Carle or Jennie Mitchell on 01727 732 767.

## Nominations for our 1875 Awards for 2015

The 1875 Awards are named after the year the Society was founded and are presented each year to an outstanding Hertfordshire Naturalist and/or someone who has made an outstanding contribution to natural history in Hertfordshire. The Awards take the form of an engraved crystal. Who would you like to see at this year's 1875 Awards?

We are inviting nominations from HNHS and Herts Bird Club members. Nominees are judged against the following criteria:

- Contribution in a voluntary capacity.
- Recognised expertise in their field.
- Duration of contribution.
- Key achievements eg publications, papers.
- Training or educating others.
- Championing conservation/natural history.

Nominees should normally be members of HNHS. Serving members of HNHS Management Committee are not eligible for the Award. The HNHS Management Committee assess nominations and make the final decision. Please send your nominations by email or post to Linda Smith by 15 April 2015

**There is lots more information on our website.** For those of you who would like more information but do not have access to the internet, please contact with Linda Smith who will send paper copies of items on request.