



Kent Ornithological Society
Providing information about Birds and Birdwatching in Kent

Executive Committee

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 30 June 2011 at 6:00pm at Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, Faversham, ME13 8XZ

Present: Martin Coath (Chair), Mike Henty, Chris Roome, Mike Roser, Stephen Wood and Barry Wright.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Chris Abrams, Gordon Allison, Marcus Lawson, Robin Mace and Brendan Ryan.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2011 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Publicity and Membership

In the absence of Brendan Ryan discussion of the Membership Survey was postponed.

CR reported that membership stood at 677.

He had made enquiries about the cost of advertising KOS in the publications of sister organizations and recommended two possibilities, namely the Kent Wildlife Trust Newsletter (£250) and the bulletin of the Tonbridge RSPB Local Group (£50).

The Committee felt that although the membership of KWT is very large (30,000), it includes relatively few keen birders and amateur ornithologists who are not already members of KOS and that more than twenty new recruits would be required to offset the cost of the advertisement. By contrast the RSPB local group was felt to be a better target group and it was agreed that the advert should be placed.

Action: Chris Roome

MC suggested that we should submit an article for inclusion in the KWT Newsletter.

Action: Martin Coath

SW drew the Executive Committee's attention to the resignation of KWT's Director of Conservation, Richard Moyses who is taking up another post with PlantLife in the county. He praised Richard's contribution to the Conservation and Surveys Committee suggested that it was very important to maintain close links between KOS and KWT. It was agreed that it would be helpful if KOS had formal representation in the KWT structure and MC agreed to write to John Bennett.

Action: Martin Coath

4. *Kent Bird Report*

BW reported that efforts continue to broaden and expand the selection of photographs for *KBR 2010*, taking into consideration a variety of factors and not simply technical merit. He has been helped in this by Mike Gould who has prepared a long-list from the Forum photo gallery and will also be looking at some other websites. The number of photographs to be included will be greater than hitherto as the extra cost is marginal.

Action: Barry Wright

5. *New Birds of Kent*

Nothing to report.

6. *KOS News*

Discussion was postponed in the absence of John Cantelo.

7. *Treasurer's Report*

MH reported that a bequest of £550 had been received from the estate of the late Miss Freda Tomlin, a founder member of the Society. EC members expressed their gratitude for this kind gift and there was discussion of how best to put it to use. MH advised that the sum was not necessary for the general upkeep of the Society and felt it would be more appropriate to put it towards a specific purpose. In view of the low turn-out of the present meeting, SW agreed to email all EC members to seek their views.

Action: Stephen Wood

MH suggested that a donation be made to the BTO Nightingale Appeal in order to fund a geo-locator to track migrating birds. Members agreed that in view of the importance of Kent to the species, this was appropriate and MH was asked to arrange the donation.

Action: Mike Henty

8. Indoor Meetings

Discussion was postponed in the absence of Marcus Lawson.

9. Outdoor Meetings

MR told the meeting that the programme had been published on the website and in *KOS News*. Fieldwork trips for the *Atlas* had not been widely supported, but a small number of enthusiastic contributors had nevertheless made useful additions to the data. He has written a summary of recent trips for *KOS News*.

Action: Mike Roser

10. Website and Forum

Chris Abrams has requested that in view of the very valuable *pro bono* work being done on website development by Don Petrie he be given honorary membership of KOS and that consideration be given to making a suitable presentation to him. The EC enthusiastically welcomed these suggestions and asked that CA liaise with MH to arrange the details.

Action: Chris Abrams, Mike Henty

11. Editorial and Records Sub-Committee

BW told members of a claim that a Crested Tit, *Lophophanes cristatus* was recently seen on a bird-feeder in the Bedgebury area. A photograph was allegedly taken but lost. He is looking into this intriguing record!

Previous KBR records of Sykes's Wagtail, *Motacilla flava bema* are being re-examined to consider confusion with so-called Channel Wagtail, *M. flava flava x flava flavissima* which it is said to resemble, although the situation remains confused at the present time. BW has been in touch with Nigel Hudson of the BBRC and they are undertaking a similar review for all records in southern England.

A similar review of eastern forms of Lesser Whitethroat, *Sylvia curuca* is also to take place.

Finally, BW was pleased to announce that Andy Lawson had agreed to join the Rarities Panel where his wide-ranging expertise, especially in difficult gull identification problems will be greatly welcomed.

Action: Barry Wright

12. Conservation and Surveys Sub-Committee

Discussion was postponed in the absence of Gordon Allison.

13. Any other business

None

14. Date of next meeting

To be arranged. SW will email EC members.

Action: Stephen Wood