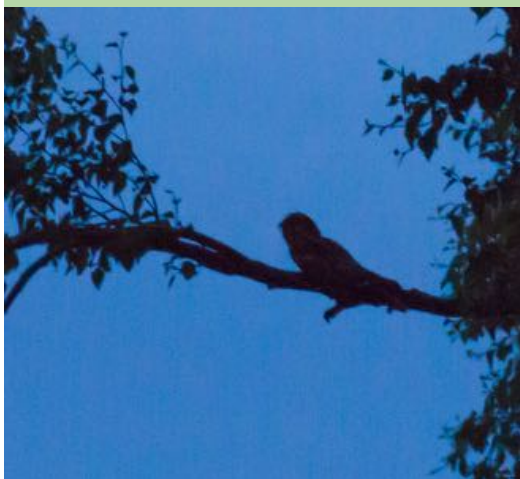


## Crepuscular Creep June 13th

This regular trip was led by David Wood and started at Wyming Brook, passed Redmires, then along the conduit and returned over Hallam Moors. Family parties of Lapwing and Curlew were observed as well as suspected breeding Oystercatcher (subsequently confirmed). Snipe 'chipped' from the damper areas and water voles put up a good show along the conduit. A big bonus was a late evening hunting Long Eared Owl.

Several Woodcock were seen roding later, and at least two Nightjar churred on and off, one giving an excellent fly past along the line of observers. 25 people attended with half being non members. All went home happy and relatively bite free.



Nightjar on favourite perch on Hallam Moor ( D Wood)

## Recent Highlights (June-July 2015)

## Stanage/North Lees

After losses from predation and some re-nesting approx. 6 pairs of Ring Ouzels have nested on the estate whilst 7 nests were recorded at Burbage. Bill and Flo Gordon assisted by a volunteer have rung 82 Pied Flycatcher young. A member of the Hope Valley Bird Study Group is helping to produce nest monitoring records for the last 5 years. This will be a baseline for monitoring future woodland bird populations

Clearly there are many nest boxes on the site, many in need of replacement or repair.

Ideas of how we can help with this are welcome

The group has offered to contribute £100 towards bird feeding costs on the Estate and will consider how we may raise additional funds towards attracting Yellow hammers in the area.

The Stanage North Lees Management Plan is now in its draft stages before presentation to the Board in September.

Any volunteers willing to help please contact *Neil Porter*  
nrporter48@hotmail.co.uk

## Sheffield Parks Survey

From a total of 48 sites, 40 have been allocated to observers and records of various content have been received from 25 of these. In early August only 13 returns covered the breeding season.

We have now moved into the Autumn recording period.

Please dig out your note books and send your records in.

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

## Hen Harrier protection

Did anyone attend this years Hen Harrier Day in the Goyt Valley?

A Guardian article on Aug 8<sup>th</sup> described the slaughter of 63 Hen Harriers, 63 Goshawk, 98 White Tailed Sea Eagles, 15 Golden Eagles 6 Gyr Falcons on the Glengarry estate in Inverness between 1837 and 1840. Astounding! The numbers are not in the same league, but 2015 has not been a good year for male Hen harriers in England either.

## SBSG Twitter users

Progress from Radio 4's tweet of the day and take advantage of social media to find news of rare birds in the Sheffield area, there are now approximately 105 users of the SBSG twitter account.

June got under way with an unusual rare sighting of a **Firecrest** at Foldrings.

**Cettis Warbler** summer sightings were limited to a private site in Rotherham where it remained for at least 6 weeks, presumably the same bird reported in April. The continued increase in **Little Egrets** was manifested with a record of one individual on Morley Pond and subsequent sightings in the following month at Orgreave and Thrybergh.

Another bird that must soon settle down to breed in the SBSG area is the **Red Kite** which had 14 sightings in June and 3 in July throughout the reporting area. Other raptors were an **Osprey** on Rivelin Dams on the 5<sup>th</sup> and **Marsh Harrier** at Redmires on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Despite increasing numbers of breeding pairs in the country sightings of **Common Crane** were limited to 2 sightings

presumably of the same 4 birds in the Rawmarsh area on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Quail records remained tantalisingly few with calls heard from a single bird at Peat Pits between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. Wader sightings included **Sanderling**, **Black tailed Godwit**, **Green Sandpiper**, all at Orgreave lakes and **Whimbrel** at Thrybergh on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A further 5 were seen throughout the area in July.

Our gull enthusiasts picked out flocks of 100 **Lesser Black Backed** at Middleton Moor and several **Yellow Legged** reports on the weir of the River Don, Effingham Street from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. **Caspian Gulls** were also in the same location on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Notable reports of **Swifts** were 100+ on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Thrybergh.

## JULY

The only new 3 species for the month were **Black Tern** and **Ruff** on 17<sup>th</sup> at Thrybergh Country Park. At the end of the month a total of 5 **Common Scoter** were seen at Derwent and Orgreave.

Returning to our gull specialists, the River Don site hosted some interesting variants to our common species. Two different Norwegian ringed *intermedius* sub species of the **Lesser Black Backed Gull** were seen on the 20<sup>th</sup>, one of these having been rung in 2014 was last observed in Mauritania last September.

The Middleton Moor **Starling** roost was down to 1163 on July 18th



Yellow legged gulls near Effingham St.

## Peregrine Update

The two juveniles are still using the nest from time to time and are regularly seen around the University area. See the blog to find the reason for the unhatched eggs.

## Migration on the move

The next two months bring the excitement of birds moving through the area and of course eager anticipation of the next SBSG outdoor meeting for the Visible Migration watch at the end of October.

Swifts have already left in large numbers. Although a swarm of 150 feasted on the mid August eruption of flying ants over one observers garden.

Big parties of Swallow and House Martin still gathering though with good numbers over Redmires, Silverwood Lagoons and Castle Dyke.

Wader sightings get a bit more interesting at this time with Wood Sandpiper turning up at Orgreave Spotted Redshank and Green Sandpiper at Thrybergh and Ruff at Middleton Moor

Post breeding flocks of Goldfinch and Linnet are also evident

Look out for Osprey on their way South over our reservoirs and

Hobbies taking advantage of dragonflies and migrating swallows. One was seen unsuccessfully hunting hirundines on Coldwell Lane in mid August

## Ruskin in Sheffield

John Ruskin was a renowned thinker, writer, artist and social reformer who founded the Guild of St George in 1871 to make the world a better place to live in. He particularly loved Sheffield and chose Walkley as the location for the St Georges Museum

There have been a series of events in Sheffield to celebrate his work including a pop up museum in Walkley

Interestingly they have shown interest in birdwatching in Sheffield and have purchased a copy of the Breeding Atlas

For more info see

[www.ruskininsheffield.com](http://www.ruskininsheffield.com)

## Indoor Meeting Sept 9th

**Bill Gordon** from the Peak District National Park will be talking to us about '*The Ring Ouzels of Stanage and Burbage*'

A chance to hear a real expert on this locally iconic bird and its status in the Peak District

Note the change of lecture theatre to the Arts Tower LT6

## Indoor Meeting October 14th

Continuing our theme of local area interests, **Geoff Carr** will talk on *Birds of the Dark Peak*

