

## Common Redshank



©Peter Moore

## Spring Bird Week Saturday 23 April - Sunday 1 May

Spring time in Dorset – what better time and what better county for bird watchers? Breeding birds are now at their most active, migration is at a peak and there is always a good chance of finding a rarity - or two. From Spoonbills to Redshanks, Woodlarks to Whimbrels, the wide programme of events helps you discover birds and so much more. Led by some of the county's top birders, now is your chance to see over 100 different species by the end of the week!

With stunning landscapes and coastlines, early wild flowers in bloom including beautiful orchids, butterflies and moths on the wing – how can you resist?

*Various charges apply, for Season Tickets or more details about Spring Bird Week call 01929 424443.*

Saturday 23 April 10am

### **Bird-watching for Beginners**

Durlston Country Park Visitor Centre (SZ 031 773)

A two mile walk with tips for beginners to bird-watching and a look for migrants in the park. Led by Dick Burt. Suitable for children; no public transport; for limited wheelchair access. Call 01929 424443.

Saturday 23 April 2pm – 4pm

### **Marvellous Migration**

Portland Bill, outside the TIC (SY 678 683)

Family event – find out more in one of the best places to enjoy it. Call 07973 907760 for details.

Sunday 24 April 10am

### **Improving Birdwatchers at Durlston**

Durlston Country Park Visitor Centre (SZ 031 773)

Join Hamish Murray (Head Ranger) and Simon Breeze (Countryside Ranger) to discover the resident and newly arriving birds. Call 01929 424443.

Sunday 24 April 11am

### **There's Much Birding on the Marsh**

Marsh Pod Information Centre (SZ 169 921)

Spring birds on Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve as seen through the binoculars of birdwatcher David Taylor. Call 01425 272479 for details.

Sunday 24 April 2pm - 5pm

### **Spring Migration**

Portland Bill, outside the TIC (SY 678 683)

Enjoy a gentle stroll, including a sea watch and a visit to the Portland Bird Observatory with expert Barry Matthews. Call 01305 820553 for details.

Monday 25 April 10am

### **Wildfowl, Waders & Whinchats**

Hartland Moor lay-by, near Wareham (SY 963 857)

A 2–3 mile walk to explore a superb area for spring goodies. Led by Dick Burt. Suitable for older children; no public transport; limited wheelchair access. Call 01929 424443.

Monday 25 April 2pm

### **Birds of Wareham Forest**

Sherford Bridge lay-by, on the Wareham road to Morden Road (SY 919 927)

Join our birding expert, Hamish Murray, to look for birds including goodies like Hobby and Woodlark on this 3 mile walk. Call 01929 424443.

Tuesday 26 April 9am

### **Waders & Warblers**

Upton Country Park main car park (SY 998 928)

Join Peter Moore at Upton Country Park & Holes Bay to observe a good selection of waders and warblers and perhaps even a Kingfisher. Call 01929 424443.

Tuesday 26 April 2pm

### **Birds of the West Fleet & Abbotsbury Swannery**

Swannery Shop, Abbotsbury (SY 576 847)

A 1.5 mile walk to see breeding Terns, reedbed birds, migrants and Swans. Led by Steve Groves of Abbotsbury Swannery. Not suitable for wheelchairs / pushchairs. Call 01305 871684 for details.

Wednesday 27 April 9am

### **Spring Birdwatch**

Avon Heath Country Park (SU 122 029)

Celebrate Dorset Bird Week and take a stroll across the heath and through the woods with expert, Ian Cross and if lucky, you may find Woodlark, Dartford Warblers and Stonechats among others. Children must be 8yrs+. Please bring binoculars. Booking essential on 01425 478470.

Wednesday 27 April 10am – 12pm

### **Heathland Amble**

RSPB Arne Nature Reserve car park (SY 972 877)

Come and join the warden for a free guided walk on this magical reserve, and help to track down some amazing creatures from Dartford Warblers to Smooth Snakes, sundews and dragonflies, you never know what you're going to see! Call 01929 553360 for further details.

Wednesday 27 April 2pm

### **Birds of Woodland, Heath & Marsh**

Greenland Farm turning, Ferry Road, Studland (SZ 025 843)

A 2–3 mile bird-watching walk led by Rees Cox and Dick Burt. Suitable for children; public transport available; not suitable for wheelchairs. Call 01929 424443.

Thursday 28 April 7am

### **Seabirds & Migrants**

Durlston Country Park Visitor Centre (SZ 031 773)

Join Hamish Murray (Head Ranger) to unearth newly arrived birds and those passing at sea. Call 01929 424443.

Thursday 28 April 10am – 12pm

### **Birds & Wildlife**

National Trust car park, Cogden (SY 503 885)

Explore Cogden on a guided walk to discover more about the birds and wildlife of this spectacular site; part of Dorset's famous Jurassic Coast. The surrounding countryside provides an ideal habitat for a range of interesting flora and fauna, so don't forget to bring your binoculars! Call 01297 489481 for further details.

Thursday 28 April 2pm – 5pm

### **Heathland Birds**

End of Steeple Close by access gate (a residential area, please park carefully) (SZ 019 953)

Terry Elborn from Borough of Poole leads a slightly challenging three hour stroll around part of Canford Heath; Poole's largest nature reserve. Dartford Warblers abound and Stonechats can easily be seen as they sit boldly on the gorse tops. Borough of Poole 01202 265265 for further details.

Friday 29 April 10am

### **Wildfowl, Waders & Whinchats**

Hartland Moor lay-by, near Wareham (SY 963 857)

A 2-3 mile walk to explore a superb area for spring goodies led by Dick Burt. Suitable for older children; no public transport; limited wheelchair access. Call 01929 424443.

Saturday 30 April 7am

### **Bird Sounds of the Season**

Durlston Country Park Visitor Centre (SZ 031 773)

Join Durlston rangers to listen to one of the wonders of the natural world and discover how to recognise individual bird songs and calls. Call 01929 424443.

Sunday 1 May 4.30am – 7am

### **Dawn Chorus Walk**

RSPB Arne Nature Reserve car park (SY 972 877)

Come along to see Arne at the best time of day. Join us for this guided walk at dawn to listen to the reserve's cacophony of sound as the inhabitants wake up. From Blackbird and Blackcap, to Willow Warbler and Woodlark. Join us afterwards for breakfast and a chance to chat about this early but wonderful start to the day. Booking essential on 01929 553360.

Sunday 1 May 10am

### **The Birds of Holton Lee**

Holton Lee car park, (SY 961 913)

A 2 mile bird-watching walk led by Shaun Robson, former Dorset County Bird Recorder. Suitable for children; no public transport; parts suitable for wheelchairs. Call 01929 424443.

Sunday 1 May 10am

### **Spring Birds of Ferrybridge**

Chesil Beach Centre (SY 668 755)

A flat 1.5 mile walk to see Terns, waders and migrants in a prime Dorset birding site. Call 01929 424443.

*visit [www.visit-dorset.com](http://www.visit-dorset.com) for full events' listing*