

LINCOLNSHIRE BIRD CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ADMIRAL RODNEY HOTEL, HORNCastle
20 MARCH 2012
MINUTES

Present 44 members and officers

Apologies Dave Morrison, Grahame Hopwood, Freddy Johnson, Ian Macalpine-Leny, Barbara Martin, Bill Sterling, Chris Manning and Russ Telfer.

Minutes of 2011 AGM The Minutes are on the website. Progress has been made on refunding monies to those who subscribed to the Atlas. Other matters dealt with in the Chairman's address. Accepted as a true and accurate record: Proposer: Sheila Jennings; Seconder: Stuart Britton. All agreed.

Hon Chairman's address (Andrew Chick)

- Thanks to all who have helped the Club over the past year in whatever capacity.
- Anyone who is interested in helping in the future would be very welcome.
- The Annual Report for 2010 is still at the printers. Thanks to the various editors. BTO data being integrated into the species accounts for the commoner species. It is 30 pages longer than last year's.
- A grant was received from LCC to cover the cost of erecting 6 Barn Owl nest boxes in the Anderby Creek area.
- The Grantham Peregrine project and webcam is ongoing.
- Newsletter editor is now Steve Nesbitt and the Newsletter will continue to be sent out, perhaps twice a year.
- Direct Debits have been introduced for annual subscriptions.
- Status of Birds in Lincolnshire should be published within the next 2-3 months; Rare and Scarce Birds 2003 onwards – in progress; Atlas still ongoing.

Hon Treasurer's report (John Watt)

- Full details of the accounts were circulated.
- Subscription income increased by 36%; sales are up by 68%; data search income is up 450%.
- £20k has been put into a high interest 1 year bond with Barclays.
- We have sufficient funds in the current accounts to cover costs of printing the 2010 Report.
- Independently audited and verified; accepted Proposer: Phil Espin; Seconder: David Cohen.

Report from Secretary (Robert Carr)

- Minutes of the AGM and Committee meetings are posted on the website; comments welcome.
- Offers to members also posted.

Report from Archivist (Janet Eastmead)

- We have had 23 requests, including one for 7 sites. Of these 2 were non-professional and no fee was charged. We have sent out invoices for £3k; our fees are at the lower end of those charged by the Lincs Record Centre – perhaps a review is needed. It is hoped that the money raised will be used for conservation purposes.

Report from Hon Membership Secretary (Mike Harrison)

- Current membership now estimated to be about 280.

Report from Sales Officer (Bill Sterling, presented by Andrew Chick in his absence)

- 2008 Annual Report is all but sold out.
- 40 copies of the 2009 Report remain; hoped these will be sold when offered for sale on the website is a special deal to those who buy the 2010 Report, 500 copies of which are being printed.

Report from recorders (given by John Badley for himself, John Clarkson and Phil Espin)

- It has been a busy year, especially as it was the last year of the BTO Atlas; over 360,000 records received.
- Rare Breeding Birds – over 20 of those species considered by BB; Phil Espin is the contact for sending records. We need records for LEO, SEO, Snipe, Willow Tit and LSWP which have become very scarce in Lincs; Phil Espin asked that records be submitted directly to him and not posted on the website to avoid an influx of observers and possible disturbance to a few well known sites.
- Recorders liaise with Colin and Sheila Jennings to chase up descriptions for records where needed.
- Recorders also involved with the Lincs Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Lots of effort in dealing with old records of Rarities but good progress made.
- John Clarkson is our media star.
- Highlights of the year were the invasion of Waxwings, White-fronted and Bean Geese; rarities included the White-tailed Eagle, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Black Tern and Great Grey Shrikes.
- We have the number 1 and 6 top wintering wader and wildfowl sites in The Wash and The Humber.
- We are fortunate to have a Bird Observatory in the county at Gibraltar Point.
- Guidance on what constitutes “rare” in local and national contexts will be posted on the website.

Election of Officers

- Not needed.

Election of Auditors

- Re-election of Caroline Chick; proposed by John Watt and seconded by Janet Eastmead.

AOB

- Request for a collator of data on recoveries of ringed birds from Andrew Chick; volunteers to contact him.
- Request for sponsorship, especially from younger members, are especially welcome.
- Some discussion regarding our position on development issues, following an email from Martin Francis. RSPB and LWT already involved and liaison with LBC does take place.
- There was also some discussion regarding the building of incinerators with the reduction of landfill sites and the possible harmful effect this might have on Gull populations. It was pointed out that none of the species involved is a cause for concern.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22h15.

RJF Carr, Secretary.