

NOVEMBER 2018

SBSG E-newsletter



Baltic Gull © Pete Garrity



“Look Back”
article by
Richard Hill
This edition 1985



“What to Look
Out For”
by
Ron Blagden
Nov - Dec



“Redmires
Field Trip”
by
David Wood
Redmires Vis-Mig

Welcome to the SBSG E-newsletter!

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

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



LATEST NEWS

A pick of the birding news from recent months



INDOOR MEETINGS

Don't miss out on our forthcoming indoor meetings



PHOTO GALLERY

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

Recent Sightings

with Mark Reeder
For the period Aug-Oct 2018



Black-necked Grebe

A single bird was on Meadowgate Lake, RVCP on 6th September.

Gannet

A juvenile flew east at Brightside on 24th September and was followed by another juvenile, which went south at Redmires the following day. Another juvenile circled Orgreave on the 25th October before leaving north.



Gannet - Mark Reeder

Bittern

One was watched going to roost at the ever faithful wintering site at Pit-house West on the 25th October.

Little Egret

Incredibly more records were received than of Grey Heron during the period! Other than numerous reports of singles up to 3 were

regularly seen between RVCP and Orgreave and two on the River Don at Stevenson Road.

Great White Egret

One was at Renishaw Park from the 15th -17th September. A fly-over (WNW) at Brightside almost caused the observer to crash his car. At Chatsworth a party of 3 were seen flying low to the south on the 11th October, perhaps a sign of things to come with this rapidly increasing heron.



Great White Egret - Andy Deighton

Whooper Swan

Birds returning for the winter were first reported on the rather early date of 24th September when 4 spent 5 minutes at Silverwood Lagoons, before transferring to Thrybergh C.P where they remained until mid-morning. At Middleton Moor two braved the lagoon on 6th October, with

another 2 there on the 27th. A single was on the fishing ponds at Crowhole on the 9th. A party of at least 3 passed over Highfields at 23:00hrs on the 24th. A party of 5 were at Orgreave on the 26th from early morning until at least 10am, indicating that the 5 south over Crookes Valley Park were different birds.



Whooper Swan - Mark Reeder

Pink-footed Goose

In line with the previous species birds were on the move in late September, with the first skein reported heading SE over Barbrook on the 22nd. On 28th September at least 300 (in 10 skeins) went west at Aldwarke with 140 west at Catcliffe and 200 west at Wisewood. There was no further activity until late October when a total of 350 headed east over Middleton Moor. On the 24th skeins of 180 and 160 were seen heading east over Brightside and Barbrook respectively.

Mandarin

A total of 116 were at Linacre Res on the 21st October. The highest count there since October 2016.

Red-crested Pochard

Higher than usual reports were received during the period; presumably involving the dispersal of feral birds from the Idle Valley. At Thrybergh 4 were present on the 1st September, with 2 at Orgreave the same day. A further 3 were at

Rother Valley on the 12th October, with a single there the following day. Thrybergh hosted another 3 on the 19th.



Red-crested Pochard - Mark Reeder

Common Scoter

The only record was of a drake at Silverwood Lagoon on the 21st September.

Honey Buzzard

One south at Midhope on the 5th August was the only report.

Red Kite

There were 12 reports from several locations during the period with the exception of Norwood Allotments and Aston all were from the west of the City.

Marsh Harrier

A single cream-crown was in the Midhope/ Broomhead area from mid to late August. The



Marsh Harrier - Richard Hill

only record outside of August came from Middleton Moor on the 28th September.

Osprey

In a year that has been generally poor for this species records were received during September from Hurfield on the 1st and 9th, Wadsley Common on 1st and Midhope 26th. The only record during October was of a bird heading east at Wharncliffe Heath on the 21st.

Avocet

A rather late bird was at Middleton Moor from the 20th – 21st October.

Grey Plover

One was at Middleton Moor on the 1st September.

Sanderling

Single juveniles were at Langsett Res' on the 4th August and at Orgreave from the 27th-28th August.

Ruff

Singles were at Orgreave on 4th August and Thrybergh C.P on the 7th September.

Black-tailed Godwit

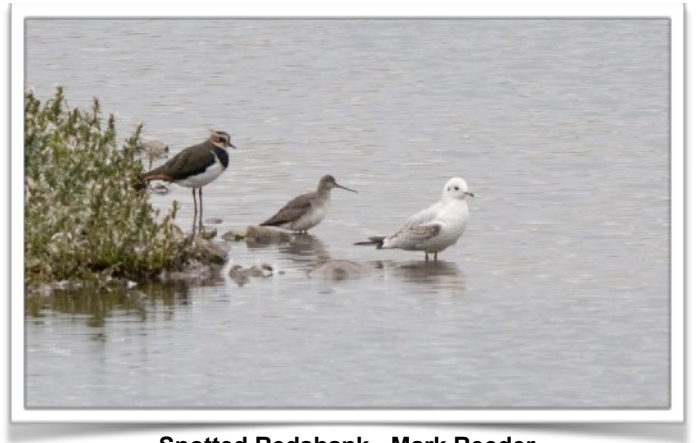
The only report was of 2 at Orgreave on the 8th August.

Spotted Redshank

At Orgreave singles were present on the 5th and 9th September.

Greenshank

During August singles were at Silverwood Lagoon (16th) and Orgreave (31st – 1st September). Another headed south at Silverwood Lagoon on the 8th September and a late bird was at Orgreave on the 13th October.



Spotted Redshank - Mark Reeder

Green Sandpiper

The only record during the period was of one at Catcliffe Flash from the 18th – 20th August.

Wood Sandpiper

Two circled Orgreave on the 7th August then lost to view.

Baltic Gull

The Effingham Street bird was last reported on the 1st August.



Baltic Gull - Pete Garrity

Yellow-legged Gull

Reported from six localities during the period with the highest counts during October at Middleton Moor with 9 (14th) and (17th).

Caspian Gull

During August juveniles were recorded at Effingham Street Weir (1st) and Langsett Res' (18th and 21st). A juv at Effingham Street



Caspian Gull - Andy Deighton

in late August was seen frequently until the end of September, what was assumed to be the same bird was seen at Poolsbrook C.P (9th) and Orgreave (16th). The only October record came from Middleton Moor on the 14th.

Kittiwake

Following stormy conditions 2 juv's flew north at Strines on the 28th October.

Sandwich Tern

One was heard, but not seen, at Orgreave on the 6th September.

Arctic Tern

Two juveniles were at Orgreave on the 4th September with another there briefly on the 16th.

Black Tern

The only record during the period came from Orgreave on the 26th August.

Woodpigeon

Heavy S/SW passage was noted on the 18th and 19th of October. The highest reported

movement came from Agden, where in excess of 2000 birds were recorded heading south.

Swift

The last report was of a single at Manor Fields on 16th September.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was seen briefly at Redmires Top Res' on 25th September.

Sand Martin

The last report during the period was of 20 at Thrybergh C.P on 26th September.

Swallow

A single at Ramsley Moor was the last to be reported during the period.

House Martin

One at Grange Park Golf Course on the 7th October was the last report.

Meadow Pipit

A notable passage of 2340 went SW at Redmires in just 2 hours on the 22nd September.

Rock Pipit

Singles were at Redmires on 25th September, Orgreave 2nd October and Thrybergh on the 26th.

Black Redstart

One at West Nab, Bradfield on the 17th October. The only record so far this year.

Fieldfare

The first birds of the autumn were reported from Redmires, Thurcroft and Sothall on the 7th October.

Redwing

Two at Thrybergh C.P on the 5th October were the first of the autumn.

Lesser Whitethroat

One in the Porter Valley (26th October) feeding among blue tits was the last of the year.

Whitethroat

One at Redmires bottom res' on 16th September was the last of the year.

Garden Warbler

The final record of the year was at Stubley Hollow on the 6th September.

Willow Warbler

One at Shirecliffe on 13th September was the last to be reported.

Spotted Flycatcher

The last report of the year came from Shirecliffe on 6th September.



Spotted Flycatcher - Justin Morey

Great Grey Shrike

One spent the day at Big Moor on the 10th October.

Brambling

The first reports of autumn birds came on the 7th October. On the 22nd at least 200 were present at Ladybower.



Spotted Flycatcher - Bob Russon

Siskin

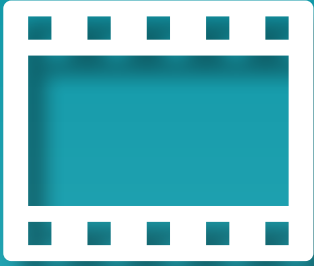
Birds on the move were reported from Redmires on the 22nd (129) and 30th September (110).

Crossbill

Migrating birds were reported at/over 19 localities during the period. Highest counts came from Holling Dale (30) on 16th September and Redmires (33 and 35) on the 30th September and 7th October.



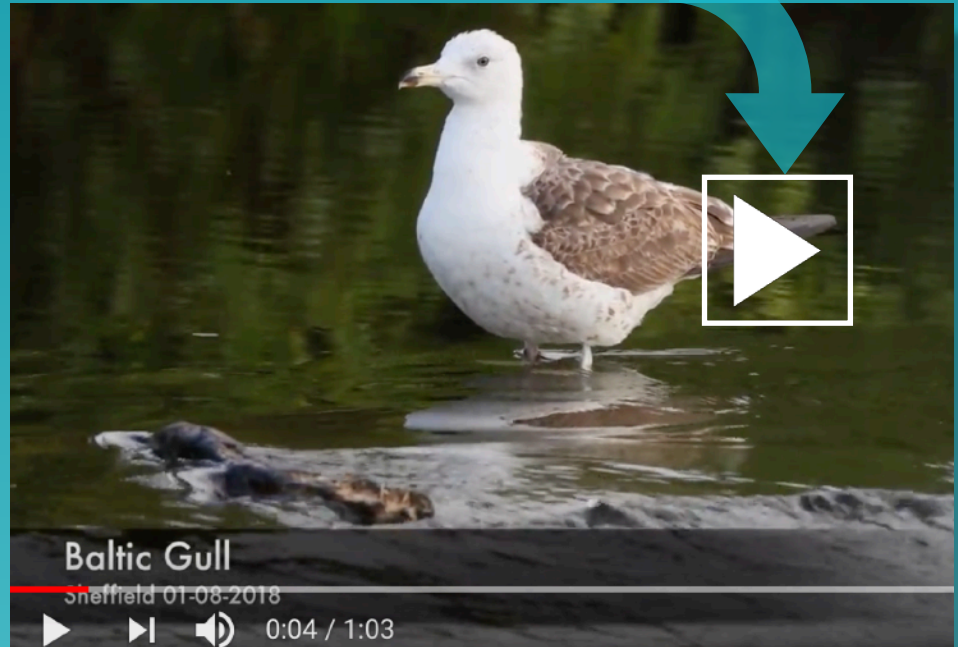
Crossbill - Bob Russon



Featured video

Baltic Gull at Effingham Street by Peter Garrity

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

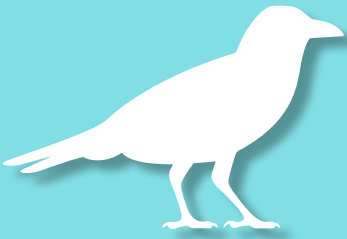


Featured video

Waders at Orgreave Lakes by Roy Twigg



LATEST NEWS

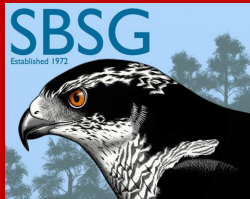


HAVE YOUR SAY!



HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

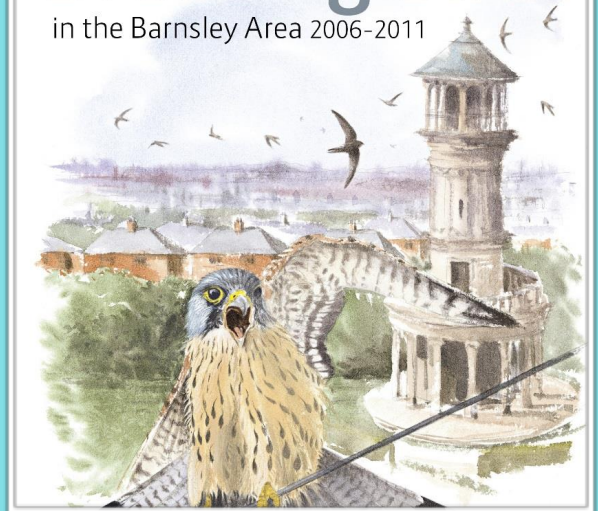
WIN £25



**SBSG MEMBERSHIP SURVEY
COMING SOON!**

Atlas of Breeding Birds

in the Barnsley Area 2006-2011



ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS in the Barnsley Area 2006-2011

Limited edition of 200 copies printed of this fantastic study - to get your copy contact Pete Middleton by email [here](#) .

Price is £35 for non-sponsors plus £5 p&p. Pete may be at an upcoming SBSG indoor meeting with copies available on the night (TBC).

Membership News

Martin Hodgson will begin taking 2019 subscriptions at the December indoor meeting. Yet again the fee is held at £14 single and £16 household membership. Cash or cheques are both acceptable, and exact change is particularly welcome. Members who wish to pay by post or bank transfer may do so any time from 1 December.

SBSG 2019 Calendar

The Calendar is currently in production and will be available at the December indoor meeting - for pre orders please contact a committee member

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Indoor Meetings
 Visit [here](#) to see the
 complete list of
 indoor meetings for
 2018 & 2019.



Wednesday November 14th

**Jack Ashton - Booth
 Thomas Grose
 Mark Thomas**

**Investigating Raptor
 Persecution in the
 Peak District**

The link between driven grouse shooting and the illegal shooting, trapping and poisoning of birds of prey has been widely documented. Raptors like peregrines and goshawk are sadly notable by their absence in many upland areas of the UK where they should be flourishing. The Peak District has become a particular black hole. The RSPB has received numerous reports of persecution in the Peak, including recently an eyewitness account of a red kite being shot out of the sky in the Park near Manchester.

This summer, a scientific paper focusing on the Peak District National Park found a significant association between confirmed raptor persecution incidents and moorland burning – a practice associated with driven grouse moor management. It also showed that goshawk and peregrine populations were in catastrophic decline in northern Dark Peak, where most of the Park's grouse moors are, yet increasing in the nearby southern White Peak, where there is virtually no driven grouse shooting.



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

Wednesday 12th December
Mike Pilsworth
A Year on the Humber



Mike Pilsworth

Born and raised in Doncaster and have now been birding for around 35 years. I've been working in nature conservation for over 25 years in various roles from bird observatory warden, protecting stone curlews and little terns, working with farmers to deliver conservation on farms. For the last 14 years I have been RSPB warden on the Humber based at Blacktoft Sands. I am fascinated by changing bird populations and migration we are living in exciting and challenging times to be a birder and work in nature conservation.

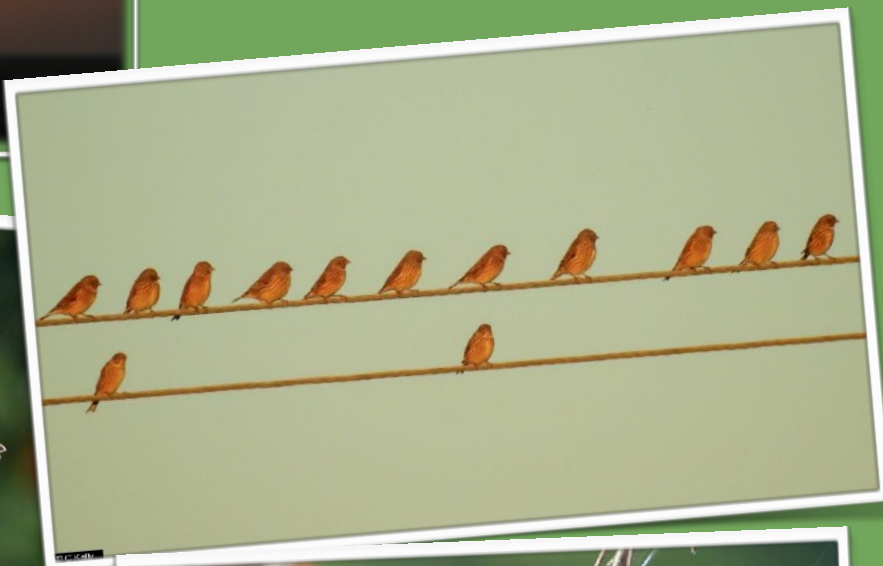
**“Don’t forget to join us later for our traditional xmas
tipple 🍷🍷🍷 and mince pies 🥧🥧🥧🥧 “**

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

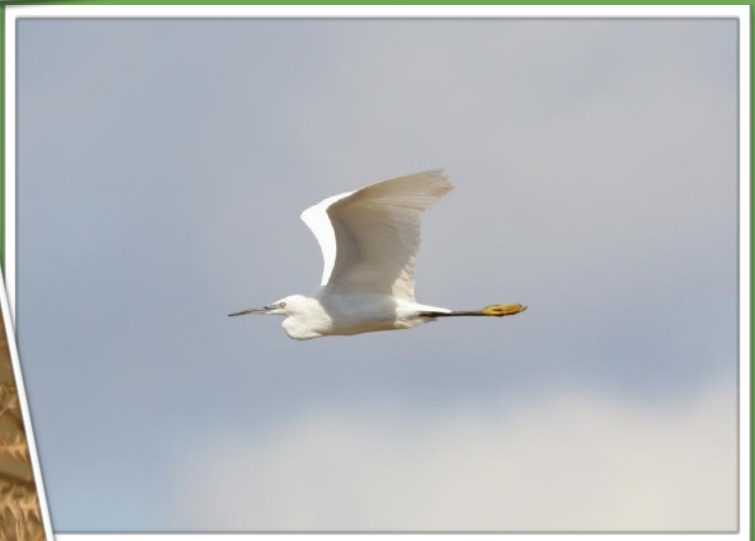
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Photo Gallery

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









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Iolo Williams - The Birds of Wales (Sept 12th 2018)



September's combined meeting with Sorby Natural History Society, held in the University's Diamond Building, saw over two hundred members and friends gather to hear the

Welsh wild-life and TV presenter, Iolo Williams. His charismatic Cymric lilt, coupled with mischievous humour, guaranteed complete attentiveness throughout his *Birds of Wales* talk.

Partly review, partly autobiographical, and peppered with amusing anecdotes, Iolo Williams's presentation was based on his forty-five-year obsession with birds. We heard about the country's raptors, including the Red Kite, Hen Harrier, Golden Eagle, and his favourite, the Goshawk. We learnt not just about the birds themselves, but also the many dangers they face in the twenty-first century and the measures needed to protect them. No-one escaped his scything criticism, be they landowners, gamekeepers, or politicians. We were also introduced to the





habitats - coastal cliffs, mountains, meadows, bogs, woods and mudflats - and met, *en route*, the Choughs and Black Guillemots of Anglesey, the Ring Ouzels of the moorland, and the godwits of Dee's estuary.

Iolo Williams also stressed the sad decline of many Welsh species, a personal observation confirmed by the groundbreaking *State of Nature: Wales* report. Once common species, such as the Curlew, Golden Plover and Lapwing, are now as scarce as the enigmatic Red Kite. However, while global warming is undoubtedly a significant factor, he stressed that climate change might benefit other species, including the Dartford Warbler.

Furthermore, while altered farming methods have adversely affected many passerines, such as the Starling, Yellowhammer and Twite, others, including the House Sparrow and Stonechat, appear to be doing well in Wales.

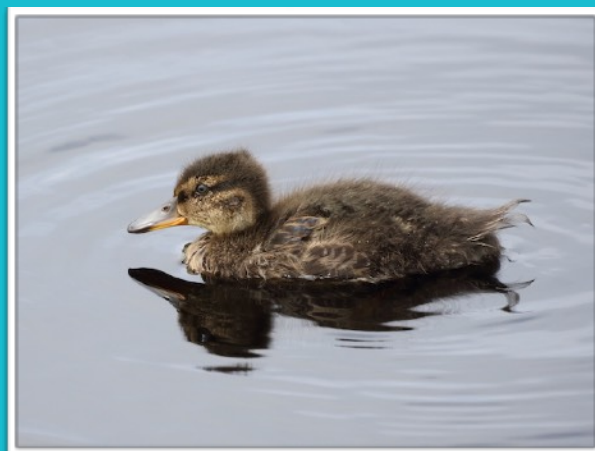
A lively question and answer session concluded this most entertaining and memorable meeting; an interaction that reflected the audience's interest and involvement in the issues discussed. Indeed, the success of this first joint venture has encouraged the Committee to consider similar such meetings in future years.



John Reilly

Mystery Bird November 2018

Here's another tricky challenge for you - continuing with the juvenile bird theme - again taken this summer - answer to be revealed in the next issue



Local Field trips

Pit-house West / Rother Valley CP- Sun 9th December

1-4 p.m. (with back-up TBC in case of poor weather)

The final field trip of the year will visit Rother Valley CP and Pit-house West. After a quick walk to Meadowgate Lake, the nature reserve at Rother Valley, where a good range of wildfowl should be present, for the last hour of the day we will drive round to Pit-house West, renowned in recent years for its reed- and rush-fringed pools that have regularly hosted a wintering Bittern, although sightings are overwhelmingly of the bird flying to roost at what has simply become known as 'Bittern Pool'. Willow Tit, Water Rail



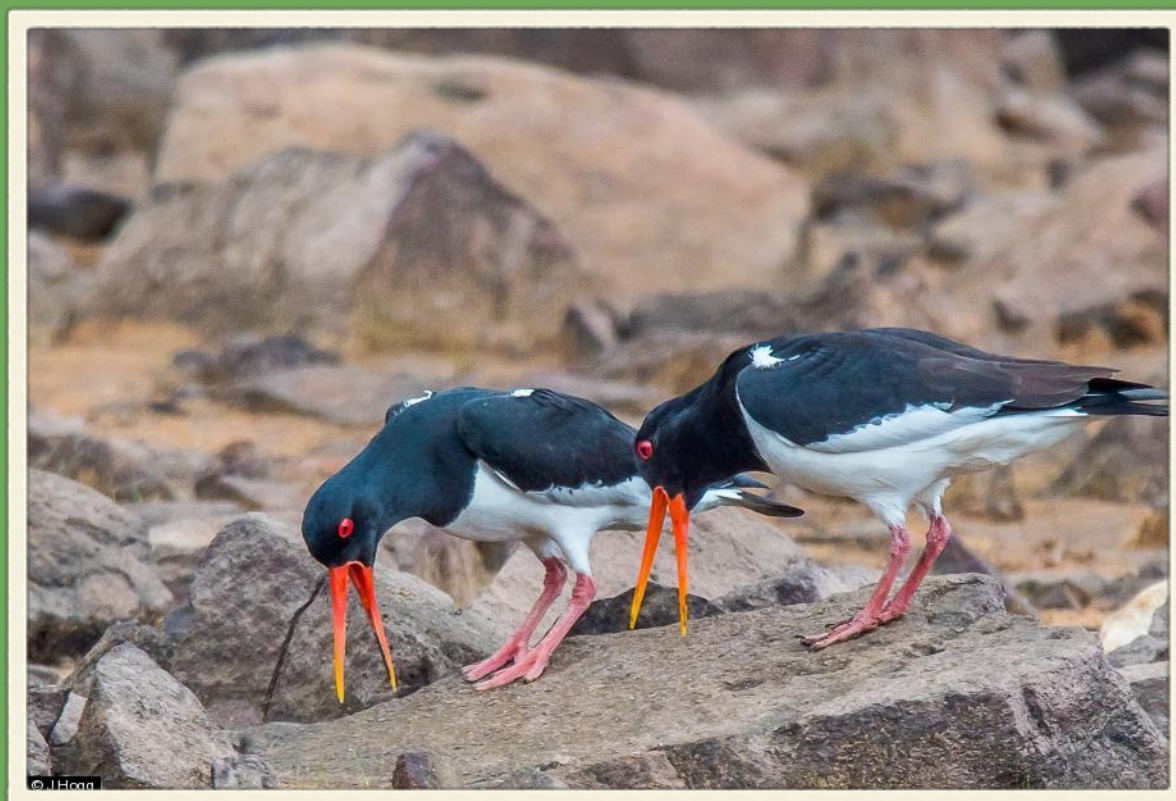
Bittern at Pit-house West - Photo by David Wood

and even Cetti's Warbler are also possibilities. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the junction of Valley Road and Nethergreen Avenue, Killamarsh (SK459813) or c.2:45 p.m. at the stub entry road off the A57 roundabout between Beighton and Swallownest (SK448844). Parking for Pit-house West can also be found on the roads of the industrial estate N of the same roundabout, in the vicinity of the Elmwood Farm carvery. Warm clothing and wellingtons strongly recommended.

Photo of the Month

We have a joint winner over this period so the “images” chosen by members for May-July 2018 were:

1. Oystercatchers by John Hogg



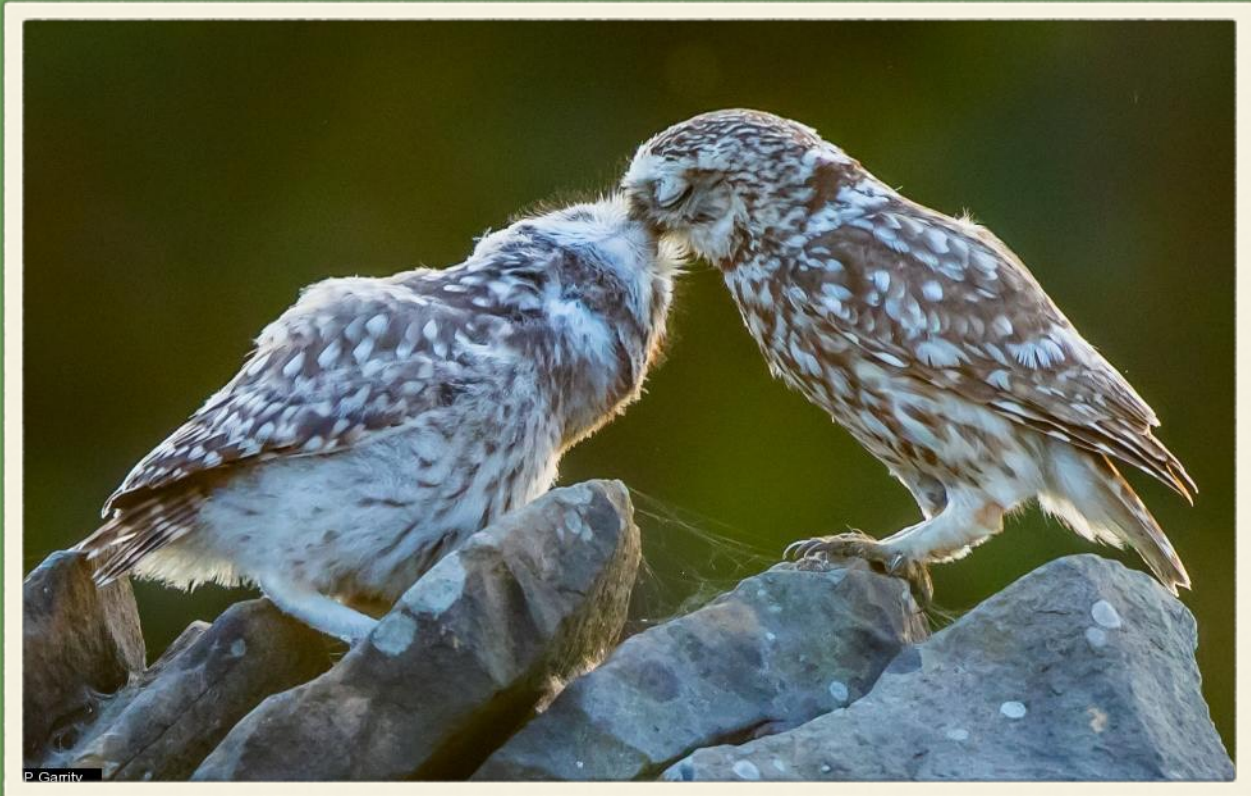
Equipment: Nikon D750; 150-600mm Sigma Sport; 1.4 x TC; angle lens (850mm EFL)

Settings: 1/400th; F6.3; ISO 400

Notes: “Taken at Redmires Middle Reservoir on the morning of 2nd June. There were three Oystercatchers on that morning and they obligingly landed about 40 - 50 metres away. I think two were males as they were competing for the female's attention. Classic case of two's company and three's a crowd”.

Photo of the Month

2. Little Owl 2 by Pete Garrity



Equipment: Canon 1DX mkii; Canon 500mm F4 mkii; 2 x TC; Tripod & Hide

Settings: 1/400th; ISO 2000; F8

Notes: “Taken on 15th July at my village of Green Moor. This was only my second visit of the season and typically I set up my hide in the wrong place. Just as the sun set my luck changed and an owlet landed on a wall to my left at distance and between me and the sun. I quickly opened the side flap on the hide repositioned my tripod and switched to my 2.0 x TC for maximum magnification. I was again lucky to get an adult land and feed the owlet taking a series of images of which this is probably the sharpest”.

Photo of the Month

Due to low voting numbers in this feature we have decided to change the way we award photo of the month going forward. We still think that it is extremely important to encourage the submission of images to the website for record purposes and for the enjoyment of our members so we will now vote at our committee meetings in order to select the best images for showcasing in our regular newsletter, perhaps publication in our calendar and possibly for use in the SBSG annual report.

We will select from the images submitted to the SBSG website during the period preceding the issue of the relevant e-newsletter.

Bird of the Month



November's Bird of the Month – Woodpigeon

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

Mystery Bird ?



Mystery Bird (2) for May 2018



[Click here for the answer](#)

Mystery Bird for Sept 2018



[Click here for the answer](#)





We are delighted to announce our 2019 programme for Indoor Meetings - Please refer below for details and note that the proposed venue is the Diamond - further details will be posted via our web-site - Many thanks to Roy Twigg once again for a superb line up!

Sheffield Bird Study Group – 2019 Indoor Meeting Programme

Date	Speaker	Subject	Location
January 9th	Stuart Davis	Spring in Michigan	Diamond – TBC
February 13th	Keith Clarkson	Discovering Iceland	Diamond – TBC
March 13th	2018 Review of the Year*	Various	Diamond – TBC
April 10th	Richard Baines	Yorkshire Turtle Dove Project	Diamond – TBC
May 8th	Mary Colwell	Curlews	Diamond – TBC
September 11th	Mark Cocker	Our Place: Do we have time to save British Wildlife?	Diamond – TBC
October 9th	John Reilly	New Guinea - The Evolution of Paradise	Diamond – TBC
November 13th	Bob Croxton	Eastern Europe	Diamond – TBC
December 11th	Lucy Mitchell	The Nightjar	Diamond – TBC

* Review of the Year will be followed by a number of short presentations by members



e-Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed the November 2018 issue of the e-newsletter. We are always happy to include topical articles from members so if you have something for us to consider for future issues then please contact me. If you have videos taken in the recording area I would love to see them and perhaps include them in our regular video feature.

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

