



Kent Ornithological Society - Executive Committee

7.30pm, 3 December 2025

Present: Andre Farrar, Chris Roome, Murray Orchard, Peter Eerdmans, Mike Henty, Keith Privett, Gary Howard

Apologies: Robin Mace, Barry Wright

1. Website update

- i. There were some website issues around the upgrade to Joomla5, but they have now been ironed out. The Search function has been added and works nicely. We decide to not take up the automatic daily X/Facebook/BlueSky update (at costs \$100 p.a.).
- ii. Colour-coding for species on KOS sightings website seems to be slightly outdated, with e.g. Redpoll 'orange' and 'Serin' uncoloured. We need to know how to adjust and then update
- iii. **Action: KP to ask Martin/Chris Dee how to check and then adjust colour-coding for species**

2. Birds of Kent update

- i. Chris Dee has been able to put quite a lot of time over the past few weeks into developing the Online Birds of Kent functionality for the KOS website. It is turning out to be a bigger job than he anticipated, with a few unexpected problems working with the new version of Joomla. Quite a bit of the admin functionality has now been built, on the development copy of the website. The user-facing part can hopefully start to be shared within the next two weeks.
- ii. How are we organising updating/maintenance?
 1. First beta testing can be done between PE, Brendan Ryan and Martin Collins.
 2. Hopefully the upload from Atlas is a good start, as well as the rarity info from KBRs/current website. Going forward we need an regular (annual?) update, which perhaps can include an upload from KBR for commoner birds, although often these will require little edit. The real update is rare and scarce birds which need to be maintained, also throughout the year as (pending' records get uploaded.
 3. Do we have all Andrew Henderson bird reviews from the newsletters electronically? These can be added hopefully as a link to the relevant species.
 4. **Action: PE, GH, BW and MO to make sure the 'BoK workgroup' gets properly going, work with Brendan and Chris Dee on the beta testing and decide how to organise the BoK Editorial team going forward. PE to send email on this to Chris Dee and Brendan.**



3. Plans for 2026

- i. Exec Committee new members
 1. Key is to find a new Archivist as Robin is keen to hand over (he will have 2024 KBR data done by end of the month). Would be great if Martin Collins can do this, but then we need to find someone to take over Martin's current tasks.
 2. Keith has recruited two new, younger, writers for KBR, which is great for the future.
 3. CR and AF have considered some names that may join the Exec.
 4. **Action: CR to ask Martin to take over as Archivist and ask him to write up his current tasks so we can organise hand-over.**
 5. **Action: AF to advertise for new Exec members/help at the next talk. Plus CR to put something on the website to recruit Exec members as well.**
- ii. Dunge Days and Migration Day dates:
 1. 15 February
 2. 17 May
 3. 16 August
 4. And then 27 Sept for the Migration Day
 5. **Action: CR and AF to start organising the 15 Feb Day**
 6. **Action: PE to send as calendar invites**
- iii. AGM – by Zoom around mid April
- iv. Strategy day: perhaps organise around mid year, once a few things have settled down and ideally we have one or two new Exec members
- v. Exec dates proposal
 1. 11 March
 2. 3 June
 3. 2 Sept
 4. 2 Dec
 5. **Action: PE to send as calendar invites**

2. Updates (including relevant actions from last meeting)

1. Membership CR
 - i. We have now fully switched the emailing function from Mailchimp to membermojo, saving KOS c£330 p/a. This is working well
 - ii. Membership has grown a bit, all fine
2. Treasurer's update GH
 - i. GH to completely take over from 1 Jan
 - ii. **Action: GH to chase the £300 payment for the Nightingale data**
3. Editorial and Records Committee BW
4. Surveys and Conservation Committee MO
 - i. Winter Bird Survey progressing. Heather LSW survey now on website.



- ii. There is a new BTO survey for Breeding Birds in Greenspaces for 2026. Could be an opportunity to get new, younger people involved.
- iii. Stewart Harris has surveyed Thanet Fulmars over the past few years – 84 sites found (stable since 2018)
- iv. Big thing coming up is the BTO Atlas 2027-2031. MO to organise a team to help push this. It is an outstanding question if we want to progress to update our Kent atlas, which would be a big ask to cover all required squares for that.
- v. Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been published in November, which lists our priority and super-priority species.
- vi. MO had a discussion with Alan Jarrett (chairman of Kent Wildfowlers). Perhaps we need to work more closely together, e.g. on SSSI assessment in Medway.
- vii. Gift of £100 to support the Acoustic Appeal by the BTO approved. As a quid-pro-quo we have someone for a KOS zoom talk on this topic.
- viii. **Action: GH to organise £100 donation for BTO Acoustic appeal. MO to send CR details of speaker.**
- ix. **Action: MO to chase David Smith on the rare breeding bird guidelines**

5. Engagement Committee

CR

- i. New business cards and car stickers have arrived.
- ii. Winter talks lined up: rewilding in Dec, White-tailed Eagles in Jan, Bird Observatory background in Feb, Cuckoos in March
- iii. AF hasn't had much useful feedback from other bird clubs on their field trip's risk assessment. One tip was to make sure we do a quick dynamic assessment on the walk when we deviate from planned route.

3. Administration matters

- 1. Minutes of last meeting (3 Sept) approved
- 2. Upcoming meeting dates
 - i. 2026 dates:
 - 1. 11 March
 - 2. 3 June
 - 3. 2 Sept
 - 4. 2 Dec

PE

PE

4. Any other business

- 1. None