

MARCH 2019

# SBSG E-newsletter



Brambling © Pete Garrity



Willow Tit  
Methodology

[Method Here](#)



“What to Look  
Out For”  
by  
Ron Blagden

[Mar - Apr](#)



Birdwatch  
Magazine  
Award  
For  
David Wood

[Read Here](#)

## Welcome to the SBSG E-newsletter!

We hope you enjoy this edition which includes the birding highlights & images from Jan - Feb, details of forthcoming meetings & events and much more.....

Please use the “smart links” to key **news articles** to the right hand side of the “Welcome” page and **regular topics** at the foot of the page. Click on a link to be quickly directed to a PDF version of the article or to the particular topic you are interested in! We are happy to receive your comments and suggestions so that we can continually improve your membership experience



### LATEST NEWS

A pick of the birding news from recent months



### INDOOR MEETINGS

Don't miss out on our forthcoming indoor meetings



### PHOTO GALLERY

Enjoy the most recent images submitted to the SBSG web-site

# Recent Sightings

with Mark Reeder  
For the period Jan-Feb 2019



## Bittern

The wintering bird remained at Pit-house West until at least the 23rd February when it was heard 'booming'!

## Little Egret

One at RVCP on the 1st January later moved to Kiveton Community Woodland, where it was reported on and off until late February.

## Whooper Swan

On the 19th January 8 flew west at Linacre Res', with 3 other parties of 3, 8 and 11 north through Orgreave. A further 7 adults were present at the latter site that afternoon. The following day several herds were seen at; Blackburn Meadows (6 north), Broomhead Res' (18 down), Norwood Allotments (11 west), Orgreave (7 down, then north + 6 north) and Thrybergh (7 down, then north + 31 north).

During February 3 adults flew north at Orgreave on the 1st and a group were heard calling over Rawmarsh in the dark on the 5th. There were no further records until the end of the month when a total of 106 went through Orgreave between 09:00 and 09:40 on the 25th and 11 were at Agden Res' with 3 at Howden Res'. On the 26th 2 flew south over Rawmarsh and 6 were at Silverwood Lagoon.



Whooper Swans - M Smethurst

## Pink-footed Goose

Most records came over a 5 day period between 16-21 January when c.3000 birds passed through. Peaking on the 21st when, among other counts of 100 - 200 birds elsewhere, 800 passed NW over Orgreave, presumably 600 of these were the same seen over Shirecliffe around midday.

## Wigeon

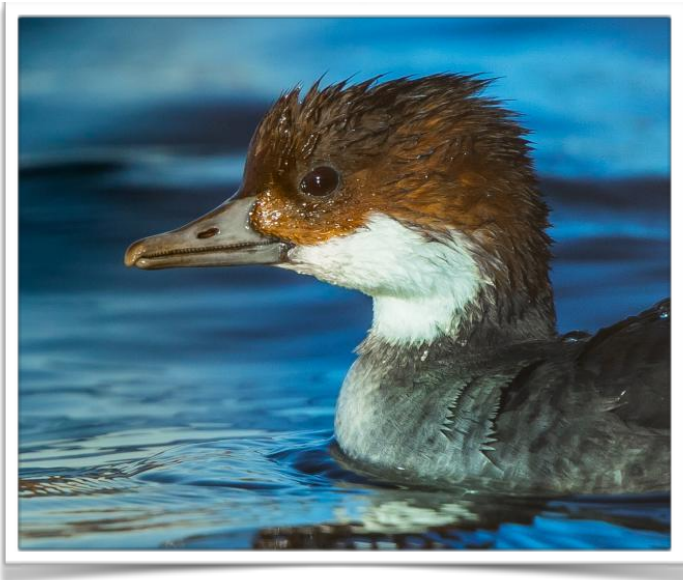
At Rother Valley peak counts during January and February were 352 and 327 respectively.

## Red-crested Pochard

The female remained at Rother Valley until at least the 5th February.

## Smew

The red-head remained through January and was last seen on the 5th February.



Smew - P Garrity

## Red Kite

Singles, during February, were reported from; Upper Derwentdale (15th), Gillfield Wood and Redmires Plantation (17th) and Wickersley 21st and 22nd.

## Golden Plover

At West Nab c.450 were present on the 17th, increasing to c.600 the following day. Other peak counts were; 361 Peat Pits (13th Jan) and c.350 at Treeton (19th Jan).

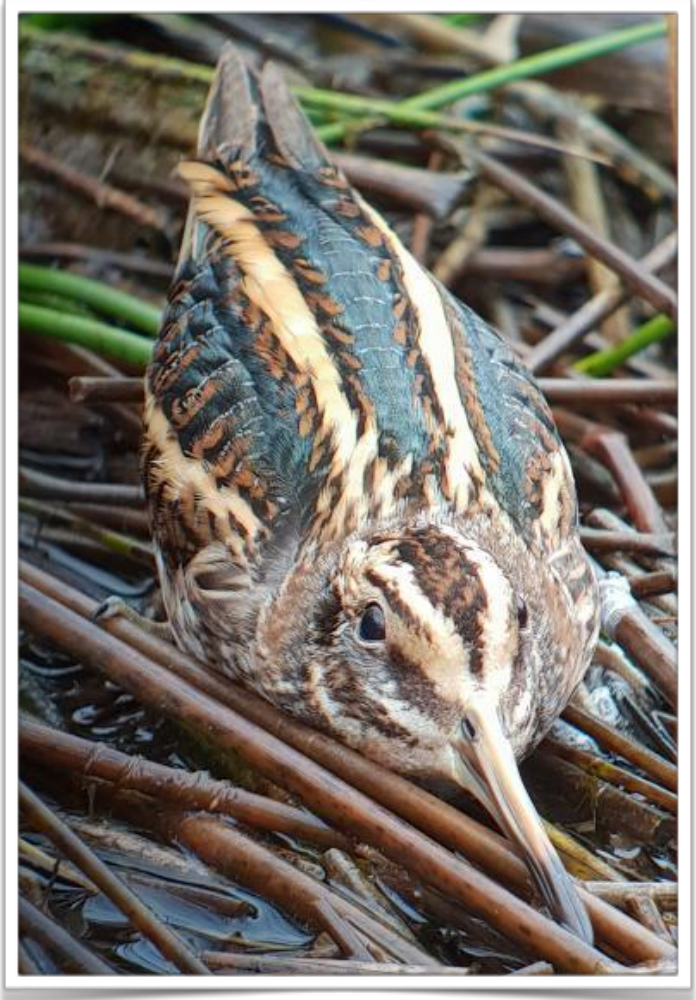
## Lapwing

The highest count during the period came from Orgreave on the 19th January, when 240 were reported.

## Jack Snipe

Singles were recorded during January at Bolehill Flash, Orgreave and Silverwood Lagoon.

At least 2 were at Blackburn Meadows on 16th January. At Woodhouse Washlands 2 were seen on 18th January with a maximum of 4 there on 4th February.



Jack Snipe - M Sherwin

## Green Sandpiper

The only record was at Blackburn Meadows on 7th January.

## Mediterranean Gull

An adult moulting into summer-plumage was at Poolsbrook on 9th February, what may have been the same bird was at Orgreave the following day.

## Black-headed Gull

Peak roost counts at Langsett involving around 4500 birds on the 6th January and 10th February.

## Common Gull

Far from common these days it was good to have counts of 100 and 125 roosting at Langsett on the 6th January and 10th February respectively.

## Yellow-legged Gull

A single adult at Orgreave on the 27th January was joined by a 3rd winter bird on the 3rd February.

## Caspian Gull

An adult at the unlikely location of Tyzack's Dam was present on the 13th January. A first winter bird was reported at Poolsbrook on the 5th Feb.

## Glaucous Gull

A juvenile was found at Parkgate Basin on the 13th January. What was likely the same bird was found roosting at Orgreave on the 18th and subsequently at Northfield Industrial estate, Rotherham, where it spent the afternoon on factory roofs. It again appeared at Orgreave on the 26th, 29th and 30th and was last seen there in the pre-roost on the 3rd February.



Glaucous Gull - David Wood



Glaucous Gull - Roy Twigg

## Waxwing

The roaming party of between 22 and 40 birds were present at several sites during the period and had settled in the Ellesmere Green area of Burngreave at the end of February and into March.

## Cetti's Warbler

One at Bolehill Flash was heard and glimpsed on a couple of occasions between the 13th and 26th Jan.

## Bearded Tit

A pair was found at Bolehill Flash on 12th January, where they remained until at least the 25th. A group of four were seen briefly at Pit-house West.

## Brambling

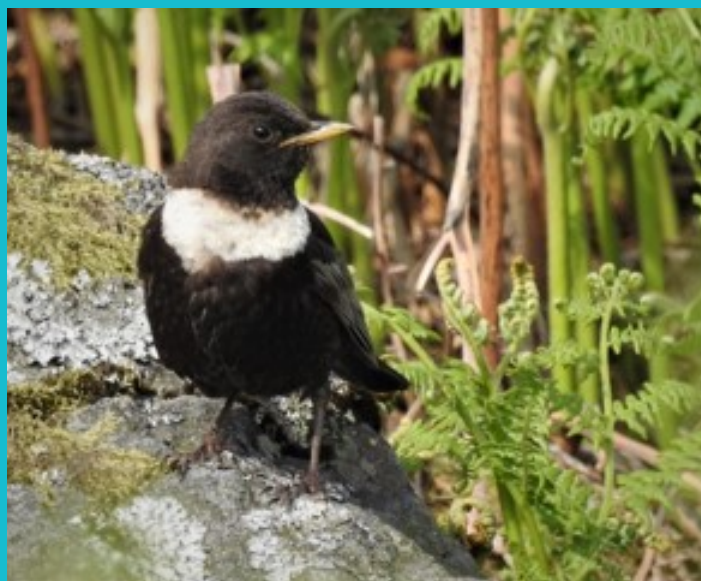
In an excellent winter for this species large flocks in excess of 100 birds were reported at; Upper Ewden (100+ 1st Jan), Strines Corner (150+ 5th Jan), Fox Hole Carr (100+ 6th Jan), Westwood C.P (130+ 13th Jan), Longshaw (180+ 17th Jan) and Sherriff Wood (275 10th Feb).

## Crossbill

Numerous small parties were noted at several moorland locations during the period with a maximum count of 25 in the Westend Valley on 10th January.

## Ring Ouzel Monitoring - Call for Volunteers

We are proud of our local Ring Ouzel population and going back to perhaps 2002 we have worked with the climbing fraternity to protect them on Stanage and Burbage. This started with Chris Falshaw and Bill Gordon . Now Kim Leyland working for the Eastern Moors partnership has spent the last two years doing solid work on the breeding success of these iconic Peak District birds.



At the last indoor meeting several people volunteered to help out with this years monitoring tasks.

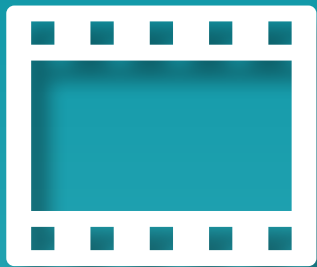
If anyone else is interested these are the categories of work that Kim broadly has in mind

1. Nest monitoring. This was the first way we got more volunteers involved. Undertaking one nestwatch per week for four weeks to monitor a known nest for activity. Good for people with no prior experience of any surveying or nest monitoring.
2. Nest finding. Observing and recording ouzels looking for signs of breeding and identifying nest locations. Doesn't necessarily require a greater time commitment, but generally more successful the more time you put in! Last year more vols with experience of Ring Ouzel behaviour got involved with this.
3. Surveying. On the Eastern Moors we carry out ouzel surveys (walking a transect and recording breeding behaviour, much like a BTO survey) separate to nest monitoring. Not as good for specifically locating nests, however they're a pretty good way of establishing where the ouzels are over a wider area (and will provide long term data). If any volunteers were keen for this (it would be three visits, one per month April-June) we could extend the area we cover over Stanage (and elsewhere e.g. Derwent etc.).

In reality the volunteers do a mixture of the above depending on the time they have, and what the birds are up to. It's very flexible. We've had a mix of volunteers from those with no birding experience whatsoever to seasoned birders, and both climbers and hillwalkers.

Kim will attend our indoor meeting in March . There will be an introductory session at Barbrook Cottage in April

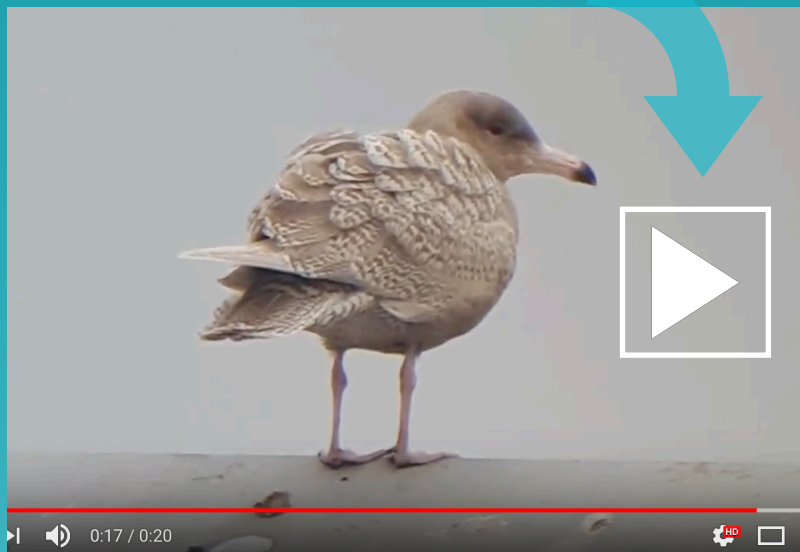
**Neil Porter**



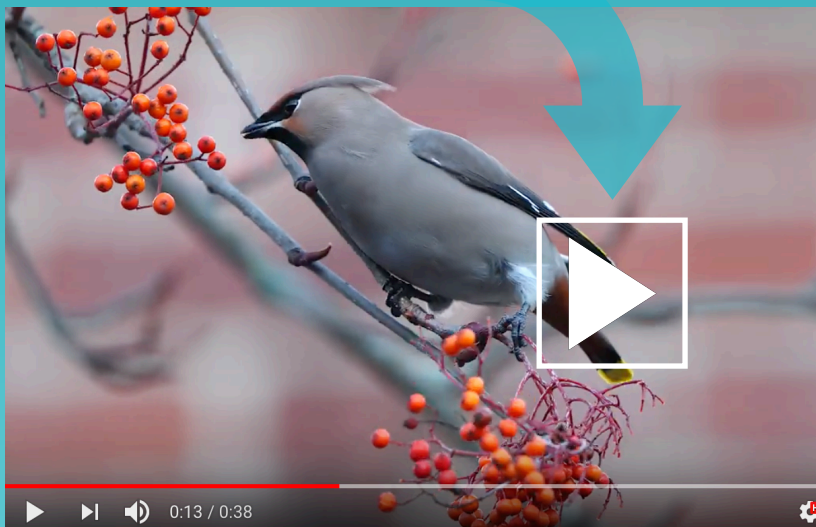
## Featured videos

### Glaucous Gull in Rotherham by Roy Twigg

Our video feature spotlights our members recent efforts within the recording area. Please note that at the moment media is hosted by YouTube and therefore the video will open in your web browser. After watching the video simply close your browser to return to the newsletter.



### Waxwing at Cemetery Avenue by Pete Garrity



### Bittern at Pit-House West by Mark Reeder



# LATEST NEWS



## “JON HORNBUCKLE'S COLLECTION OF BIRD BOOKS FOR SALE”

Please visit [here](#) for full details, with the latest list of books and the bidding form which can be submitted by email or taken to the indoor meeting on 13th March - closing date for bids is 22nd March 2019.



## “Tim Birkhead's Skomer Study to Continue”

We've been lucky enough to enjoy a couple of terrific recent talks from Professor Birkhead, one of which focused on his long-running study of Guillemots on Skomer. Tim has now retired from the University of Sheffield, but has been seeking funds to ensure that his 45 years of research on the Welsh island can continue. After his talk in October 2018 we made a donation to his fundraising campaign in lieu of a payment to him, and at the end of January I received a letter from the University to thank us for our donation and to let us know that Tim's campaign has now reached its goal of raising an impressive £100,000, made up from over 330 donations worldwide. This will guarantee that the research on Skomer can continue for another ten years at least, with Tim set to continue in an advisory role for the foreseeable future. It's great to know that the SBSG has played a part in this - a conservation good news story to celebrate!

**David Wood**



**“IN JANUARY COMMITTEE MEMBER CHRIS GREENWOOD HAD THE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO SHOOT A SHORT FILM FOR BBC COUNTRYFILE WINTER DIARIES ABOUT A NEW PROPOSAL TO RE-INTRODUCE GOLDEN EAGLES TO SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK IN WALES”**

**Chris pictured here with a White-tailed Eagle. Visit [here](#) for full details, with the BBC iPlayer episode [here](#) until the 19th March 2019.**

## **“Trichomonosis Outbreak at Shillito Wood”**

On Saturday 16 February we visited Shillito Wood to look at the birds.

When we arrived we noticed 2 dead Yellowhammers in close proximity to the feeders and another with a silver ring that looked puffed up and unwell. We examined the dead birds to see if they had been shot or there was any other evidence as to their demise. Two fellow birders said they had found them dead nearby and had placed them together near the feeders. We reported our findings and photograph onto the SBSG website.

As a result there was a speedy response from the [Eastern Moors Partnership Staff](#) who have taken down the feeders, disinfected the site and put up signs up stating to desist with feeding 'until further notice'. They have also recovered a dead Chaffinch and are looking to get toxicology tests done on it.

SBSG have been sent instructions by [Helen Mason, Investigations Intelligence Manager](#), for any future similar event which is as follows:-

'I think the best scheme to try is Zoological Society of London (ZSL) as it doesn't sound like the kind of incident that would meet criteria for Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) testing. ZSL do a thorough post mortem under their 'Garden wildlife health' scheme (they also take submissions from non-garden situations). It is a free scheme run by a great team, they are very familiar with trichomonosis symptoms, and the data including cause of death will be input into their database and tissue samples added to their archive too.

Contact them [here](#). Set up a new account (it is really easy), add your 'location' details, then follow the instructions to submit the birds to them. Even if you have no fresh bodies available, you should still enter a DIR (Disease incident report) and take it from there. If you have bodies available to send to them, one of their vets will get back to you with postage labels etc (free postage) once they have accepted your online submission. Once you have set up your details it makes any future submissions to them (of birds/amphibians/reptiles/hedgehogs) really easy too, so worthwhile doing.

**Pete and Ann Wilson**

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## Indoor Meetings

Visit [here](#) to see the complete list of indoor meetings for 2019.



## Wednesday 13th March 2018 Review of the Year

An evening packed with interest will include the following:

### **2018 Review of the year - David Wood**

- Review of the Derwentdale Field Trip - David Wood
- Willow Tit Survey update - Richard Hill
- Secretary's report - Richard Hill
- 2018 Membership Survey Results - Richard Hill
- Annual Accounts - Ron Blagden
- Recorders Report - Ron Blagden
- Committee Nominations
- Members short presentation - Justin Morey

[View the Secretary's Report 2017](#)

[View the 2018 Accounts Summary](#)

[View the Secretary's Report 2018](#)

[View the 2019 AGM Notice](#)

**Venue - Sheffield University Hicks Building, Lecture Theatre 5 and the meeting will commence at 7.15pm**



## Wednesday 10th April

# Richard Baines - Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project

The North Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project funded by Heritage Lottery, North York Moors National Park, Forestry Commission and Howardian Hills AONB in partnership with RSPB, Scarborough Borough Council, and North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre aims to help Turtle Doves return from the brink of extinction in the north of England.



### Project Aims

1. Provide advice, training, support and small-scale capital work.
2. Train farmer advocates cascading knowledge about how farmers can facilitate Turtle Dove conservation.
3. Recruit volunteers to conduct surveys through a range of partners and media.
4. Deliver talks and guided walks for local residents, schools and community groups.
5. Create publicity and display material at key locations such as Sutton Bank NP Visitor Centre.

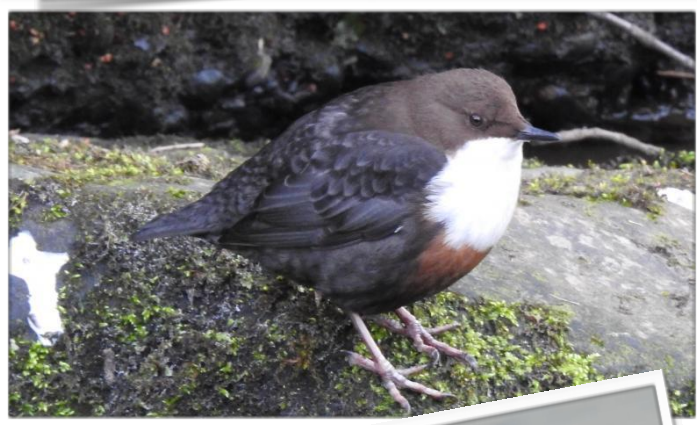
Richard Baines works as the part time Turtle Dove Project Officer. The project is now in its second year and has achieved many things including the formation of a new grant specifically for these birds. Richard will explain the background to the project, ecology of this beautiful bird, conservation achievements and how we can all help Turtle Doves.

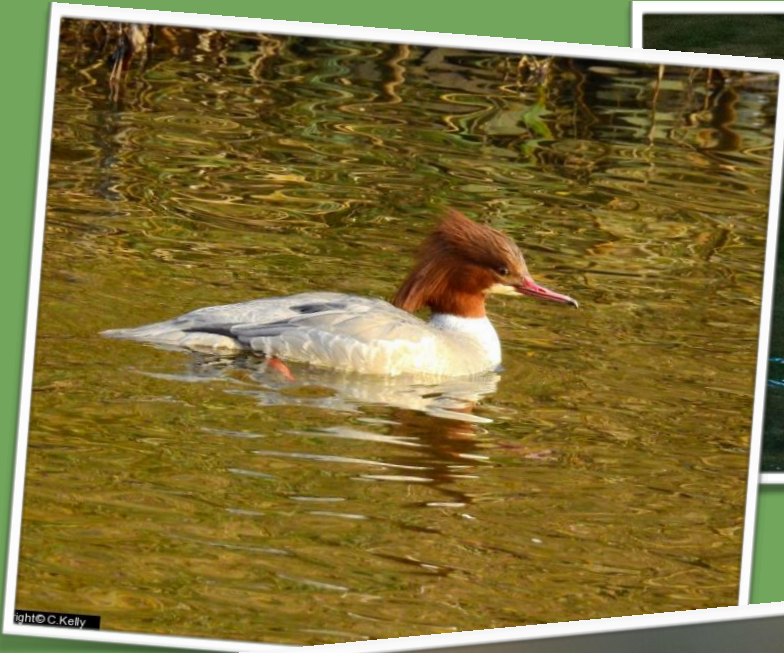
Sheffield University Hicks Building, Lecture Theatre 5 and the meeting will commence at 7.15pm

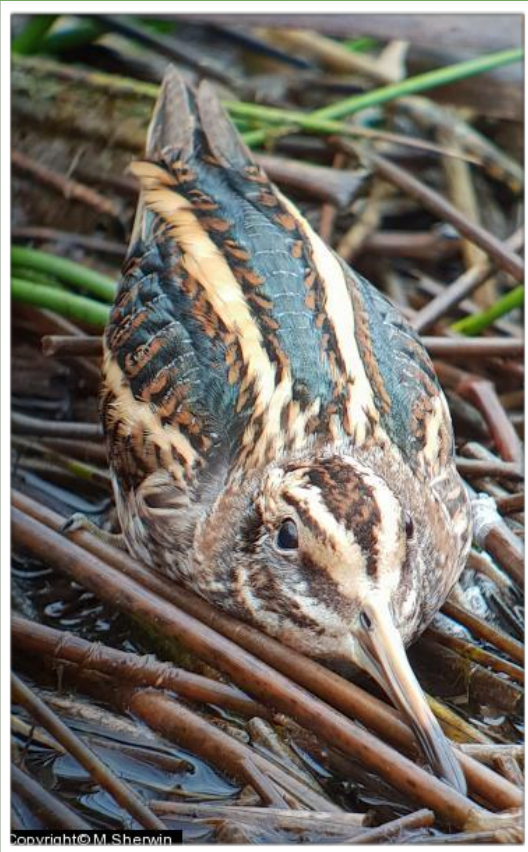
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# Photo Gallery

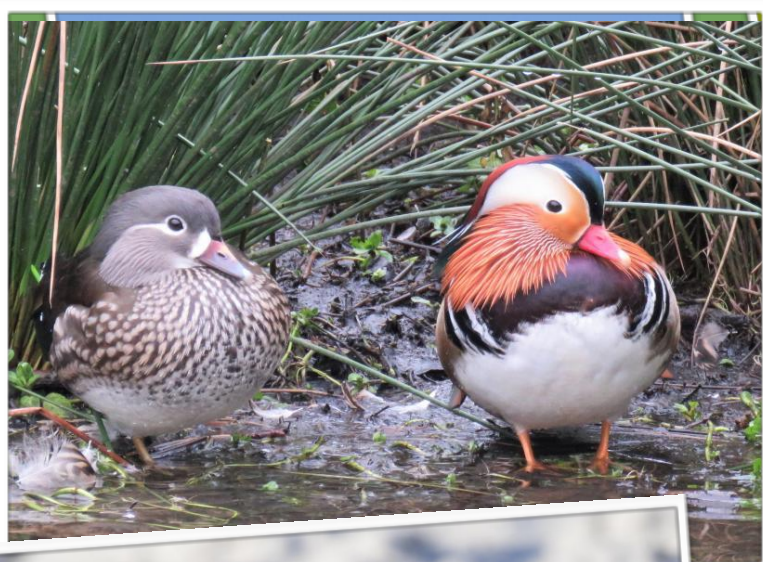
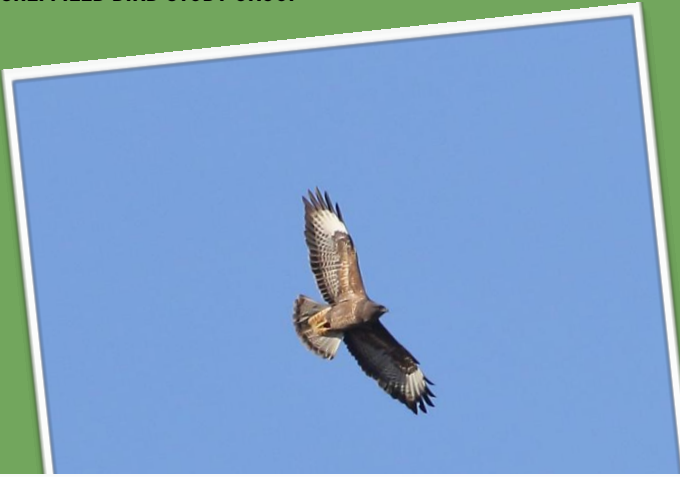
A selection of the latest images submitted to the SBSG web-site

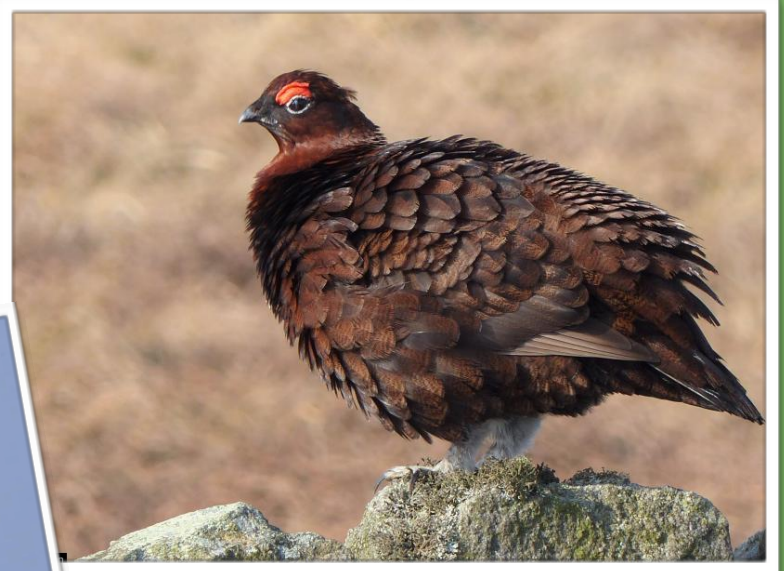












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## SBSG ID Presentation Ageing and Sexing Waxwings

Waxwings by Pete Garrity



Click [here](#) to  
access the  
presentation by  
David Wood

## BIRGUIDES ID Article Sparrowhawk and Goshawk



Goshawk by Andy Jones

Click [here](#) to  
access the  
Birdguides  
article

# Membership Fees

## These are now overdue

Membership Secretary, Martin Hodgson, reminds members that 2019 fees are now overdue. By the end of January 60% of members had paid. Those still to pay are requested to do so within the next couple of weeks. Methods of renewing subscriptions can be found [here](#).

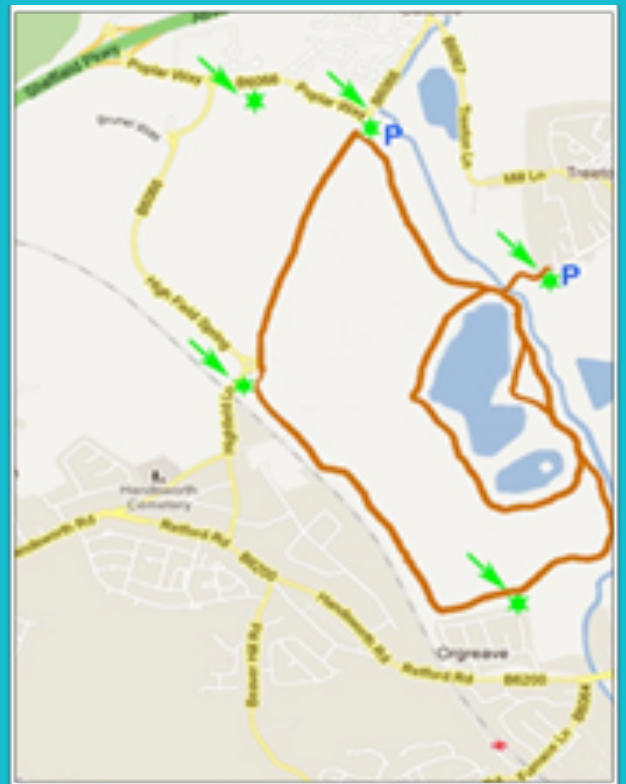


# Local Field trips

## 27th April - Orgreave Lakes - Waders and Wagtails

Date TBC via the SBSG website - 8.00am - 10.30am - Meet at the Cricket Club on Washfield Lane

Join us for a visit to one of the most productive sites in the Sheffield area in April where passage birds normally include Wheatears and Wagtails and expect to see a variety of Waders and Wildfowl.



# Photo of the Month

The winner chosen by the committee for the period JAN - FEB 2019 was:

**Jack Snipe by Mick Sherwin**

## Equipment:

Telescope , Adaptor and Samsung mobile

## Notes:

“I have always had a soft spot for Jack Snipe, with the prize being to get views of one while still on the ground, rather than just flying off. On 4th February I was lucky to locate one on a local marsh. Having done so, I backed off to a sensible distance and set my scope up. After adjusting my position slightly to avoid the various strands of grass and vegetation I was able to get a clear view of the bird. I then took my Samsung mobile phone and attached it to my scope using a Carson Hookupz phonescope adaptor, zoomed up to x50 and started taking a few shots and short videos. The true photographers will cringe when I say I had no idea what the settings were as everything was just done on Auto! No skill was involved, just a mobile phone, a telescope, an adaptor and a subject that did me the favour of barely moving a muscle for five minutes.”



# Bird of the Month



Wheatear by Peter Garrity

## March Bird of the Month – Wheatear

Click [here](#) for the latest bird of the month article by Ron Blagden

# Mystery Bird ?



Mystery Bird for January 2019



[Click here for the answer](#)

## Mystery Bird March 2019

Here's another tricky challenge for you - A small brown passerine, but what is it? - Answer to be revealed in the next issue



## Your SBSG Needs You!

### A call for people to stand for the committee at the March AGM?

At the AGM in March, one of the key items of business is to hold elections to the SBSG committee. The Group's ongoing success is the result in large part of the efforts of the committee and we have been fortunate to have a series of active and engaged members join the committee in recent years. Needless to say, having a fully functioning committee is vital to the Group's effective functioning. The basic commitment is to attend as many committee meetings (7:30-9:15 last Wednesday of the month between September and April) and indoor meetings as possible; there will also be plenty of opportunities to get involved in different activities, according to interests. If you would like to stand to join the committee, or would be interested in knowing more about what is involved, please speak to any member of the current committee at an indoor meeting or contact the Group's Secretary, Richard Hill ([rdhill2001@yahoo.com](mailto:rdhill2001@yahoo.com)). According to the Group's Constitution, nominations must be made to Richard at least a week before the AGM, and need to have the consent of the person nominated (!), as well as the support of two SBSG members.

**\*\*We are also looking for volunteers for short talks (15-20 mins) by members for forthcoming meetings - please contact a committee member.**

**David Wood (SBSG Chair)**





## e-Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed the March 2019 issue of the e-newsletter. We are always happy to include topical articles from members so if you have something for us to consider for future issues then please contact me. If you have videos taken in the recording area I would love to see them and perhaps include them in our regular video feature.

E-newsletter Editor – [Peter Garrity](#)

