

RSPB Langford Lowfields – May 2019

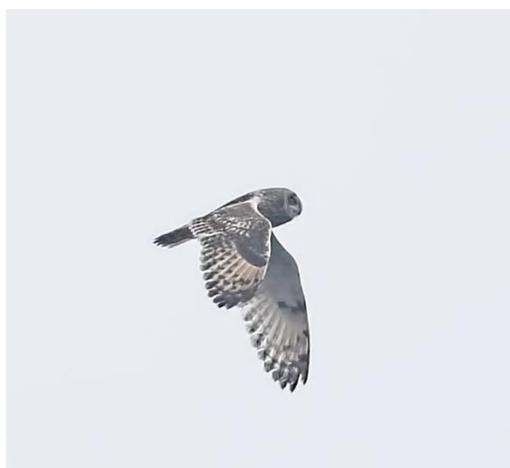
Sightings at Langford Lowfields

We have had a range of unusual sightings at Langford since the last newsletter, including:

- Whitestalk
- Short-eared owl
- 34 avocets – the highest number ever counted in Nottinghamshire
- A pair of otters seen end April from the boardwalk
- Pectoral sandpiper - an American species of wading bird so this is well off course and only the second one we have had at Langford
- Garganey (duck species)
- 7 little gulls
- Lots of arctic terns which fly from the arctic to Antarctic and vice versa
- Kittiwake
- During a recent rainstorm we had a big fall of wading birds – 180 dunlin, the most ever counted at Langford
- 50+ ring plovers - again the highest number at Langford
- Knot – this bird digests its own internal organs to get extra energy for their long migration as they fly very long distances
- 2 sanderlings hanging out on the sand
- Little stint
- And in the last couple of days 11 hobby's counted - highest ever number counted at Langford.



Avocet group taken by Stuart Carlton, 2019



Short-eared owl taken by Stuart Carlton, 2019

Car Parking at Cottage Lane, Langford Lowfields

From summer 2019, car parking charges will be introduced 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

The work parties have recently been:

- Building lots of bat boxes to go up in the woodland. The site team have been working with Nottinghamshire bat group who have found a species of bat that hadn't been found here previously (nathusius pipestrelle).
- Putting up lots of protective fencing around the reed planted on the new phase 3 area to protect the delicious new reed shoots from greylag geese.
- Upgrading the pond dipping station which is due to be put in place for the school summer holidays.
- Building lots of fish shelters by creating big bundles of willow which are thrown into the deep water area to provide hiding places for small fish.

Dawn Chorus Guided Walk – May 2019

The recent Dawn Chorus guided walk took place and went very well. The highlights of what the group saw include 9 different species of warblers, lots of avocets, 2 bitterns booming, hobby, and common sandpiper. The day started really misty, which meant more listening to bird song rather than being able to see the birds. However towards the end of walk the mist had cleared and everyone got some beautiful sunlit views across the landscape of Langford where they were able to see swift and sand martins flying overhead.

Bird boxes & refreshments

We continue to offer birdboxes for a donation of £10. There are still opportunities to volunteer with us, on the Beach Hut, in a meet and greet role. Get in touch if you feel you could offer a few hours a week for this – 01636 893611. Limited food and drink is available on site – see the volunteer at the Beach Hut!

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.

Wider RSPB News: Pin Badge boxes

Our community fundraising volunteers are the local face of the RSPB. Last year, in the Midlands, the team raised an incredible £101,000 in donations from our pin badge and collection boxes, and almost £1.3 million nationally. Could you help us raise even more for nature?

The Community Fundraiser Volunteer role is suitable for those with little expendable time but a passion to do their bit for wildlife. We will support you to place 1 or more pin badge boxes in your local area, the donations from your boxes will need banking every 4-6 weeks, and the pin badges will need topping up. You will then report the income on our user friendly online system and place an order for any additional stock you may need. This can all be done in a time to suit your other commitments. Simple!

If you are interested in finding out more about the role get in touch with Harriet Dufficy, Community Fundraising Officer, harriet.dufficy@rspb.org.uk