

Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, Natural History Section

Minutes of meeting held in the New Walk Museum on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 from 7.00. until 9.30pm. 30 members and 5 guests.

The meeting was chaired by Hazel Graves.

Apologies had been received from Jenny Harris.

Our next meeting, and those of our Parent Body and the Geological Section were trailed.

Exhibits were:

- Kindbergia praelonga 'climbing' a wooden shoot
- Fontinalis antipyretica
- A Box, *Buxus sempervirens*, (Shield) Bug, *Psylla buxi*, found in Groby by Ivan Pedley on Christmas Day. Ivan thinks it is spreading rapidly and feeding on other evergreens too.
- A Box gall found locally by Ivan
- Peregrine skins

Sightings were:

- The Cowslips, *Primula veris*, in flower in a member's garden before the last meeting are still in flower
- Two Roe Deer, *Capreolus capreolus*, seen today by Ivan in Lady Hay Wood
- 4 species of moth including Angle Shades, *Phlogophora meticulosa*, trapped in John Tinning's garden in Queniborough since Christmas
- A flock of 12 – 14 Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*, at a feeder in an Evington garden recorded by Speranza Downes
- A Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*, feeding in Cosby Brook recorded by Dorothy Cooper
- A Marsh Tit, *Poecile palustris*, regularly at a Stoughton feeder recorded by Alison Gregory

The evening's main business was a lecture – **The Leicester Peregrine Project** given by **Jim Graham**. He was introduced by Hazel.

Jim first gave us an account of the natural history and known behaviour of the Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*. This included its adaption to the human environment and its structures. He then outlined the history of the Peregrine in the City of Leicester and the reasons for and method of the installation of a nesting platform on the Cathedral. He then showed a number of video excerpts taken from online streaming of the courtship, nesting, rearing and fledging of the Cathedral pair during the 2018 season, explaining the behaviour features illustrated by each clip. Finally he pointed out how the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society and its partners in the project have and continue to use it to engage the public and publicise wild life.

Following a question and answer session, Hazel thanked Jim.

John Tinning has recently been helping to tidy Martin Withers' estate. He had come across a set of bound records from 1941 to 1946 when the study of local ornithology was made by a branch of the Natural History Section. He took this occasion to thank Jim and present the proceedings accounts to the LROS.