



House Sparrow feeding young

© Dawn Osborn FRPS

Like myself, many of you will have made plans for wildlife photography trips this spring and summer, and I'm sure that, like me, those plans have been postponed to next year or cancelled altogether. Even if you can't get out to your favourite nature reserve or country park there is activity going on in your own garden. There are lots of hungry young birds around at this time of year and even with modest equipment it is still possible to enjoy the sunshine and get some pleasing images at the same time.

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Welcome to Issue 9 of Nature Group eNews.

To coin a phrase from 'Star Trek' - *"It's life Jim, but not as we know it"*. It might have been a lovely spring, but whether or not you have been able to enjoy any nature photography will have depended on where you live. If you have been 'shielding', you may have been confined to your own home and garden. I hope none of you have been stuck indoors these past months and that you have all stayed well. I suspect that by the end of this year many of us will have done very little photography compared with previous years.

Sadly, due to Covid19, it has been necessary to cancel the Field Meetings and other events planned for Spring and Summer. However, it is hoped that Chairman's Day and the Autumn

Residential Weekend in October will be able to go ahead as planned.

Complaints from nature photographers around the country via their Federations regarding the recent changes to the PAGB's *'Definition of Nature'* have resulted in a rethink by the PAGB Executive. Instead of the *'Definition'* there is now the *'Nature Eligibility in PAGB Competitions'* document. Nature now includes: *'Images taken with subjects in controlled conditions such as zoos, game parks, botanic gardens, aquariums and enclosures where the subjects are dependent on man for food. Scientific bands, tags or collars are permissible.'* 'Montage is permitted' has been removed as has reference to wildlife. PAGB have

gone to some lengths to explain that their Definition is only for PAGB competitions and that National (BPE) Exhibitions receiving their patronage are not obliged to use them.

I expect that many of you will have been catching up on image editing. Please remember that all members are invited to contribute items of nature photography interest to eNews - reviews of natural history field guides, photography books, photographic kit and items of kit for sale. Please share information with your fellow members through eNews. I look forward to hearing from you.



Dawn Osborn FRPS, eNews Editor

NG Galleries Website and Exhibition Show Downloads

by Ralph Snook ARPS, Exhibition Secretary/Webmaster.

We are pleased to announce two new facilities now available to Nature Group members.

- A Galleries website that contains Exhibition, Distinction and Member Galleries
- A Dropbox account allowing download of shows of accepted images from our Annual Exhibitions.

Galleries Website

The gallery can be reached at: www.nggalleries.net
The home page (opposite) briefly describes the content, with a rolling slideshow of selected images plus the menu that gives access to the available galleries.

Galleries are displayed as a rolling slideshow (see Fig.2). It is possible to take control of the show yourself and information on this is provided in the help panel.

The site currently contains three Exhibition Galleries and one Distinctions Gallery. Members are invited to have their Associate or Fellowship Nature Distinctions panels, or their LRPS panel if it consists solely of nature images, added to the Distinctions Gallery, or a maximum of 12 of their nature images added to the Members' Gallery. Please include an image of your panel layout if submitting a Distinctions Panel.

If you wish to have a gallery please follow the instructions below:

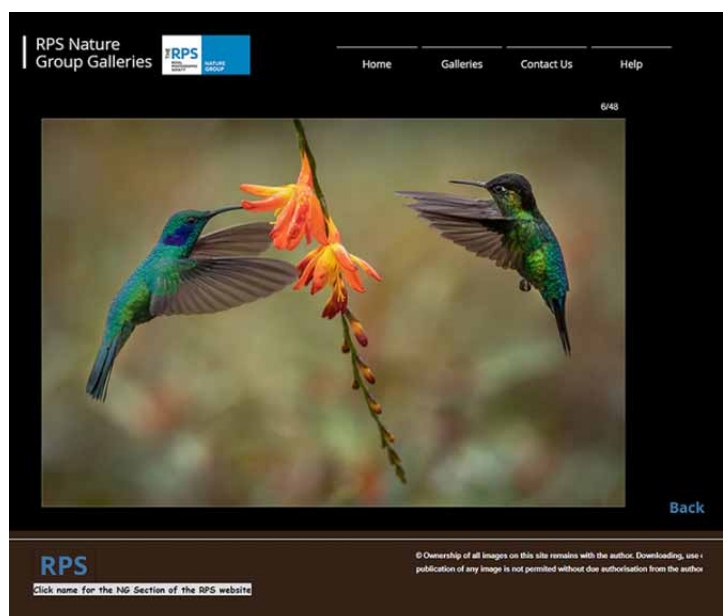
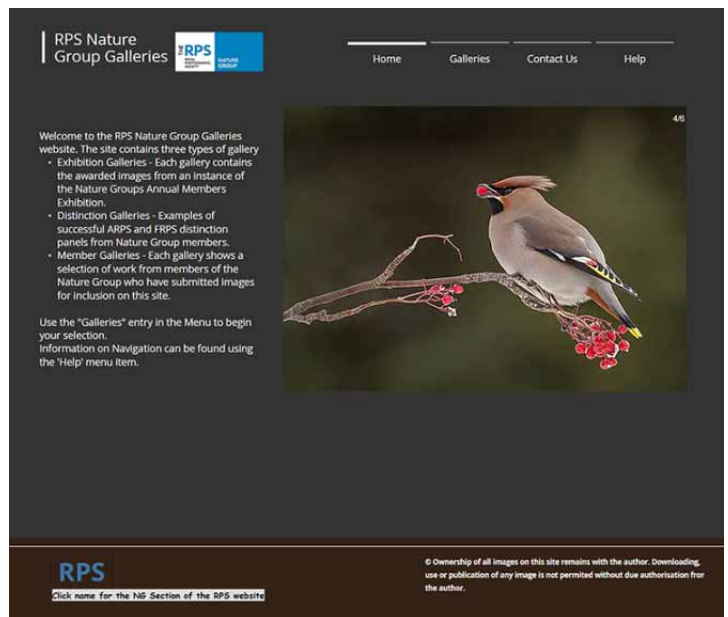
- Your image files should be named as follows: Image Title by Author.jpg eg 'Bird by John Smith ARPS.jpg'. This is important as the title is used to create the accreditation/copyright shown when hovering over the image.
- All images must be converted to sRGB colour and saved in jpg format
- All images should be forwarded to the webmaster at natureweb@rps.org, but to avoid issues with email size limits, please send via wetransfer, or a similar application. Do not worry about image size, that will be adjusted when preparing and adding the gallery to the website.

When displayed a gallery image will appear as shown opposite.

This website has only just been created and it is likely that there will be a period of modification to the presentation and structure of the site.

Feedback from NG members is welcome and will be reviewed to determine if changes should or can be made. We have created the website for the benefit of our members as it was not possible to provide a similar facility on the new RPS website. Please make use of the site and help to widen its scope by submitting your own galleries for inclusion.

Continued on page 4.



How well do you know the Peak District and would you like to get to know it better?

Duncan Locke LRPS, Secretary, RPS Nature Group

In an exciting new development, the Nature Group has teamed up with the Peak Park Conservation Volunteers (PPCV) to create Project Gaia. Starting in May 2021, when hopefully Covid-19 will be a distant memory, Project Gaia will run until the end of 2022 with a series of residential weekends spread throughout each year. These will provide Group Members with excellent opportunities for good, low cost access to photograph the diverse wildlife of the Peak District National Park.

Project Gaia is due to start in May 2021. Accommodation for each residential weekend will be for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and three weekends are planned in May, August and November for both 2021 and 2022.

The Project will be based on two PPCV centres (see map):

- Brunt's Barn, near Grindleford, on the Eastern side of the National Park, South West of Sheffield
- Marsh Farm, close to Tittesworth Reservoir, on the South West side of the National Park just North East of Leek

Both of these centres provide meeting rooms and low cost hostel type accommodation. Local hotels are also available, which Members can book at their own cost.

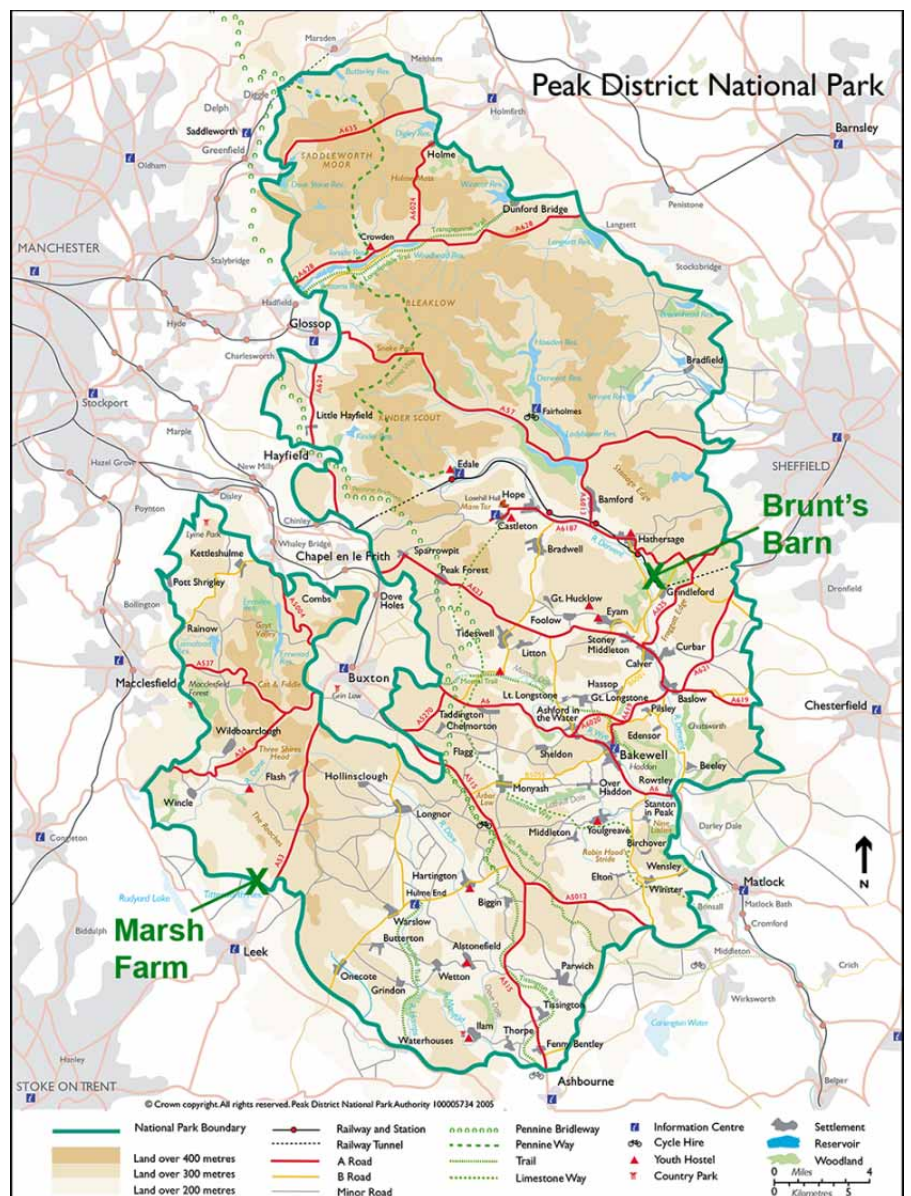
PPCV will provide knowledgeable local guides and transport to locations known to be good for wildlife photography. There will also be opportunities for more general landscape and rural life images. In return Group Members will provide photographic knowledge and images to PPCV, who will be able to use them to promote their work with the photographer's permission.

Further information on Project Gaia, including dates and costs, will be made available through the eNews, the Group website and The Iris as details are finalised. There will also be a presentation of the Project at the Nature Group AGM on the 31st October 2020.

Information on the Peak District National Park can be found at: <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/home>

Information on the PPCV can be found at: <https://ppcv.wordpress.com>

Thanks are due to Nature Group Member, Colin Smith, for putting together Project Gaia in collaboration with David Cramp of PPCV. Unfortunately Colin will be moving away from the area before the Project gets underway and Peter Ward, another local Group Member has kindly agreed to take over from Colin to continue to work with David Cramp on the development of the Project.



RPS Nature Group Autumn Residential Weekend

Foxlease, New Forest.

Friday 16th - Monday 19th October 2020



James Foad LRPS, organiser of this event, is accepting bookings on a first come first served basis for the

2020 Autumn Residential Weekend

to be held at

**Foxlease Girl Guiding Activities Centre,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire.**

Foxlease combines the classic charm of a Georgian manor house
and the beauty of the surrounding area of the New Forreest.

The cost for a Single room is £310.00
A deposit of £125.00 is required to secure your place.

For further details please contact the organiser:
James Foad LRPS Tel: 07834 810430
E-mail: jamesfoadlrps@inbox.com

Please include "Nature Group Autumn Residential Weekend 2020" in the Subject line.

Publication information

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Late Winter	Copy deadline mid January Published early March..
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Late Summer	Copy deadline end August Published late September.

All contributions should be submitted to the Editor at: naturegroup_eneews_editor@btinternet.com. Any item of interest to nature photographers is welcomed, including reviews on equipment and relevant books. Copy should be submitted as .txt or .doc files by email. Please do not send hand written copy.

Digitally captured photographic images should be supplied as flattened 8bit sRGB tif or jpg files, 6" x 4" at 300 pixels per inch. Please do not email larger images.

No payment will be made for material used. Submission of images assumes permission is given for their use in eNews. Authors should hold the copyright for any images submitted for use in eNews.

The views expressed within Nature Group eNews are solely those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Nature Group Committee.

Distribution:

eNews is available to members as a download from the Nature Group Members section of the RPS website. An RPS Bulletin advising members of its availability will be emailed to Members using addresses supplied by them to the RPS Membership Department in Bristol. Please update them if you change your email address.

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Chairman of the Nature A & F Distinctions Panel

* Members please note:

David O'Neill is currently acting as Nature Group Hon. Treasurer. He cannot continue to perform this role indefinitely on top of his other commitments to the Nature Group. If you have the necessary experience, please help the Nature Group by volunteering for this very important role. Please contact David O'Neill for further information. Email: david.oneill_nh@outlook.com

Nature Group Exhibitions:

CDs/DVDs of Nature Group Exhibitions are available for purchase by camera clubs/photographic societies for use in their programme. Please contact the Exhibition Secretary, E-mail: rpsngexsec@btinternet.com

