



SHEFFIELD BIRD STUDY GROUP
BULLETIN

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Cover pic: Pete Garrity

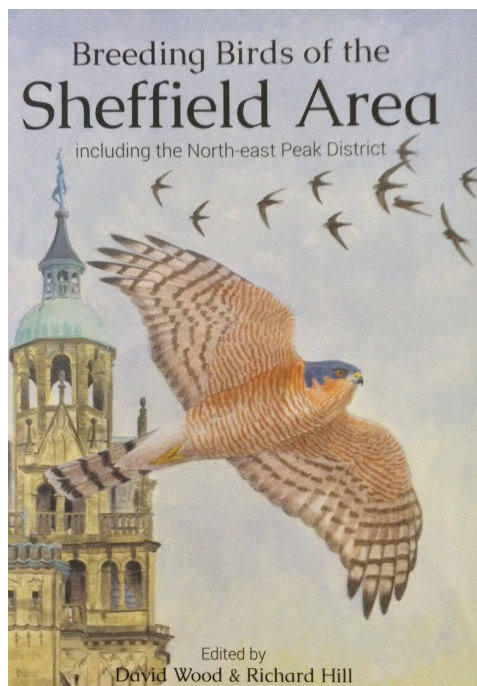
NEWS

The Atlas is here!

By the time this Bulletin is distributed the new SBSG Breeding Atlas will have been released at a launch event at the University of Sheffield.

The Atlas is the result of fieldwork undertaken between 2003 and 2008, and features the work of volunteer surveyors, writers, artists and photographers. It is the first breeding atlas for the Sheffield area since 1985, and is an invaluable resource detailing the fortunes of all breeding birds in the area.

For details of how to obtain a copy of the Atlas, please see page 11.



South Yorkshire Natural History Day

South Yorkshire Natural History Day will take place on 15th February 2014, at Treeton Miners' Welfare Club, Arundel Street, Treeton. The event will see speakers and displays from a range of local and county natural history groups, and takes place between 10.30 and 17.00. Entrance is free - to book a place please email Bob Croxton at bats@sorby.org.uk, or phone 0114 2880153.

Peter Robinson

The Group was saddened to hear of the death of long-time SBSG member Peter Robinson, who passed away in November during a trip to South Africa taking part in a village project.

Our thoughts are with his family.

New members

We welcome the following new members to the group - good birding to you all and we hope you enjoy your membership.

Ken Dobson, Tom Burns and Paul Lawless.

We also welcome back David Lockwood.

Conservation petitions

We have been asked to publicise a number of petitions over the last couple of months.

Firstly is a petition to help stop the slaughter of migrant birds in Egypt, where 140 million birds are killed every autumn, many of which are sold as restaurant delicacies. For more details, and to sign, see <http://www.change.org/de/Petitionen/stop-the-massive-bird-slaughter-in-egypt>.

Closer to home, a petition to accredit gamekeepers, with licenses to be removed if involvement in raptor persecution is proven. The petition closes on 27th February. See <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/46473>.

Finally, plans are afoot to build a cycle racing track at Pride Park in Derby, destroying much of The Sanctuary LNR, an urban oasis that houses breeding Little Ringed Plover and other sensitive species. The plans are contested by a large coalition of Derbyshire wildlife groups, including Derbyshire Ornithological Society, Carsington Bird Club, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derbyshire Natural History Society, Regional RSPB, Derbyshire Mammal Group and many more. The application, if it goes ahead, will set a dangerous precedent that threatens the security of all designated Local Natural Reserves in England. See <http://tinyurl.com/sanctuarylnr> for details of the plans and how to lodge any concerns, or email TheSanctuaryLNR@gmail.com.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Indoor Meetings

Stuart Davis - Eastward Ho: Birding in Georgia, Eastern Turkey & Kazakhstan

**Weds Feb 12th 2014, Sheffield University Arts Tower
Lecture Theatre 5, 7.15pm**

The bones of Stuart's talk will be photographs of 4 trips he has made to the eastern side of the Western Palearctic and further over to Kazakhstan. These have all been guided tours with local experts, looking at the special birds and some local history. He will start by talking about his last trip which was to Georgia, then lead into two trips taken to eastern Turkey. Finally he'll focus on Kazakhstan; although some of the birds are common to both a few are special and well worth the trip to see them in breeding plumage.

AGM & 2013 Review of the Year

**Weds Mar 12th 2014, Sheffield University Arts Tower
Lecture Theatre 5, 7.15pm**

It's the annual AGM, including the usual Group updates, and a review of the birds seen in 2013.

Other groups' dates

6th February 2014 - RSPB Sheffield Group indoor meeting. Steve Lovell on Lincolnshire Birds and Reserves. 7.30pm. £2.50 members, £4 visitors.

15th February 2014 - South Yorkshire Natural History Day. Treeton Miners' Welfare Club. See page 2 for details.

28th February 2014 - DOS Indoor Meeting. Paul Mather will be talking on 'The Bird on the Bench'. 7.30pm, Evergreen Club, Allestree, Derby. £1.50 non-members, £1 members.

6th March 2014 - RSPB Sheffield Group indoor meeting. David Tolliday on South Africa - The Kruger National Park.

8th March 2014 - DOS Indoor Meeting. AGM. 7.30pm, Evergreen Club, Allestree, Derby.

Field Meetings

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

Club contacts

Bulletin

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EQUIPMENT REVIEW

The most important pieces of equipment in a birders arsenal are undoubtedly his optics and to get optimum usage and maximum pleasure from them, they should be kept as clean as possible at all times. In practice, this is not an easy task as the effects of weather, atmospheric pollution and the occasional fingerprint or spilled yogurt incident can soon lead to a build up of grime on lens surfaces. This film of dirt is often almost invisible but it could mean the loss of a potentially good bird at that crucial moment.

There must be as many ways to clean optics as there are birders, some safer and more effective than others. Treated spectacle cloths, scraps of kitchen roll, tee-shirt fronts and dirty handkerchiefs should be avoided at all costs as these can cause permanent damage to all-important lens coatings and ruin an expensive investment as well as a days' birding! The trick is to clean lens surfaces as infrequently as possible and only when necessary - use rainguards, objective covers and cases whenever possible - they are provided with good reason! The method accepted as the simplest and safest way to clean up is to use a blower-brush and microfibre cloth or lens tissue, the former to remove any grit that may be present and the latter to clean and polish the lenses. After a lengthy sea-watching session it may also help to flush the objectives with deionised water first to dissolve and wash away the inevitable salt 'crust' before cleaning - but only if your binoculars are waterproof!

Over the years many weird and wonderful fluids and potions have been marketed and touted as the ultimate lens cleaner but the LENS PEN (LP-1/NLP-1) offers something a little different and it



appears to work well. Unsurprisingly, it comes in a compact, portable, pen-shaped/sized plastic package with a pocket clip. At one end is a handy retractable, goat hair lens brush which, though not fully protected from dust, means that, at a pinch a separate blower is not always necessary. At the other end, protected by the cap is a flexible rubber 'nib' section topped by a small, circular rubber applicator pad - the business end! In the cap is a dry, carbon-based cleaning compound which replenishes the pad ready for use when the cap is replaced and twisted. After the careful removal of dust and grit with the brush and a breath to lightly mist the lens, the pad is applied gently from the centre outwards in a circular motion. If done properly, the lens surface should be clean, streak-free and crystal clear after one pass but heavily soiled optics may need two applications; the whole process is quick, non-spill, dry and leaves no residue.

Critics have commented that the LENS PEN can cause scratching, but so can any friction-based cleaner if care isn't taken. There have also been claims that it can leave black carbon smears on lenses that are difficult to remove but, if the instructions are followed closely, all you should be left with are sparkling, crystal-clear optics. I have used a

LENS PEN for a number of years without issue and can highly recommend it. Several brands are available, including Nikon, Hama, Sunpak etc, but these are probably made by LENS PEN and rebadged and sold at a suitably inflated price. Almost inevitably there are cheap fakes out there which can damage lenses, so always be sure that you are buying the genuine article. The pens come in a variety of sizes, shapes & formulations suited for cleaning everything from digital camera screens and sensors to tablet screens as well as lenses and are, in my opinion, a brilliant addition to the list of essential accessories for birders.

At £7 or so for more than 500 applications, it won't break the bank and, used alongside a blower brush and microfibre cloth, should be all that you need to keep your binoculars, scope and camera in pristine birding condition.

For further information, see: <https://www.lenspen.com/>

Paul Leonard

Photo by Alex W, used under a Creative Commons License, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/yen867/3239212734>

Dave Gosney - Finding Birds In The Canary Islands

The main event at the November meeting was a film, presented by and starring Dave Gosney, covering a bird-finding expedition to the Canary Islands. The islands differ widely in climate in that those closest to Africa, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, have a predominantly desert environment, whilst the western islands such as Tenerife are wooded.

Dave's visit took place in August, when there are rather few birds around. Nevertheless there was much of interest, in part because geographical isolation, even within the archipelago, has resulted in the evolution of distinct races of several species. Tenerife has separate races of Robin and Goldcrest, whilst across the Canaries as a whole there may be four separate species of Blue Tit. Blue Chaffinch is found only on Gran Canaria and Lanzarote, only the Lanzarote site being accessible to visiting birders.

One aim of Dave's expedition was to find both species of Laurel Pigeon, the White-tailed Laurel Pigeon and Bolle's Pigeon. Both were found at two sites on Tenerife, Mirador de la Grimona and Mirador el Lance, with Sardinian Warbler, Canary Goldfinch and Sparrow Hawk being seen at Ruiz Gorge.

Crossing to Fuerteventura, Dave tracked down Houbara Bustard on the Tindaya Plain, also



recording Trumpeter Finch, Cream-coloured Courser, Fuerteventura Chat (a race of Stonechat), Spectacled Warbler, Great Grey Shrike, Barbary Partridge, Spanish Sparrow, Lesser Short-toed Lark and rather confiding Raven. At Costa de Janvier there were Kentish Plover, Dunlin, Ringed Plover and Sanderling, and numerous Ruddy Duck on the freshwater reservoir at Los Molinos. Black-bellied Sandgrouse were also located, the site at La Pared being, in Dave's view, the best spot in the Western Palearctic for this species.

Sea-watching around the islands gave sightings of Cory's and Great Shearwaters, Band-rumped, White-faced, Buller's and Wilson's Petrels, Long-tailed Skua and Sabine's Gull, and a feature of the film was the use of still or slow-motion images to highlight the distinctive features of the more difficult species.

The detail and expertise contained in this DVD will be of great value to anyone planning a birding trip to the Canaries, and Dave was warmly thanked for showing the film to the group at what was, in fact, its world premiere.

Rod Hinchliffe

Photo by Juan Emilio, used under Creative Commons License BY-SA
<http://flic.kr/p/e9SMpQ>

Alan Davies and Ruth Miller - The Biggest Twitch

The September lecture was by Alan Davies and Ruth Miller, well-known for their record-breaking 'Biggest Twitch' yearlisting challenge.

Giving the talk as a duo, with Ruth giving the first half and Alan the second, the couple, both former RSPB employees, told the story of their 2008 big year -

LECTURE REPORTS

a quest to break the existing world yearlisting record of 3,662. Setting themselves some basic rules - the birds must be wild, alive and free-flying, and both had to see or hear them - they sold their house, quite their jobs, and were off on the birdwatching adventure of a lifetime.

The route took eighteen months of planning, maximising bird numbers wherever they went, and taking in 27 countries. The year began at 3am on 1st January, with the pair standing in a pitch-dark sewage works in Tucson, Arizona, with Cactus Wren (Arizona's state bird) as their first bird of 2008. Three days, and 161 species, later they left Arizona, and moved on to Mexico, where adventures including a brakeless hire car and exploring Mayan ruins brought their tally to 413 in just 10 days, which included such ornithological riches as Lovely Cotinga, Keel-billed Toucan and Ocellated Turkey.

Ecuador next, and an important country for the pair - one that's about the same size as the UK, but with 1,600 species to be found. Toucans, parrots and hummingbirds were among the species here, as well as encounters with some of the otherwise elusive antpittas and wood-quails that local guides have trained to appear for food. By the end of January, Alan and Ruth's total was a staggering 1,028.

Leaving the Americas, it was off to Africa, starting in Ethiopia,

where some amazing birds, including Spot-breasted Lapwing, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill and Liben Lark (probably the most endangered bird they saw all year). Leaving Ethiopia with 1,604 species, it was on to Ghana, where White-necked Picathartes was a highlight among many great birds, including White-faced Scopes Owl, Pel's Fishing Owl and Black Bee-eater. 1,833 species down it was off back to Europe, with a trip to Spain. Here some of Europe's greatest birds - including Greater Flamingos, Spoonbills, Collared Pratincole, Azure-winged Magpie and Great Bustard - were added to the ever-growing list, which was now on 1,913.

By this time it was April, and the pair returned to Texas for migrant wood warblers, picking up a host of species including Black-throated Blue, Yellow, Magnolia, Prothonotary and Kentucky Warblers. Then it was a complete change of scenery and off to Scandinavia and northeast Europe, taking in Estonia, Finland and Norway, and arctic species including Pine Grosbeak, Gyrfalcon, Steller's Eider, Siberian Jay, Hawk Owl and more. By the middle of June, the pair were on 2,286 species.

Then it was back to South America - Brazil with its Jabirus, macaws and Harpy Eagles. Argentina for Black-browed Albatross and Lark-like Bushrunner. Peru for Tawny-throated Dotterel, Humboldt's

Penguin and Cock-of-the-Rock. They left South America at 2,930.

However returning home to the UK in August, the pair ran out of cash, and doubt was cast over their record-breaking attempt. However they were fortunate in having Ruth's mum to help them out financially, and off they went again!

This time it was off to South Africa, where a Cape Pelagic (despite Alan's terrible seasickness!) got them a host of new species, with further land-based birding in Lesotho taking them over the 3,000 mark. In Australia, even more birds were added (including on another sickness-inducing pelagic) and the world yearlisting record was finally equalled with a Southern Cassowary in a lady's back garden, and exceeded shortly afterwards on 31st October, with number 3,663, a Bluebonnet Parrot on a golf course. They left Australia with 3,718 species but didn't stop there - a trip to India took them well over 4,000, eventually leaving there with 4,226, and they year ended with a last adventure to Ecuador, where a highlight was a Tumbes Tyrant - a Peruvian endemic that was a first for the country. The year ended on 4,341 species, a comfortable world record.

Alan and Ruth were thanked for a great and well-illustrated talk, that showed a wealth of bird knowledge and took us through a big year of birding that most of us can only dream of!

Pete Mella

LECTURE REPORTS

Tristan Reid - Giving My Right Arm For Turkey

The October talk was by conservationist Tristan Reid, on his efforts to protect the birds of Turkey, in a rather unorthodox awareness-raising way.

The first part of Tristan's talk was a travelogue of his first trip to the country, which he gave with a passion that fully convinced why he fell in love with Turkey and its birdlife. He told of birding mountains and wetlands, and seeing a wide variety of species that included Alpine Chough, Caspian Snowcock, White-throated Robin, Upcher's Warbler, Rock Bunting, Iraq Babbler, Kurdish Wheatear, Black-headed Bunting and Black Francolin, to name but a few. I'm sure I wasn't alone in being surprised by the variety of birds that Turkey has to offer.

Tristan's impression of the country was that it had astounding wildlife, beautiful countryside and the most friendly people he'd ever met. However on returning home he found out some alarming truths - that much of the habitat he had visited was threatened with a range of developments.

Turkey's government has sold off much of the country's waterways to private companies, with a staggering 3,738 hydroelectric schemes now planned. As well as the threats to biodiversity, it is estimated that two million

villagers will be forced to migrate.

Tristan made a very alarming case for why this is bad news not only for Turkey, but for the whole region. Turkey is home to 30% of the endangered Northern Bald Ibis, and 25% of White-headed Duck, as well as endemic mammals, fish, reptiles and plants. 185 out of 305 Key Biodiversity Areas are threatened by the hydroelectric plans. The drying up of lakes will lead to the loss of humidity to areas that are important farming centres for rural communities, with thousands losing livelihoods, as well as tourism to these areas. Further afield, the drying up of Turkey will also have knock-on effects to waterways throughout the region, with effects felt as far away as Israel.

Tristan's initial plan to raise awareness for this cause was unusual but highly effective - to have twenty Turkish bird species (chosen via a poll on his website) tattooed on his arms. The tattoos were funded by Tristan himself, and all money raised (including donations from the tattooist who undertook the work) goes to Doga Dernegi - the Turkish Birdlife International Partner. So far this has raised Â£1,600. Tristan - who had no tattoos at all at the start of this project, and was terrified of needles - thought it was a headline grabber, and he was right! He has ended up with 24 species tattooed, with Dead Sea Sparrow (his first done) probably his favourite.

Future plans to raise money included a book, more lectures and a 4,000km walk across Turkey. The plan is to visit schools and communities, not with a negative story of what the country's government is doing, but a positive message of how Turkey's beautiful wildlife, countryside and people have inspired a British man to care so passionately about somewhere so far away - he wants to celebrate the country, and inspire and encourage. He also plans a scientific equipment donation scheme to schools, to allow children to get more involved in natural history.

We've had some very good speakers over the years, but few have given such an inspiring talk as Tristan tonight. His efforts and personal sacrifices to raise awareness of this little-known environmental story are outstanding, and his passion is infectious. Please visit his website <http://www.theinkednaturalist.co.uk/> for more details of his campaigns and how you can get involved.

Pete Mella

RECENT SIGHTINGS

1st November - 31st December 2013

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

Bittern - One was at Pit-house West on 17th December.

Bewick's Swan - Nine were E with Pink-footed Geese at Ewden Height on 1st November. Three were at Midhope Res on 19th December, and were presumably the same birds seen later in the day at Potteric Carr.

Whooper Swan - One at Thrybergh CP on 5th November, one at Eastwood on 21st, and two at Middleton Moor on 23rd and 24th. One was at Silverwood Lagoon on 6th December.

Pink-footed Goose - 1,980 over Ewden Height on a morning's vis mig on 1st November was a particularly good count, with 530 E at Rawmarsh at the same day. Elsewhere 330 flew ESE at High Bradfield on 7th, 275 E over Rawmarsh on 9th, 585 over Barbrook Pools and 500 SE over Hope Valley on 10th, and 500 NW at Sheffield Airport on 17th.

In December, the highest count was 450 SE at Langsett Moor on 9th.

Wigeon - A peak count of 200 at Rother Valley CP on 5th December.

Teal - High counts included 131 at Middleton Moor on 4th December, 104 at Rother Valley CP on 15th, and 117 at Firsby Res on 29th.

Pochard - 110 at Orgreave Lakes on 25th November was the highest for the site.

Tufted Duck - The highest counts included 216 at Thrybergh Banks on 22nd December, and 231 at Thrybergh CP on 29th.

Common Scoter - A pair were at Orgreave Lakes on 27th November.

Red Kite - Singles at Hutcliffe Wood on 2nd November, Rawmarsh on 30th, and Firsby Res on 29th December.

Pheasant - 200+ at Wentworth Lakes was a notable count on 15th November.

Golden Plover - Peak counts were 150 over Redmires on 2nd November, 100 at Onesmoor on 13th, 225 at Rawmarsh on 23rd, 141 at Thrybergh CP on 15th December, and 200 at Freebirch on 27th.

Grey Plover - One W at Thrybergh CP on 5th November.

Lapwing - Higher numbers included 180 at Thrybergh CP on 1st November, 210 at Redmires on 2nd, 230 over Damflask Res on 17th, 109 at Rother Valley CP on 15th December, and 176 at Freebirch on 18th.



This Mandarin was one of a pair photographed at Morehall Res. (Photo: P Garrity)

Black-tailed Godwit - One at Middleton Moor on 2nd November.

Mediterranean Gull - A second winter at Shirecliffe Tip on 8th November, and a first winter at Redmires Bottom Res on 10th.

Black-headed Gull - Numbers built up at Broomhead Res roost throughout the period, with the highest count 3,210 on 14th December. 2,600 were at the Lansett Res roost on 1st December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - 2,200 roosted at Middleton Moor on 3rd November. 292 roosting at Broomhead Res on 30th was notable for the site.

Herring Gull - A peak count of 443 at the Broomhead Res roost on 24th December. Elsewhere 107 were roosting at Langsett Res on 1st.

Yellow-legged Gull - At the usual roosts, Middleton Moor saw three on 2nd and 3rd November, two on 16th, and singles on 10th and 23rd November and 27th December; an adult was at Redmires on 2nd

November; two were at Orgreave Lakes on 16th November; and singles were at Broomhead Res on 24th November and 24th, 21st and 24th December. Elsewhere one was in fields at Wardlow on 24th December.

Caspian Gull - Adults at Langsett Res on 1st December, and Broomhead Res on 24th.

Glaucous Gull - A juv at Broomhead Res on 23rd November.

Iceland Gull - An adult Kumlien's Gull was at the Broomhead Res roost on 31st December.

Great Black-backed Gull - The Broomhead Res roost peaked at 226 on 26th December.

Kittiwake - Single adults at Thrybergh CP on 11th November and Broomhead Res on 4th December, and a first winter W over Morehall Res on 8th.

Woodpigeon - 26,880 S over the Sheaf Valley on 4th November was an impressive count, with other 1,000+ records

including 3,035 S/SW at Ewden Height on 1st November, 2,000 S at Shirecliffe Tip on 4th, and 3,250 S at Moscar Cross on 9th.

Waxwing - A modest winter for this species so far, with one W at Norwood Allotments the only November record, and no more until 20 at Collegiate Crescent on 17th December. 20 were at Norton Lees on 18th, and 20-30 birds were in the Ecclesall Road area on 25th and 28th.

Fieldfare - Some of the larger counts have included 2,144 SW at Ewden Height on 1st November, 700 feeding at Broomhead Res on 10th, 2,200 roosting at Langsett Moor on 1st December, and 600 at Silverwood Lagoon on 13th.

Redwing - Numbers generally lower than those of Fieldfare, with 371 S/SW at Ewden Height on 1st November, and 250 at Silverwood Lagoon on 13th December, among the highest counts.

Blackcap - Wintering birds reported from a range of sites throughout the period, including Millhouses, Hurlfield, Bents



This Nuthatch was photographed at Ravenfield (C. Tyler)

Green, Sharrow, Norton Lees, Broomhill, Malin Bridge, Moorgate, Kimberworth, Thrybergh, Hillsborough and Walkley Bank.

Great Grey Shrike - One seen in the Leash Fen/Ramsley Moor area on 14th, 27th and 31st December.

Starling - The roosting flock delighted many with murmurations at Middleton Moor through much of the period, with numbers reaching 50,000.

Brambling - An impressive flock of 400 were at Stanage Edge on

22nd November, with 200 still present the following day.

Linnet - Winter flocks of 100 at Carter Lodge on 16th November, and 220 at Harthill Res on 28th December.

Twite - One at Peat Pits on 19th November.

Common (Mealy) Redpoll - A male was caught and ringed at 70 Acre Hill on 10th November, with another record from the same site on 30th.

Two-barred Crossbill - After a gap of sightings of the remarkable Broomhead Res

flock, there were sparse records of single or heard-only birds during November, leading eventually to almost daily records in December as up to nine birds (including five males) gave regular views from a reliable site by the roadside.

Parrot Crossbill - 1-3 males were reported among the Broomhead Res crossbill flock on 13th December.

Pete Mella



The Two-barred Crossbills continued to delight observers at Broomhead Res (A. Deighton)

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

CD Abell, MG Archer, J Atkin, A Bailey, B Bailey, S Bailey, AR Bell, F Bird, AS Bilton, RP Blagden, K Bower, SJ Branch, PL Brown, V Browne, R Butterfield, BM Carr, EO Chafer, I Chapman, J Clarke, J Clifton, B Cole, J Crank, J Crooks, R Dale, A Deighton, W Dudhill, H Egan, H Ensor, MG Fenner, D Gains, P Garrity, S Gauton, C Gibson, DN Gill, G Grant, TH Grose, S Guymer, R Harris, M Hibbert, A Hill, AA Hill, RD Hill, RF Hinchliffe, DJ Hitchen, A Hobson, M Hodgson, J Hornbuckle, K Horton, J Housden, P Jackson, G James, Anne Johnson, C Kelly, JE Kenward, M Lacey, D Langston, P Leonard, P Lockwood, F Maddock, C Measures, P Mella, B Merryweather, M Miller, T Millson, TH Minskip, J Mosley, D Mowbray, R Platts, NR Porter, M Purslow, MN Reeder, B Roberts, D Roddis, R Scally, J Sherwin, A Siddall, MA Smethurst, GJ Speight, B Spencer, M Stacey, CG Stack, MJ Sweeney, M&L Taylor, SG Tebbutt, MS Thomson, R Twigg, C Tyler, SE Vickers, EC Vincent, D Warburton, MC Wells, G Williams, RDR Williams, JB Wilson, P&A Wilson, D Wood, D Woodhead, D Woodriff, Barnsley Bird Study Group, Thrybergh CP Bird Log.



Breeding Birds of the Sheffield Area including the North-east Peak District A New Atlas 2003-2008 Sheffield Bird Study Group

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 considered 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 2003-2008

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2014 RENEWAL FORM

Individual membership £14 Family membership £16

To renew, please see Martin Hodgson at any meeting, or complete this form and send your cheque payable to Sheffield Bird Study Group to Martin Hodgson at 142 Hangingwater Road, Sheffield, S11 7ET. Membership cards are now sent out in soft version as email attachments unless you contact Martin to ask for hard copy.

No sae is required.

Alternatively, you may pay by inter-bank transfer. ***If so, do not complete this form.*** Simply email Martin and ask for payment instructions.

For new members an application form is available at meetings, on the website or by email to martin@hodgson54.orangehome.co.uk

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