

WWT Malvern Group, Thursday Nov 7th

The Biking Birder 2010

Gary Prescott



In less than two hours, the Malvern Group was taken on a whistle-stop tour of the UK - 8,500 miles, 218 RSPB reserves, 9 Wetland Trusts, various landmarks, all seen in a year by this amazing, dynamic man on his bicycle. His aim was to beat the green record of 251 bird species, and to raise money for 3 charities: the RSPB, WWT, and Asthma UK.

We were taken to Rainham Marshes and then to Kent, where 30,000 corvids roost in the trees. We travelled the south coast, stopping briefly to see the curlew buntings in Torbay. We went to Weymouth, Porton Down and Slimbridge. Gary showed us where he slept at Ynys-hir – in a bird-hide! We saw a snow bunting on Snowdon, and zipped across the sea to N Ireland to see puffins, auks and razorbills. In Scotland, Gary was consumed by midges and stung by a wasp, but saw wildlife of all kinds including Scotch Argus butterflies and basking sharks. On Shetland there was the sad sight of dead bramblings killed by hurricane force winds, but also exciting rare birds like the Sykes warbler. We raced down the east coast to Minsmere and Cley, where he got locked in the church. He was plagued with punctures, illness and even a robbery, but he made it – and managed 252 species in total!

The next meeting will be held at Christ Church Hall (please note the change of venue for this meeting) on Thursday December 5th at 7.30pm. Dr Michael Leach will talk about The Natural History of Christmas.

Alison Uren

