

theDorset Birding and Wildlifeexperience



Themed Birding and Wildlife Walks

2010/2011 Walks Programme inc. term & conditions



picture © L.Chappell

The Dorset Birding and Wildlife Experience

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By booking a 'Themed Birding and Wildlife Walk' you are agreeing to our **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**:

Please read the following carefully

1. Bookings may be made by post, e-mail or phone. Places will be held open for seven days until a **non-refundable deposit** of £5.00 per walk is received (if it is not received within 7-days of the booking, the places will be subject to availability). Payment of the balance due for the walk should be made no less than 14-days before the walk date. Payment should be made in full for bookings made within 14-days of the walk date.
2. On receipt of your payment we will confirm your booking and send further details of the meeting place and any other information required. Bookings may be possible at short notice but places will be subject to availability. If a walk is full, your name will be kept on a waiting list in case of cancellations. If there is sufficient interest an extra walk may be run.
3. 12 places are available per walk (unless stated otherwise) and all walks will be subject to a minimum of five places being filled (or less at our discretion). Persons under the age of 18 years old are welcomed but must be accompanied by an adult [[please contact us](#) first to discuss before booking].
4. Your own transport is required (although car sharing is encouraged!) All walks will start from pre-arranged meeting points, but we may move to other parking areas during the walk. All vehicles, and any parking charges, are the responsibility of the car owner.
5. A certain degree of fitness is required as the walks cover a variety of distances over different terrain - [please ask](#) before booking if you require more detail.

6. The itinerary provided in this leaflet, or in any other publicity material, is for guidance purposes only: any target species mentioned should not be taken as guaranteed. The itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather conditions and the target species that may be around on the day. All walks will start promptly at the stated time and from the advised meeting place. The walks will conclude at close to the stated finishing time.
7. A selection of field guides and a telescope (if required) will be carried by our guide. Please bring your own drinks / packed lunch and wear suitable clothing / footwear for the time of year and the nature of the walk.
8. Although we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that your walk is trouble-free, we cannot accept liability for any physical injury or any loss, damage or expense resulting from any events whatsoever beyond our control.

Payments & Cancellation

1. Payments should be made by cheque, payable to **N. Gartshore**. Alternatively payments can be made by bank transfer - please ask for details. Please note that **NO CARD PAYMENTS ARE POSSIBLE**.
2. Cancellations should be made in writing/by e-mail/by phone as soon as possible. Payments may be transferred to an alternative walk(s) at no additional charge but these will be subject to availability. If no suitable alternative walk(s) can be arranged the booking will be treated as a cancellation.
3. If you have to cancel your booking, and do not want to transfer to another walk, a refund of the payment received (less the non-refundable deposit) will be made if the cancellation is at least 14-days before the walk. No refunds will be made for bookings cancelled within 14-days of the walk.
4. In the event of The Dorset Birding and Wildlife Experience having to cancel your booking due to insufficient places being filled, (or other unforeseen circumstances), and being unable to offer a suitable alternative, all payments received (including deposits) will be refunded in full.

July 2010

Walks at a glance

2010

- Wed 29th Sept:** Autumn Birds on Ballard & Studland
Sun 17th Oct: Winter birding in Purbeck: a race to see 100 species
Wed 10th Nov: In Search of Waders: Poole Harbour's north shore
Wed 24th Nov: Winter birding in Purbeck: a race to see 100 species
Sat 11th Dec: Urban Birding in Weymouth

2011

- Sat 8th Jan:** Swineham Walks: River, Pits & Harbour
Sat 29th Jan: Winter birding in Purbeck: a race to see 100 species
Wed 16th Feb: Maiden Castle & Thornecombe Wood: Farmland/Woodland Birds
Wed 2nd Mar: Poole Harbour Circuit - the Birding Hotspots
Sat 19th Mar: Wareham Forest Early Birds
Wed 6th Apr: Around Weymouth & Portland
Sat 21st May: Puffins & Passage on the Purbeck Coast
Wed 8th Jun: Northern Chalk: Birds & Butterflies of Woods & Downs
Sat 18th Jun: The Dragons & Damsels of Dorset's heathland
Tues 28th Jun: In Search of Nightjars

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| <p><b>Wednesday 29th September 2010</b><br/> <b>Autumn Birds on Ballard &amp; Studland</b><br/>           Starting off from South Beach, we'll take a circular walk over the eastern end of Ballard Down where we'll have a chance of something a little more unusual amongst the passing migrants. Worth the walk for the views alone! For the remainder of the day we'll make a number of stops along the Studland road to search for waders and wildfowl and hopefully some early divers and grebes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Time: 10am - 4pm [6hr]<br/>           Cost: £18.00<br/>           Meet: Studland<br/>           Main Interest: Birds</p>                                  |
| <p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2010</b><br/> <b>Winter birding in Purbeck: a race to see 100 species</b><br/>           Join up for a day's bird racing with the aim of seeing/hearing 100 species during the day. We will meet/end in Wareham and will stay within the Purbeck boundary. The day will be quite intensive as we aim for our target with new birds coming thick and fast to begin with before slowing down as we try to pick off those that have proven more elusive. Our route on the day will depend on a number of variables, such as weather, tides and what birds are about, but may take us Arne, Middlebere, Studland, Durlston and Swineham. We should comfortably pick up 80+ species but 100+ is not impossible.<br/> <u>Free</u> transport (eight-seat vehicle) &amp; drinks are provided.</p> | <p>Time: 8am - 4.30pm [8.5 hr]<br/>           Cost: £25.00<br/>           Meet: Wareham<br/>           Main Interest: Birds<br/>           Max. 6 places</p> |

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| <p><b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010</b><br/> <b>In Search of Waders: Poole Harbour's north shore</b><br/> We will make our way from Upton Country Park (Hole's Bay) to Sandbanks stopping off at Baiter and Shore Road on the way. Amongst the expected waders (we could see up to 18 species) these sites will give us a good chance of finding Spotted Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Knot and Purple Sandpiper. A good selection of wildfowl and gulls will add to our days tally.</p>                                                     | <p>Time: 10am - 2pm [4hr]<br/> Cost: £12.00</p> <p>Meet: Upton Country Park</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p> |
| <p><b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010</b><br/> <b>Winter birding in Purbeck: a race to see 100 species</b><br/> See October 17<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><u>Free</u> transport (eight-seat vehicle) &amp; drinks are provided.<br/> Max 6 places.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Time: 8am - 4.30pm<br/> [8.5 hr]<br/> Cost: £25.00</p> <p>Meet: Wareham</p>                                   |
| <p><b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2010</b><br/> <b>Urban Birding in Weymouth</b><br/> Despite its urban environment Weymouth provides some excellent birding. We'll spend the day visiting a number of sites in/around the town taking in a variety of habitats including the sea, reed beds, grazing marsh and woodland. Sites will include Radipole for ducks, gulls and possibly Bittern, Lodmoor for waders, Weymouth Bay/Portland Harbour for grebes and divers and Lorton Meadow/Two-mile coppice for woodland/scrub birds.</p>                                         | <p>Time: 10am - 4pm [6hr]<br/> Cost: £18.00</p> <p>Meet: Radipole Lake</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p>      |
| <p><b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011</b><br/> <b>Swineham Walks: River, Pits &amp; Harbour</b><br/> We will take a circular walk around the Swineham area starting out by following the River Frome from Wareham to the gravel pits at Swineham. We'll continue on around into the Piddle Valley before completing the circuit back to Wareham. This walk usually provides a good mixture of birds and there is a good chance of both Hen and Marsh Harriers. The pits hold a selection of duck and can turn up something a little more unusual such Ruddy Duck or Scaup.</p> | <p>Time: 10am - 2pm [4hrs]<br/> Cost: £12.00</p> <p>Meet: Wareham</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p>           |
| <p><b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011</b><br/> <b>Winter birding in Purbeck: a race to see 100 species</b><br/> See October 17<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><u>Free</u> transport (eight-seat vehicle) &amp; drinks are provided.<br/> Max 6 places.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Time: 8am - 4.30pm<br/> [8.5 hr]<br/> Cost: £25.00</p> <p>Meet: Wareham</p>                                   |

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| <p><b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011</b><br/> <b>Maiden Castle &amp; Thornecombe Wood:</b><br/> <b>Farmland &amp; Woodland Birds</b><br/> In the dramatic landscape of one of the UK's top hill-forts we will go in search of farmland birds. The surrounding area often holds large numbers of Golden Plover/Lapwing and is one of the best places to find Corn Bunting (and possibly Grey Partridge). We should also pick up a good mixture of thrushes and finches and Buzzards are always plentiful. We will leave time to visit the nearby Thornecombe Wood where we may be rewarded with a sighting of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker amongst the mixture of woodland birds.</p>                                                       | <p>Time: 10am - 2pm [4hr]<br/> Cost: £12.00</p> <p>Meet: Maiden Castle</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p>      |
| <p><b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011</b><br/> <b>Poole Harbour Circuit - the Birding Hotspots</b><br/> Birding around Poole Harbour we are spoilt for choice of where to go with many hot-spots to choose from. We'll keep on the move dropping in to places of interest to find the variety of species that winter here. Sites will include Upton Country Park, Shore Road, Studland, the Hartland Moor-Middlebere-Arne area and Swineham Point [Wareham].</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Time: 10am - 4pm [6hr]<br/> Cost: £18.00</p> <p>Meet: Upton Country Park</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p> |
| <p><b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b><br/> <b>Wareham Forest Early Birds</b><br/> This is often the best month to look for the two heathland specialities. Both Woodlark and Dartford Warbler breed here and this is a good time of the year to catch them in full song. The forest provides some excellent walking and we should pick up a range of other birds that usually include Raven and Crossbill, and we may hear our first chiffchaff of the year. Occasionally, Great Grey Shrike over winter.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Time: 10am - 2pm [4hr]<br/> Cost: £12.00</p> <p>Meet: Sherford Bridge</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p>    |
| <p><b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011</b><br/> <b>Around Weymouth &amp; Portland</b><br/> From the middle of March, Dorset's first migrants start to appear - early species include Sandwich Tern, Sand Martin, Swallow and Wheatear. Portland is often the first stopping off point on their journey north and we'll spend time around the island looking for them. With increased seabird activity off The Bill there may be a chance of a Puffin or two amongst the auks. Moving off Portland we'll check out the harbour for late ducks, divers and grebes before moving on to Radipole Lake and Lodmoor. This is also a good time to catch up with the elusive Cetti's Warbler, usually heard but less often seen, and Bearded Tit.</p> | <p>Time: 10am - 4pm [6hr]<br/> Cost: £18.00</p> <p>Meet: Portland Bill</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p>      |

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| <p><b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011</b><br/> <b>Puffins &amp; Passage on the Purbeck Coast</b><br/> A few pairs of the colourful Puffin breed on the cliffs at Dancing Ledge. We'll put in some time here to look for them (and for the other auks) coming in to the cliffs before we continue along the coastal path towards Seacombe and Winspit. As well as for local birds, these valleys are great areas to search for newly arrived migrants which are often tucked in amongst the sheltered scrub. Amongst others, Redstart, Ring Ouzel, Whinchat and a selection of warblers are possible.</p>                                                                                                      | <p>Time: 10am - 2pm [4hr]<br/> Cost: £12.00</p> <p>Meet: Langton Matravers</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p>                             |
| <p><b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b><br/> <b>Northern Chalk: Birds &amp; Butterflies of Woods &amp; Downs</b><br/> We will visit a number of sites on the county boundary in the Sixpenny Handley area of north Dorset. In the woodlands the birds are more readily heard than seen so we will have a chance to get to grips with a variety of bird song. Although both Turtle Dove and Nightingale have declined in Dorset over years they are still found in this area along with a good mixture of warblers. As well as the birds we'll concentrate on the butterflies of the chalk grassland and woodland rides where possibilities include a variety of blues, fritillaries and White Admiral.</p> | <p>Time: 10am - 4pm [6hr]<br/> Cost: £18.00</p> <p>Meet: Martin Down</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds, Butterflies</p>                      |
| <p><b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b><br/> <b>The Dragons &amp; Damsels of Dorset's heathland</b><br/> Some of the UK's best dragonfly watching is to be found on the Dorset heathlands. Old flooded clay workings and ponds on the heaths usually hold a good mixture of "Odos" from the large Emperor and hawkers to a variety of the diminutive damselflies. We will also look out for heathland birds and flora.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Time: 10am - 12.30pm<br/> [2.5 hr]<br/> Cost: £8.00</p> <p>Meet: Stoborough/Creech</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Dragonflies</p>            |
| <p><b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b><br/> <b>In Search of Nightjars</b><br/> A Dorset experience not to miss is a dusk visit to one of the county's heathlands to listen for (and hopefully see) the enigmatic 'goatsucker'. Our walk will start at 7.30pm to give us time to look for other birds, such as Dartford Warbler, Hobby and Stonechat on Morden Bog, before the Nightjars become active as dusk draws in. We should finish at around 10.15-10.30pm.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Time: <b>evening</b><br/> 7.30pm - 10.15 pm [2.5+ hr]<br/> Cost: £8.00</p> <p>Meet: Sherford Bridge</p> <p>Main Interest:<br/> Birds</p> |

## Overseas Tours

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| <p><b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b><br/> <b>GREECE: LESVOS</b></p> <p>Lesvos holds several south-eastern European specialities including Krüper's &amp; Western Rock Nuthatches, Sombre Tit, Olive-tree Warbler, Masked Shrike, Cretzschmar's and Cinereous Buntings. Many other southern European species also occur including European Bee-eater, European Roller, Hoopoe and Eastern Olivaceous and Great Reed-warblers. Lesvos is also an excellent migration spot and many passing migrants move through the island including the occasional rarity or two. The tour is based at one of the best hotels on the island, which is conveniently situated in Skala Kallonis and has excellent birding sites nearby.</p> | <p>These trips are run by <b>Birdfinders</b></p> <p>Please contact us for further details or check out Birdfinders website:<br/> <a href="http://www.birdfinders.co.uk">www.birdfinders.co.uk</a></p> |
| <p><b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b><br/> <b>SPAIN: COTO DOÑANA &amp; EXTREMADURA</b></p> <p>This spring tour to Spain covers two of the finest birdwatching sites in mainland Europe. These hold several specialities that either can be found nowhere else in Europe or are difficult elsewhere including White-headed Duck, Crested Coot, Great and Little Bustards, Spanish Eagle and Red-necked Nightjar. This trip is suitable both for those on a first birdwatching holiday to continental Europe and for those wishing to catch up with the specialities of the region.</p>                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



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