



SBSG E-Newsletter April 2015

March AGM

The Powerpoint presentation from the AGM, including the Review of 2014, is available to members at: <http://www.sbsg.org/publications/articles-reports>

April 8th Indoor Meeting

Jon Hornbuckle on 'World Birding'. Jon is a Sheffield birder known across the world as the person to have seen the greatest number of species, at well over 9,000! This talk will take us far and wide and no doubt include great images and some entertaining tales from his many trips to remote locations. For more details, see <http://www.sbsg.org/>



May 13th Indoor Meeting - Ray Knock

Ray is Chair of Sorby Breck Ringing Group, who provide us with hundreds of invaluable records of migrants and breeding birds ringed in our area. His talk will give us insights into the world of ringing and what it can achieve.

SBSG Annual Report

The 2013 report was published in March and is available to members at the April indoor meeting. Any not collected will be sent out by post.

Local Field Trips

Saturday 11th April 08:00 @ Weston Park Museum (Park Survey) and then a talk at 13:00 to mark the launch of the Museum's Breeding Atlas exhibition.

Saturday 25th April 07:30 @ Orgreave Lakes (spring migrants).

Saturday 9th May 08:00 (tbc) @ Padley Gorge (woodland migrants).

For details: <http://www.sbsg.org/>

Sheffield Parks Survey

We've had a great response with most parks now covered. There are a dozen remaining if you want to get involved. Have a look at the materials on the website (<http://www.sbsg.org/survey-work>)

Hen Harrier protection

In the hope that last year's breeding success is repeated in 2015 the National Trust is offering training (on 22nd and 23rd April) for volunteers to watch any nests. To get involved, contact: helen.armstrong@nationaltrust.org.uk

House Martin Survey

The BTO is seeking volunteers for their House Martin Survey, with some local sites to cover. See <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey/house-martin-survey-2015>



What to See in...

Ron Blagden's helpful (or inspiring) guide to what to look out for in April is available via the website.

Conservation News

Mark Reeder (with some excellent input from Paul Leonard) has been very active on the Group's behalf to oppose two developments that threaten important local sites. For details see <http://www.sbsg.org/>

Recent Highlights (Feb-March 2015)

February got under way with a bang: there were 8 **Whooper Swans** and a **Merlin** at Thrybergh CP on 1st, and 2 **Short-eared Owls** at Redmires Res, with another at Silverwood Lagoon. On the same day Orgreave Lakes held a **Jack Snipe**, the long-staying **Snow Bunting**, a **Twite** and 331 **Pochard**, while 2 imm **Rough-legged Buzzards** were reported from Upper Midhope, where the **Great Grey Shrike** continued to be attractive. On 3rd Feb an adult **Iceland Gull** was at Poolsbrook CP and on 5th an unseasonal **Marsh Harrier** passed through Thrybergh CP. A **Caspian Gull** was at Poolsbrook CP on 7th, when 2 **Cetti's Warbler** were at Carr Vale NR, while wildfowl counts at RVCP on 8th produced 248 **Mallard**, 279 **Wigeon**, 165 **Tufted Duck**, 163 **Pochard** and 9 **Goldeneye**. A second-winter **Iceland Gull** was at Orgreave Lakes on 8th and 2 **Mediterranean Gulls** were in the Broomhead Res roost on 9th, when 105 **Greylag Geese** were at Thrybergh CP. A fine male **Pintail** was at Catcliffe Flash on 14th and the following day saw the last record of the Orgreave **Snow Bunting**. A single **Waxwing** visited a Lodge Moor garden on 15th and 2 **Curlew** returned to Redmires Res on 18th. A pair of **Egyptian Geese** was at Thrybergh CP on 24th, and the month ended with a 2w **Caspian Gull** at Poolsbrook CP and a single **Waxwing** at Fox Hagg, Rivelin on 28th.

March began with 46 **Curlew** in fields in Rivelin Valley on 1st, a sign of spring on the way, while numerous parties of **Fieldfares** were widely reported during the first half of the month and **Mandarin** settled onto territories on the rivers in the SW of our area. Three **Iceland Gulls** at Poolsbrook CP on 4th marked the peak of an excellent period for this species, and on 5th a **Cetti's Warbler** was at nearby Poolsbrook Marsh. A **Ring-necked Parakeet** was at Rawmarsh, Rotherham on 6th and a **Tree Sparrow** visited a Lodge Moor garden on 9th. A pair of **Egyptian Geese** 'graced' Hillsborough Park from 12th and remained there for over a week, while 3 were at Thrybergh CP on 14th.

By mid-month **Woodcock** were roding at several sites W of Sheffield and **Oystercatchers** were reported from potential breeding areas, while small parties of **Redwing** were noted on the move. Around the same time **Chiffchaffs** began to be recorded on the lowlands, an unringed **Twite** was at Orgreave Lakes on 13th and on the same day single **Sand Martins** were at both Orgreave Lakes and RVCP. The SBSG field trip to Windy Corner on 14th provided an unexpected treat with 7 **Whooper Swans** on Ladybower Res and 51 NW over Howden Res, the same birds having been seen earlier at Orgreave Lakes. Sunday 15th saw more good passage of **Whooper Swans**, with over 50 again through various sites, and a **Little Ringed Plover** passed over Orgreave Lakes. On 19th single **Common Scoter** were at Thrybergh CP and Orgreave Lakes, where an early **Knot** was also present, and on the following day a **Kittiwake** was at the former site. Migrants continued to arrive on 20th, with male **Ring Ouzels** at Burbage, Cutthroat Bridge and Moscar House and 2 **Wheatear** at Orgreave Lakes. A single **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was at Thrybergh Tip on 21st and another **Kittiwake** was at nearby Thrybergh CP the same day, where the regular **Water Rails** continued to show well. The **Great Grey Shrike** remained at Upper Midhope through

the month and often showed very well.



An amazing shot of the GG Shrike with a Jack Snipe on 21st (Chris Hurst)

The good passage of **Whooper Swans** continued on 22nd, with 75 N over Thrybergh CP, 70 N at Blackburn Meadows, 37 NW at Nether Haugh, 9 N at Rawmarsh and a record 180 N at Orgreave Lakes, where there was also a **Rock Pipit**, with it or another present the following day. A **Willow Tit** at Blacka Moor on 23rd was notable, as was another at Totley Bents on 25th, this species now scarce away from the eastern lowlands. The Hillsborough **Egyptian Geese** relocated briefly to Orgreave Lakes on 24th and the first **House Martin** was seen at Rawmarsh-Haugh on 25th. Small numbers of **Redwing** and **Fieldfare** continued to be seen to the end of the month and up to 6 **Brambling** visited feeders in a Fulwood garden. The **Peregrines** at Sheffield University settled down for their fourth nesting attempt and the month closed with a **Kittiwake** and a **Knot** at Orgreave Lakes on 31st.



Fourth egg laid 27th March - see the Peregrine blog for regular updates

