



Kent Ornithological Society - Executive Committee Minutes

7.30pm, 18 September 2024

Present: Andre Farrar, Chris Roome, Murray Orchard, Peter Eerdmans, Keith Privett (Kpr), Martin Collins, Barry Wright, Gary Howard, Mike Henty

Apologies: Robin Mace, Kieron Palmer (KPa)

1. Key Matters for decision or discussion

- i. Kent Bird Migration Day – 28 September
 - i. AF has sent out press release, and spoke to journalist today
 - ii. We will hit social meeting over next few days
 - iii. All sites are ready: 10am-4pm
 1. Chris at Dungeness RSPB
 2. Gary at Dungeness BO
 3. Martin at Samphire Hoe, Peter to join
 4. Murray and Jonathan Dodds at Sandwich Bay BO
 5. Andre will roam sites
 - iv. There are KOS cards to hand out at each venue, these have been delivered at the sites, also CR to send few more to MO
 - v. Posters and banners also at sites.
 - vi. Sightings to be reported via the communicated # on twitter, bluesky or insta. Can also whatsapp directly to MC
 - vii. CR has sent email today to all KOS members with hashtag and all other info
 - viii. Mailchimp still being worked out
 - ix. Should we add a colouring page for children?
 1. Need to think about how we report about the day afterwards, e.g. with number of participants, number of birds, species (spreadsheet already set up by MC)
 - x. All to wear logo where we can
 - xi. **Action: AF to organise colouring page and crayons.**

2. Updates

- i. Birds of Kent/Cobra-replacement
 - i. RM is stepping down after next KBR
 - ii. Need to find a replacement for Robin, ideas welcome. Please send to AF
 - iii. MC could perhaps take Robin role, but then we need to find replacement for MC's current role
 - iv. Cobra more or less done, so we should be able to go ahead with Birds of Kent
 - v. 26th zoom call on Birds of Kent with Chris Dee, this will give more clarity.



- vi. Birds of Kent could be a great project to outsource to proper developer given we have enough budget. I.e. we could tender wider than Chris Dee (if he can't commit long-term for instance)
- vii. Andrew Henderson also has been very helpful in recent years, producing graphs, using access to Cobra, trawling social media, etc. Maybe we can ask him to document how he does all this so someone can assist in the future? With Robin moving on, it becomes clear we need to institutionalise all this a bit more, as many skills are only in people's heads
- viii. **Action: BW to check how London Bird Report handles all the different data sources and what we could learn**
- ix. **Action: PE to send Brendan email with the deliberations around projects for Chris Dee, cc-ing MC**
- ii. Membership
 - i. 48 new members this year
 - ii. Member mojo works well, sends automatic reminders, which CR has recently switched on
- iii. Treasurer's update
 - i. MH has received the £1000 from Chas Holt (Adonis Blue)
 - ii. MH has submitted annual submissions to charity committee, adding PE
 - iii. MH has been very helpful to CR to check and chase membership payments
- iv. Editorial and Records Committee
 - i. Meeting last night
 - ii. Richard Collins and Chris Hindle have stood down (Chris will carry on collating records, but not vote anymore)
 - iii. Allen Fossey and Jamie Partridge to join as replacements
 - iv. Kent is only county with two bird observatories. We could link them, so people can stay at both and visits sites in between (idea by Jill who BW met at Dungeness).
 - v. KBR is at the printers
 - vi. **Action: MC to add news of rarity committee change as item on website**
 - vii. **Action: BW will forward email from Jill on BO idea**
- v. Surveys and Conservation Committee
 - i. Winter Gulls Survey late September – won't push too hard given Migration Day
 - ii. North Downs NNR report has gone out, partly based on our data, Natural England now considering. Some budget already offered to do some more surveys (eg on Marsh tit, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, etc)
 - iii. Local Nature Recovery project: we have proposed list of priority species (MO to send round), now mapping to areas in Kent, so it can inform development choices
 - iv. BTO meeting on potential future surveys. Budget pulled for nightjar survey, so next survey likely non-estuary waders in winter 2025-2026



- v. Hopefully there is something being done on Marsh Tit and maybe Lesser Spot as well next year, but probably not organised by us/MO
 - vi. DICE (linked to University of Kent) has received significant funding and is now looking to invest in rewilding, local partnerships, student projects, etc. This could give us an opportunity to pitch for student project eg in survey work (note AF on the board of DICE)
 - vii. We access Trektellen data via BirdTrack
- vi. Engagement Committee
- i. Website needs upgrade including update to new platform. Chris Dee has made a proposal. We would want him to be able to do it soon
 - ii. Ultimately we see three key components: website, Birds of Kent and photo gallery.
 - iii. Winter Talks: CR has started to build a program, three confirmed, three slots still to fill
 - iv. Organising AGM including in-person afternoon with presentations next year, looking to use University of Kent as the location.
 - v. Chris Dee needs to update the plug-in on website, so uploads/links to Twitter work again (general Twitter issue post move to X)
 - vi. Social Media content
 - 1. MC has written detailed paper which was circulated to the Exec
 - 2. His proposal is to create more of a dedicated strategy. This would need to entail 2-3 posts per week on several platforms
 - 3. The idea would be to recruit a Social Media volunteer, importantly to be able to respond to replies to our posts, but also to be the go to person to upload content and to make sure we stick to the agreed posts spread out over the year
 - 4. PE volunteering for this role.
 - 5. Mailchimp should be able to send to Twitter, Insta, facebook in one go
 - 6. The Exec agrees with MC proposal, to start this from 1 January
 - 7. **Action: CR to invite PE to next Engagement Committee to put Social Media plan in motion**
3. **Administration matters**
- i. Minutes of last meeting (7 July) approved (with some edits suggested by MO)
 - ii. Upcoming meeting dates
 - i. 4 December
 - ii. Dates for 2025 to be agreed in December
4. **Any other business**
- i. Historic bird reports received from Terry Bates on Bromley/Ruxley GP. Not Kent, should forward to Natural History Society London.
 - ii. **Action: BW to send NHSL contact to PE**



5. **Pro-memory**

- i. Agree new rules at next AGM (they have been posted for comments on the website)