



## SBSG E-Newsletter Feb 2015

### Membership Subs

Subscriptions for 2015 (rates unchanged) are now due. See Martin at the Feb indoor meeting or details of online arrangements at <http://www.sbsg.org/join-the-group> with the renewal form also available via the website homepage

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### Feb 11th Indoor Meeting

Ron Marshall on Swedish Lapland. **NB New venue of Hicks Building Lecture Theatre 3.** For more details, see <http://www.sbsg.org/>



### March Local Field Trip

Raptors in Upper Derwentdale. Saturday 14th March - meet at Windy corner (SK169928). Details tbc via website.

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### March 11th Indoor Meeting - AGM

*The AGM will feature reports from the Group's Secretary and Treasurer (how will our finances have been affected by the Breeding Atlas?), as well as an illustrated Review of 2014.*

*After the interval there will a chance for members to show off their images and share their experiences. If you would like to give a 15-minute slot, contact David Wood (chairman@sbsg.org)*

### Committee Vacancy

*The AGM is also the time when elections to the committee take place. If you are interested in joining the committee, speak to any committee member or contact David Wood (chairman@sbsg.org). Without new committee members the Group may well be unable to maintain its range of activities. The committee meets once a month between Sept and May.*

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### Sheffield Parks Survey

We are repeating the survey of Sheffield's Parks and Open Spaces, previously carried out in 1974-5 and 1995-6. Details will be discussed at indoor meetings and soon available via the website (under the 'Surveys' tab on the homepage -

<http://www.sbsg.org/survey-work>).

There are some 50 parks and open spaces to survey, with a minimum of one visit in each season. Get involved and help us understand how the city's birdlife has changed over time.



Crookes Valley Park -  
home to 68 species in 1995

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## What to See in...

Ron Blagden has been busy updating a series of guides to what to look out for in the current season, and which of our sites might be worth a visit at present.

For the Jan-Feb version, go to

<http://www.sbsg.org/images/PDFS/Misc/BIRDING%20IN%20THE%20SHEFFIELD%20AREA%20JANUARY%20update.pdf>

## Recent Highlights (Jan 2015)

### Bittern

One at Pit-house West on 3rd

### Whooper Swan

19 S over Stocksbridge on 19th; on 20th there were 17 over Broomhead Moor and 24 over Millhouses; a party of 6 adults was seen at several sites to the E from 21st-23rd

### Mandarin

An impressive count of 106 at Derwent Res on 4th

### Pink-footed Goose

Several good passage days with clear skies and high pressure mid-month, all moving NW. A flock of 170+ was feeding on 'the plains' at Orgreave Lakes on 21st-22nd

### Wigeon

184 at Rother Valley CP on 14th

### Pochard

264 at Orgreave Lakes on 24th

### Tufted Duck

240 at Thrybergh CP on 18th

### Red Kite

One over over Fulwood on 2nd and presumably the same bird at Stanage Edge, Dale Dike Res and Agden Side on 4th

### Rough-legged Buzzard

Up to two imms ranging in the Holling Dale-Agden-Midhope are from 14th

### Peregrine

The St George's pair were reported almost daily around the centre of Sheffield and look set to attempt to breed again



Bowing pair-bonding behaviour

### Coot

513 at Rother Valley CP on 14th

### Mediterranean Gull

An adult in the roost at Broomhead Res on 4th

### Caspian Gull

A fourth-winter at Orgreave Lakes on 3rd-4th; a first- and a third-winter at Broomhead Res on 25th

### Glaucous Gull

A third-winter through Thrybergh CP on 1st and an imm at Poolsbrook CP on 30th-31st

### Short-eared Owl

Two at Silverwood Lagoon on 1st

### Barn Owl

Singles at Silverwood Lagoon and Thrybergh CP on various dates

### Waxwing

Five briefly at Totley on 29th

### Cetti's Warbler

One at Pit-house West on 25th

### Stonechat

One at Silverwood Lagoon on 1st

### Great Grey Shrike

One at Upper Midhope from 17th

### Twite

A colour-ringed bird at Orgreave Lakes from 24th into February, part of a colour-ringing project at Rishworth Moor (S. Yorks). Presumably pushed off the moors with the heavy snow

### Snow Bunting

One throughout January (and into February) at Orgreave Lakes, often associating with Skylarks



Pick of the Snow Bunting shots -  
by Mike Smethurst