

# RSPB Langford Lowfields – June 2019

## Sightings at Langford Lowfields

We have had a range of wading birds at Langford, mainly located around Phase 3. These birds are flying northwards towards breeding grounds and are stopping off here at Langford. These include:

- turnstone
- knot
- sanderling
- grey plover
- common sandpiper
- ringed plover - 27 were recorded at the end of May which is maybe the highest number at Langford
- dunling
- wood sandpiper
- whimbrel
- ruff.

Other sightings are:

- 11 hobbies - which might be the highest number ever counted at Langford
- hooper swan
- greenshank
- 6 black terns and little tern – not many of these have been recorded at Langford
- caspian gull
- great white egret
- Mediterranean gull
- marsh harrier
- cuckoo.

There are lots of baby birds around at this time of year, goslings and ducklings, coots and baby black headed gulls.

## Car Parking at Cottage Lane, Langford Lowfields

We have now introduced car parking charges at Langford Lowfields for non-RSPB members (members are free as are blue badge holders). These will be as follows:

Up to 2 hours - £1.00

Over 2 hours - £2.00

As a charity, we must maximise our opportunities to raise income wherever possible. This allows us to financially support our charitable purpose of conserving wildlife and habitats, while maintaining our visitor facilities and providing excellent, inspiring experiences for our visitors.

It is customary for organisations such as ours to charge for car parking, and there are many RSPB reserves throughout the country with a car parking charge or entry fees. We compared our situation with other local and national providers and believe that our charges are reasonable.

The income generated through car parking charges contributes to the ongoing cost of running the facilities that visitors use at Langford (including the car park, trails and picnic areas). The car parking fee includes reserve entry for all those arriving by car and use of all visitor facilities. It also helps to support the vital conservation work we carry out here to help wildlife.

## **Work Party News**

Work has been underway on the pond dipping platform, fencing, and reed propagation in the poly tunnel, and more weldmesh has been placed around the reed in phase 3.

Wildflower seeds have been sown in the woodland, including foxgloves and a variety of woodland wildflowers. Cowslips have also been transplanted from the area at the Beach Hut to around the access track at the car park. Cowslips are beautiful yellow flowers which are good for bees.

Recently a Nature after Minerals Workshop took place at Langford. This involved different conservation organisations coming to Langford looking for ideas and techniques about quarry restoration that they can use at their own sites.

## **Guided Walk – July 2019**

Our next guided walk is Butterflies and Wildflowers, taking place on Saturday 6 July 2019 10am-1pm, meet at Cottage Lane Car Park. This is a great walk and was very popular last year. A staff member of the RSPB who is a wildflower enthusiast joins our Site Manager for a tour of Langford. Please call us on 01636 893611 to book a place. Prices are: Adult Non Member £10.00; Adult Member £8.00 / Child Non Member £5.00; Child Member £4.00.