

MAY 2019

SBSG E-newsletter



Fulmar © Andy Deighton

Welcome to the SBSG E-newsletter!

We hope you enjoy this edition which includes the birding highlights & images from Mar - Apr, 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



April Orgreave
field trip report
by Chris
Greenwood

[Read Here](#)



“What to Look
Out For”
by
Ron Blagden

[May - Jun](#)



March
Derwentdale
Field Trip report
by Ron Blagden

[Read Here](#)

Recent Sightings

with Mark Reeder
For the period Mar-Apr 2019



Fulmar

One found at Thrybergh C.P, by Mike Snook, at midday on the 11th March remained there for the rest of the day, much to the delight of local listers. What was presumably the same bird had moved to nearby Old Moor the following morning.



Fulmar - M Reeder

Little Egret

In April singles were reported from Kiveton Community Woodland on the 3rd and 8th and at Orgreave on 16th. Two were at RVCP on the 10th.

Whooper Swan

In March birds returning passed north through Carr Vale (22) on 19th. On the 29th the sound of calling birds had a senior citizen leap out of bed quickly enough to catch 4 heading over Millhouses, with a single at Orgreave the same morning.

On the 30th, at Thrybergh C.P, 8 spent the morning, and 40 went north at Orgreave. In April 2 were seen over Wharncliffe Side on the 1st. The last record was of 3 birds that spent the afternoon at Damflask before moving to nearby Agden Res'.



Whooper Swans - C Kelly

Barnacle Goose

A presumably feral bird was at Ulley C.P on 31st March. Three at RVCP on 21st April may have had better credentials.

Wigeon

Peak counts during March were: 165 at RVCP on the 14th and 250 at Denaby Common on the 17th.

Common Scoter

A female spent the day at Orgreave on the 17th April.

Marsh Harrier

On the 18th March a cream-crown flew south west over Walkley.

Osprey

The first of the year was over Baslow on the 16th March. There were five further reports during the period with birds over Big Moor on 28th March, Broomhead 10th April, Hurlfield 13th, Wharncliffe Side 15th and Underbank Res' 22nd.

Hobby

The first to be reported was at Stanage Edge on the 17th April.

Common Crane

Two were seen and photographed circling over Low Moor at 14:10hrs on the 18th April.

Avocet

Two were at Thrybergh C.P on 2nd April.

Dotterel

A probable flew over Dukes Road calling on the 20th April.



Common Crane - Jonathan Wasse

Golden Plover

A maximum of 500 were at Peat Pits on the 15th March.

Jack Snipe

Singles were reported at Blackburn Meadows on the 5th, 9th and 12th March.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two summer-plumaged birds were at Orgreave on the 2nd.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Two birds, in winter-plumage, were at Redmires between 11:00 and 12:00 on the 24th April.

Whimbrel

The first to be reported was at Brogging Moss on the 17th April.

Spotted Redshank

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



Little Gull - D Wood

Green Sandpiper

Three spent the day at Orgreave on the 13th April.

Little Gull

A first-winter bird on the small lake at Orgreave from the 15th to 18th March. An adult was at Thrybergh on the 30th March.

Iceland Gull

An adult and 1st winter were seen at Poolsbrook between the 7th and 11th.



Iceland Gull - M Sherwin

Kittiwake

Single adults were at Carr Vale on the 11th March and Orgreave on 17th March and 7th April.

Arctic Tern

On the 17th April 5 (2 east at 07:00, 2 north 07:15 and 1 north 8:40) went through Orgreave, with 2 north through RVCP the same day.

Black Tern

On the 24th April, an adult was at Orgreave briefly in the evening.

Cuckoo

The first report was of a calling bird at Hathersage on 18th April.

Swift

First reported at Orgreave on the 25th April.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

A calling bird was at Wadsley Common in early April.

Sand Martin

Two at Orgreave on 3rd March, the earliest ever record in our area.

Swallow

The first to be reported was at Orgreave on the 18th March.

House Martin

First reported at Orgreave on the 1st April.

Tree Pipit

One at Padley Gorge on 16th April, the first report.

Rock Pipit

Just one report, a *littoralis* bird at Orgreave on the 4th March.

Yellow Wagtail

A single at Orgreave on 7th April was the first of the year.

Waxwing

Up to 8 birds lingered in the Crosspool area and were last seen on the 15th March. In Chesterfield 15 were at Sheepbridge on the 15th before moving to Newbold, where they were present from the 26th-28th March.

Black Redstart

A female/imm was found adjacent to the McLaren factory at Waverley on the 30th March.

Redstart

The first report came from Hathersage Dale, where a male was seen near Bronte Cottage on the 14th April.



Black Redstart - M Reeder

Whinchat

The first of the year was at Ramsley Moor on 19th April.

Wheatear

A male at Orgreave on the 11th March was the first of the year.

Ring Ouzel

The first bird arrived at Stanage Edge on the 20th March.

Fieldfare

A single over Gleadless Common on 25th April was the last to be reported.

Redwing

The last report came from Holme Hall on the 20th.

Grasshopper Warbler

The first reeling bird was reported at Orgreave on 19th April. The following day records were received from White Lee Moor, Blacka Moor and Kiveton Community Woodland.

Sedge Warbler

One singing along the River at Orgreave (18th April) was the first of the spring.

Reed Warbler

A singing bird at Silverwood Lagoon (19th April) was the first report of the year.

Lesser Whitethroat

One at Moorwood Farm on 17th April, the first of the year.

Whitethroat

The first reports of the year came from Orgreave and Silverwood Lagoon on 18th April.

Garden Warbler

The first bird at Silverwood Lagoons on the 21st April.

Wood Warbler

Not surprisingly the first report came from Wyming Brook on the 20th April, with 2 reported there on the 22nd.



Grasshopper Warbler - Pete Garrity

Willow Warbler

Pit-house West and Thrybergh Tip reported the first birds of the year on the 1st April.

Brambling

The last reported bird was at Green Moor on 23rd April.

Mealy Redpoll

Singles were at Shirecliffe on the 6th, 11th and 21st March, with another at Orgreave on the 7th April.

Crossbill

A maximum of 45 were reported from Wharncliffe Wood on the 4th April.

LOCAL FIELD TRIPS

Come and join us !

PADLEY GORGE - MIGRANTS

Saturday 11th May

Local field trip to Padley Gorge. A walk down Padley gorge with Ron Blagden to see (and hear) summer migrants of the wooded cloughs and moorland fringe. Specialities of the site include Pied Flycatcher, Redstart and Tree Pipit, with Wood Warbler and Cuckoo also possible.

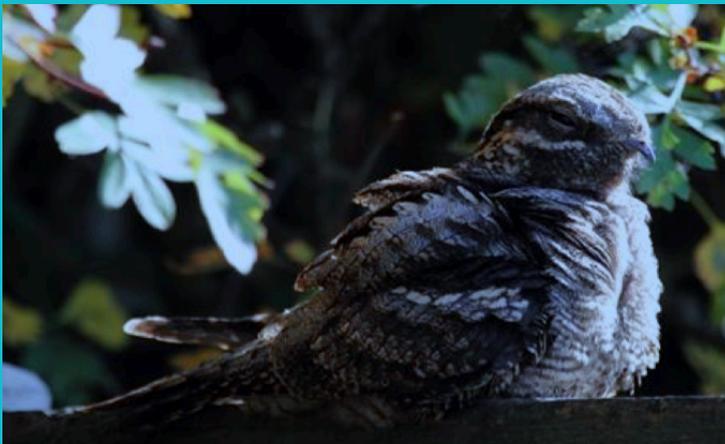


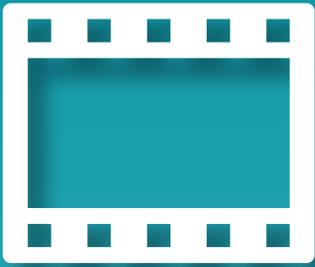
CREPUSCULAR CREEP - STANAGE POLE

Wednesday 12th June

Our annual 'Crepuscular Creep' will meet up at Redmires Top Reservoir at 8.30pm. We will walk out up to Stanage Pole in the hope of seeing breeding waders, Nightjars and perhaps owls.

See the web-site [here](#) for details as our plans may change dependent on weather conditions at the time.





Featured videos

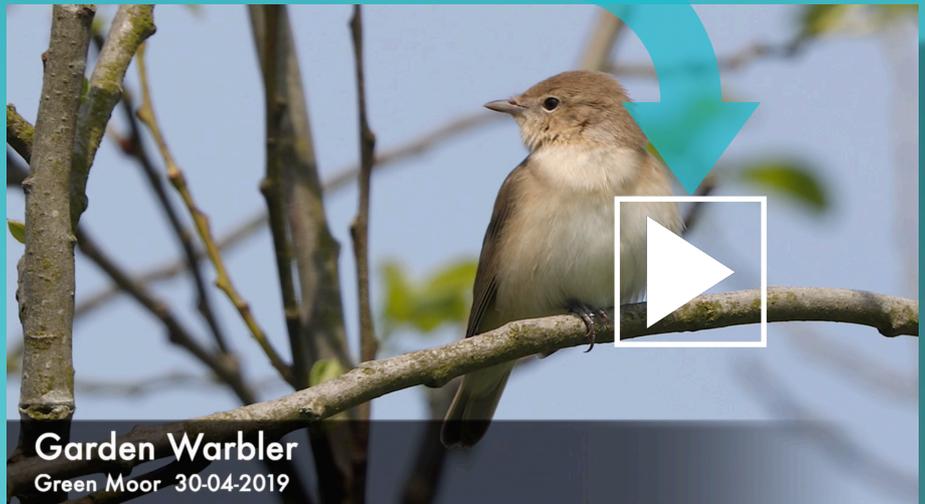
Grasshopper Warbler at Orgreave by Pete Garrity

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.



Grasshopper Warbler
Sheffield 23-04-2019

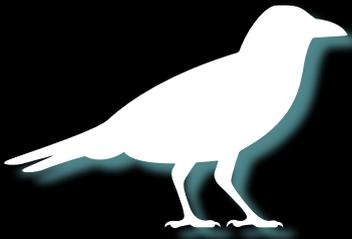
Garden Warbler at Green Moor by Pete Garrity



Garden Warbler
Green Moor 30-04-2019



Brambling singing at Green Moor by Pete Garrity

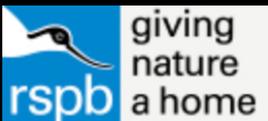


LATEST NEWS



“REMEMBER THOSE EXTERNAL SBSG BIRDING TRIPS ? ”

As a result of our recent membership survey we are asking members for thoughts / volunteers to perhaps organise external field trips and SBSG are proposing to subsidise the costs of such. Please get in touch with a committee member if you are interested.



Our first ever bird song single is here

Pre-order now



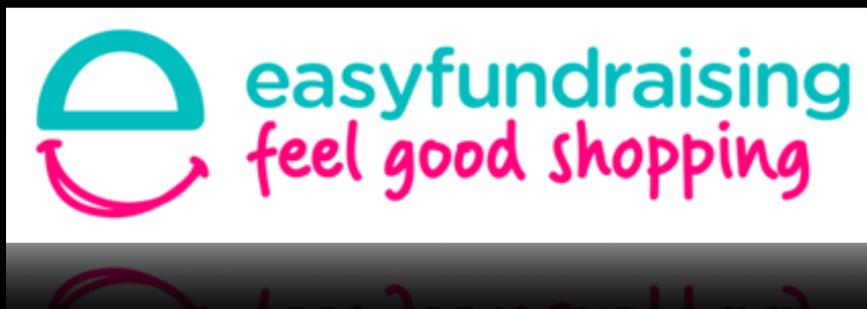
“Let Nature Sing - The RSPB launch bird song into the UK charts”

Time is running out

Nature is wonderful, but it's in the midst of a crisis. There are over 40 million fewer birds in the UK than there were 40 years ago. Shockingly, most people don't realise nature is falling silent.

Fight back with music (click the title to buy the track)

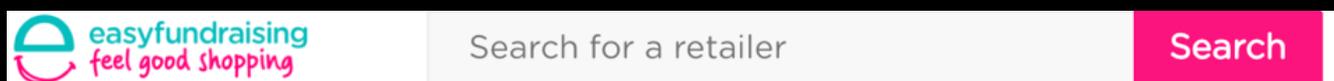
In response, we've created a track of beautiful bird song featuring some of the UK's most endangered birds. We want to get Let Nature Sing in to the UK charts to show how many of us care deeply about nature. You can pre-order the single now - you'll love it!



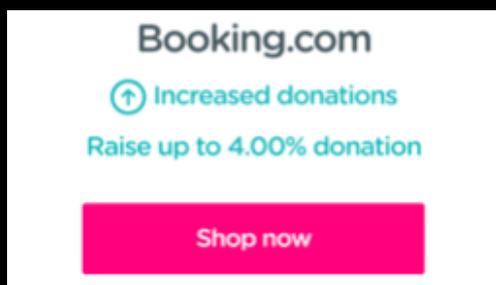
“HELP THE SBSG RAISE MONEY AS YOU SHOP, FOR FREE!”

Easyfundraising allows you to raise money for us for when you shop online. For FREE! Please follow the 4 easy steps below:

1. Please sign-up via our unique link [here](#) (search for the Sheffield Bird Study Group)
2. Once you’ve signed up, visit easyfundraising.org.uk and search for the retailer you want to shop with in the search bar at the top of the page.



3. Click on Shop now to be taken through to the retailers page and shop! (Example)



4. Your donation will automatically be added to Sheffield Bird Study Group’s account in a few days. You won’t be charged anything to do this.



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



Wednesday 8th May

Mary Colwell

Curlews



Mary Colwell is a writer and producer specialising in nature and the environment. She has written two books, one on the environmentalist John Muir, the second, *Curlew Moon*, is on her 500-mile walk to raise awareness about the decline of Curlews. She also writes articles for a wide range of magazines and her present project is a new book on our relationship with predators.

What is happening to Britain's curlews? There has been a dramatic decline over the last 40 years, placing them on the red list and gaining them the dubious title of most pressing conservation concern for birds in the UK. In 2016, Mary Colwell walked 500 miles from the west coast of Ireland to the east coast of England to find out what pressures they are under. She then organised 4 national conferences to help put action plans together to save them and instigated World Curlew Day. Can we save Europe's largest wader?



Venue - Sheffield University Hicks Building, Lecture Theatre 7* and the meeting will commence at 7.15pm - *Note the change of Lecture Theatre!



Wednesday 11th September

Mark Cocker - Our Place: Do we have time to save British Wildlife?

MARK COCKER is an author of creative non-fiction. He is also a naturalist and environmental tutor, who writes and broadcasts on nature and wildlife in a variety of national media. In 2018 he released a new book *Our Place* (Cape), on the fate of British nature in the twentieth century, and completed 30 years as a *Guardian* country diarist.



His 11 other books include works of biography, history, literary criticism and memoir. They include *Claxton: Field Notes from a Small Planet* (2014) and *Birds and People* (2013). The latter was published to international acclaim and was a collaboration with the photographer David Tipling. Between them these two were shortlisted for six literary awards including the Thwaites/Wainwright Prize. His book *Crow Country* was shortlisted for several awards, including the Samuel Johnson Prize, and won the New Angle Prize (2009). In 2016 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Literature from the University of East Anglia, where he has recently placed his archive.

He has travelled in more than 50 countries on six continents and in 1999 was awarded a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship to study birds in magico-medicinal practices in Benin and Cameroon. For the last 35 years his home has been in Norfolk, where much of his spare time is devoted to the restoration of a small wooded fen called Blackwater. He is married to the arts professional Mary Muir, from whom he gets many of his best ideas!

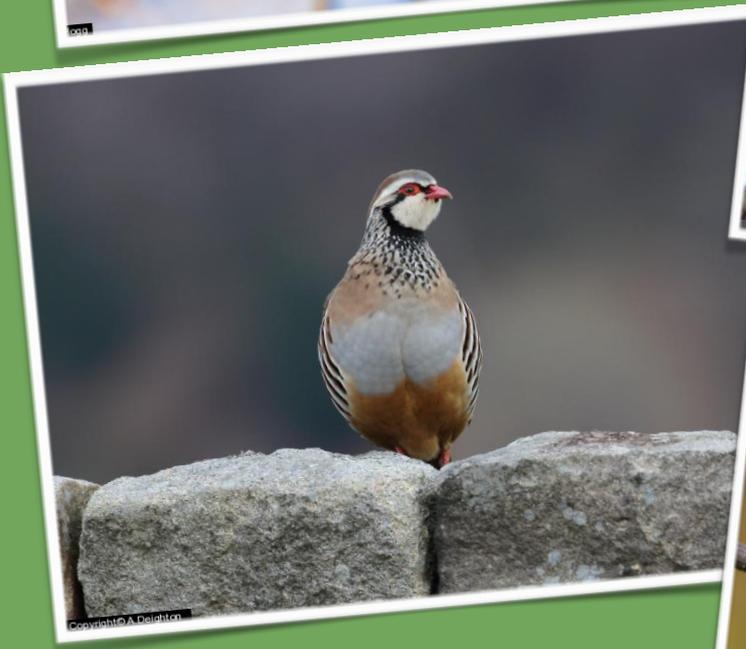
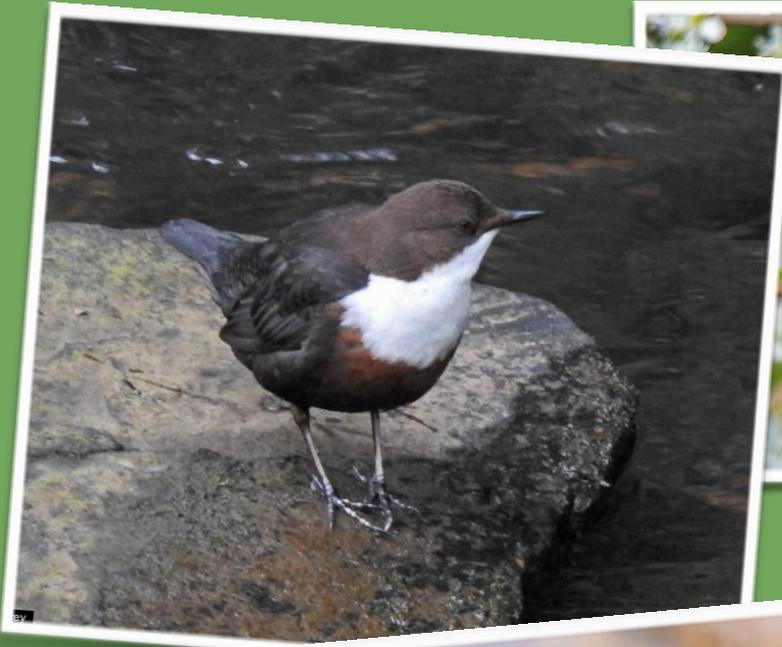
Sheffield University - The Diamond - Lecture Theatre TBC and the meeting will commence at 7.15pm

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Photo Gallery

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













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BIRGUIDES ID Article

Little Gull / Black-headed Gull / Bonaparte's Gull

Little Gull by Andy Deighton



Click [here](#) to
access the
Birdguides article

BTO ID Article

Blackcap and Garden Warbler (incl. song)



Blackcap by Pete Garrity

Click [here](#) to
access the BTO
article

Membership Fees

These are overdue

Over 80% of our members have now paid their 2019 subscriptions. If you are one who has not, would you please now make payment, otherwise Membership Secretary, Martin Hodgson, will assume that you no longer wish to remain a member. If you pay by bank transfer, please email him to let him know.



Discounts available for Sheffield Bird Study Group members:

Please take your membership certificate with you when shopping in store.

Foothills: 11 Edgedale Road, Sheffield S7 2BQ. 10% discount on boots, clothing and equipment in store.

Rivelin Wild Bird Food: 10% discount on all orders online (discount code provided upon proof of membership being emailed to Steve Jackson: info@rivelinwildbirdfood.co.uk).

Sheffield Photographic Centre: 18 Hickmott Road, Sheffield S11 8QF. Binoculars, photography and accessories (a members' discount is negotiable in store).

Hawkridge Books: 14 Matlock Street, Bakewell DE45 1EE. This shop has a Natural History room upstairs containing around 1,400 bird books (a members' discount is negotiable in store).

Photo of the Month

The winner chosen by the committee for the period MAR - APR 2019 is:

Grasshopper Warbler by Pete Garrity

Equipment:

Canon 1DXmkii, Canon 500mm F4 mkii, 2 X TC

Settings:

1/100th second, F12, ISO 125 (4K Video Grab)

Notes:

“Shortly after I heard the news of arrival of a single , perhaps two birds at Orgreave I decided to take a late morning walk around the site. With help from a certain Mr Twigg I located both birds easily as they were singing loudly on both sides of the track. As they were presumably sorting out territories they came closer and closer until at one point one bird was almost at my feet. I managed to get some incredible video footage and was so lucky that I was in the right place at the perfect time. I can only ever recall seeing two or three of these birds before many years ago so this was a very special moment.”



Bird of the Month



Spotted Flycatcher by Peter Garrity

May Bird of the Month – Spotted Flycatcher

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

Mystery Bird ?



Mystery Bird for March 2019



[Click here for the answer](#)

Mystery Bird May 2019

Well I was wrong with the March mystery bird, how did you do? Let's see whether you can get this tricky wader. - Answer to be revealed in the next issue.



WILLOW TIT SURVEY UPDATE

Click [here](#) for the update



e-Newsletter

We hope you enjoyed the May 2019 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](#)

