

SEPTEMBER 2018

SBSG E-newsletter



Audouin's Gull © Andy Deighton



“Look Back”
article by
Richard Hill
This edition 1984



“What to Look
Out For”
by
Ron Blagden
Sept - Oct



“Sheffield
Peregrines”
by
David Wood
Ringing Success

Welcome Back to the SBSG E-newsletter!

It has taken some time but we have finally got some way to producing a new vibrant design and format which we hope you will enjoy

Our new format introduces “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 hope you like the new features but 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 May-July 2018

For the period May-July 2018



Black-necked Grebe

Singles were reported from Orgreave on 28th May and Thrybergh C.P on 18th July.

Little Egret

Unusually there were no records received during May and June. During July records were received from Firsby and Thrybergh/Silverwood on the 13th. Two birds commuted between RVCP and Orgreave from the 18th until the month end.



Garganey - Mark Reeder

Garganey

A pair spent the day at Orgreave on the 9th June with an eclipse bird at nearby Catcliffe Flash on the 22nd July.

Common Scoter

The only record was of a drake at Orgreave on 26th May.

Honey Buzzard

A dark bird circled Calver mid-morning on 26th May.



Honey Buzzard - Andy Deighton

Red Kite

An incredible 40 reports (from 39 locations) were received during the period. A party of 5 at



Red Kite - Andy Deighton

Cutthorpe on 25th June was not surprisingly a Derbyshire and Sheffield area record. At Upper Midhope on 29th July at least 3 were present in the Low Moor area.

Marsh Harrier

A total of 7 reports were received from the 12th May to 19th July. With the exception of singles at Silverwood Lagoon and Thrybergh C.P, 16th June and 19th July respectively, all other records came from the northwest moorlands.

Osprey

Singles passed through several sites during May; Firsby 4th, Upper Midhope 21st, Bamford 23rd, Derwent Valley 24th, Dalton/Thrybergh 27th and Wharnccliffe Res' 28th. The only other record was of a bird being mobbed by gulls over Wingfield (Rotherham) on 10th June.

Common Crane

Two were reported heading southwest high over Blackburn Meadows at 05:20 on 6th May.

Sanderling

Records came from the muddy margins of Middleton Moor, Orgreave and Redmires during



Sanderling - Mark Reeder

late May. A single at Middleton Moor on 27th was followed by at least 6 birds during the following morning at Orgreave. A single bird took advantage of the rare conditions at Redmires and spent 3 days there from the 28th.

An adult was at Orgreave on 9th June with another there on 21st July.

Ruff

A partial summer-plumaged male was at Orgreave on 16th.

Black-tailed Godwit

Recorded only in July with singles at Redmires 4th and Orgreave 11th and 26th.

Whimbrel

A single north through Orgreave on 4th May was disappointing.

Greenshank

Like the previous species a very disappointing spring with just 2 birds reported; Redmires 13th – 17th May and Middleton Moor 19th May.

Green Sandpiper

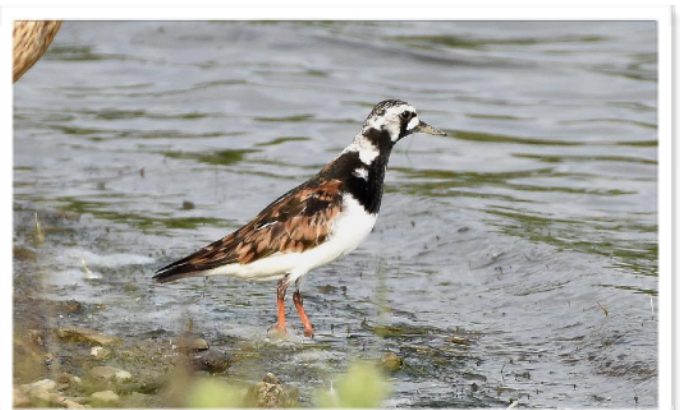
Singles were at Orgreave 26th June, Firsby 23rd July and Redmires 31st July.

Wood Sandpiper

1 spent the day at Orgreave on 12th May.

Turnstone

At Orgreave 1 present from the 25th-28th May.



Turnstone - M Smethurst

Mediterranean Gull

A juvenile was reported at Orgreave on several dates between 15th and 26th July. What was presumably the same was also at Norfolk Bridge on the 19th. This colour-ringed bird was one of two young reared at Old Moor this year. What may conceivably have been the same juv was at Parkgate Basin on 22nd. A 1st summer bird was at Underbank Res' on 28th.

AUDOUIN'S GULL



Audouin's Gull - Andy Deighton

An almost unbelievable record of a 2nd summer bird at Norfolk Bridge on 13th July. Found by Andy Deighton at 18:30, as it drank from the weir, then relocated on the adjacent roof tops until 20:30, before presumably leaving to roost.



Audouin's Gull - John Hewitt

It was again on the weir at dawn the following morning but vanished after 30 minutes never to be seen again. This will prove to be the 8th accepted British record and only the 2nd in

Yorkshire. A well deserved find that our late friend Martin Garner would have been most delighted with.



Baltic Gull - Andy Deighton

Baltic Gull

Not content with finding one first Andy struck gold again when he found the areas first Baltic



Baltic Gull - Andy Deighton

Gull. Though not (yet) considered a separate species to Lesser Black-backed Gull, proven records are so few that it is actually rarer than the previous species. Initially found on 9th July and subsequently identified from the colour-ring that it was wearing, it was not seen again until the 25th where it made several usually brief appearances until the 28th.

For more information on Fjordholmen, the Norwegian Baltic Gull colony this bird originated from, there will be a paper in the forthcoming September issue of British Birds.

Yellow-legged Gull



Yellow-legged Gull - Peter Garrity

Reports were received four locations during the period i.e. Attercliffe (Norfolk Bridge Area), Middleton Moor, Orgreave and Redmires, with a maximum of 10 at the latter location on 28th July.

Caspian Gull

The only record concerned a pristine adult at Redmires on 29th July.

Iceland Gull

A summering bird was reported at Duckmanton, Carr Vale and Orgreave between the 17th and 26th May.

Sandwich Tern

2 were reported over farmland at Moorwood Lane on 29th July.

Arctic Tern

A very poor May for this species with 3 at Middleton Moor on 7th and 8 at Orgreave 22nd with a single there briefly the following morning.

Black Tern

A single at Orgreave in the evening on 24th May, was followed by 3 at RVCP the following afternoon.

Cettis Warbler

Singing birds were reported from 3 sites in the east of the area.

Wood Warbler

Singing males reported from 7 locations (with a maximum of 6 at 1 site) during May, indicating a most excellent year for this stunning species.



Nightjar - Mark Reeder

Nightjar

One was found roosting in a part constructed warehouse at the AMRC, Waverley on 24th May.



Featured video

Singing Pied Flycatcher at Padley Gorge by Peter Garrity

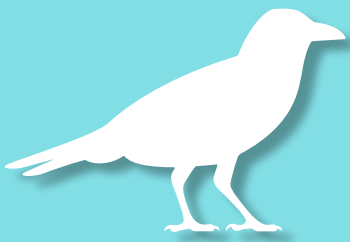
Our video feature spotlights our members recent efforts within the recording area. Please note that at the moment media is hosted by YouTube and therefore the video will open in your web browser. After watching the video simply close your browser to return to the newsletter.



Featured video

Churring Nightjar on the moorland edge by Peter Garrity





LATEST NEWS



STUNNING FIND BY SBSG STALWART



Andy Deighton finds the UK's 8th Audouin's Gull at Norfolk Bridge in Sheffield - Read his full account on Birdguides [here](#)

HEN HARRIER DAY 2018



The SBSG were represented by Chris Greenwood and Emma Hughes at this momentous event on the 4th of August - pictured here with Natalie Bennett (Green Party) - A full report on the day's events and notable speakers can be found [here](#)

Indoor Meetings

Visit [here](#) to see the complete list of indoor meetings for 2018. Location is normally Sheffield University Hicks Building, Lecture Theatre 5 and the meetings will commence at 7.15pm



Wednesday September 12th

Iolo Williams

The Birds of Wales

Indoor Meeting in association with
Sorby Natural History Society

Special Venue - The Diamond - 32
Leavygreave Rd, Sheffield S3 7RD

Iolo Williams is a Welsh naturalist, broadcaster, public speaker and writer who's worked in conservation for over 30 years.

He is most widely known as a popular member of the Springwatch, Autumnwatch and Winterwatch presenting team and for presenting series such as Wild Wales, Rugged Wales and Great Welsh Parks for BBC 2.

Iolo's early years

Iolo was born and brought up in mid Wales and studied in London for a degree in ecology at North East London Polytechnic. After graduating he went on to work for the RSPB for almost 15 years as Species Officer for Wales, a job he loved as he worked with some of the country's rarest breeding birds. Eventually this brought him to the attention of the media and BBC 2's Visions of Snowdonia and Birdman followed Iolo's work as an RSPB officer.

In the late 1990s Iolo left the Society to work full-time in the media. His series, in both Welsh and English, concentrated on the wildlife of Wales and the world and he co-presented several network series such as Nature's Top 40 and Countryfile. Iolo has written several books on Welsh wildlife in both English and Welsh and he is a regular contributor to several magazines, including 'BBC Wildlife'.

Members contact the [Membership Secretary](#) to reserve your seat!

Wednesday 10th October
Tim Birkhead
The Sex Life of Birds



Bird lovers

The mating behavior of birds was once forbidden territory: it was the one aspect of ornithology no one wanted to write about. Darwin discussed the pollination and fertilization of plants with impunity, but avoided doing the same with animals. The late 1960s saw the so-called sexual revolution, when traditional codes of behavior were overthrown, both by normal people but also by zoologists as well. This coincided with the birth of a new and exciting area of zoology known as behavioural ecology – that revolutionized our understanding of bird mating behavior. Behavioural ecology (or ‘selfish-gene thinking’), allowed ornithologists, like myself, to make sense of some of the most curious anatomy and behaviours of birds that had puzzled — and embarrassed — previous generations of bird lovers.

Naturalist, zoologist and author Tim Birkhead will be presenting the Sex Life of Birds at the SBSG’s October Indoor meeting.

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

[Back to Welcome Page](#)

Photo Gallery

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





© D&A Wilson



© S. Wainwright



© S. Hardy

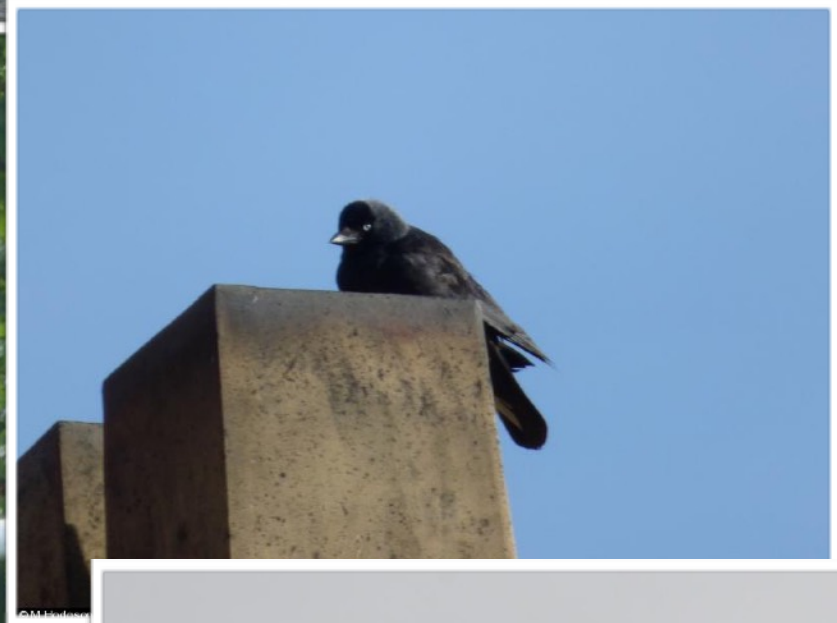


© copyright J. May



© P. Heston





[Back to Welcome Page](#)



Tim Birkhead - Guillemot Eggs

We think — after six years of work — we have finally cracked the problem of why guillemot eggs are the shape they are. The work is the combined efforts of Jamie Thompson, Bob Montgomerie, John Biggins and myself.

For those in the UK, I will talk about this on 'Inside Science' on Radio 4 at 1630h today (23 August: repeated at 2100h), thereafter on BBC iPlayer).

The link to the paper, published in *Auk, Ornithological Advances* (which is Open Access and please note that because the *Auk* is North American the Common guillemot is referred to as 'common murre') is here:

<https://doi.org/10.1642/AUK-18-38.1>

We also made a short video on Skomer Island, describing our findings:

<https://youtu.be/e-189LIYa0Y>

You may also be interested in a companion paper just published in the *Ibis*:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ibi.12658>



Guillemot eggs, Alfred Denny Museum.

Mystery Bird ?

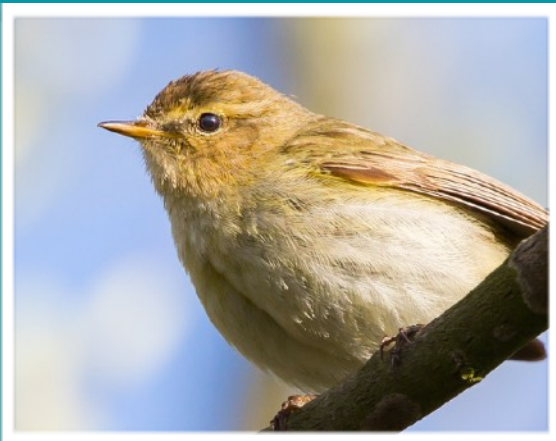


Mystery Bird for March 2018



[Click here for the answer](#)

Mystery Bird (1) for May 2018



[Click here for the answer](#)





Mystery Bird (2) for May 2018



Answer will be in the next issue!!

Mystery Bird September 2018

Here's a new challenge for you - a small juvenile brown job taken this summer - answer to be revealed in the next issue



Field trips Visible Migration at Redmires 27th or 28th Oct 2018

The annual field trip to witness (hopefully!) one of the birding spectacles for which the Sheffield area has become renowned. The end of October provides the best chance of good passage of winter thrushes, finches and Woodpigeons, with the chance of scarcer migrants as they pass through. Exact details of the trip will be confirmed on the website nearer the time to maximise the chance to coincide with favourable weather conditions, but we'll meet at around 07:30 at the corner of Soughley Lane and Brownhills Lane below the bottom res (approx SK272856). Park on the roadside here or in the car park at the top of Wyming Brook.

Warm clothing, gloves and sturdy footwear strongly recommended.

Photo of the Month

The image chosen by members for Mar-Apr 2018 is this shot of Black-necked Grebes by Roy Twigg



Equipment: Kowa 832; 32 x Wide angle lens;
Samsung A5 Phone

Settings: Not Sure

Notes: Almost a luck shot.
Unfortunately not centred correctly.

Photo of the Month

Below are the shortlisted images taken between the months of May - July which were submitted by SBSG members.

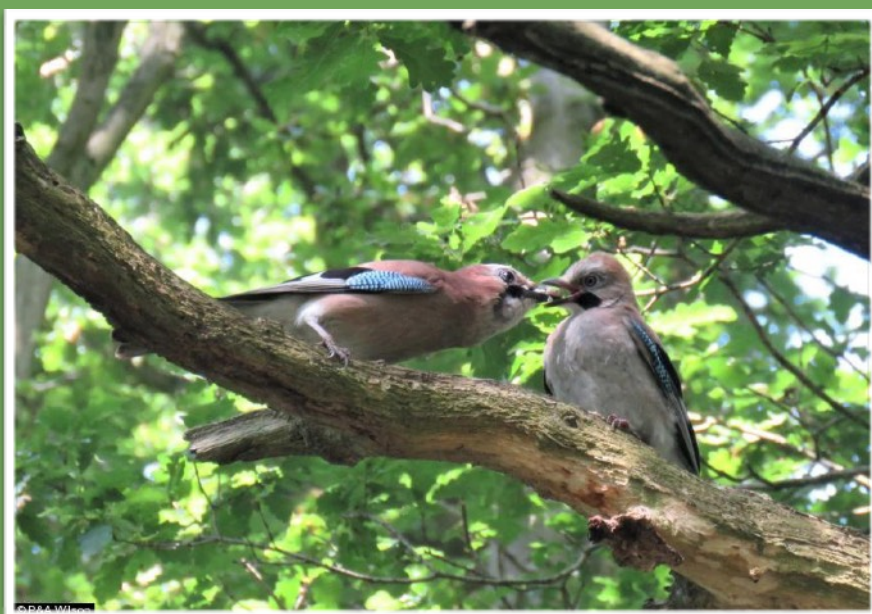
Please select your favourite photo via the e-Newsletter link. The image with the highest number of votes received before the September indoor meeting will feature in the next issue along with a note from the photographer describing how the image was achieved. To give all photographers a chance showcase their images the winner will not be considered for the following issue.

Please Vote [here](#) or click on the link at the foot of the final page (one vote per member) but note that the form may not work on old versions of Internet Explorer (IE 8 or older). Alternatively use Chrome, Firefox or Safari and paste the link/address or email your vote [here](#). Many thanks.



1. Grey Wagtail

2. Little Owl



3. Jay



4. Curlew

5. Oystercatcher



6. Swift

7. Swallow



8. Skylark



9. Little Owl 2

10. Peregrine



11. Audouin's Gull



12. Nightjar



e-Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed the September 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.

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



[VOTE FOR PHOTO OF THE MONTH](#)