

For further information, contact the group's registered leader:

Jenny Grant

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Visit the SkyeLarks Website

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/skylarksWEX/

If you would like to talk to someone about the way your group is run and how you are treated, please call the RSPB on 0800 9178566.

Call between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday to speak to someone. There is an answerphone at all other times.

Child safety and welfare

The RSPB takes all practicable steps to safeguard the safety and welfare of children and young people while they are in contact with the Society, observing the recommendations of the Home Office code of practice covering Scotland and Northern Ireland, and conforming with all relevant legislation.

For outdoor meetings please wear suitable clothing - bring warm clothes and waterproofs, wellies or walking boots. Bring a snack and binoculars if you have them. If it's hot, please bring sun-block and a hat. Insect repellent might be useful!

If weather conditions are bad on the day, contact us as early as possible in case of cancellation. Wildlife is wild so we can never guarantee the things we hope to see!



SkyeLarks

Celebrating Year of Natural Scotland 2013

**RSPB Wildlife Explorers
Group Programme**



RSPB Wildlife Explorers is for junior members of the RSPB.
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity:
England and Wales no. 207076 Scotland no. SC037654 330-0633-08-09
Illustrations by Andy Hamilton

SOUTH SKYE & LOCHALSH (February - June)

Wednesday 20th February, 4pm - 6pm

Investigate Owl Pellets

Become a real Nature Detective by dissecting owl pellets. Work out what these night time silent fliers have been eating. We'll also investigate other aspects of their lives through some fun activities.



Meet at Broadford Community Hall
(upstairs in the canteen)

Cost: £2.00

Wednesday 27th March, 4pm - 6pm

Digital Nature

Look at the world a little differently using some digital equipment. We'll be going for a walk then using different technology including cameras and microscopes to look a bit closer at what natural items we find. Bring a digital camera if you have one.



Meet at Plockton Village Hall

Cost: £2.00

Saturday 13th April, 10am - 12pm

Otter Spotter

Meet an otter scientist and look at the world through an otter's eyes. We'll be looking at how these incredible creatures live. Explore the lives of other mammals as well. As usual there will be fun and games to be had too.



Meeting place: South Skye, TBC

Cost: £2.00

Wednesday 23rd October, 5.30-8pm (time TBC)

The Red Deer Rut

One of the best wildlife spectacles in Scotland, the red deer rut is a sight and sound to behold. As dusk falls we hope to see the males trying to win some girlfriends. Games related to the rut will be played to keep us warm but dress for cold weather. Get practicing your own red deer roar! Bring a torch and a snack and dress warmly.



Meet at Glendale Hall (TBC)

Cost: £2.00

Wednesday 20th November 4 - 6pm

Flight, Feathers and Digital Media

How does a snipe drum with its tail feather or a barn owl stalk its prey in silence? Explore how birds fly and the beauty of feathers as seen through a digital microscope. Create some feather art and maybe even learn to fly.



Meet at Staffin Community Hall

Cost: £2.00

Sunday 26th January 2014, 10am-12pm

BIG Garden Bird Watch 2014

Learn, play and burn off some energy while taking part in the world's biggest bird survey. This year, our location is Greshornish House Hotel. The grounds here are absolutely beautiful so we will enjoy exploring and recording the birds that make their winter home here. Prizes for stamps will also be given on this day! Please contact us before the event in case this location changes.



Meet at Greshornish House Hotel

Cost £2.00

CENTRAL & NORTH SKYE (Aug 2013 - Jan 2014)

Saturday 24th August, 10am-1pm

Sea Eagle Safari 2

Our second Sea Eagle Safari, this time in the North of the island. If you came on the other safari you can still join in with this one as a Safari Guide or just to see and learn about these rather large birds of prey. This walk will be open to other members of the public.



Meeting place: North Skye, TBC

Cost: £2:00 (for SkyeLarks)

Safari Guide training day Friday the 23rd August at Aros, Portree 4-6pm. Let us know if you are coming please.

Saturday 14th September, 10am -12pm

Sea Watching

Grab a picnic lunch and come to one of the most stunning places on Skye. This is a good time of year for finding marine creatures including whales, dolphins and basking sharks. We might also be lucky to see shearwaters. These graceful fliers are blown in closer to land sometimes. We'll also find out why some birds like the lighthouse.



Meet at Neist Point

cost: £2.00

Watch this space for news about a nature-related performance on the evening of 14th September!

Wednesday 15th May, 5-7pm

Flora Celtica

Plants are powerful! They can cure illness, feed the world and more. Come along to the wonderful Rubha Phoil permaculture gardens to learn about, see, feel and smell incredible plants then make some snacks. Of course, there will be games to be had and plant derived treats to be tried.



Rubha Phoil, Armadale.

Cost: £2.00

Saturday 29th June, 10am-12:30pm

Sea Eagle Safari 1

It's over to you SkyeLarks! You can either come along, watch and learn on this fun Sea Eagle Safari or tell others about them by being one of the Safari Guides. Find more details in the centre of this booklet on how to become a Sea Eagle Safari Guide. On this date you (and the leaders) will be inviting members of the public along on a walk to learn and look for white-tailed sea eagles in the south of Skye.



**Meeting place South Skye TBC
(for SkyeLarks)**

Cost: £2:00

Training day Friday the 28th of June at the Broadford RSPB Office 4-6pm. Please let us know if you are coming please.



SkyeLarks

(The Wildlife Explorers' Group for Skye & Lochalsh)

SkyeLarks is a wildlife club for children aged 6 to 12. We explore everything from beasts to birds and fish to fungi. We learn about our environment and help to conserve it. We get creative and scientific **and** we have lots of fun all at the same time! SkyeLarks is open to all so if you are on holiday you are welcome to join us. **2013 is Year of Natural Scotland so let's make an extra effort to appreciate and protect our fantastic nature in Skye & Lochalsh.**



A New Challenge?

Become a junior Sea Eagle Safari Guide on two walks this summer by attending one or both of these training days;



1. RSPB Office Broadford – Friday June 28th, 4-6pm.
2. Aros Centre, Portree – Friday August 23rd, 4-6pm.

Don't worry if you think this sounds a bit scary, we'll give you all the help you need to become a Sea Eagle Safari Guide. There will be two walking safaris on which to use your new skills; one in June and one in August (see the programme).

Please book on to a training day if you are interested.

SkyeLark of the Year!

Collect stamps each time you attend SkyeLarks.

Extra ones are available from leaders if you send in a wildlife drawing, poem, sighting report, wild square, photo or for attending Sea Eagle Safari training.

More stamps available during SkyeLarks events if you show that you are a good naturalist. A prize is available for who has the most in time for the Big Garden Bird Watch 2014!



For Grown-ups

If you are thinking *'this all sounds great fun....but I'm an adult,'* join us as a leader. We always need more leaders to join the fun. SkyeLarks is run by a small group of people. Some are professionals, others volunteer for fun or because they like working outside or with children. If you would like to get involved please get in touch using the contact details on the back.