



SHEFFIELD BIRD STUDY GROUP
BULLETIN

ISSUE 220

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www.sbsg.org



THE START OF AUTUMN

Visible migration and a few surprises

BREEDING ATLAS

It's nearly here! Pre-order inside.

PLUS!

Martin Garner interview
Eastern Moors news
Word botching
News, dates and more.



National Trust - High Peak Moors Vision: The Next 50 Years & Beyond

On 20 September I attended the launch event of the National Trust's High Peak Moors Vision and Plan, which took place at Bamford. I was invited to represent the considerable input that members of the Group had to the earlier consultations and drafts of the plan, as well as having had quite a bit of input myself as Chair of SBSG.

There were some 50 people in attendance in total, including representatives of various utility companies, the Peak District National Park, Environmental consultants, the British Mountaineering Council, the NFU and the Moorland Association. Given the prominence of birds in the consultation and final Plan it was surprising that neither DOS nor the RSPB was not represented at the event, especially in light of the latter's involvement in the Eastern Moors Partnership.

Area covered by the Vision and Plan

The morning saw a series of short talks to outline the challenges facing the High Peak, especially in terms of habitat and land management, after which Dame Helen Ghosh (Director-General of the National Trust) formally launched the Plan. Of particular interest to me was that one of the invited speakers should be Ben Rimington Wilson, owner of the Broomhead Estate and speaking as a representative of the Moorland Association. His work with the RSPB and National Trust on the Broomhead Estate, and his apparent sympathy for the High

Peak Vision, made him a convincing example of how partnerships might work with local landowners. It was also clear that one of his priorities is the maintenance of grouse shooting and from our perspective the manner in which this emphasis can sit alongside the presence of birds of prey will represent the key challenge for the National Trust in delivering their Vision.

One of the five elements of the Vision and Plan is 'Vibrant wildlife, including birds of prey', and the section of the plan that spells this aspect out in more detail talks of 'Working in a targeted way, to protect and encourage some very specific types of plants and animals.' The picture that illustrates this section is of a Peregrine, and a further statement of intent comes in the first specific example of what will be done: 'Protecting birds of prey'.

Over the course of the day and from discussions with local and regional figures in the National Trust I was convinced that they fully intend to see through the bold vision outlined in the plan, which includes an explicit undertaking to see an increase in the numbers of raptors in the area. They realise that there will be challenges in doing so, and that not everyone agrees with what they are going to do, but are committed to making long-term changes to various aspects of habitat management, and the relationship between man and the natural environment, in the High Peak. Few of the current membership will be around to see the results of the 50-year plan, but it nonetheless

deserves our collective support. When I asked what concrete measures we could take towards realising the goals set out in the vision, I was told simply 'Eyes and ears.' So, as and when you're out in Upper Derwentdale or the surrounding moorland, do let the National Trust's Longshaw office know of anything untoward or suspicious you see or hear.

A summary version of the Vision and Plan is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/moorsplan> and the full version can be read at <http://tinyurl.com/moorsplanfull>

David Wood

Birds of Derbyshire

If the imminent release SBSG's Breeding Atlas wasn't enough - see (pp6-7) - the Derbyshire Ornithological Society are also taking pre-orders for their long awaited Birds of Derbyshire, meaning two important local breeding Atlases will soon be available. See <http://www.derbyshireos.org.uk/tbod.php> - we'll have more about the release next issue.

Cover photo

This issue's cover photo is by Andy Deighton.

See page 8 for more news in brief

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Indoor Meetings

Pete Brown - Australia

**Weds Dec 11th 2013, Sheffield University Arts Tower
Lecture Theatre 5, 7.15pm**

Pete needs little introduction to the group - a former SBSG chairman and active member, who is an engaging speaker and has delivered many memorable talks.

Tonight Pete will attempt to do justice to the topic of birding in Australia via two trips there that have taken him from the forests, mountains and coasts of Queensland and New South Wales out to the Barrier Reef, across to the Red Centre by way of coastal Victoria and over to Western Australia with plenty of urban birding in Brisbane, Sydney and Perth along the way.

Andy Deighton - Visions of China

**Weds Jan 8th 2014, Sheffield University Arts Tower
Lecture Theatre 5, 7.15pm**

Well-known SBSG member Andy Deighton will tonight be giving us a talk about his recent experience birding in China.

The talk is based on a three week trip in May-June 2013 to Sichuan, plus brief incursions into Shaanxi and Yunnan.

Andy was birding in some of the most spectacular scenery in the world, in search of some of the most sought after species in the region.

We are promised a festival of Galliforms, *Phylloscopus* Warblers, Parrotbills and luscious *Luscinias*, and much more besides, on what was a truly memorable trip.

Other groups' dates

Wed 20th November - Sorby Natural History Society indoor meeting - Bob Croxton will talk on the Birds and Wildlife of Southern Spain. 7.15pm, room F41, University of Sheffield Hicks Building, Hounsfield Road.

Fri 29th November - DOS Indoor Meeting. The talk will be Neil Glenn on 'Birding the Arctic Circle'. The Evergreen Club, Allestree, 7.30pm. £1 members, £1.50 non-members.

Thu 5th December - RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting. Paul Hobson on 'The Coast and Islands'. Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield, 7.30pm. £2.50 Group Members, £4 visitors.

Wed 11th December - RSPB Sheffield Group Midweek Walk. A walk at Rother Valley CP led by Peter Wingfield, meet at Valley Road Killamarsh, SK453812, 10am. No charge.

Wed 8th January - RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting - Allan & Sue Parker will be talking on Natural Northumberland. Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield, 7.30pm. £2 Group Members, £4 visitors.

Wed 8th January - RSPB Sheffield Group Midweek Walk. Agden, 10am. sheffieldrspblocalgroup@talktalk.net for details.

Field Meetings

Keep your eyes on the SBSG website, Twitter and Facebook page for information of forthcoming field meetings.

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Interview: Martin Garner

It's a sunny, but windy, day at East Yorkshire's birding hotspot of Flamborough Head. A small crowd has gathered outside a row of cottages near the tip of the headland in the hopes of seeing an Iberian Chiffchaff that has been reported in the gardens there, a rare migrant which looks to the untrained eye much like its far more common cousin.

That news of this rarity got out is due to the area's newest patch-watcher – author, tour leader and all round pioneer of the trickier aspects of bird identification, Martin Garner, who had moved to the area from Sheffield just weeks before I met him in late April.

“I'm like a kid in a sweet shop really,” says Martin of his recent relocation, beaming the infectious grin he has whenever talking about ornithological matters. “As a patch it's a bit hard to work -I know I won't get any sympathy! But I do a loop walk in the morning with the dog, that includes a pool that had a Citrine Wagtail last year, a Blue-headed Wagtail on it this year – and Alpine Swift flew past there this year. Then I do Holme's Gut which I had Osprey and Ring Ouzel in two days ago. North Marsh, which had a Baikal Teal on a couple of weeks ago, is also part of it.”

Originally from Cheshire, but having lived in various locations during his life including Canada and Northern Ireland, Martin can clearly remember the events that sparked off his interest in birds.

“It started when I was about ten or eleven, we'd just come back from Canada as a family,” he



says. “I'd seen wildlife before in Canada, things like Moose and bears and stuff, but it was a Swallow that was nesting near our house that grabbed me.

“I watched it collecting mud off the road to build its nest, and I was very fortunate that I got close to it, and you could see all the colours on it, and then it flew up and it was building this nest. I was trying to work out – how is it building something, this tiny animal? It's building something and it's going to put some eggs in it, and then it's going to migrate a long way, and it was mesmerising.

“I asked my dad, ‘what do you call someone who's a birdwatcher'? And he said ‘an ornithologist'. And I thought, ‘I'm going to be one of those when I grow up'. It took me about 40 years before I thought I might be able to call myself one!”

Martin spent his teenage years patch-watching at Frodsham Marsh in Cheshire, where his early finds included Long-billed Dowitcher and Pectoral Sandpiper. It was one experience in particular that he can pinpoint as setting off his particular interest in bird identification, when another Pectoral Sandpiper had been found at Frodsham.

“I didn't get down there until mid-afternoon, and most people had wandered off” he says. “I located the bird, and I was like ‘Oh, this doesn't look like a Pectoral Sandpiper, it's a bit strange', but it must be because people I really respect had said it was. Somebody else joined me and I said to them: ‘Why isn't this a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper? I mean I know they're really, really rare, and I know it seems ridiculous, but why isn't it?’”.

Well-known birder Tim Cleeves turned up on site, and between them they worked out that it was indeed the scarcer species they were seeing.

“We put the word out, and 400 people came the next morning. And what it did was it made me have the confidence to have my own integrity, not to be bolshy or anything, but to say if you genuinely think that’s not right, to question.”

“Sorting that bird out with Tim really made me realise it’s OK to ask questions. Even if your questions are wrong, you’ll learn better.”

Martin is perhaps best known for his work helping birders get to grips with identification conundrums previously thought of as difficult, or even impossible. In particular his work with gull identification has led to much of our understanding of Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls.

“I think the Caspian Gull issue was really exciting to be part of,” he says. “I did it with (bird artist) Dave Quinn, we had worked some stuff out, which was opening new doors. And we took the bold step of trying to say ‘look at these things differently; look at structure, moult and wing tip patterns’. And I still meet people today, who I hold in high esteem, who say to me, ‘that really changed the way I think’.

Many birders may say they don’t ‘do’ gulls, but Martin says they should be more keen to get to grips with them.

“The great thing about gulls is they’re accessible. Right slap bang in the middle of the country, in the West Midlands, you can see all kinds of birds. You can see Iceland Gulls from Greenland, you can see

Glaucous Gulls from the Siberian islands, you can see Caspian Gulls from the Ukraine, and you can see Yellow-legged Gulls from the Mediterranean. How cool is that?”

Martin has authored a book, *Frontiers in Birding*, in which he and other birders explore many of these kind of issues, including such thorny ID problems as female Green-winged Teal, Stejneger’s Scoter, Yelkouan Shearwater and Black-eared Kite, to name just a few. His ‘Birding Frontiers’ blog also continues this work, and has recently opened out to be a multi-author platform for a number of like-minded birders from around the world.

An illustration of Martin’s persistence and knowledge is the identification of the Iberian Chiffchaff, which happens to be present on the day I visit Flamborough Head. Co-found with fellow Flamborough birder Gaynor Chapman, it was the first ever non-singing bird of this species identified in the UK, with Martin clinching the ID on its finch-like call and brighter plumage.

Martin’s experience and reputation has led to him being voted in as one of the ‘Rare Men’ on the panel of the British Birds Rarities Committee. When asked what tip he’d give those sending records in for acceptance, he answers emphatically.

“Be honest. Because all the rarities committee birders are bird-finders themselves, they know how it works. They know it really well. So when somebody is blagging, or exaggerating, copying out of Collins, making up how confident they were, you can spot it a mile.”

Martin says there’s still many birding frontiers to be tackled, and future plans include his involvement at the first ever Migration Festival at East Yorkshire’s other migrant hotspot, Spurn Point. A weekend of events will encourage us to get more involved with seawatching and visible migration.

“I think it’s the best migration place in Britain to be honest,” he says. “We could get 15,000 Swallows in that morning, or we could 20,000 Meadow Pipits. We could get sea birds; we could get all four skuas. You’ll have a good day whatever. We think it’s time to open that up a bit. Even if we had no rarities we would have an amazing time.”

Before we part I ask Martin to sum up his birding philosophy.

“I never want to lose the engagement and enjoyment I got out of the first Swallow, it’s as simple as that,” he says. “So one of my things this year was seeing these two little Goldcrests at my feet, and just watching them thinking – they are amazing.”

Joining the small crowd outside the cottages, I finally get a glimpse of the Iberian Chiffchaff, a shade brighter than a Common Chiffchaff, but so easy to overlook. A rare bird from across the sea, with a story and its own identity, that teaches us to all take a leaf out of Martin’s book: Keep looking, keep learning, and above all, never stop asking questions.

Pete Mella

**PRE-PUBLICATION ORDERS
NOW BEING TAKEN FOR JUST £20.00**



**Breeding Birds of the Sheffield Area
including the North-east Peak District
A New Atlas 2003-08**

Sheffield Bird Study Group

**A FULL ACCOUNT OF SHEFFIELD'S BREEDING BIRDS
AND THEIR CURRENT DISTRIBUTION**

The Sheffield area lies on the boundary of upland and lowland Britain and contains a diversity of habitats which is reflected in the great variety of its birdlife.

This book analyses the results of the Sheffield Bird Study Group's breeding Atlas survey carried out during 2003-08, and considers the changes that have taken place since the original survey in 1975-80 to provide a fascinating and up-to-date picture of the region's breeding avifauna. The new Atlas is written by a team of local ornithologists, includes many colour photographs, maps and figures, as well as being superbly illustrated by local artists Richard Dale, Paul Leonard and Ray Scally. The New Atlas also contains:

- **A Foreword by Professor Tim Birkhead – Professor of Behavioural Ecology at the University of Sheffield, award-winning author and Fellow of the Royal Society**
- **An introduction to the Sheffield area and its principal bird communities**
- **A summary of Sheffield's current land use and the impact of recent habitat changes on Sheffield's birds**
- **An up-to-date analysis of current weather trends and the effects of climate change on Sheffield's birds**
- **A systematic account of all 135 species recorded during the latest SBSG breeding Atlas survey carried out during 2003-08**
- **Breeding distribution maps for virtually all species, showing the current distribution across the area and providing comparisons with the previous breeding Atlas carried out during 1975-80**
- **A summary of the changing nature of Sheffield's breeding birds and what the future may hold in the SBSG recording area**
- **A full checklist of birds recorded in the SBSG recording area**

ORDER FORM

I wish to order ___ copy/copies of the Breeding Birds of the Sheffield Area – A New Atlas 2003-08

I would like to collect my copy/copies from an SBSG Indoor Meeting _____ (select month)

or

I would like my copy/copies posted (**please add an additional £5 p&p per copy**) to the following address:

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

I enclose a cheque for **£20 / £25** per copy (please delete as appropriate) made payable to:
SHEFFIELD BIRD STUDY GROUP (Please note - multiple copies will be sent separately)

Please return to: **MARTIN HODGSON – 142 HANGINGWATER ROAD, SHEFFIELD, S11 7ET**

Scanning of the SBSG reports

Soon after I took on the role of Membership and Report Distribution Secretary I began to receive requests from members for back copies of the Annual Reports, often for early editions from the 1970s and 1980s. The stock I had inherited went back only to the late 1980s and I was usually unable to satisfy the member's request.

About that time I was researching census and similar archives for writing a family history, and grumbling to myself that I could have scanned such records just as well myself. And at that point the idea formed in my mind of scanning all the older SBSG reports and making them available to members on the website. Most modern organisations have a digital archive of their important publications, and it seemed to me that SBSG should be no different.

When I put my suggestion to our Chairman, he expressed concern that my mental health, and therefore the Group's Public Liability Insurance, might be affected by such a tedious task.

I re-assured him that I would minimise the risk by separating each report-scan by a bout of heavy drinking, and was given the go-ahead last October. My aim was to complete the job by the end of 2013.

PDF versions of Reports for 2003 onwards were already posted on the website, so it was a case of scanning 28 hard copy books from 1973 to 2002 (1977 & 1978 and 1984 & 1985 were combined year reports). Despite having books and contumely heaped upon it, my £49 Staples printer/copier/scanner survived the ordeal.

The quality of each scan was influenced by the paper and print quality of the originals, and by the extent to which I could bend the spine without breaking it. I fully understand that reading a PDF version on a computer screen offers nothing like the tactile pleasure of handling a book, but at least the content is there. Sadly, because I had only scan and not text recognition available to me, the Adobe search engine will not function on the end products, but I hope nevertheless that the archive may be of interest and use to members.

Martin Hodgson

I'm sure the group will join me in thanking Martin for the hard work he's put in on this less than enviable task! - PM

News in brief

Volunteer wanted for Ruskin Bird Prints catalogue

Millennium Galleries are looking for a volunteer to help catalogue the 7,000 ornithological prints in their Ruskin collection.

The post would be for a half-1 day a week, on Wednesdays or occasional Thursdays, and requires an IT literate volunteer with an interest in art and ornithology, and with an eye for detail.

If interested please contact Caroline Rawle on 0114 2782743, or email caroline.rawle@museums-sheffield.org.uk

New Members

This issue we warmly welcome **Ray Scally, Hilary Mallela, Phil & Jan Jackson, Andrew Downs, Paul Gilligan, Felix Bird, Christopher Smith and Adam Chambers**. Good birding to you all!

Kev Gould loft clearance

Kev wants to off-load the following:

*Twitching (the forerunner to Birding World):6 issues from 1987

*Birding World Volumes 1-13 complete, plus 4 from Volume 14 (160 issues in total)

*Dutch Birding Volumes 14-19, 21-22 complete, Volumes 20 and 22 have one issue missing, (58 issues in total + the CD An introduction to the

vocalisations of crossbills in NW Europe !!!!)

*Alula, the superb Finnish journal, 34 issues from 1997-2005

*SBSG reports for 73,75, and 84-85

Interested? Email Kev with your offer and he'll drop them off. All donations to the Atlas Project.

SBSG Bulletin reader survey

Yet again, I've not had room to put this in! I'm giving up and going to post this on the website, so keep your eyes open for that. I've also not had room for Lecture Reports for Alan & Ruth Davies and Tristan Reid's talks - these will come in January.

Word botching - the answers!

Last issue Martin Hodgson left us with some bird-based brainteasers. Below are the answers. If you want to test your fellow SBSG members with a quiz, please send it to us through the usual channels!

1. Which bird family has a Margaret and a John in it?

Corvidae with Mag-pie and Jack-daw, nickname versions of Margaret and John, though Jack may be a corruption of the chack sound it makes, or a more general old word for "little"

2. Name other British birds which have been given human first names.

Robin Redbreast for certain, and Jack Snipe, but see 1 for jack meaning little. Jenny Wren in the past, but becoming obsolete. Probably the Martins, named by the French after St Martin. Indirectly the Harlequin Duck, through the striking costume worn by that character in the Commedia dell'Arte. Not Merlin which comes from French esmerillon. Not Kittiwake, which is onomatopoeic. Deduct marks for try-ons such as Hazel Grouse, Rubythroat and Sooty Tern!

3. Many birds have a white rump, but which bird is named for it?

The Wheatear, originally White-arse

4. Which bird likes playing in Yorkshire?

The Black Grouse which leks. The word "lek" is Scandinavian (Viking) in origin, meaning "play" and is related to the Yorkshire word "lake"

5. How is the linnet connected to a Class B Drug?

The drug is cannabis, extracted from hemp, the seed of which is a favourite of the Linnet. In earlier times half of Europe used words with a cannab-root to name hemp, hence the Linnet's Latin name of *Carduelis Cannabina*. The other half used a lin- root, hence linen and linseed. Lin(n)-et means "little hemp bird", as does konop-ka in Polish and konop-arche in Bulgarian, though they use a cognate version of the cannab-root

6. Which member of the Columbidae family spoonerises into a rich American?

The Collared

Dove spoonerises into a dollared cove

7. Why is the Oystercatcher St Bridget's emblem?

The shortened version of St Bridget's name is St Bride. Although the word for a woman who is about to be married comes from a different source, St Bridget became the patron saint of brides by false association. The beak of the oystercatcher is used to prise mollusc shells apart and is therefore an apt symbol of... (continued on page 94)

8. Which bird is an Antipodean idiot?

Some Australians refer to a foolish person as a Drongo

9. Where does the nightjar keep its jar?

Presumably in its throat, as it is almost certainly a representation of its churr call

10. Identify ten British birds whose official (not colloquial or dialectal) names or onomatopoeic?

Choose from chats, chiffchaff, chough, crane, cuckoo, curlew, hoopoe, kittiwake, nightjar (see 10 above), pipits, sandpipers, shrikes, twite, whooper swan. Less obvious are crow and rook, from older words for croaking; finch, from German fink, representing the weak call of the chaffinch; and turtle dove from the turr-turring noise it makes. Other possibilities are coot, jackdaw (see 1 above) and snipe from its chipping call. Deduct a mark for bad-joke puffin

11. In which country did the birds live in Aristophanes's comic play "The Birds"?

In Nephelo-kokkyg-ia or Cloud-cuckoo-land

12. And which bird was ruler of the rest? [Add a mark for giving the Greek or Latin name]

The Hoopoe. In Greek *epops*, in Latin *upupa*

13. What is the connection between petrel and petrol?

No, not the North Sea! Petrels are named after St Peter, in Greek *Petros* meaning "rock". Petrol is oil (oleum) extracted from rock etc

14. Which bird featured on the coinage of ancient Athens and

why? The eponymous goddess of Athens was Athene, whose day job was as goddess of wisdom. The owl is traditionally deemed to be wise and so is a natural symbol for her. The owl the Greeks chose for her is the Little Owl, hence the first part of its classification as *Athene noctua*. The inappropriate *noctua* applied to this diurnal owl is the fault of the Romans who used that name for it and were clearly not observant enough

15. The Ring Ouzel's name looks to be connected with the French word oiseau. Is it?

No. It comes from Old High German *amusala* meaning "blackbird", modern German *amsel*. Ring Ouzel signifies a blackbird with a white ring

16. Why did the seamen name petrels after St Peter?

Petrels are famous for patting the sea with their feet as if walking on it. St Peter was said in Matthew 14:29 to have walked on Lake Gennesaret. The -el is a diminutive suffix

17. What does the peregrine's name tell us about its origin?

That it was introduced into, and not native to, the part of Europe which first named it. It comes from the Latin *peregrinus* meaning "foreign". A garbled version of the same word gives us "pilgrim"

18. Which people used the same word for to name the sparrow and the ostrich?

The ancient Greeks. Sparrow was *strouthos*, and ostrich was *megalos strouthos* "big sparrow". Even greater inattention to detail than the Romans – see answer 14

19. Do quails quail?

They may for all we know, but the bird and the verb have no etymological connection. The bird comes from Latin *quaccula*, and the verb from a German root meaning "to die"

20. Finally, why did the chicken

cross the road? Because it had no other way of getting into this quiz. Boom-boom!

If you wish to challenge any of these answers (except no. 20!), please feel free to email Martin on martin@hodgson54.orangehome.co.uk

RECENT SIGHTINGS

1st September - 31st October 2013

These records are largely unchecked. Records in bold require supporting details.

Gannet - High winds and storms on the east coast brought a good number of inland records for this species in October. In our area an immature circled low over Rawmarsh on 11th, and another was rescued from the River Rivelin on 13th, to be released at the coast.

Bittern - One was at Pit-house West on 26th October - the 11th successive winter for this species at the site.

Little Egret - Increasing records in our area, with several during September including one at Blackburn Meadows on 15th, an excellent four at Orgreave Lakes on 15th, one at Thrybergh CP on 15th, two SW at Rawmarsh on 18th, and one at Broomhead and More Hall Res on 22nd.

Great White Egret - Probable S at Orgreave Lakes on 12th October.

Whooper Swan - The earliest records were six E at Ramsley Res, seven at Silverwood Lagoon, and seven at Thrybergh CP, all on 10th October. Eight were W at Canklow on 11th, and 19 were at Langsett Res on 13th.

Pink-footed Goose - The first of this period were 70 SE at Hollow Meadows on 5th October. Higher counts during the month included 270 SE at Greenhill on 22nd, 320 E at Redmires on 24th, 200 SE at Rotherham on 24th, 300 E at Abbeydale on 24th, and 300 SE at Eyam on 26th. 750 over Wharnccliffe Chase on 30th was the highest count.

Garganey - An eclipse drake was at Catcliffe Flash on 11th-14th September. One was at Rother Valley CP on 15th, and two juvs were at Morehall Res on 18th.

Common Scoter - An adult male was at Thrybergh CP on 12th September. Two males and a

female were at Midhope Res on 13th October.

Red Kite - Singles at Low Moor on 14th September, and Bradfield Moors on 29th.

Marsh Harrier - Single birds at Thrybergh CP on 14th September, Rawmarsh on 25th, and Orgreave Lakes on 12th October.

Golden Plover - The flock at Redmires Res was counted at 54 on 29th October, with 110 NE at the same site on 30th.

Grey Plover - A single bird was at Morehall Res on 28th September, proving to be a long-staying bird which lingered at Broomhead Res until the 6th October. Elsewhere one was at Silverwood Lagoon on 4th October.

Sanderling - Winter plumage bird at Orgreave Lakes on 13th September.



This Common Scoter was at Thrybergh CP on 12th September. (Photo: M Smethurst)

Ruff - A ruff and reeve at Orgreave Lakes on the 21st September, and one was at Thrybergh CP on 25th October.

Bar-tailed Godwit - 10 SSE low over Fulwood caused some erratic driving from the observer. Elsewhere one was at Redmires Top Res on 19th October.

Mediterranean Gull - An adult was at Thrybergh CP on 4th October.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - Peak counts at regular roost sites were 360 at Redmires on 15th September, 400 at Orgreave Lakes on 20th, and 1,450 at Middleton Moor on 27th October.

Yellow-legged Gull - Records from Orgreave Lakes, Sheffield City Airport, Middleton Moor and Redmires. The highest counts were threes at the airport on 13th September and Orgreave on 20th, and four at Middleton Moor on 27th October.

Caspian Gull - A first winter was at the Redmires roost on 13th October.

Arctic Tern - Singles at Orgreave Lakes on 13th October, and Thrybergh CP on 19th.

Woodpigeon - Highest counts on visible migration during October included 1,000 at Redmires on 20th, 2,200 at Redmires on 24th, 3,000 at Moorhall Res on 27th, 3,650 at Redmires on 29th, and 3,000 at Lodge Moor on 30th.

Skylark - 160 were counted at Silverwood Lagoon on 23rd September. 52 were at Thrybergh CP on 28th, 78 SW at Rawmarsh on 6th October, and 52 S/SW at Redmires on 24th.

Swallow - 240 were counted S in two hours at Redmires on 27th September.

House Martin - Counts of 200+ were recorded at Morehall Tip on 20th September, Thrybergh CP on 22nd, and Whirlow Hall Farm on 22nd

Meadow Pipit - No particularly large counts, with the biggest being 320 SW at Redmires on 22nd September, and 268 SW at Rawmarsh on 5th October.

Rock Pipit - In September, records of singles at Orgreave Lakes on 26th and 29th, and Thrybergh CP on 27th. In October two probables were at Thrybergh CP on 11th, and a single on 15th, with other single birds at Orgreave Lakes on 12th, Redmires on 12th, and Barbrook Pools on 20th.

Fieldfare - The first notable count was 50 at Tootley Rifle Range on 15th October. Larger counts over the period included 506 at Westend on 19th, 650 S/SW at Redmires on 24th, 400 at Greave's Piece on 27th, 300 at Bar Brook Valley on 28th, 2,000 SW at Redmires on 29th, and 380 at Rawmarsh on 31st.

Redwing - Larger counts included 1,400 at Ramsley Res on 10th October, 820 W at Redmires on 13th, and 850 W/SW at Redmires on 24th.

Starling - Once again an impressive murmuration built up at Middleton Moor, with counts of 3,000 roosting on 26th October, and 4,500 on 27th.



This Mediterranean Gull was at Thrybergh CP on 4th October. (Photo: M Smethurst)

Chaffinch - 64 W at Redmires on 5th October was a significant count on visible migration.

Brambling - 50 were SW at Redmires on 20th October.

Greenfinch - Some more good finch movements from Redmires, with 88 W on 22nd September, and 52 W on 5th October. Ewden Height saw 63 S on 7th.

Goldfinch - 66 SW at Redmires on 22nd September, 125 SW at Rawmarsh on 5th October, and 70 SW at Redmires, also on 5th.

Linnet - Larger flocks included 300 at Onesmoor on 22nd September,

300 at Peat Pits on 26th, 250 at Orgreave Lakes on 26th October, and 180 at Owlthorpe on 29th.

Lesser Redpoll - 200 at Ramsley Res on 10th October was a notable count.

Two-barred Crossbill - The stars of the summer lingered at **Broomhead Wood**, with up to **three males recorded during this period. The highest count was two male, three female and one juvenile on 14th September. After 18th there was just one sighting, of three males and a female showing well on 27th.**

Crossbill - Flocks of up to 150 were at Broomhead Res up to 14th September.

Parrot Crossbill - The area's crossbill frenzy finally got the full set, with a probable **Parrot Crossbill at Redmires Bottom Res on 24th October.**

Hawfinch - A female was on a friend's garden feeder in Trolley on 25th October, giving one observer great views of this sadly hard-to-find species for the area.

Snow Bunting - One SW at Rawmarsh on 31st October.

Pete Mella



This eclipse male Garganey was at Catcliffe Flash during September. (Photo: A Deighton)

This issue's observers, with apologies for any omissions:

C Almond, MG Archer, J Atkin, B Bailey, S Bailey, SJ Barnes, AR Bell, RP Blagden, K Bower, RJ Bradley, SJ Branch, PL Brown, V Browne, RV Burton, R Butterfield, DJ Buttle, DM Bye, BM Carr, EO Chafer, I Chapman, J Clarke, B Cole, J Crank, J Crooks, A Deighton, S Draper, W Dudhill, CM Dunhill, H Egan, MG Fenner, P Garrity, DN Gill, G Grant, S Guymmer, R Harris, I Hedge, M Hibbert, A Hill, AA Hill, RD Hill, A Hobson, M Hodgson, J Jornbuckle, J Housden, C Hurst, G&J James, M Jarvis, Anne Johnson, A Jones, C Kelly, S King, J Kingsland, N Kipling, J Kirkman, M Lacey, D Langston, CL Leonard, P Leonard, P Lockwood, F Maddock, GP Mawson, P Mella, B Merryweather, M Miller, TH Minskip, J Mosley, D Mowbray, H Nichols, MG Oxlade, PH Pearsall, R Platts, NR Porter, M Purslow, MN Reeder, P Ridsdale, B Roberts, SJ Roddis, S Samworth, R Scally, J Sherwin, M Sherwin, A Siddall, D Simmonite, MA Smethurst, AHV Smith, B Spencer, D Stables, CG Stack, MJ Sweeney, SG Tebbutt, A Thompson, W Thomson, R Twigg, C Tyler, SE Vickers, D Warburton, AD Watson, MC Wells.