



## Owls and Raptors – 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012



## Itinerary

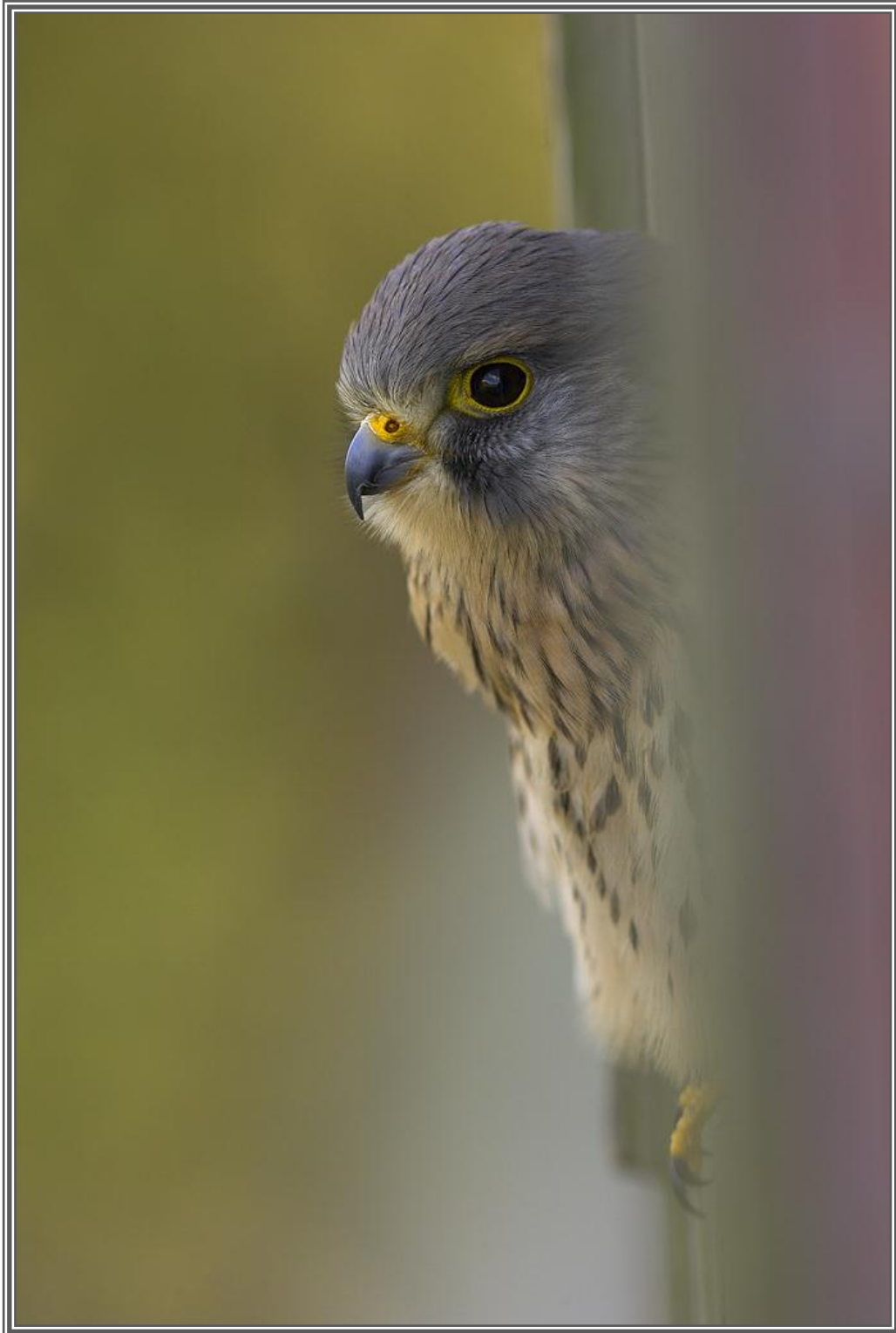
### Tour Leader: Mark Sisson

**Day 1:** We are planning for you to arrive at Mid Wales Falconry, our base for the weekend ready for a 2.00pm start and an afternoon's photography with a selection of birds that should include Barn Owl, Kestrel and Long-Eared Owl. Once we're finished we'll head off to our accommodation in nearby Welshpool to catch up on the day's images and have our evening meal.



**Day 2:** We'll be heading off after breakfast for a full day of photography out on the heather moorlands around nearby Lake Vyrnwy. We have some classic moorland birds to work with throughout the day which should include Peregrine, Merlin, Hobby and Short-Eared Owl both statically and hopefully in flight. After filling our cards we'll once more return to our accommodation for more image reviewing and dinner.

**Day 3:** After breakfast we'll once more return to Mid Wales Falconry for a morning session with some different birds once more before heading to the photographic hides at Gigrin Farm Red Kite feeding station in time for the afternoon feeding frenzy that this fantastic setup offers, and from there you'll be free to make your way home.



## **What to Bring**

Our hotel accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided, so you simply need to bring yourself, any special dietary requirements you may have – please let me know if there's anything you can't/won't eat!! You may want to bring extra snacks along with you and bring a thermos flask for tea and coffee which you can fill up at the accommodation before we leave in the mornings.

In terms of clothing you'll obviously need some warm and weather-proof clothing. The vast majority of your time will involve spending time outside and the weather can change at this time of the year. The following items are very much recommended - a good pair of strong waterproof walking boots, good waterproof overtrousers. For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers available – ie. t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof coat at hand as necessary. The weather is difficult to predict at this time of the year, it could be cold especially in the early morning and then gets warmer as the day progresses, so bring hats and gloves as well.



## Camera Equipment:

You will need to provide your own photographic equipment – the longest lens you have will be needed for the weekend – 300mm is ideal and if you have longer it'll really come into its own at the Red Kite centre but is not necessary for the bulk of the weekend with the captive birds. A tripod and bean bags to allow some flexibility and support will be useful/essential and don't forget some other lenses too (24-70 and 70-200 are good for any landscape opportunities and some wide angle possibilities with the birds). Bring plenty of compact flash cards with you as well because if we get a good day you will take a lot of images.

If you don't have a 300mm or 500mm lens it is worth exploring hiring one for the trip, it's not too expensive and the Canon 500mm or Nikon 200-400 with converter are approximately £45 per day plus a 20% discount if booked through Natures Images. Here is a link to the website: <http://www.theflashcentre.com/rental-department-faq-c414.html>

During the evenings we will have a chance to critique and look at individuals work if you so wish so feel free to bring anything you'd like to share on either a laptop or memory pen/CD.



My contact number in the build up to and for the duration of the trip is **07905 569685**, and my landline office number is **01952 411436**. Please don't hesitate to contact me even if you think it is a minor question I am here to help.

Mark



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