



Stretton Area Community Wildlife Group - Annual Public Meeting

The APM will be held on Tuesday March 1st, 7pm for 7.30pm, All Stretton Village Hall. There will be reports on all the surveys which were possible during 2021, election of officers and committee. New members to the Group and to the committee would be most welcome. Light refreshments will be available and a raffle. See you there!

Bird Surveys in 2022

We will continue with our Bird Surveys in 2022, on Lapwing, Curlew and other species, Red Grouse, and Dippers, all jointly with the Church Stretton branch of SOS. People who have helped previously will be asked to help again, but new helpers will be very welcome.

The bird survey area is bounded roughly by Leebotwood, Marshbrook, Shipton and Hughley. It is divided into 30 squares, each of 2x2 kilometres. Participants take on one of these survey squares and visit three times, on dates to suit you around 1st April, 1st May and 15th June. Each visit takes less than half a day, so it doesn't take much time. It's easy to do, and participants are provided with simple survey instructions and a map to record sightings on. If possible, we'd also like you to record Kestrel, Cuckoo, and other target species, but that's an optional extra.

A meeting is planned for 7.30pm on Wednesday 16 March 2022, at the Methodist Church Hall, Watling St., Church Stretton, to report back on last year's results, and explain what's involved to new participants. If it can't be held, or new helpers can't attend, they will be briefed by email. There will be a practical (socially distanced) training session, explaining how to go about the survey, and record what you see, around the end of March, if you feel you need it.

The Red Grouse survey takes place on Long Mynd, for around two hours around sunset on several evenings in April and May. Most watchpoints are close to the road, and the Grouse are usually conspicuous and easy to recognise, so the survey doesn't require any particular expertise. A meeting has been planned for 7.30pm on Thursday 24 March to explain it all to new participants, and again there will be a practical "on the job" training session for those that want it.

Dipper monitoring doesn't involve survey work, we would just like reports of any you see.

The *Save our Curlews* nest-finding and protection project will continue in our area in 2022. We continue to need funding and readers are invited to make donations.

Further details of the surveys, and the *Save our Curlews* Strettons Area Appeal, can also be found on our website. www.shropscwgs.org.uk/strettons-area-wildlife-group/. If you want further information, or to volunteer, please contact Leo Smith (leo@leosmith.org.uk).

Submissions by Dr Penny Bienz