



Marsh Matters

The Newsletter of RSPB Rainham Marshes

Issue 48
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Singing, Strumming and Summer Signage

The [Kate Doubleday](#) concert on the July 28 was a great success and was a fabulous way to christen the new [Purfleet Hide](#) after the VIP visit the previous Thursday. The scrape even held some water and attendant [little egrets](#) and calling [green sandpipers](#) added a certain wildness to the proceedings!



Howard Vaughan

Just how big is that lizard?



Peter Jackson

Kate and her band in full flow

Meanwhile, over in the [Shooting Butts Hide](#) and along the [Northern Trail](#), the first pieces of our new interpretation have been installed and have been very well received.

The rest should be completed before the end of August and they will help to create a more complete experience on your walk around.

An news just in, the [Marshland Discovery Zone](#) has been nominated for the [RIBA Stephen Lawrence Special Award](#) and the BBC will be coming down soon to make a film about it! Fingers crossed!



Howard Vaughan

Who can you see?

Lots to do in August & September!

For more information and to book please see contact details overleaf

- ◆ **Insect Afternoon** Sat 13 Aug, Sat 10 Sept
- ◆ **Be A Better Photographer Walks:**
 - DSLR: Sat 20 Aug, Fri 9 Sept, Fri 7 Oct
 - Bridge/ Compact Digital: Fri 22 July, Friday 12 Aug, Sat 17 Sept, Sat 8 Oct
- ◆ **Teddy Bears** Sat 20 Aug, Fri 26 Aug, Wed 31 Aug
- ◆ **Dusk Walk / Late Opening** Thurs 5 Aug
- ◆ **Bat Walks:** Fri 2, 9, 16, 23 Sept
- ◆ **Annual Bug Hunt** Sun 21 Aug

If you wish to join our e-news group to receive future Marsh Matters please email and let us know.

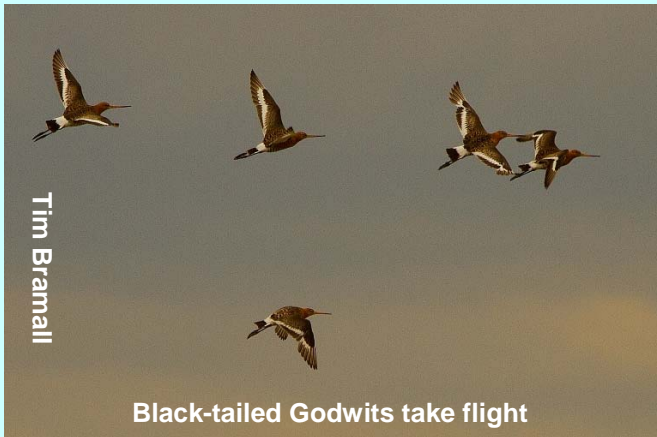
All the images used in Marsh Matters are taken at RSPB Rainham Marshes by staff, volunteers and visitors.

What's been about: July: The trickle of waders on their way south from their Arctic breeding grounds continued throughout July with up to six **whimbrel** becoming a daily sight at high tide on the posts while early **black-tailed godwit** passage peaked at 44 on the 9th. All told 19 species of wader were recorded and also included **curlew sandpiper, snipe, sanderling, turnstone** and two spangly **wood sandpipers**.



Daniel Woollard

Hobby resting out of the rain



Tim Bramall

Black-tailed Godwits take flight

Yellow-legged gulls reached 22 and a few **terns** were logged including four **blacks** and a **Sandwich**. Two **wigeon** returned on the 26th and an **Egyptian goose** very briefly graced the reserve while two **tufted duck** broods were out

on the pools. A **whinchat** was an early returnee and the odd **wheatear** and **yellow wagtail** were reported. Two young **cuckoos** were seen and even the **barn owls** came out for a change. Eyes on the skies produced fly through **turtle dove**, 13 more **crossbills** and a good selection of raptors that included at least eight different **marsh harriers**, some excellent **hobby** and **peregrine** action, a **honey buzzard** and all too brief **red-footed falcon**.



Alex Blackman

Grass Snake on the hunt for frogs!



Chris Lowe

A stunning, sunning female Banded Demoiselle

Wall brown butterflies emerged along the river wall and we are now the only site in the London area for this threatened species while **migrant, southern** and **brown hawkers** competed with **Emperor dragonflies** over the pools and ditches. We even had several sightings of elegant **banded demoiselles** on the marsh! Literally dozens of **lizards** could be seen along the boardwalks and **grass snakes** became very obvious and afforded excellent views. Female **wasp spiders** grew fat on their diet of **grasshoppers**!

Don't forget to check out www.rspb.org.uk/rainham and our Community Blog or www.elbf.co.uk for the latest reserve blog post, wildlife sightings and reserve news. Sign up at www.facebook.com and search for 'RSPB Rainham Marshes'.

What to look for next: With any luck we shall be graced with many more waders during August and September and garganey amongst the other duck are a real possibility. Finches will start to congregate and more chats, wagtails, pipits and larks will be on the move while our summer migrants like reed and sedge warblers will be heading even further south along with all the swallows and martins and playing catch up with the swifts and cuckoos that left in late July! Insects will abound for many weeks yet!

What's On? Regular Events:

Weekly: **Wednesday: Birdwatch** (9.30am start) **Friday: Beginners Birdwatch** (10am start)
Fortnightly: The Sunday Stroll at 1pm from the 6 February onwards. Check website for all dates.
Monthly: Kids Birdwatching Club (10.00am-12.30pm): **September Saturday 10 October Saturday 15**
For more information about the events and the RSPB Phone : 01708 899 840
 Email : rainham.marshes@rspb.org.uk Web : www.rspb.org.uk/rainham