



Shoreham District Ornithological Society Guide for Outing Leaders

SDOS is very grateful to all of our members who volunteer to lead or co-lead any of our outings.

The following guidelines help ensure any leader is prepared and aware of what leading or co-leading an SDOS Outing may entail.

1. A willingness to manage and lead a group, at times of up to 30+ members, ranging from relative beginners to more experienced birders.

NB - Help is usually available from other attendees to split a large group into two or more smaller groups with sub-leaders assigned.

2. A willingness to impart your enthusiasm & knowledge to attendees and encouraging other attendees to participate in sharing their knowledge to the group.

3. Familiarity with the route.

4. Ability to identify the birds likely to be encountered.

NB - you don't need to be an expert birder; on any outing there'll generally be a few very knowledgeable people on hand to help with bird calls or ID of scarcer species.

5. Familiarity with the outing's Risk Assessment, other relevant SDOS Policies (e.g. Safeguarding and Health & Safety Policies), BTO Guidelines regarding disturbance of birds especially when nesting, and the Code of Conduct for Birdwatchers & Photographers

6. Able to make adjustments on the day, based on the needs of the group. For example: if the weather deteriorates or if a footpath is closed & the route needs to be altered.

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