

Sheffield Bird Study Group

BULLETIN



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www.sbsg.org

Bulletin

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Dates for your diary

INDOOR MEETINGS

Wednesday 14th November - 7.15 pm – Lecture Theatre 5, Arts Tower, Sheffield University

This is a change from our advertised speaker. David Wood is not now available to give his talk on Travels in the Tropics but we are hoping that he will be able to do this at some future date. **Peter Brown** will step in and talk on **“Egypt – the Nile and Beyond” (Pete’s alternative title “A Pharold place for birding”)**. This is based on two recent visits taking in the Nile and Red Sea coast. Plenty of Birds, History and Landscape! Peter, as you all know is our past-Chairman and will no doubt do this presentation in his usual entertaining manner!

Wednesday 12th December – 7.15 pm - Lecture Theatre 5, Arts Tower, Sheffield University

Trevor Gunton’s talk is entitled **“Wild Good Chase”**. As many of you will know Trevor spent many years with the RSPB at Sandy and is a regular lecturer at the Bird Fair at Rutland along with giving lectures on Arctic cruises. His local patch is Paxton Pits in Cambridgeshire where is an active volunteer. This should prove an interesting and entertaining evening.

FIELD MEETINGS

Sunday 21st October, Mini-bus Field Trip to Spurn, 7.30 am, Paternoster Row

This area at this time of the year usually brings the possibility of migratory specialities as well as rewarding sea watching if the weather conditions are right.

For details of this and further field trips please contact Paul Medforth on 01246 418120 or 07968 092032.

Saturday 27th/ Sunday 28th October. Visible migration at Redmires.

Late October is a time when several species are on major passage through the Sheffield area, and numbers of winter thrushes, finches and geese can be at their peak, providing one of our region’s great spectacles. This is highly dependent on the right weather, and following last year’s contrasting conditions on the Saturday (poor weather – corresponding SBSG meeting) and the Sunday (great weather – day after SBSG meeting), this year we’ll be offering a choice of either morning that weekend, allowing people to pick their weather, or come to both! Ideal conditions would be clear skies with light breeze from the SW, especially if the preceding days have been overcast, wet or foggy. So check those weather maps and take your pick: Saturday 27th at 0730 or Sunday 28th at 0700 (clocks go back!), meeting at the blue bridge (NE corner of top res).

The Lecture

The Alport Project

The April speaker was Mike Innerdale, Property Manager for the National Trust High Peak and Longshaw Estates. Mike has been working in conservation for some 15 years with a number of organisations including Severn Trent (as Forestry Manager) and RSPB (North of England Reserves Manager). National Trust's High Peak estate covers some 32,000 acres, roughly from Hayfield to Derwent Edge, and Bleaklow to Winnats Pass.

The Alport valley is one of the wildest areas left in the Peak District, as there is no vehicular access into it, and it is uninhabited except for the tiny Alport Hamlet, which is the only part of the area in private ownership. Many of the valley slopes are dominated by conifer plantations with some broadleaf trees. The farmland, including the small fields of in-bye land, together with occasional barns, has been run unintensively for the last 80 years by the National Trust's tenant farmer, Mike Cotterill. An important feature of the valley is the "wood pasture" — a mixture of woodland and grassland which has developed through a long history of grazing under open grown trees, and generally regarded as an important historical, archaeological and scientific feature of a landscape. The other feature is the river, still allowed to follow its natural course, meandering through its flat river bed.

Most of the upper slopes and northern end of the valley lie within the Dark Peak SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), and the South Pennine Moors SPA (Special Protection Area) for birds. It is also a cSAC (candidate for Special Area of Conservation). These have been designated by English Nature to protect the area's natural interest, not just the biodiversity but also its geological and geomorphological features. The valley also lies within the North Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and has received payments from Defra for 13 years.

The Alport Project was set up as a partnership of interested bodies to tackle the problem of replacing the conifer plantations with native species, and hence to return the landscape to a more natural habitat. The conifers were, of course, planted by the Forestry Commission (FC), which was formed in 1919 when the UK was desperately short of timber. The first phase of planting in the Alport valley was between 1932 and 1940, and then resumed between 1970 and 1982 when planting was carried out on the east side of the valley. The species that were planted were mainly Sitka Spruce, with smaller stands of Scots Pine, Larch, and Lodgepole Pine. There has been very little

subsequent intervention or management of the plantations, because of difficulty of access, so the wood was hardly thinned at all, and biodiversity was poor.

In the early 1990s FC drew up proposals for large-scale timber extraction, and subsequent restocking with a mixture of broadleaf and conifer. Because of the damage which would be caused to the fragile local environment, the proposals met with widespread public opposition, led by the local branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (which is now known as "Friends of the Peak District"). The plans were withdrawn, and subsequent attempts to find more acceptable ways to extract the timber all failed. This left the FC with a plantation of low market value, and high extraction costs; it was apparent that the timber was unlikely to ever have any commercial value.

The outcome of this was a partnership, initially between FC and NT, to find a satisfactory solution. They produced a Draft Strategy Plan at the end of 2000, which envisaged the removal of the conifers within 100 years, and they put this plan out for public consultation. They received 197 replies, of which: 99% agreed with the long term objectives; 87% wanted to see all conifers removed within 50 years; 92% agreed that large scale (and hence disruptive) events should be avoided.

The area was formally leased to the National Trust in 2002, and they held a seminar in 2002 on the theme "Wild by Design", at which they set up the Alport Advisory Group, and formulated a detailed Management Plan. The broad aims were to maintain and preserve a mosaic of habitats in "favourable" condition. It was agreed that the special qualities of the area must be preserved, so there would be no car parks or large scale public events, and just low key informal public access. Information sheets would be available at Fairholmes on request, and these would explain any work in progress, and any plans that were afoot, but would not actively promote the valley as a destination. Information would also be put on websites, and the display panel at Alport Bridge would provide basic information about the project. All publicity would mention the quiet nature of the valley, and the lack of car parking and vehicular access. Once a year they have an Open Day for the press.

The Alport Advisory Group comprises representatives from NT and FC, together with: the Peak District National Park Authority, farming and shooting interests, Derwent and Hope Woodlands Parish Council, British Mountaineering Council,

Ramblers Association, Friends of the Peak District, and English Nature. Funding comes from FC, NT, the Lottery Fund, Landfill fund, collecting boxes at NT centres, and private donations. A very important source of support is the time given freely by volunteers.

something has to be done with the conifers. It is not practicable to take them out of the valley without creating the level of disturbance that was objected to in the first place, so the timber has to be "recycled" on site. This is done using a variety of techniques. In some areas volunteers with chain-saws cut down the trees, but this is done on a very small scale. The resulting brash is chipped or burned, and the timber left to rot. Some trees are ring-barked so they die off naturally, and rot down in situ, providing an important habitat as they go. Some wood is cut into planks and used to stabilise the fragile soil structure by blocking water courses. Wood is also donated to other local small-scale construction projects.

The idea is that the conifer plantations would gradually be converted to a dynamic (i.e. naturally changing) mosaic of habitats comprising upland birch-oak woodland of varying density, interspersed with open acid grassland, upland heath, open streams and wet flashes. The woodland would be regenerated mostly by natural seeding, but also with some deliberate seeding and planting. Any area left to itself for a long time will gradually be colonised by species such as birch, rowan, holly, alder, willow, hawthorn, bilberry, etc. and, as the decades pass, other species can move in, finishing with climax woodland with oak, etc. To allow this process to take place, vulnerable areas are fenced off to protect them from grazing. The enclosed farmland will be managed for nature conservation and agriculture.

An important part of the Alport Project is surveying and monitoring to gauge the success or otherwise of the habitat and landscape changes. NT already have a Survey Team to manage surveys, but they rely on local volunteers for the footwork. Thus they have been surveying fungus species for three years at Alport and Longshaw, both of which are nationally important sites for fungi species. They are coming to the end of a three-year insect survey, and they also discovered national rarities in the deadwood in the valley. They are also starting the fourth year of a bird survey, which SBSG members have been heavily involved with. Again, they were surprised by the variety of species that they found. Repeat surveys will be carried out to monitor changes.

An important project has been the Peregrine protection at Alport Castles, carried out in

conjunction with the South Peak Raptor Study Group who do the monitoring and ringing. A little garden shed was erected by way of a makeshift hide, and its Visitors' Book showed it to be much appreciated. In addition to people who went up specifically for the Peregrines, it is clear that many passing walkers also enjoyed the experience of seeing the birds — and on cold windy days (not unknown up there) were glad of the shelter! There has been a little bit of difficulty with planning permission required from Peak District National Park, and the Visitors' Book has provided valuable backup for the application. It is hoped in time to work with the Woodland Trust to make a new purpose-built hide, more in keeping with the landscape.

Other projects include work with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on monitoring populations of Water Vole, which surprised everyone by showing a flourishing population right at the top of the catchment where it was thought to be too inhospitable for them. A major project last year was the protection of two Hen Harrier nests, both of which successfully reared five chicks despite the unexplained disappearance of the male birds. Volunteers were crucial to the success of this, and some 1500 hours of volunteers' time were donated.

The Project uses fixed point and aerial photography to show how the landscape is changing over time. They have reduced grazing, controlled bracken, and are already seeing the appearance of rowans, alder etc. Oak is expected in about 100 years time ... Although cars are kept away from the valley, walkers are encouraged, and the Project is improving access by repairing stiles and gates. Existing footpaths will be kept clear, but it is not intended to create any new ones. Stiles will be constructed where new fencing crosses existing paths. One of their biggest tasks is the restoration of dry stone walling, which is very labour-intensive, and is only undertaken on walls which are required for boundaries.

Mike was thanked for his most interesting talk, backed up with some wonderful photographs. It was a rare pleasure to hear of a project where different organisations are co-operating to take such positive action from such unpromising beginnings — especially as the very long-term nature of the project means that many individual participants will not personally enjoy the full benefits themselves.

Wendy Thomson

COMMITTEE PROFILE

Curiously, I owe the last 20 years of birding enjoyment to my bike.

Had my wife and I not been keen cyclists, we might not have chanced upon Minsmere when doing a circular ride from our holiday base in Peasenhall. Having been moderately interested in all things wild since I was a kid (I still have my pressed wildflower collection turning to dust in the attic), I had a cheap pair of binoculars with me, and the man in the RSPB shack (as it then was) made me an offer I couldn't refuse – join the RSPB and receive a copy of the Mitchell Beazley pocket bird book for scarcely more than the single entry fee.

The die was cast: we had a great time and would never look at LBJs the same way again. I acquired a pair of 10x42 Adlerblicks that I thought were brilliant until several years later I compared them with my wife's new bins; my pride and joy seemed unaccountably to be filled with yellow smog. Fortunately they soon failed to survive being dropped onto a rock on Port Merion beach, so I could upgrade to Swarovskis with a clear conscience.

I'm with Simon Barnes when he says that he never 'goes birding', he just 'is birding' all the time. So, with our interest in two-wheeled travel, 'cyclo-birding' was born, and we've since cyclo-birded from John o'Groats to Land's End, Bordeaux to Barcelona, Ravenna to Rome and even Krakow to Budapest, amongst many more local journeys. It's amazing what you see from a bike – you can hear calls, see over walls and hedges and stop wherever you like.

On these organised rides we made an interesting discovery: birding is contagious. At first our companions regarded us a bit weird, but after a few days people would stop and ask what we were looking at, then they started keeping a look out themselves and we were often approached with "I saw a big brown bird on a postwhat do you think it was?", and asked each evening what we had seen. I hope we may have inadvertently won a few converts.

However, undiluted birding in our favourite areas, like North Norfolk, required serious kit, in our case a Kowa scope and tripod, upgraded many years later to a Leica 77 APO. I admit to a masochistic liking for seawatching, Snow Buntings and Shorelarks in late February. Dedicated overseas birding holidays came next: Majorca (several times), Spain, Morocco and more recently Iceland.

Having moved to Sheffield in 1974 (for a job) from the gentler rolling country of Hertfordshire, I've never regretted it. Visiting the South East frequently on business convinced me that I'd made the right decision; the traffic and lack of wild open spaces now feels claustrophobic.

After nearly 30 years in Nether Edge (with Firecrest, Lesser Spot and 80 Waxwings on my list), we moved, almost by accident, to Derbyshire. We fell in love with what we call our 'stone hide' – an old farmhouse on the edge of Grindleford surrounded by damp rush meadow and woodland. Energetic scrub management and the addition of a garden pond, a scrape and a larger field pool have boosted our list to 79. It also offers some good digiscoping opportunities: we recently had four Tawny Owls raised in our Kestrel box, and we could watch and photograph up to five birds at a time from the bedroom window – a real privilege.

It was not until 1997 that the SBSG featured in my life; during a Lakes weekend to celebrate a mutual friend's final Wainwright, I got chatting to our esteemed ex-Chair Pete Brown, and his gentle, almost painless, arm-twisting persuaded me to join up soon afterwards. The last three years have seen me involved in tetrad work for the Breeding Birds Survey, which whetted my appetite for getting more involved in the real work of the SBSG.

Time will tell if joining the committee was a smart move!

Simon Bailey

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

In the summer of 2004 after thirty something years of mostly enjoyable work in secondary education I decided to call it a day, to get out of teaching and maybe spend some time doing a variety things while I still had the time and energy.

It wasn't until the November of that year that a most remarkable thing happened. The headhunters found me. Among them was one Sally Pereira from Sheffield City Council's Environmental Planning Section.

Some of you might recall a talk that I did a few years ago at an SBSG members night about the habitat creation and conservation work that I'd done with youngsters at Handsworth Grange School where I'd worked for many years. In the early nineties, as an antidote to the worst excesses of the National Curriculum and a means of maintaining sanity while wave after wave of government initiatives washed over schools, I set up a "wildlife and conservation" group, involving as many kids, staff and neighbours as possible in school based or local environmental projects. We created butterfly gardens and wildflower meadows, restored hedgerows and planted over 7,000 trees over 10 or more years. The school picked up a number of awards and when I left, whitethroats, goldfinches, greenfinches, dunnocks, blackbirds and song thrushes were breeding in recently created habitats that had previously been "green desert".

And so to the phone call. I'd worked with the Sheffield Landscape Trust in a lot of the projects we'd undertaken, receiving much help and advice along the way. Sally rang to see if I'd like to carry on some of the environmental work even though I'd said goodbye to teaching, only this time with junior schools. I was very wary. Junior school children are a different species to those that I'd been working with for thirty-three years. I wasn't certain but Sally is quite persuasive. I visited a number of the schools in the Beighton area where there was funding for environmental projects. I talked to staff and looked at sites around the schools where we could work. I was given a target: "to enthuse young people about birds in their local area"

In the spring of 2005 I got started. I go into a class armed with thirty pairs of binoculars and assisted by Sammy the sparrow, Bertie the blue tit (RSPB toys can make excellent teachers) and Penelope the wood pigeon. We have an hour or so in the class to become experts in what to look for: size, shape, colour, calls, movement etc. Wall charts (thank you again RSPB), beaks, skulls, feathers,

even weaver bird nests (thank you Chris Falshaw and Kev Borman) all get put to good use and kids sing territorial songs at each other across the classroom, strut around like starlings or become blackbirds and hop. We have fun and we learn.

And then we're out. In some schools, the grounds are mini reserves in their own right with plenty for the youngsters to see at close quarters, At others we venture out to local bird hot spots: the Ochre Dyke, Beighton Marsh and Birley Spa and with one school we've overdosed on birds at Rother Valley Country Park. We're back in the classroom for the afternoon session, researching what we've seen from the thirty or so books that I bring into the school or from Internet bird sites. (Bizarrely some are now fire-walled, presumably "great tit" and "shag" are deemed to be dangerously corrupting). In some schools, there is funding for each youngster to have their own mini field notebook, so each child records information about the birds they've seen in the morning. They then take their notebooks home with an encouragement to use the books to add anything they find out about birds in the area over the next fortnight: garden observations, school sightings, (they love it when I tell them to spend time staring out of the window in lessons) or research from books or the Internet. The books come back into school and the best one in each class gets a bird book as a prize with the schools holding assemblies for the awards. In the other schools the children finish the day by giving presentations to the class about one of the birds that they've seen and researched followed by a SATs test for the class teacher to see what she or he has learned from the talks. The kids love that too.

This is now the third year that I've been doing this kind of work. Some statistics: I've worked in nine schools with over 1,500 children. This year has been the busiest yet, 920 youngsters have been out bird watching and I've done whole school assemblies about the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch in five schools. On average, youngsters come across about 25 species on each visit and the total recorded for all visits this year is 65.

The highlights are numerous. The ever rewarding "wow" when a youngster gets a good view of a bird through binoculars, children watching a nest full of wrens being fed in the school grounds at Reignhead school, every bit as open mouthed as the nestlings, a class at Rainbow Forge watching a duel between a buzzard and two carrion crows over the school field and a class at Beighton Marsh expertly listing the birds that they'd seen that morning for the benefit of two birders that they met

there. Individual contributions are just as telling. I'd not seen much of ten year old Chloe when I worked with her class but when her notebook came back she'd written an amazing rap poem about the decline in starling numbers and Amraj, a bit of a character, just couldn't contain himself when a heron took off close by. "That were right mint!"

And these kids are our birding future. There's loads of interest. Some of the youngsters that I've worked with over three years have become quite expert, some have joined the RSPB's Wildlife

Explorers, some have acquired binoculars and bird books and I've supplied the classes and keen youngsters with lists of relevant websites including our own. And the schools are doing their bit too. Most are developing wildlife areas in their grounds. Three have attained "Green Flag Eco School" status with others on their way to doing so in the future. The schools are enthusiastic. The kids are enthusiastic. It would be great if we as a group could somehow build on this.

Pete Brown

BREEDING ATLAS UPDATE

After 5 years of recording the breeding activity of birds across our area, the plan was to have completed the fieldwork for the New Breeding Atlas, and thanks to the good work of many members (and non-members) that has in great measure been achieved. We still await the return of a number of tetrad recording forms, so if you have any outstanding please return them as soon as you can, and make sure you submit **any and all** breeding records via record slips or e-mail, or however you normally submit your records. These records from across the area will provide an important means of complementing and supplementing the records gained specifically from the recording forms. It may well be that a few gaps emerge come the winter, and any such gaps in coverage will need to be mopped up next spring to finish the initial stage of the project.

Thereafter, it will be important to complete the analysis of the data and make the results public in good time, and certainly before breeding patterns have changed! We hope to publish the results in book form, and to that end several important areas need to be covered, including: data

inputting and analysis; preparation of comparisons for breeding status of individual species between the original Atlas and this one; seeking sponsorship and funding sources (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund) to meet publication costs; design and graphics/ images.

What we want to do to ensure that this project maintains its momentum and comes to fruition is to set up a group to focus on this. Several people have already expressed their willingness to work towards this goal, but more are needed, so please come forward to ensure that the data gathered over the last 5 years is put to good use. If you can take a role in any of the areas identified above (or any other you can think of that would help towards the final goal), please talk to Helen Hipperson (phone 0114 2862513 or e-mail helenhipperson@googlemail.com), or myself (phone 0114 2306928 or e-mail david.wood@sheffield.ac.uk), or any committee members at an indoor meeting. This has the potential to be a landmark project for the Group, but its success depends on it being a team effort, so please, please, please get involved.

David Wood

COMMITTEE 2007/08

As mentioned in the June Bulletin we welcome Jenny Kingsland and Simon Bailey to the Committee and most tasks have now been allocated as follows:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Chair | Floating |
| Secretary | Richard Dale |
| Treasurer | Ron Blagden |
| Recorder | Kevin Gould |
| Breeding Atlas | David Wood/Helen Hipperson |
| Conservation | Helen Hipperson |
| Membership Secretary | Jenny Kingsland will take over from Margaret Miller wef 1.1.2008 |
| Publicity & local field trips | Helen Hipperson |
| Bulletin Editor | Margaret Miller |
| Organisation of speakers | Margaret Miller |
| Committee Minutes | Wendy Thomson |

Whilst these are the main responsibilities of members of the committee, please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have any queries or concerns about the Sheffield Bird Study Group.

DATES TO NOTE – OTHER GROUPS

| Time/Date | Group | Location | Speaker | Title |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 7.30pm 26 th October | DOS | The Evergreen Club, Allestree, Derby | Malcolm Walpole | Japan in Winter |
| 7.30 pm 8 th November | RSPB Local Group | Central United Reformed Church | Marek Borkowski | Pole Position – Wildlife and its Protection in HE Poland |
| 7.30 pm 12 November | DOS | The Town Hall Bakewell | Catherine Grey | Lapwing, Curlew and Twite in the Peak Park |
| 7.30 pm 6 th December | RSPB Local Group | Central United Reformed Church | Paul Willoughby | Lake Baikal – the Jewel of Siberia |

FREE TO GOOD HOME!

RSPB Birds 1975-2005 complete

British Birds 1982-88 complete

Bird Watching 2000-2005 complete

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust Summer 2002-Winter 2005 complete plus Winter 1999

The Living Countryside complete 1-180

If interested please phone Judith Crank on 0114 2369258

LOCAL FIELD TRIP

Wharnccliffe Heath – July 3rd

It's now the third year running that Richard has led a group walk up to Wharnccliffe Heath to look for Nightjars, and the trip once again proved popular with many members turning out for the evening, despite the recent inclement weather. Early arrivals to the meeting point were treated to views of a Hobby, flying over us from the south and briefly perching above Tin Mill Rocher before flying off north-east. An unusual sighting for the Upper Don.

When all were assembled we made our way along the banks of the Don, surveying flood damage of the previous week and negotiating holes in the path where trees had been uprooted by the swollen river, before ascending up to the heath. We were relatively lucky with the weather, considering events of the week before, but a cool breeze and occasional light drizzle meant these weren't ideal conditions for spotting Nightjar. It wasn't long before we heard churring though, and the bird sounded quite active, although sightings

were elusive. Another highlight of the trip were the displaying Woodcocks. At least 3 birds were roding over the heath, some passing by low enough for the soft croaking calls to be heard as well as the sharp squeaks of the birds. One even perched on a rock just a few feet away from the group for several seconds, silhouetted against the dusk sky.

Once it became too dark to hope for another glimpse of the Nightjar we started the descent back down to the river, stopping off briefly to watch newts in the pond. I always quite enjoy negotiating the paths back down to the river in the dark with Tawny Owls hooting from trees overhead, although this year a slightly more cautious return to the car was needed given the eroded riverbank! Thanks again to Rich for leading the trip.

Helen Hipperson

FIELD TRIP TO EAST COAST

Sunday 16th September

A 7 o'clock "kick off" from Paternoster Row in our regular refurbished minibus was the order of the day, regrettably, only 11 of us were available for this field trip which was destined for the East coast. A vote was taken and the majority suggested Flamborough Head, so off we went Bridlington bound. Unfortunately, the North West breeze was strengthening and by the time we reached Flamborough lighthouse it had become a strong wind.

A few of our party clambered down the cliff and in a sheltered position got Red-throated Diver, Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, Pomarine, Arctic and Great Skuas as well as the usual Gulls, Terns and Auks. We on the top of the cliff could see very little due to the strong winds which unsteadied our scopes and made our eyes very watery.

The Coastguards weren't happy with those down the cliff and erected taped fences to keep us back from the cliff edge.

However, the highlight was at 11.30 when the QE2 was noted migrating in a northerly direction,

it was on its final tour of the British coast passing quite close for the hundreds of sightseers who had gathered (I didn't think they were all 'Birders'). The QE2 was going to Teesside and then round to the Clyde then the Mersey then off to retirement in Dubai as static hotel.

We then had another vote and decided on Blacktoft Sands as our final destination as the winds were so strong now that birdwatching on the coast was becoming a waste of time. At Blacktoft, Marshland hide (2nd hide west of the visitors centre) was the most productive with Curlew, Spotted Redshanks, Ruff, and Snipe and for the more fortunate a Curlew Sandpiper on view. The other hides weren't producing anything at all.

An early departure for home was the final vote. It wasn't cold but considering the wind strength, collectively we managed to see 73 species.

Paul Medforth

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

August-September 2007

These records are largely unchecked. Those in bold require submission of full supporting details

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Gannet | Pager report of four (1 south and 3 east) over Sheffield Parkway on 28th Sept |
| Cormorant | Max 22 (17 down + 5 NW) at RVCP on 29 th Sept. |
| Little Egret | 4 flew high south at RVCP and another left north. |
| Great White Egret | A new species for the 'SBSG List'. One flew NE over Leash Fen soon after dawn on 26th Sept. Presumably the same bird flew SW over RVCP later the same morning. |
| Pink-footed Goose | 20 flew north at Carr Vale on 17 th Sept. Also there, 65 flew SE on 18 th , 55 east on 20 th and 100 east on 27 th |
| Wigeon | First returning birds were at Thrybergh CP on 18 th Aug and at Catcliffe Flash on 29 th . Max 27 at Catcliffe Flash on 24 th Sept; 42 at RVCP on 29 th . |
| Gadwall | Numbers building steadily at Catcliffe Flash; 37 on 16 th Aug, 93 on 21 st Sept and 123 on 24 th . |
| Teal | 58 at RVCP on 29 th Sept. |
| Pintail | 2 departed NW from Thrybergh CP on 31 st Aug. |
| Shoveler | Max 31 at Catcliffe Flash on 24 th Sept. |
| Honey Buzzard | One flew SE over Middleton Moor on 11th Aug. |
| Red Kite | One flew NW over New Whittington on 25 th Aug. |
| Marsh Harrier | A cream-crown flew WSW over Big Moor on 1 st Aug. A female over Duke's Road on 7 th Aug. A juv at Middleton Moor on 11 th Aug. |
| Osprey | One flew south at Carr Vale on 27 th Aug and one fishing at Morehall Res on 31 st . |
| Hobby | Two at Ramsley Pools on 9 th Aug. Singles at Thrybergh CP on 16 th Aug. Baslow on 18 th and Barlborough Park on 31 st . |
| Lapwing | 350 at RVCP and 400+ at New Whittington, both on 29 th Sept. |
| Knot | One briefly at Ulley CP on 18 th Aug. |
| Sanderling | One at Middleton Moor on 25 th Aug. |

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Dunlin | A party of forty at RVCP flew in low over Meadowgate Lake from South and flew NW without stopping. |
| Ruff | Five at Carr Vale on 23 rd and 27 th Aug. |
| Whimbrel | One at Thrybergh CP on 11 th Aug. |
| Greenshank | Singles at Thrybergh CP on three August dates. |
| Green Sandpiper | One at Ulley CP on 27 th Aug was a first record for the site. Two at Old Whittington SF on several dates in Sept. |
| Grey Phalarope | One at Silverwood Lagoons on 28th Sept. |
| Mediterranean Gull | A first-winter at Carr Vale NR on 18 th , 20 th , 21 st and 27 th Aug. |
| Little Gull | An immature at Carr Vale on 22 nd Aug. An adult at RVCP on 29 th Sept. |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 1000+ at Middleton Moor on 5 th Aug. 800 at Langsett Res on 26 th Sept. |
| Yellow-legged Gull | 5 at Middleton Moor on 5 th and 11 th Aug. |
| Kittiwake | One flew north at Carr Vale on 10 th Sept. |
| Common Tern | A late bird at RVCP on 28 th Sept. |
| Arctic Tern | One at Thrybergh Cp and 2 at RVCP on 29 th Sept. |
| Swift | Last reported were two over Dunston, Chesterfield on 11th Sept. |
| Wryneck | One at Wharnccliffe Chase on 25th Aug was a just reward for some diligent patch work. |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | One near at RVCP near Watersports car-park on 29 th Sept. |
| Rock Pipit | One heard overhead at RVCP on 29 th Sept. |
| Yellow Wagtail | 1-2 reported regularly to 27 th Aug from Thrybergh & Ulley CPs. |
| Dipper | A juvenile at an unusual locality in the Gleadless Valley on 5 th Aug. |
| Whinchat | Ten on Big Moor on 5 th Aug. Singles reported from Ulley CP on 18 th Aug and Wharnccliffe Chase on 27 th . |
| Stonechat | Eight on Big Moor on 5 th Aug. Four at both Wharnccliffe Chase and Ramsley Pools on 4 th Sept. |
| Wheatear | A breeding pair at Dam Dale on 1 st Aug. Passage birds reported from Barbrook Pools on 9 th Aug and Wharnccliffe Chase on 10 th Aug and 15 th Sept. |
| Fieldfare | 12+ over Thrybergh CP on 29 th Sept. |
| Redwing | 60 flew west at both Redmires and RVCP on 27 th Sept and 120+ in small parties over RVCP on and 60 in trees near Longshaw Lodge on 29 th . |
| Grasshopper Warbler | One at Leash Fen on 5 th Aug. A juv at Ramsley Pools on 4 th Sept. |

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| Blackcap | An amazing total of 21 individuals caught and ringed at Blackburn Meadows on 6 th Sept |
| Brambling | One flew west at Redmires on 27 th Sept. |
| Lesser Redpoll | 25-30 over Ramsley Pools on 4 th Sept. |
| Crossbill | Singles over Redmires on 16 th and 19 th Aug. |

Records were received from the following observers, with apologies for any omissions
 K Bower, PL Brown, DM Bye, A Deighton, CP Falshaw, G Featherstone, D Gains, KR Gould, J Hornbuckle, G James, Ann Johnson, J Kingsland, P Leonard, B McIntyre, J Sherwin, CB Stride, R Twigg, RDR Williams, D Wood, D Woodriff, Derbyshire OS, Rotherham and District OS, Sorby-Breck Ringing Group, Thrybergh CP Bird Log

David Williams

BTO BIRD ATLAS 2007-11

Bird Atlas 2007-2011 is a partnership between BTO, BirdWatch Ireland and the Scottish Ornithologists Club. Fieldwork for the Timed Tetrads Visits is being organised through a network of local Atlas Regional Organisers. Thousands of birdwatchers will take part in fieldwork throughout Britain and Ireland. If you are interested in taking part and want to find out more, visit the website www.birdatlas.net where you can or contact the Atlas Co-ordinator at BTO HQ. The Atlas Regional Organiser for Yorkshire Southwest and Southeast (covers Sheffield) is Dawn Balmer. Her address is Dawn Balmer, Atlas Coordinator, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. Email: dawn.balmer@bto.org. Tel: 01842 750050.

BULLETIN DATES

It was decided earlier this year that Bulletin dates would be changed to try to get the best months for material to be available. For example, January did not seem a good month because of the difficulty in getting material for the Bulletin prepared and printed at the Festive Season. So we decided to make the first Bulletin of the year February. This had a knock-on effect and March became April, May on to June, etc. To keep the spread even this means that Bulletins will now be available at the monthly meetings in **February, April, June, October, and December**

I hope that this change has not caused too much confusion to members.

Margaret Miller

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| <h2>COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER BULLETIN</h2> |
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| <p>The next Bulletin will be issued at the December Meeting. The last date for articles for the December Bulletin is 3RD DECEMBER. Please send by email to margmiller@talktalk.net, or by post to Margaret Miller, 14 Worcester Close, Sheffield S10 4JF. PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS</p> |
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