

Sheffield Bird Study Group

BULLETIN



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Bulletin

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Dates for your diary

INDOOR MEETINGS

Wednesday, 10th September – 7.15 pm Lecture Theatre 5, Arts Tower, Sheffield University

Highlands and Islands – Gap Year Birding. Pete Brown will tell us about his experiences in Scotland during 2007. Pete feels that Gap Years are wasted on the young! At the start of 2007 he put together an older person's gap year itinerary that amongst other things involved birding trips to the Hebrides, wardening the Loch Garten Ospreys and attempting to climb as many Munros as time and ageing limbs would allow. The talk attempts to capture some of the many birding highlights of those visits.

Wednesday, 15th October – 7.15 pm Lecture Theatre 5, Arts Tower, Sheffield University

Algirdas Knystautas will talk to us about **Indonesia – Birds and Conservation in the World's largest Archipelago.** Algirdas has always proved to be a popular speaker and last spoke to us on Birding the Silk Road. Indonesia is one of the places on Earth for incredible patterns of bird distribution. Spanning huge distances and encompassing over 5,500 islands Indonesia is uniquely placed in the World. The huge islands of Borneo and Sumatra bear clear features of the Asian ornithological fauna, since only 10,000 years ago they were connected with that continent. To the east of the island of Bali lies the famous Wallace's Line, indicating the start of the transitional zone between the Oriental and Australasian faunas. Wallacea incorporates the huge island of Sulawesi, the Lesser Sundas and the Moluccas. To the east, the undiscovered Irian Jaya, the Indonesian part of the New Guineas, supports incredible birds, including the amazing Birds of Paradise and many other unique species which are represented here amidst spectacular scenery. No other country in the World has as many endemic birds as Indonesia - there are well over 400 species. The aim of this talk is to give an introduction to these birds of the different areas that represent Indonesia and to introduce its network of National Parks and Nature Reserves.

FIELD MEETINGS

Wednesday 2nd July, 8.45pm – 11.00 pm. Wharncliffe Heath

With last year's excursion up onto the heath continuing our good run of form on this field trip – Nightjar, Woodcock and Hobby were all seen – we will once again hope for another fine, warm evening. Nightjars do not show until dusk so this trip may not finish until 10.30/11.00pm; bring along a torch if you want to find your way back to your car! From the A6102 from Hillsborough turn right at the traffic lights in Deepcar. Then, after the road passes under the A616 Stocksbridge by-pass, take the left turn signed to Thurgoland and Green Moor. Park almost immediately on the right, either side of the bridge over the river Don (SK294987). Meet here at 8.45 pm. Non-members welcome.

For more information on this field trip, contact Richard Dale on 0114 2862513

The Lecture

The Osprey Project at Rutland Water

The April speaker was Tim Mackrill, Project Officer with the Osprey Project at Rutland Water. His talk covered the reasoning behind the re-introduction project, its progress so far, and the possible future for Ospreys in the Rutland area.

There are four subspecies of Osprey, two are sedentary in the Caribbean and Australasia, and two are migratory. Our subspecies is *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*, and migrates to west Africa – but may also winter somewhere en route - the other migratory subspecies breeds in North America and winters in South America. The Osprey is the only diurnal raptor that feeds exclusively on fish, and has talons that are supremely adapted for catching fish – for example it can switch one of its three forward-facing claws to backwards-facing to help in grasping a slippery fish.

Young Ospreys normally hatch in late May, fledge in mid July, and are independent by late August. The breeding females generally start their migration in mid August, the chicks leave at the end of August, and the males leave when all their chicks have gone. Because the young birds migrate independently of their parents, the translocated birds are not at a disadvantage. The young birds are ready to breed at 3 or 4 years, at which stage the male birds will be the first to return to their natal area to establish a territory and start nest-building; they normally start to arrive in the UK in March. The females follow shortly afterwards but are less intent upon returning to their natal site; they can be attracted to a male who has established a territory elsewhere and is “advertising” for a mate. Immature birds may undertake a more leisurely migration, arriving in the UK a month or so later than the breeding birds, and may spend the summer at any suitable expanse of water. In other words, a summering pair do not necessarily mean a breeding pair for the future. For breeding birds, the spring migration is a very determined journey and they do not usually linger on their way unless they encounter bad weather. The autumn migration is more leisurely, and birds can sometimes spend a week or more in a favoured location.

Historically, the Osprey was widespread in England and Scotland (it is not known to have bred in Wales before 2004). However, the Victorians are well known for their persecution of raptors, and Ospreys did not escape this; the last English pair bred on the Somerset Levels in 1842. The situation in Scotland is less clear cut. There was no clear evidence of breeding in the period 1920-1954, but there were sporadic sightings during this time. In 1954, came the first confirmed breeding with the famous pair raising two chicks at Loch Garten. In

the 1960s, the species began to gain a foothold, and breeding success really took off in the 1970s. Fifteen years ago there were an estimated 100 pairs, and now this has risen to an estimated 200 pairs. In some areas there are loose colonies of 10-15 pairs which have not expanded for several years, and are therefore assumed to be at maximum capacity. There is keen competition for nesting sites in these areas, and this can lead to aggressive behaviour and territorial disputes.

The Rutland Water reservoir was constructed in the 1970s, and comprises about 3000 acres of water and 17 miles of shoreline. It has all available conservation designations (RAMSAR, SPA, SSSI), and supports up to 20,000 wildfowl in winter. Such a large expanse of water is a clear attraction to passing Ospreys, and they were regularly seen there on migration in the 1980s. Two immature birds spent the summer there in 1994 and, after discussions between Tim Appleton the Reserve Manager, and Roy Dennis who has a lifetime's experience of monitoring Ospreys and other raptors, an artificial nest platform was erected during the winter 1994/5. (The construction of artificial nest platforms is an established and successful practice to encourage Ospreys to breed.)

Regrettably, the birds did not return as hoped, although this was not entirely unexpected. Further discussion between Messrs Appleton and Dennis led to an application to IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) for a licence to set up a re-introduction project using chicks from Scotland. IUCN have strict requirements for this: historical evidence of former breeding; clear understanding of the reasons for extinction; certainty that these reasons no longer apply; suitable habitat; introduced birds must be taxonomically similar to the original population; the loss of birds from the donor site must not be detrimental to that site.

All the requirements were met, so permission was given to remove 64 six-week-old chicks from Scottish nests: 8 were translocated in each of 1996 and 1997, then 12 in each of 1998-2001. During this time, Roy Dennis was carefully monitoring the Scottish populations to ensure that the loss was not detrimental. Of the 64 translocated chicks, 49 were males, and 15 were females, as it was believed that at least some of the male birds would attract females who had fledged from Scottish nests. However, this did not happen to the extent that was hoped, and the consequent surplus of unmated males at Rutland led to a decision to introduce a further 11 birds (9 females, 2 males) in 2005.

The translocated birds are released 2-3 weeks after arriving at Rutland, giving them about 6 weeks before migrating south. Fish was provided for the birds until they migrated (replicating what happens at natural nests where males feed their chicks until they leave), but some were seen to catch fish before departing on migration. During the post-release period the birds would frequently disappear for several hours at a time as they familiarised themselves with the area.

In order to throw light on their migration routes, 13 Scottish birds, including 7 adults, and 14 Rutland birds (all juveniles) have been fitted with transmitters. Tim illustrated the benefits (for us) of satellite tracking by describing two migration journeys. The first was by a male who was translocated in 2000, and left Rutland on 2nd September. He passed west of the Brittany coast on the 3rd, and continued over the Bay of Biscay, making for northwest Spain. Very sadly, his signals disappeared as he attempted to come in towards land. Local birdwatchers in the area have given anecdotal evidence that Ospreys were often mobbed by Yellow-legged Gulls as they came in from the sea, and frequently forced down into the water and drowned. It was believed that this was the fate of this bird.

The second example was of a juvenile female from Scotland who was tracked southwards through Wales, Devon, and past the Brittany coast, but was then met with strong winds when making for Spain, and was pushed far out to sea. She made landfall 64 hours later in SW Portugal, an astonishing feat, and she stayed there for the rest of the winter. She has since bred successfully in Scotland.

Another formidable barrier to migrating birds is the Sahara Desert. Adults usually fly to the west, thus minimising the stretch of such hostile terrain that they have to cross. Juveniles sometimes fly south, right across the widest part of the desert and, of five juveniles who are known to have attempted the longer crossing, only one has survived.

Of the 64 birds originally released, 10 have returned to Rutland, and a further 2 males have bred in Wales. A small number have been reported dead, and the fate of the others is unknown. They could be living their lives in respectable obscurity in Scotland or elsewhere, since their whereabouts is only known if someone is able to read the coloured ring, and report it.

In the remainder of his talk, Tim gave details of the two translocated males who have bred successfully at Rutland. The first is known as 03(97). He returned in 1999 and 2000 as an immature bird, and then bred in 2001 and 2002, with an unringed female at a location away from the Rutland Water reserve. In 2001 they successfully raised one chick, but in 2002 were thwarted by exceptionally bad weather and, although at least one chick

hatched, none survived the cold wet weather. In 2003 this female failed to return but her place was taken by a translocated female, 05(00), and this pair has bred every year since then, at the same site, and have raised 14 chicks over the five-year period. Both these birds are back together this year, and hopes are high.

The other male, 08(97), also returned in 1999, and every year since. Up to and including 2006, he attracted a succession of females but they all subsequently departed again - in 2006, the female left after the nest collapsed as she landed on it. In 2007, however, his nest was bigger and better, and he successfully bred with a Rutland female, 5N(04), and they fledged two chicks. Again, both these birds have arrived back this year.

A major point of interest, is the extent to which the Rutland-fledged young return and breed. So far, there have been no sightings of the chicks fledged prior to 2004 but, out of the 5 chicks fledged in 2004 and 2005, four have returned, so clearly the habitat is providing them with plenty of food to ensure strong healthy chicks. This year is looking good so far, with both of last year's breeding pairs back on territory, and expecting eggs shortly. Other (as yet unmated) birds are also present. Recent adverse weather has held up migrants further south, so other returning birds are expected.

For the future, the hope is that there could be 10+ pairs at Rutland, and other pairs could spread out to other water bodies not only in Leicestershire, but also Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. It is also hoped to gain more knowledge of migration and other movements by the use of a new generation of solar-powered transmitters which should last for 3-4 years. In addition to the conservation benefits to the species itself, it is also beneficial to enthuse the general public with these birds. Persecution of raptors is only too well known, and anything that increases public awareness in a positive way must be a Good Thing.

Tim also summarised two other Osprey relocation projects in Andalusia in southern Spain, and in Tuscany, which have benefited from the experience gained at Rutland

Tim was thanked for telling a fascinating tale, and adding a lot of interesting detail to the basic story. We already have Scottish birds moving through our area in good numbers, and perhaps we can look forward to an explosion of numbers at Rutland, and even have them breeding in our recording area one day!

For a lot of very detailed information about the Project, and about Ospreys in general, including their migration journeys, see the website www.ospreys.org.uk.

Wendy Thomson

Have we really lost 20% of our local breeding birds over the last 2 decades?

SBSG Breeding Atlas – Final Call!

As our Breeding Atlas moves into its final few weeks, after 5 years of survey effort, this is the last call (and last chance!) to get involved in the fieldwork that will provide us with the data on our local breeding species. This data set will then form the basis for comparisons with the previous Atlas, and with national information, so it is vitally important to be as confident as possible of the accuracy of the data.

An initial review of the data gathered to date (20,000+ breeding records) indicates a decline of at least 20% in the number of breeding species in almost half of the 300 tetrads that make up our recording area. This is an alarming figure that is down to one of 2 causes: either this represents a genuine decline of major proportions (as we know is the case with some farmland species, for example), or we have missed a lot of birds on the Atlas recording to date. So as to eliminate the second possibility, a great deal of work from those on the Atlas team has seen the production of 'missing species' lists for the most badly affected tetrads. These are accessible via the website (www.sbsg.org), by 10km squares (SK18, SK28, SK48, etc) and then by tetrad (SK18C, SK28A, SK48T, etc), with a guide to location for each (SK18C – Barber Booth; SK28A – Offerton Moor; SK48T – Ulley). A detailed map for each tetrad can easily be called up from the same webpage via a link to the BTO's site.

To make things as accessible as we can, for each tetrad we have identified a list of species likely still to be present, but not yet recorded, as well as species that may still be present. For the three examples above, the lists are as follows (species likely to be present are underlined, but appear in blue on the webpage):

SK18C – Barber Booth: Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Cuckoo, Little Owl, Sky Lark, Sand Martin, Grey Wagtail, Whinchat, Wheatear, Mistle Thrush, Rook, Starling, Linnet, Twite, Reed Bunting.

SK28A – Offerton Moor: Red Grouse, Kestrel, Lapwing, Snipe, Curlew, Common Sandpiper, Stock Dove, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Jay, House Sparrow, Linnet, Lesser Redpoll.

SK48T – Ulley: Red-legged Partridge, Moorhen, Woodcock, Feral Pigeon, Tawny Owl, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, House Martin, Garden Warbler, Coal Tit, Treecreeper, Jay, Rook, Tree Sparrow, Bullfinch.

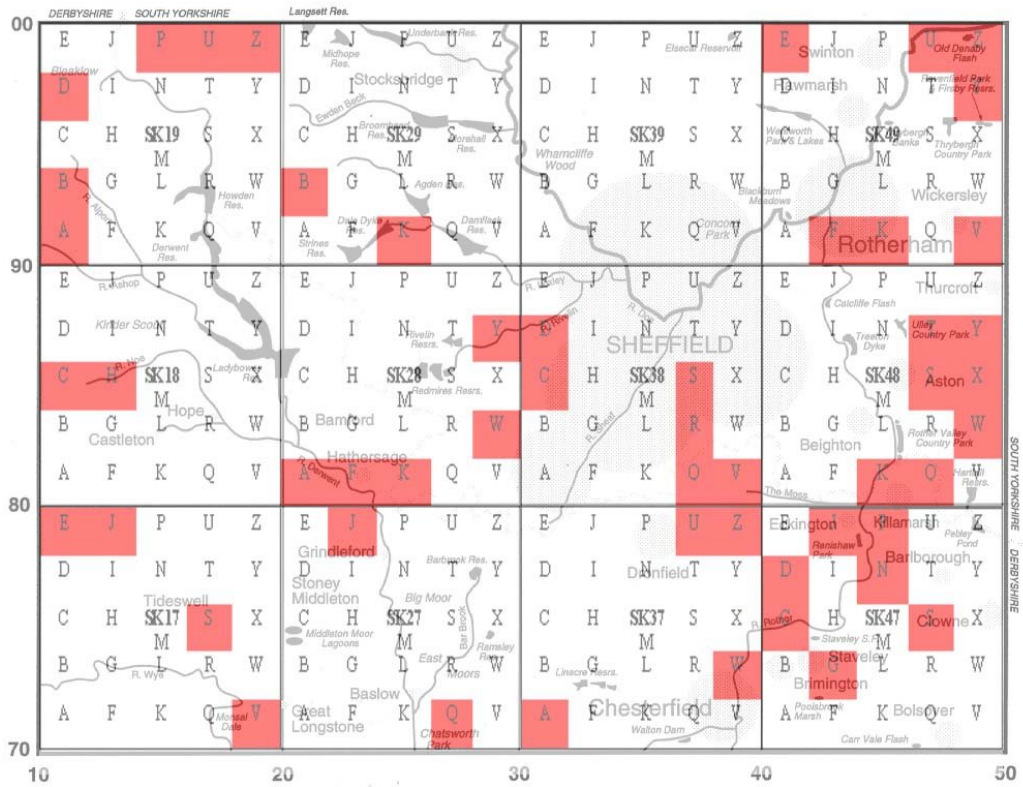
What we now need is for YOU to get out and check the shaded tetrads on the map below for the presence of these missing species. There are between 50 and 60 tetrads that need checking over the next few weeks, spread across our recording area. With a membership of 150, this should be easily manageable, and will ensure that we can be confident of the accuracy of our data, which is crucial to the validity of the survey.

Having visited a few tetrads already, I can vouch for the satisfaction of finding some 'missing species', as well as the disappointment of realising that some really are missing. However, for us to be sure that this is the case across the board, it is vital that the last few weeks of the Atlas see these tetrads visited. When you do visit an area, e-mail your findings to sbsg.sightings.googlemail.com with 'Atlas' in the subject box. The species you've found can then be removed from the lists on the webpage, which are being updated on a regular basis, and the tetrad you've visited removed from the 'red list' if you are confident that it has been covered and that other species really are missing. If you wish to contact someone with questions, you can reach me on david.wood@sheffield.ac.uk or on 0114 2306928.

A chance here to thank those who have put in a tremendous ongoing effort to this project behind the scenes: Dave Williams, Simon Bailey, Richard Dale, Helen Hipperson, Jenny Kingsland, Margaret Miller and Wendy Thomson. Finally, a word of congratulations and further thanks to Bob Lowndes, Paul Leonard and Richard Dale, who have each covered at least a dozen tetrads for the Atlas over the last few years – a superb effort that should inspire the rest of us to get out into the field and find those missing breeding species over the next few weeks. June-July is a famously slack period for activity for birding: this is just the way to put those birding skills to tremendous effect during the summer months: get out there!

David Wood

Map of SBSG Recording Area, showing tetrads (shaded) with apparent serious declines, for which lists of 'missing species' are available via the SBSG website.



MISSING DESCRIPTIONS

Descriptions have not yet been submitted to the group for the following records from 2007 and 2008. Would the observers please forward a description as soon as possible for consideration by the relevant (county or SBSG) records committee. If descriptions are not received (and accepted) records will be omitted from the annual report and removed from the SBSG database.

2007

Species	Site	Date	Details
Gannet	Parkway	28th April	One S at 1342h, three E at 1415h
Great White Egret	RVCP	26th Sept	
Snow Goose	Poolsbrook CP	14th Jan	Flew WNW with Pink-footed Geese
Red Kite	Nether Hey	18th June	
Marsh Harrier	Wharncliffe Chase	22nd April	Immature N
Marsh Harrier	Margery Hill	7th Aug	
Rough-legged Buzzard	Abney Moor	17th Oct	
Avocet	RVCP	29th April	Flew N at 0555h
Purple Sandpiper	RVCP	8th Nov	
Marsh Tit	Dore	19th Jan and 7th April	
Twite	Stanage Edge	24th May	
Twite	Thrybergh CP	28th Sept	

2008

Species	Site	Date	Details
Scaup	Catcliffe Flash	12th Feb	Female
Red Kite	Edge Field Farm	6th April	
Red Kite	Upper Padley	10th May	
Marsh Harrier	Barbrook Pools	4th May	
Kumlien's Gull	Broomhead Res	26th Jan – 9th Feb	3rd-winter
Kumlien's Gull	Langsett Res	6th Feb	
Jackdaw	Markham	24th Jan	Nordic race individual
Common (Mealy) Redpoll	Pit-house West	9th March	

RECENT SIGHTINGS

1st April – 1st June 2008

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

Whooper Swan	One at RVCP on 4th April, 24 SE over Whittington Moor on 17th April with possibly the same flock N at Fulwood slightly later that morning and on Strines Res that evening. Two S at Ulley CP on 29th April.
American Wigeon	A drake was found at RVCP on 23rd April, remaining to 27th.
Garganey	A drake at Treeton Dyke on 5th May.
Red-crested Pochard	A drake at RVCP on 21st April.
Scaup	The female remained at Ulley CP until 12th April.
Common Scoter	A pair were present at Thrybergh CP on 29th May
Goldeneye	17 at RVCP on 12th April, the regular male at Pebley Pond on 17th and 23 at RVCP on 20th April.
Black-necked Grebe	One at Thrybergh CP on 13th April followed by one at Silverwood Lagoon on 18th and three together there on 21st April.
Red Kite	Singles reported from Edge Field Farm on 6th April, White Carr on 6th May, Upper Padley on 10th and Whiston on 31st May.
Marsh Harrier	Females at Barbrook Pools on 4th May and in the Upper Derwent Valley on 20th May.
Osprey	Early April saw a period of passage with birds recorded at Redmires Res on 4th, Agden Res on 5th, RVCP on 6th and Thrybergh CP on 8th. Subsequently singles flew N at RVCP on 27th April and Thrybergh CP on 24th May.
Hobby	Singles recorded at Thrybergh CP on 28th April, Ulley CP on 1st May, Spout House Wood on 8th and Pebley Pond on 17th May.
Water Rail	Overwintering bird last recorded on 11th April.
Corncrake	One singing at Rod Moor on 18th May was not present the following evening.
Common Crane	Two adults flew N over RVCP and were later seen over Brinsworth on 18th April.
Oystercatcher	Pairs were reported from Thrybergh CP on 3rd April, Strines on 15th April, RVCP on 12th April and 17th May and Langsett Res on 14th May, with four at Ulley CP on 20th May.
Avocet	Two flew NW through RVCP on 19th April.
Little Ringed Plover	First reported in late March, birds were back at a number of breeding sites by mid-May.

Golden Plover	Passage through April saw flocks peak at 210 at Fulwood Head on 6th and 746 at Peat Pits on 21st. Numbers declined thereafter, with breeding birds back at moorland sites. Eight passage birds were still at Peat Pits on 16th May, with seven at Redmires Res on 30th.
Dunlin	Two were at Thrybergh CP on 13th April with a summer plumaged bird there on 27th and six at Redmires Res on the latter date. In May there were singles at Redmires Res on 3rd, Barbrook Pools on 4th and Blue Man's Bower on 17th, while two were at Barbrook Pools on 8th.
Snipe	Six were at Aldwarke SF on 6th April, with birds drumming at numerous upland sites throughout.
Whimbrel	One NW at Redmires Res on 6th April was followed by further singles at Ramsley on 20th April, Thrybergh CP on 24th, Leash Fen on 27th and Middleton Moor on 11th May.
Redshank	One was at Thrybergh CP on 6th April with two there on 9th, one was at RVCP on 12th, two were at Pit-house West on 17th, Blue Man's Bower on 19th and Silverwood Lagoon on 21st, with one at Ramsley Pools on 29th. Two were at Redmires Res on 30th May.
Greenshank	One flew N at RVCP on 19th April.
Green Sandpiper	Singles at Ulley CP on 8th and 17th April.
Common Sandpiper	The first records were singles at Ulley CP on 3rd April, RVCP on 11th, Thrybergh CP, Treeton Dyke and Redmires Res on 13th and Elsecar Res on 14th, with birds arriving in numbers at breeding sites later in the month, including at least 38 back at Ladybower Res on 29th.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	41 drifted N in the Upper Derwent Valley on 9th May and were 50 at Langsett Res on 15th.
Common Tern	The first back was at Elsecar Res on 13th April with small numbers recorded at eastern sites over the following days; six were back at Thrybergh CP by 29th.
Black Tern	Two were at Elsecar Res on 4th May.
Turtle Dove	The only record was of one N at Thrybergh CP on 12th May.
Cuckoo	First recorded at Leash Fen on 22nd April and widespread over the following days. Notable were six calling at Ramsley on 5th May
Barn Owl	Singles at Thrybergh CP on 12th and 22nd April, with one at Foolow on 2nd May and two hunting at Denaby Common on 17th May.
Short-eared Owl	Singles at Wharncliffe Chase on 3rd, Redmires Res on 4th and Kirk Edge on 5th May. One pair present in the Upper Derwent Valley.
Nightjar	A male at Agden Side on 16th May, a female accidentally flushed at Wharncliffe Heath on 18th and a male churring at Agden Side on 31st.
Swift	First recorded at RVCP on 24th May with increasing numbers over the following days including four at Wharncliffe Side on 26th, 20+ at RVCP on 27th, 20+ at Shalesmoor on 29th and 10+ at Millhouses on 29th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	One at Ecclesall Woods on 1st April, one or two on eight dates in April at Elsecar Res and one in Beeley Wood on 4th May.
Swallow	After the first at Agden Beck on 30th March singles were recorded at Thrybergh CP on 1st April and Elsecar Res on 2nd, with birds beginning to arrive in greater numbers over the following days.
House Martin	First recorded at Elsecar Res on 30th March with the next not until 6th April at RVCP. Small numbers were then reported over the following days.
Tree Pipit	First recorded at Barbrook Plantation on 13th April with the next at Low Hall Wood and Hall Wood on 22nd. Records then began to increase towards the month's end.
Yellow Wagtail	One N at RVCP on 6th April was the first of the year, followed by one at Thrybergh CP on 14th and an exceptional 11 there on 17th. Other notable records included six at RVCP on 20th April and Silverwood Lagoon on 21st April.
Waxwing	One was last reported from Cutthorpe on 5th April, while one was at Holmebrook Valley Park on 18th April.
Black Redstart	A singing first-summer male was at Firsby Res on 15th April and a singing male was at a breeding site in Sheffield on 18th May.
Redstart	First recorded at Barbrook Plantation on 20th April with widespread reports from 23rd onwards.
Whinchat	A female at Harley on 1st May was the first reported followed by reports from a number of sites from 4th.
Stonechat	Reported from a number of sites to the west including three males in the Burbage Valley on 10th May and two pairs and a third male at Ughill on 11th.
Wheatear	The first was a single at Silverwood Pit Tip on 23rd March with generally small numbers recorded, max counts included six at Cowell Flat on 5th April, ten at Rocher Head on 17th and 21st and seven at Wharnccliffe Chase on 2nd May.
Ring Ouzel	After a couple of records in March there were a scattering of reports in April, mostly from likely breeding sites, though one at Rocher Flat on 21st April was a passage migrant. At least nine territories were located in the Upper Derwent Valley and a pair was seen carrying food there on 21st May.
Fieldfare	Several good-sized flocks passed through the area in April, including 250 at Stublely Hollow on 17th and 300 at Edge Mount on 18th. The last reported were nine at Wharnccliffe Chase and 36 at Ringinglow on 26th.
Redwing	In contrast to Fieldfare there were just three records in April, with four at Langsett on 3rd, four at Elsecar Res on 12th and one at Harthill Res on 17th.
Grasshopper Warbler	Reeling birds at Hammond Field, Blackamoor and two at RVCP on 27th April were the first of the year. Subsequently reported mainly from the west of the area, including two at Redmires Res on 5th May and one at Barrow Clough the following day.

Sedge Warbler	First reported from Thrybergh CP on 7th April but the first elsewhere was not recorded until 26th, with two singing at Blackburn Meadows NR. More widespread after this with records from a number of eastern sites.
Reed Warbler	One at Pit-house West on 26th April was the first reported, followed by one at Harthill Res on 29th April, one at Poolsbrook Marsh on 3rd May and two at Treeton Dyke on 5th May.
Lesser Whitethroat	The first was at Thrybergh CP on 14th April, with the next on 24th with two at Thrybergh CP and singles at Ulley CP and RVCP. Most records were from the east but notably two were singing at Loxley on 3rd May and singles were at Hope and Thornhill on 24th and 25th May respectively.
Whitethroat	After the five at Thrybergh CP and one at RVCP on 24th April there was a widespread arrival by the end of the month, including nine at Blackburn Meadows NR on 26th, seven at Thrybergh CP and eight at RVCP on 27th.
Garden Warbler	One was at Haywood Farm on 3rd May and was followed by singing birds arriving at a number of sites over the next few days.
Blackcap	Recorded in small numbers through April, with a max of 11 at Elsecar Res on 16th. 16 were singing in Wharncliffe Wood on 15th May.
Wood Warbler	A rare eastern record from RVCP on 27th April was the first, with birds singing at more expected western localities from early May including five at Rivelin Dams on 4th May and seven at Wharncliffe Wood on 15th May.
Willow Warbler	One at Langsett Res on 28th March was the first reported, followed by singles at RVCP on 30th and Thrybergh CP on 31st. Up to nine were regular at Thrybergh CP through April and a BTO Atlas visit to Wharncliffe Wood on 15th May recorded 68 singing birds.
Firecrest	One singing at Redmires Res on 27th April and another two singing male present at a western site in May.
Spotted Flycatcher	One at Bubnell on 1st May was the first reported, followed by singles in the Loxley Valley on 5th May and at Langsett Wood the following day, and three at Grindsbrook Clough on 9th.
Pied Flycatcher	A male at Padley Gorge on 14th April preceded the main arrival by ten days. Max counts all came from Padley Gorge, peaking at 11 on 8th May.
Marsh Tit	Just one record, of three at Monsal Dale on 6th April.
Brambling	Reported in small numbers through April with a max of 40 at Westend on 14th April and the last reported one in a Lodge Moor garden on 26th April.
Siskin	240+ were at Win Hill on 1st April and 40 were at Langsett Res on 3rd. Subsequently there were no large flocks but several reports of birds from breeding sites.
Common (Mealy) Redpoll	One was on feeders at Ashopton with Lesser Redpolls on 14th April.

- Crossbill Several pairs bred in the Upper Derwent Valley, with 24 on Win Hill on 1st April made up of four family parties and further family groups at Hagg Side on 24th April and Westend on 12th May. An indication of this breeding success was a flock of 23 at Linch Clough on 21st May while elsewhere there were reports of six at Redmires Res on 6th April, four at Langsett Wood on 25th April and five there on 19th May and three at Hollingdale Plantation on 12th May.
- Corn Bunting One was singing at Harthill on 29th April, with two within the recording area there on 17th May.

Records were received from the following observers, with apologies for any omissions:

S Bailey, A Bell, RP Blagden, K Bower, MC Brew, PL Brown, DJ Buttle, DM Bye, J Clarke, J Crooks, R Dale, A Deighton, M Dyson, G Featherstone, S Geikie, KR Gould, R Green, S Guymer, A Hill, RD Hill, H Hipperson, M Hodgson, J Hornbuckle, C Hurst, G James, Alan Johnson, Ann Johnson, J Kingsland, K Knowles, P Leonard, J Marriott, P Mella, J Middleton, M Miller, C Monk, M Pearson, DR Pickering, R Popplewell, NR Porter, B Priest, MN Reeder, P Ridsdale, J Sherwin, M Sherwin, MA Smethurst, M Snook, B Spencer, B Steel, J Stobart, CB Stride, A Thompson, W Thompson, R Twigg, D Vickers, H Vikaitis, RDR Williams, D Wood, D Woodriff, Derbyshire OS, Sorby-Breck Ringing Group and Thrybergh CP Bird Log.

DATES TO NOTE

Time/Date	Group	Location	Speaker	Title
7.30pm 4 th September	RSPB Sheffield Local Group	Central United Reformed Church	Pete Brown	A Pharaold Place for Birds
7.30pm 2 nd October	RSPB Sheffield Local Group	Central United Reformed Church	Keith Offord	Magical Merlins plus AGM

NOTE: DOS HAVE NOT YET ANNOUNCED THEIR AUTUMN MEETINGS.

NEW MEMBERS

The Group welcomes the following new members:

Michael Dyson Christopher Hunt Martin Hodgson Mrs Yanui Feng

We hope you enjoy your membership.

ARTICLES FOR BULLETIN

Where are all those comments and opinions, book and DVD reviews, holiday reports, best day's birding articles? You are invited to share these with other members via the Bulletin. Don't leave it to the few to fill the pages! Articles are welcome from all members. If you don't have email you can send your written notes. See below for copy date for October Bulletin and get writing!

COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER BULLETIN

The next Bulletin will be issued at the October Meeting. Please note that any items for inclusion in the Bulletin must be received by Margaret Miller, at 14 Worcester Close, Sheffield S10 4JF, or by email to margmiller@talktalk.net by Sunday, 5th October.

BULLETIN BY EMAIL

More members have now agreed to take their Bulletins by email. This is now about one-third of membership and this will help funds in cutting down the cost of sending out Bulletins. It is appreciated that not all members have the email facility but many thanks to those who have and are willing to receive their copies in this way.