

Settle U3A Birdwatching Group

The aim of the Settle U3A Birdwatching Group is to give members the opportunity to enjoy the experience of looking for birds, both locally and further afield.

Enjoyment is the Group's primary objective but it's hoped that, at the same time members will develop both their understanding of how birds live and their skills in identifying individual species.

The Group meets monthly. Most meetings are outdoors, with visits to prime birding sites. But indoor meetings are held three or four times a year, covering a variety of issues.

If you are interested in birds or just enjoy watching them this is the Group for you.



Long Preston Deeps

Latest News

The Group's March meeting took us to Long Preston Deeps. We set off in heavy rain but the clouds cleared by the time we got to Cow Bridge. A strong wind lingered, and some over-friendly horses made life interesting, but the birds didn't disappoint. Around the hide at the foot of Teenley Hill we found a number of small birds, including some delightful Reed Buntings. And the short journey back to Cow Bridge delivered several more species including a Little Grebe on the Ribble. The Group then moved on to view the Deeps from Hollin Hall, and finally the sewage works at Gildersleets. These stops produced spectacular numbers of Oystercatchers, Wigeon and several Gull species, as well as excellent views of Little Egret and Common Sandpiper. A good morning's birding.

Contact Details

For more information about the Group and its activities contact Group Leader Les Chandler on lchandler52@gmail.com.

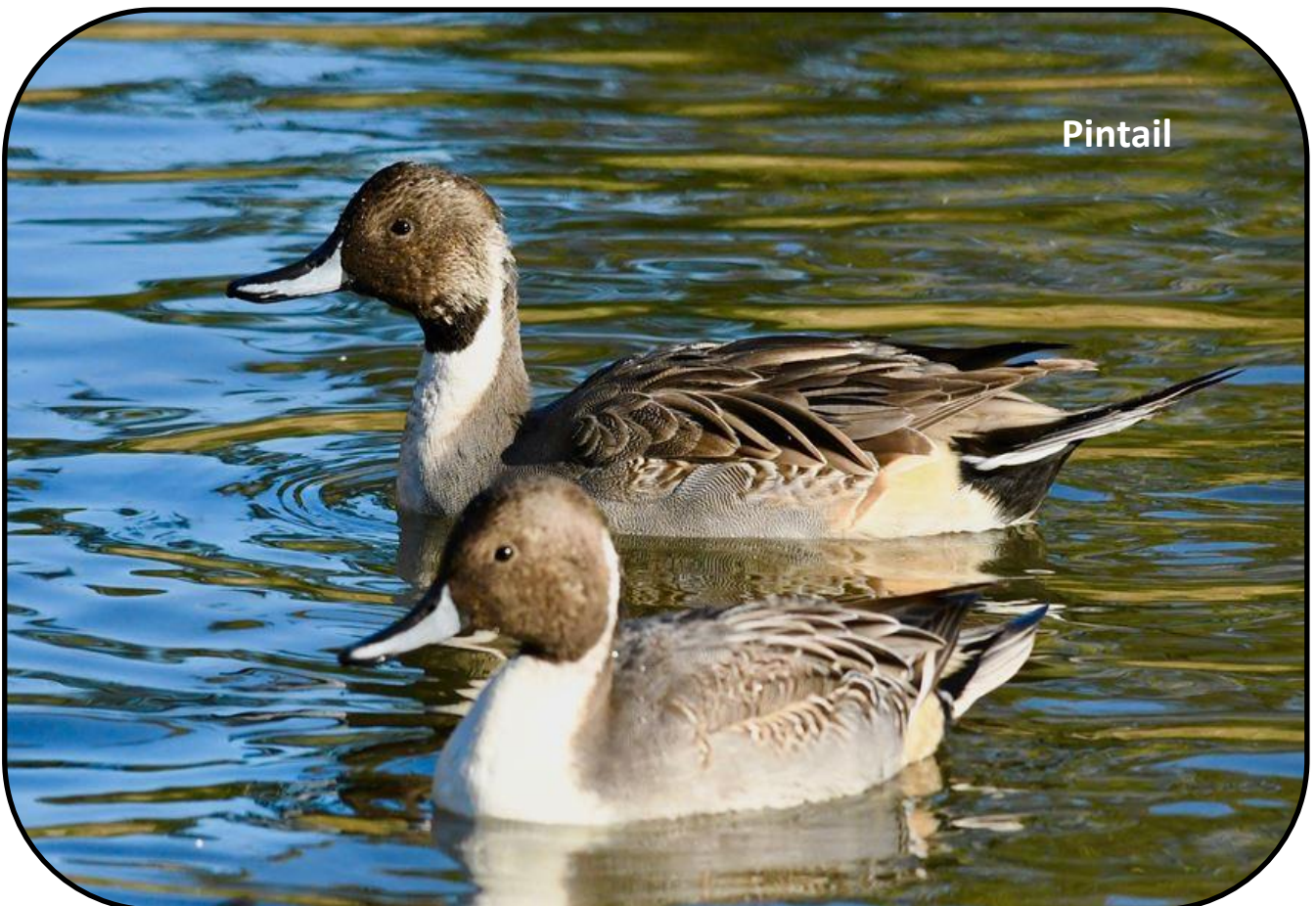
LOOKING AHEAD

The Programme for the rest of the year can be found on the next page.

As you can see from the Programme the Group's next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd March when we'll be visiting Hellifield Flash. 'The Flash' is actually three, naturally-occurring flashes (flooded fields). They are threatened by the development of a holiday park but at various times of the year they are home to more than 150 bird species. April can produce several birds we haven't seen on our trips this year including Pintail, Black-tailed Godwit, Linnet and even sea ducks like Scoter as well as a good range of more common bird species.

This latest incarnation of Settle U3A's Birdwatching Group is still in its first year but we're finding our feet. If you have a view on how the Group should operate, or ideas for Group activities, please don't hold back. The Group Leader, Les Chandler, won't be offended! If there's a particular species you're keen to see or a place you'd like to go just let Les know and he'll try and build it into a future programme.

Pintail



PROGRAMME: 2018-19

A 50p subscription is payable for all of the Group's activities. There may be additional costs associated with Group travel and entry to nature reserves depending on the event.

Date	Time	'Event'
Tue 2 Apr 2019	10.00 am to lunchtime	Outdoor meeting: Hellifield Flash
Tue 7 May 2019	10.00 am to 11.30 am	Indoor Meeting: Castleberg Room, Victoria Hall Woodland Birds
Mon 10 Jun 2019	9.30 am to lunchtime	Outdoor meeting: Bolton Abbey Woods
Tue 2 Jul 2019	10.00 am to lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Malham Cove

NOTE:

For Outdoor Meetings we meet at the Rugby Club car park in Settle at the time shown and arrange car-sharing as necessary. All meetings are risk assessed in advance but Group Members attend meetings at their own risk.

In line with Settle U3A policy drivers should be reimbursed at the rate of £1 per passenger for half hour journeys, £2 for one hour journeys and £3 for 1½ hour journeys.

Where possible outdoor meetings will go ahead whatever the weather but if conditions are so severe that birdwatching would be pointless or travel is ill-advised meetings may have to be cancelled. An e-mail advising cancellation will be sent out up to one hour prior to the scheduled meeting time so check your in-box before setting off.

Programme: 2019-20

If there is a site you would like to visit, a bird species you would like to see, or a subject you would like covered at an indoor meeting contact Group Leader Les Chandler on 07802 543676 or lchandler52@gmail.com.