

WINGSPAN

A Birdwatchers Diary for the Wirral and North Wales Coast



2010 Issue 1

January - March



January

Friday 1st, 9am start 2010 Bird List

Join the Rangers on a birdwatch on Thurstaston Shore, through farmland and along the hedgerows of the Wirral Way to start Wirral Country Park's 2010 year list. No need to book, meet at the [Visitor Centre](#), Thurstaston.

☎0151 648 4371

Sunday 3rd, 11am start Marsh Matters – High tide at Riverbank Road

Join the Rangers and RSPB Wardens at Riverbank Road car park to watch thousands of birds gathering to roost in the marsh as the tide covers the mudflats of the Dee Estuary. This activity may bring out some hunting raptors. (High tide: 9.8m) Meet at [Riverbank Road](#) car park, Lower Heswall.

☎0151 648 4371

Saturday 9th, 10am – 1pm New Ferry Wader Watch

Come along and discover the secrets of a little known gem - New Ferry. The Shorefields area on the banks of the River Mersey is a winter bird heaven. The site is an important wintering area for Pintail and Black-tailed Godwit but the area is also good for Curlew, Turnstone, Redshank & Ringed Plover. RSPB and Wirral Rangers will be present to provide information. No need to book, meet on the [Prom Car Park just off The Dell](#).

☎0151 336 7681

Sunday 10th, 2.30pm Raptor Watch at Parkgate

Last year was a record year for numbers of Short-eared Owls and Hen Harriers, other raptors included Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Barn Owl! Join RSPB staff and volunteers to find out about these brilliant birds of prey. Meet at [Old Baths Car Park, Parkgate](#)

☎0151 336 7681

Friday 15th, 9am start Glorious Mud

There are thousands of waders feeding on the rich mudflats off Thurstaston Shore and numbers of Pintail are starting to build up. Join the Rangers on a birdwatch along this fabulous stretch of beach to get close up views of these special birds. No need to book, meet at the [Visitor Centre](#), Thurstaston.

☎0151 648 4371

Tuesday 26th, 9.30am start Low tide Special

A break from the norm! At low tide thousands of waders and ducks feed on the Dee mudflats. Join the Rangers on a walk along Thurstaston Shore to see them and watch their behaviour and interactions as they feed undisturbed by the tide. No need to book, meet at the [Visitor Centre](#), Thurstaston.

☎0151 648 4371

Sunday 31st, 10am start Marsh Matters – High tide at Riverbank Road

Another chance to witness the high tide action over Heswall Marsh with the Rangers and RSPB Wardens. (High water: 9.9m)

No need to book, meet at [Riverbank Road](#) car park, Lower Heswall.

☎0151 648 4371

February

Monday 1st, 11am start High Tide at Parkgate (10.1 metres)

Join RSPB wardens to watch the tide rise and possibly cover the entire saltmarsh at Parkgate. Keep an eye out for the reserve's usual suspects, such as Short-eared Owls, Hen Harriers and Merlins, as well as hopefully seeing some of the more secretive species of birds and mammals as they are forced out by the rising tide. Meet at [Old Baths Car Park, Parkgate](#)

☎0151 336 7681

Tuesday 2nd, 11.30am start High Tide at Parkgate (10.0 metres)

Another chance to join the RSPB Wardens at Parkgate for a birdwatch on a big spring tide that might cover the whole of the saltmarsh.

Meet at [Old Baths Car Park, Parkgate](#)

☎0151 336 7681

Friday 12th, 8.30am start Lakeside Special

Start the day in the company of the Rangers & RSPB for a wildlife walk around the West Kirby Marine Lake. We'll be looking for wintering Red-breasted Mergansers and Goldeneye fishing on the lake and waders & wildfowl feeding on the shore. Meet at the [Morrisons end of South Parade](#).

☎678 5488

Sunday 14th, 1.30pm – 3.30pm National Nestbox Week Kick-off

It's the first day of National Nestbox Week and to celebrate there will be a chance to make a nestbox with the Rangers or take advantage of sale prices in the Green Shop. There'll be heaps of free advice on where to site your box for best results and feeding etc. Meet at the [Visitor Centre](#), Thurstaston

☎0151 648 4371

Tuesday 16th, 9.30am start Mud'n'Marsh

Join the Rangers and RSPB Wardens on Heswall Shore for a high tide birdwatch. An army of waders including battalions of Knot, Redshank & Dunlin are pushed towards the marsh by the tide upon which flotillas of Shelduck and Pintail meet. No need to book, meet at [Banks Rd car park](#), Lower Heswall.

☎0151 648 4371

Sunday 21st, 3pm start Raptor watch at Parkgate

The Dee Estuary Nature Reserve is a vital wintering ground for many birds of prey. Discover these impressive birds in their wild habitat, hunting and roosting on the saltmarsh with help from staff and volunteers from the RSPB.

Meet at the [Old Baths Car Park, Parkgate](#)

☎0151 336 7681

Wednesday 24th, 9.30am start Glorious Mud

There are thousands of waders feeding on the rich mudflats off Thurstaston Shore and numbers of Pintail are starting to build up. Join the Rangers on a birdwatch along this fabulous stretch of beach to get close up views of these special birds. No need to book, meet at the [Visitor Centre](#), Thurstaston.

☎0151 648 4371

March

Monday 1st, 10am start Marsh Matters – High Tide at Riverbank Road

Join the Rangers and RSPB Wardens at Riverbank Road car park to watch thousands of birds gathering to roost in the marsh as the tide covers the mudflats of the Dee Estuary. This activity may bring out some hunting raptors. (High tide: 10.0m) Meet at [Riverbank Road](#) car park, Lower Heswall.

☎0151 648 4371

Tuesday 2nd, 10.30am start High Tide at Parkgate (10.2 metres)

Join RSPB wardens to watch the tide rise and possibly cover the entire saltmarsh at Parkgate. Keep an eye out for the reserve's usual suspects, such as Short-eared Owls, Hen Harriers and Merlins, as well as hopefully seeing some of the more secretive species of birds and mammals as they are forced out by the rising tide. Meet at [Old Baths Car Park, Parkgate](#)

☎0151 336 7681

Wednesday 17th, 9.30am Mud'n'Marsh - St Patrick's Day Special

Join the Rangers and RSPB Wardens for a special birdwatch on Heswall Shore. After watching thousands of waders and wildfowl on the mudflats of the Dee Estuary retire to Sheldrakes Restaurant for a bowl of Irish Stew and perhaps a pint of Guinness?! Tickets are £5 and are limited in number.

☎0151 648 4371 to book a place.

Saturday 20th, 9am - 12noon Spring Equinox Bird Race

Fancy a spot of competitive birding? Then join the Rangers and RSPB Wardens down at [Wirral Country Park](#) to test your birding skills! We'll divide into two teams and walk the same circular route in opposite directions and see who comes back with the most species on their list! Booking essential.

☎0151 648 4371

Sunday 21st, 3pm start Parkgate Raptor Watch

The Dee Estuary Nature Reserve is a vital wintering ground for many birds of prey. Discover these impressive birds in their wild habitat, hunting and roosting on the saltmarsh with help from staff and volunteers from the RSPB.

Meet at the [Old Baths Car Park, Parkgate](#)

☎0151 336 7681

Saturday 27th, 6.30am – 8.30am Woodland Wildlife

With the leaves not yet out and birds and mammals breeding activity, March is a great time for a wander in the woods. Join the Rangers in [Stapledon Woods](#) for woodpeckers, Nuthatches and much more. Booking essential.

☎0151 648 4371

Tuesday 30th, 10am start Marsh Matters – High tide at Riverbank Road

Join the Rangers and RSPB Wardens at Riverbank Road car park to watch thousands of birds gathering to roost in the marsh as the tide covers the mudflats of the Dee Estuary. This activity may bring out some hunting raptors. (High tide: 9.9m) Meet at [Riverbank Road](#) car park, Lower Heswall.

☎0151 648 4371

Check out these useful websites:

www.deeestuary.co.uk

www.rspb.org.uk

www.wirral.gov.uk

www.rspb.org.uk/innermarshfarm

(Wirral Council & the RSPB are not responsible for the content of external websites)

A few things to bear in mind....

Please note that weather can affect tide heights and bird activity.

Paths can become muddy in winter and after heavy rain.

It is best to wear warm waterproof clothing and stout footwear or wellies, especially in the winter months.

Binoculars are an essential item to bring for all of these events, a telescope would be even better!

Although every effort is made to ensure that all the information in this publication is correct you are advised to check with the organisers before travelling to one of our events.

**Wirral Country Park
Recording Group**

The Rangers at Wirral Country Park are looking for volunteers to start a comprehensive survey of the Park's flora and fauna.

The results will be used for conservation management plans and research projects.

Joining the Recording Group will bring opportunities for training, taking part in fund raising and is a chance to make a difference to your park.

If you are interested in joining call Ranger Matt Thomas at the Thurstaston Visitor Centre on: (0151) 648 4371/3884.

**YOUR PARK AND ITS
WILDLIFE NEED
YOU!**



Photos by Matt Thomas



Get up close to nature...



**RSPB Dee Estuary Nature Reserve
Inner Marsh Farm**

Inner Marsh Farm is a wonderful place to enjoy nature. In the mid '80s, we bought farmland here and turned it into a thriving wetland filled with glorious wildlife.

Come and visit between 9 am and 9 pm (or dusk if earlier). At the moment we're closed on Tuesdays.

It's free if you're an RSPB member, or £3 if you're not. Another good reason to join.

www.rspb.org.uk/innermarshfarm
0151 336 7681

 a million voices for nature

The RSPB is a Regd charity England and Wales no 207076, Scotland no.