



NEWS
January 2017

Hertfordshire Natural History Society – Herts Bird Club

HNHS subscription reminder

Subscriptions to the HNHS and/or Herts Bird Club are now due. The subscription pays for your copies of the *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Hertfordshire Bird Report*, funds our websites and supports our research and monitoring projects, including the development of new atlases and other publications.

Subscription rates are unchanged for the year:

- **£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*

Thankyou if you have already subscribed for 2017, but if not you can pay by:

- Standing order or bank transfer: the Lloyds Bank account number for Hertfordshire Natural History Society is 02994402, sort code 30-94-08
- Credit/debit card using the Virgin Money Giving link on our website www.hnhs.org
- Cheque - payable to 'Hertfordshire Natural History Society' and mailed to Virginia Kennard, HNHS Membership Secretary, 72 The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 5DL

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If you are a UK taxpayer, note that a Gift Aid declaration will increase the value of your subscription to the Society by 25 per cent. Visit our website for a Gift Aid form <http://www.hnhs.org/how-to-join> or ask Virginia Kennard to send you one.

Mammal, amphibian and reptile training

The leaders of the Hertfordshire Mammal, Amphibian and Reptile Atlas project (Herts MARA) will be repeating their introductory one-day training course on Saturday 4 March 2017. Held at the University of Hertfordshire's Bayfordbury field station, it provides an informative and enjoyable guide to identification and recording. The training is perfect for anyone interested in natural history that would like to make a more confident and systematic contribution to the survey. The MARA project is in its third year and has already received more than 4,500 records. But we need more volunteers to 'adopt' tetrads and submit records between now and 2019. The course fee is only £10

and details of how to register can be found on the website: www.hnhs.org/meetings

Bird Club conference 2017

The Bird Club / BTO 2017 conference takes place on Saturday 11 March 2017 at the offices of Affinity Water, Hatfield from 2 until 5.30pm. The programme is packed with bird watching, monitoring and natural history interest including presentations on:

- Monitoring breeding birds - Hertfordshire and beyond (Sarah Harris and Martin Ketcher)
- Nesting Rafts – Common Terns and Black-headed Gulls (Graham White)
- Tracking Green Sandpipers from Lemsford Springs (Ken Smith)

Plus the unmissable '2016 – Review of the Year', given this year by Graham Knight.

Admission is £5 on the door. There will be stalls for inspection during the tea break, including special offers at the HNHS bookstall. Warm thanks to Affinity Water for, again, hosting this popular event.



New editors for HNHS Transactions

We are pleased to announce that new editors have been found for the two journals that the Society publishes as its annual *Transactions*. Judy England will be editing the *Hertfordshire Naturalist 2017* in collaboration with David Johnson as Commissioning Editor. They can be contacted with ideas for papers and other contributions at hertsnaturalist@hnhs.org.

The *Hertfordshire Bird Report 2016* will be edited by Clifford Smout, who can be contacted via psmout@btinternet.com.

Website, gallery & social media help needed!

Could you spare some time to help HNHS keep its main website up-to-date? Would you be prepared to curate our galleries of pictures sent in by local wildlife photographers? Or might you be willing to help maintain our social media communications on Facebook and Twitter? We are keen to hear from volunteers prepared to take on one or more of these worthwhile tasks that support the Society's work. If you are interested please email David Utting at secretary@hnhs.org.

Check our websites - www.hnhs.org and www.hnhs.org/birds for news, recording opportunities and sightings

The HNHS address is c/o David Utting, 250 Sandridge Road, St Albans, AL1 4AL; phone 01727 762855,

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