

Kent Wildlife Trust Wildlife Study Day Information Sheet

No.	38A	Title	Birds of Prey of the North Kent Marshes	Date	Friday 12 December 2008
No. of students	5-15	Start time	10am	Finish time	4 - 4.30pm
Leader	<p>Tony Swandale - KWT Warden for Sandwich & Pegwell Bay NNR (formerly Oare Marshes), has 20 years' experience surveying birds and leading birdwatching courses.</p> <p>Rob Clements is a leading authority on birds of prey who has an intimate knowledge of the birdlife in this part of the county.</p>				
Who should attend	Birders of all abilities who wish to improve their identification skills and learn more about birds. Beginners are particularly welcome.				
Meeting place	Elmley RSPB reserve car park, map ref: TQ939680 Elmley Nature Reserve is sign posted from the A249 about one mile after Kingsferry Bridge on the Isle of Sheppey.				
Other sites to be visited	Capel Fleet				
Subjects to be covered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of birds of prey in winter 2. Raptors of the North Kent Marshes: their characteristics, habitats and behaviour 				
Programme	<p>The Isle of Sheppey has the highest density of overwintering birds of prey in the county and is one of the UK's premier sites for observing species such as short-eared owl, hen and marsh harrier, merlin, peregrine and, in some years, rough-legged buzzard. The morning will be spent at Elmley RSPB Reserve. After lunch we will move to the raptor watch point at Capel Fleet (involving a 10-15 minutes drive) to observe harriers gathering to take up their communal roosts in the reedbed. As dusk approaches there is a good chance of seeing at least one of the four species of owl which are present in the area. Participants will then be given instruction on how to identify the various species in the field together with information about the characteristics, habitats and behaviour of this fascinating group.</p>				
What to bring	<p>Binoculars and a telescope if you have one. Please come prepared for all kinds of weather, wear thermal clothing appropriate for the conditions, walking shoes or boots and bring waterproofs – just in case. Binoculars will be available to borrow free of charge – please ring Tony Swandale before the event if you wish to reserve a pair (number below). Please bring a packed lunch and drink.</p>				
Other information	<p>There are toilets at Elmley Reserve. For further information contact Tony Swandale on 07889 822412</p>				