



SBSG e-Newsletter September 2016

Recent Highlights (July - Aug 2016)

July

July is generally one of those months when most local birders relax their efforts and concentrate on other things, such as moths, dragonflies and DIY. This July however Sheffield birders enjoyed some quality rarities that certainly kept the paintbrushes dry. July was going to be hard act to follow, though a few good birds, notably waders, were recorded by the month end.

A good start for July included records of waders with a single **Whimbrel** over Rawmarsh on the 3rd and one over Orgreave on the 11th. **Black-tailed Godwit** were also present at Orgreave Lakes with one on the 9th, five on the 11th and four on the 24th.



White-winged Black Tern (Orgreave – D.Wood)

A stunning summer-plumaged adult **White-winged Black Tern** that paid brief visits to Swillington, Fairburn and Old Moor settled at Orgreave Lakes from mid-afternoon on 7th July. It flew north that evening and returned the following morning before moving to nearby RVCP, then returning late afternoon. Appearing high from the north at 06:30 on the 9th it spent 30 minutes preening itself before heading to RVCP where it remained until the 12th.



White-winged Black Tern (Orgreave – P.Garrity)



White-winged Black Tern (RVCP – P.Thomas)

Aside all the excitement, waders continued to feature with single **Green Sandpipers** recorded in July at Orgreave on the 8th, RVCP on the 11th and Silverwood Lagoon on the 19th whilst an **Avocet** was at Orgreave on 11th July and an adult **Sanderling** there on the 13th. July continued to astound when a 1st summer **Sabines Gull** was present at Carr Vale NR from the 13th - 20th but was, for most observers, just outside our area. A handful of individuals were however lucky enough to witness it enter SBSG airspace on a couple of occasions.



Avocet (Orgreave- M.Reeder)



Sabines Gull (Carr Vale NR- P.Garrity)



Sabines Gull (Carr Vale NR – P.Ridsdale)

The second half of July provided good numbers of hirundines with a maximum count of 511 **Swift** over Rawmarsh on the 17th, 350 **House Martin** at Orgreave on the 22nd, 200 **Swallow** at Middleton Moor on the 24th and 157 **Swallow** were at Redmires on the same day. Elsewhere two **Garganey** (possibly a pair) were at Catcliffe Flash between 20th - 30th and a single juvenile **Mediterranean Gull** was at Orgreave Lakes on the 23rd.

Incredibly a **CASPIAN TERN** appeared at Carr Vale NR on 23rd July but was again frustratingly just outside our area. It did however frequently make fishing trips into our area before departing NE at 17:15. The same bird circled Orgreave Lakes at 18:10 before heading north, much to the delight of just one individual! (MNR).



© P.Garrity
Caspian Tern (Carr Vale NR – P.Garrity)



© A.Deighton
Caspian Tern (Carr Vale NR - A.Deighton)

Other highlights in the month included up to 3 **Red Kite** in the Bradfield Rocher area from the 23rd July - 7th August, a roost of 600 **Black-headed Gull** reported at Sheffield Airport on 25th July and a max of ten **Yellow-legged Gulls** at the same location on the same day with daytime birds frequently seen in the Attercliffe area notably four there 27th July. Elsewhere a cream-crowned **Marsh Harrier** was in the Broomhead Moor area from the 26th July with sightings presumably of the same bird until the end of Aug. Other singles were reported from Stocksbridge 28th July, Rivelin Brook on 16th Aug and a very impressive record of four at Emlin Ridge on 28th Aug. **Little Egrets** were well represented with 37 individuals recorded during the period. Notable records were six at Orgreave Lakes on the 29th July and five there on 18th Aug. Finally a fem/immature **Common Scoter** was at Thrybergh CP from 30th July - 4th Aug.

August

Interesting Gull reports featured in the early part of the month with an adult and a colour-ringed juvenile **Caspian Gulls** roosting at Langsett Res on the 31st July and 12th Aug with a



© A.Deighton
Caspian Gull (Langsett Res – A.Deighton)

single there on 5th and 17th August, a single **Mediterranean Gull** at Orgreave Lakes on 1st August and a count of 900 **Black-headed Gulls** at Orgreave Lakes on the 9th August.



© M.Reeder
Mediterranean Gull (Orgreave lakes – M.Reeder)

Other interesting records included a single **Black-necked Grebe** at Thrybergh CP on the 2nd Aug, single **Turnstone** at Orgreave Lakes on 10th and 19th Aug, a **Whimbrel** over Rawmarsh on 11th Aug and single **Red Kite** reports from Orgreave and Rawmarsh on the 11th Aug, Eyam Edge and Westend Moor on the 12th Aug and at Blue Man's Bower and Miller's Dale on the 21st Aug.



© P.Brown
Black-necked Grebe (Thrybergh CP – P.Brown)

Green Sandpiper were also present in Aug with singles at Parkgate on the 12th, Blackburn Meadows on the 21st and Orgreave Lakes on the 25th and 30th. A significant count of 644 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Langsett Res on the 17th Aug was followed by a number of notable wader reports at Orgreave Lakes including a juvenile **Little Stint** during the early evening on 18th Aug, five juvenile **Ruff** (four females, one male) briefly on 19th Aug with two juv's through there on the 27th and

finally a single juvenile **Spotted Redshank** was reported on the 19th and 26th Aug.



© A.Deighton
Marsh Harrier (Emlin Moor – A.Deighton)

Other interesting reports towards the end of the month included an incredible count of 370+ **Goldfinch** at Thrybergh CP on 19th Aug, 220+ **House Martin** at the same location on 20th Aug, 18 **Black-tailed Godwit** briefly at Orgreave Lakes on 21st Aug and four drake **Common Scoter** also at Orgreave Lakes on 28th Aug until mid-morning. Elsewhere six **Red-crested Pochard** were at RVCP on 29th Aug, a single **Cetti's Warbler** remained at a private site in Rotherham and the lone **Shag** remained at Linacre Res and was still present at the end of August.

Osprey records at the end of Aug included singles at Broomhead on the 24th, Rawmarsh on the 26th, Redmires on the 27th, Ewden Cabin on the 29th and Ewden Heights on the 30th.



© M.Reeder
Little Stint (Orgreave – M.Reeder)

Records received from the following observers. Apologies for any omissions.

B Bailey, A Bateman, BBSG, RP Blagden, K Bower, PL Brown, J Clarke, A Deighton, W Dudhill, P Garrity, T Grose, A Hill, RD Hill, V Hobson, J Hornbuckle, P Jackson, A Johnson, MR Langston, P Leonard, M Oxlade, MN Reeder, P Ridsdale, SJ Roddis, M Sherwin, A Sidall, D Simmonite, MA Smethurst, PJ Stoppard, MJ Sweeney, M Snook, R Twigg, P Thomas, C Tyler, M Wells, RDR Williams, D Wood

Mark Reeder

On-line Membership Application Forms

On-line application forms for Adults and U21s can be found [here](#). The form can also be used to submit changes in personal details. The PDF printable versions are still available

Sheffield Parks Survey 2015-16 Update

Please submit your records as soon as possible via the website and don't forget to include breeding information.



Kingfisher in Endcliffe Park (David Wood)

For full details of the methodology please visit [here](#).

What to look out for in September and October

Click [here](#) to read an informative article by Ron Blagden which outlines some of the target birds for the next two months which might be found in the area.

Request for contact details

A request for contact information has come in from a friend of the late **John-Linton Smith**. If anyone in the group has any information or contact details relating to John's wife it would be much appreciated. I will then pass these on. Email me [here](#).

SBSG letter in support of the National Trust

Below is letter of on behalf of SBSG in relation to the National Trust decision to cut short the shooting lease at Hope Woodlands and Park Hall.

28 August 2016

Dear Jon,

I'm writing on behalf of the SBSG to commend you and the National Trust for the decision to cut short the shooting leases at Hope Woodlands and Park Hall. Having taken a keen interest in the elaboration of the High Peak Moors vision document, I have - along with other members of the SBSG - been following developments in the High Peak, especially in relation to the presence of raptors and their persecution.

There is clearly some way to go before raptor numbers reach the levels to be expected according to the habitat, but your action in the wake of the now notorious decoy Hen Harrier incident shows courage and conviction, as well as a serious commitment to seeing through the High Peak Moors vision and its numerous associated benefits to wildlife and the natural environment.

We published in our summer Newsletter details of the statement you released to bring the news to the attention of our 250 members. Further to that, I have heard only positive comments from our members and we, as a Group, strongly support your action and will continue to support you in the delivery of the High Peak Moors vision.

I do hope that will see fit to share our support among your colleagues, and encourage them to keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely,

David Wood
(Chair, Sheffield Bird Study Group)

Forthcoming Events

15th – 25th September

Sound of the Birds

Visit [here](#) for details of the Festival of the Mind at the University of Sheffield

Monday 19th September

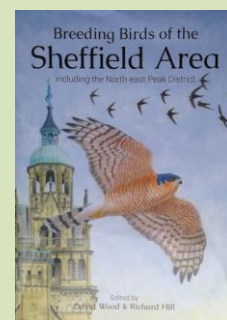


David Wood and Nicola Hemmings will give a talk on '**Sheffield's Peregrine Project**', detailing the breeding success of the St George's pair and exploring the question of egg failure, the subject of Dr Hemmings' research at the University of Sheffield. The talk, which is free, will take place at 8:00 p.m. in The Spiegel tent, Barker's Pool, central Sheffield.

Further details can be found at:

<http://festivalofthemind.group.shef.ac.uk/peregrine-project/>

Wednesday 19th October



David Wood will give a talk on '**Breeding Birds of the Sheffield Area**' as part of the Off The Shelf Festival of Words. The event is free, and starts at 5:45 p.m. in The Common Room (above The Forum on Division Street).

David is Chair of SBSG and co-editor, with Richard Hill, of *Breeding Birds of the Sheffield Area, including the North-east Peak District*.

Indoor Meetings 2016

Visit [here](#) to see the complete list of indoor meetings for 2016. Location is **Sheffield University Hicks Building, Lecture Theatre 5 and the meetings will commence at 7.15pm**. Please keep an eye on the web site for any further changes.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Wednesday 14th Sept at 7.15pm

Birding the Tibetan Plateau



Andy Deighton - Birds and mammals of the Tibetan Plateau. A journey across the roof of the world from Qinghai province in China to Lhasa in Tibet, taking in many rarely seen species, in spectacular landscapes.

Wednesday 12th October at 7.15pm

Mongolia



John McLoughlin - Mongolia land of blue skies sat between the vast Siberian Taiga and the Gobi desert.

John has made four visits to the country over the last few years so is well versed in both the culture and its birds and wildlife.

Optical / Photographic Equipment for sale

If you have any equipment to offer for sale that someone in the group might be interested in please contact [me](#) or any other committee member to include in the next e-newsletter. Also contact me if you are interested in the items and I will put you in touch with the seller!

For Sale

Manfrotto 144 aluminium tripod (silver) with 2 Manfrotto heads - 128RC and a 3-way 141RC. The tripod is quite heavy but very stable and is built to last in true bomb-proof Manfrotto style - perfect for sea-watching! I would like £20 for the legs only + £10 each for the heads if bought separately, or £35.00 for the lot. All have usual signs of use but have been well looked after. (Heads will fit other tripods with standard thread or an inexpensive adapter, if desired).

Sheffield Peregrine update



Sheffield Peregrines at St George's Church have fledged three young and their trials and tribulations can be followed [here](#) on the blog. Visit [here](#) for the Sheffield University webcams.

Ring Ouzel Update

Find the the **Eastern Moors** Ring Ouzel Survey [here](#) and the **Burbage Moors** Study on the Home page of the SBSG website soon.

Local Field Trips - 2016

Visit [here](#) for details of the local field trips for 2016. These may be subject to change so please keep an eye on the web site for updates.

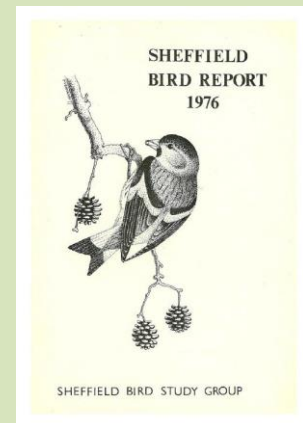
Next Field Trip:

Saturday 29th October (date tbc)



The annual visible migration field trip will take place at **Redmires** with the aim of witnessing the spectacle of thousands of autumn migrants passing over one of the classic watch points. Details to be confirmed nearer the time and announced via the website.

A journey back to 1976



Richard Hill looks back to the archives and covers scorching 1976, in more ways than one, including Punk Rock, Concorde and the "birth" of Apple. An unusually early spring migration was surpassed by an incredible autumn full of birding rarities. You can find his latest detailed account [here](#).