



SBSG e-Newsletter October 2015

Recent Highlights (Aug - Sept 2015)

AUGUST

Early August highlights included a number of interesting Gull records when on the 2nd a colour-ringed **Caspian Gull** was at Parkgate and



Caspian Gull – Paul Leonard

three **Yellow-Legged Gulls** (including 2 adults and a 2cy) were at Redmires Res. An increase in numbers of this species, reported from four locations, included eight at Sheffield City Airport on the 4th, a peak count of 13 birds at Orgreave Lakes on the 11th (coincidentally a **Caspian Gull** was also reported there on the same day) and eight birds at Middleton Moor on the 29th. Large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 441 roosting at Sheffield City Airport on the 4th and a peak of 1,450 on the 29th at the regular Middleton Moor roost. Two further records of **Caspian Gull** probably related to the same bird when a 4cy was present at Middleton Moor on the 24th and 29th. Noteworthy Tern records in the month came from Orgreave Lakes when three **Sandwich**

Terns (adult & two juvs) and a single **Black Tern** were seen on the 14th. Another good record from Orgreave Lakes occurred on the 31st when a dark-phase juvenile **Arctic Skua** dropped in briefly before flying off to the N.

Interesting Raptor records included two sightings of **Red Kite**, one circling near Ravenfield Dumpsite on the



Red Kite – C Tyler

2nd and one flew S over Midhope on the 9th. There were six reports of **Marsh Harrier** received during the month from five locations including Fulwood, Firsby Res, Strines Moor, Stocksbridge and Greave's Piece whilst a single **Osprey** was reported from Broomhead/Morehall Res on the 26th.

Only three sightings of **Little Egret** were reported in the month when a single at Kiveton Pit top scrape on the 5th was followed by two birds at Orgreave Lakes on the 23rd and two at Thrybergh Tip on the 30th. An eclipse drake **Garganey** seen on the 13th at Orgreave Lakes remained until the 15th when a juvenile was also recorded.

Wader highlights during August included **Ruff**, observed at three locations with a max of five at Thybergh CP on the 26th, **Green Sandpiper** recorded from four locations (Blackburn Meadows NR, Firsby Res, Centenary Riverside &

Aldwarke SF) but with two birds at Thrybergh Tip on the 16th, two **Whimbrel** reported from Thrybergh CP and Silverwood Lagoon on the 14th were probably the same birds, a single **Spotted Redshank** visited Thrybergh CP briefly on the 24th and finally a **Wood Sandpiper** was reported from Orgreave Lakes on the 25th.

Some significant Hirundine numbers were recorded with 577 **Swift** SW over Haugh Road-Rawmarsh in three hours on the 3rd, 250+ **House Martin** at Thrybergh CP on the 14th, 200+ **Sand Martin** there on the 26th and 215 **Swallow** at Redmires Middle Res on the 30th.

Other notable reports included a large flock of 315+ **Goldfinch** at Thrybergh CP on the 13th and a single **Black Redstart** at Kimberworth Park on the 17th.

SEPTEMBER

Yellow-Legged Gulls were still being recorded in reasonable numbers in early Sept with five at Middleton Moor on the 5th, four at Langsett Res on the 11th and three at Wardlow on the 12th. Counts of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** peaked at 1,390 on the 5th at Middleton Moor.



Little Egret – M Sweeney

Records of **Little Egret** were received throughout the month but limited to a single bird at Orgreave Lakes on eight dates the only exception being a record

of two at Woodhouse Washlands on the 28th.

Another interesting record from Woodhouse Washlands involved an early morning visit from a flock of circa 50 **Barnacle Geese** on the 6th. Elsewhere 120+ **Wigeon** flew E over Stocksbridge on the 3rd and 141 **Tufted Duck** were present at Rother Valley CP on the 13th.

A single **Ruff** at Orgreave Lakes on the 7th & 8th was followed by two at Thrybergh Res on the 11th and also there on the same date was a single **Bar-tailed Godwit**. Other wader reports included a single **Whimbrel** at Rawmarsh-Haugh Road on the 10th, single **Green Sandpipers** at Rawmarsh-Haugh Road on the 17th, Silverwood Lagoon on the 21st and Aldwarke SF on the 27th. Another interesting report came from Rawmarsh on the 26th when a **Grey Plover** flew SW over Haugh Road.

In terms of raptors, three records of **Osprey** were received, with one at Broomhead Moor on the 1st, one at Thrybergh CP on the 5th and one at Monsal Dale on the 12th. There were only two **Marsh Harrier** reports this month with one at Broomhead Moor on the 1st and one at Rawmarsh-Haugh Road on the 13th. Elsewhere lone **Red Kites** were seen at Low Moor on the 1st, at Cowell Flat on the 13th and at Hooton Roberts on the 24th.

Early Sept brought large hirundine flocks to Thrybergh CP with 250+ **House Martins** there on the 4th and 5th and at least 600 **Swallow** on the 8th. Other interesting records included a **Cetti's Warbler** at a site in Rotherham on the 6th and 27th, a **Black Redstart** at Stanage Edge on the 26th, six **Twite** at Mam Tor on the 20th and an unusually large flock of 1,200 **Linnets** feeding in a field at Onesmoor on the same date.



Linnet – C Kelly

Evidence of Autumn migration was discernible as the final (provisional) sightings of some summer visitors were submitted as follows:

Reed Warbler – Two at Silverwood Lagoon – 1st Sept

Swift – One at Thrybergh CP – 7th Sept

Garden Warbler – One at Orgreave Lakes – 8th Sept

Sedge Warbler – One at Thrybergh CP – 10th Sept

Tree Pipit – One at Redmires Res – 13th Sept

Lesser Whitethroat – One at Thrybergh CP – 19th Sept

Spotted Flycatcher – One at Parkgate – 20th Sept

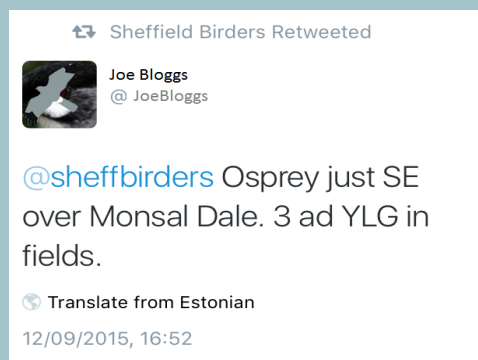
Yellow Wagtail – One at Thrybergh CP – 24th Sept

Whitethroat – One at Rawmarsh – 26th Sept

Willow Warbler – Two at Haywood Farm – 26th Sept

SBSG Twitter

We now have 200 followers of the @SheffBirders twitter account, so the local reporting community is building. Please tweet any interesting/unusual/important records as this is a great way to instantly pass on information to other birders.



Swift Survey 2014-15

A further request for any outstanding breeding records of Swift from this year to add to the Swift Survey. Please submit these as soon as possible – visit [here](#) for guidance notes and [here](#) for preliminary results of the survey.

Foreign Bird Trip Register



Antigua – Yellow Warbler (P Garrity)

At a previous indoor meeting it was suggested that the membership had a wealth of knowledge and expertise around birding trips abroad. Yet that is not widely shared except when a local member gives a talk on one of their trips

The website will shortly feature a spreadsheet in the members area that gives examples of recent trips abroad. I would suggest in the last 5 years with details on the type of holiday eg family, or specific birding together with tour company /tour guide used. Contact details will be provided by those willing to share any inside info on their trip.

If anyone is willing to have their experiences logged in such a way can they contact Neil Porter on nrporter48@hotmail.co.uk and he will update the spreadsheet for the IT team at intervals.

As an aside it might also reveal some willing speakers for a short talk in the future although that is of course entirely voluntary.

Sheffield Parks and Open Spaces Survey 2015-16

A reminder to please submit your records for the Parks survey in line with the required criteria shown [here](#). A number of gaps appear to relate to lack of breeding information during 2015. Please note the “possible”, “probable” or “confirmed” categories and report these using the normal format.

Local Field Trip

Vis-mig at Redmires Res.

Depending on which weekend offers the best weather conditions, the Group's annual visible migration watch will take place on either **Sunday 25th October** or **Sunday 1st November**, meeting at 07:00 on the corner of Soughley Lane/ Brownhills Lane (approx SK272856). Date to be confirmed nearer the time via the website. Last year's trip was low on quantity (one Fieldfare and no Redwings!) but high on quality (Snow Bunting, Raven, Pink-footed Goose and Jack Snipe). What will this year bring?



Stange Forum

Open meeting of the Stange Forum

The annual open meeting of the Stange Forum will be held at 2pm on **Saturday October 31st** at the Memorial Hall Hathersage. Click [here](#) for details of the agenda and directions to the hall.

Indoor Meeting Nov 11th

John Reilly will be presenting “**Out of Gondwana: the amazing story of birds**”.



Inspired by a lecture by the naturalist and artist, Sir Peter Scott, John has had an interest in bird watching since childhood. During those early years he made a number of trips to the Arctic spending some time as a tour guide in Spitsbergen. Now retired from his career in medicine he has rekindled his interest in birding and travelling.

In his presentation John helps us explore a series of key evolutionary questions relating to the 10,500 species of bird which populate the Earth today.

His presentation aims to answer a number of puzzling questions from around the world including Africa, Amazonia, Australia, the Americas and the UK.

Sheffield University Hicks Building – LT3

North West Bird Watching Festival 21st & 22nd Nov

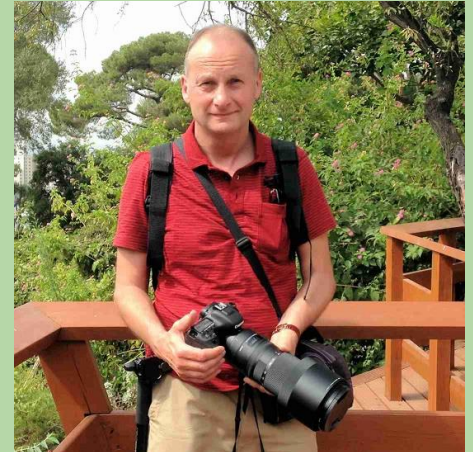
WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre

Guest speakers Iolo Williams, Mark Avery, Charlie Elder, Simon Barnes, Martin Spray and Andy Rouse.

Book tickets online and view full details of the event (including a downloadable PDF flyer) [here](#)

Indoor Meeting Dec 9th

Raptor Passage over Southern Spain
by **Bob Croxton**



Bob is no stranger to the SBSG having been a member for over 30 years. He is also a keen photographer and has travelled widely in the UK, Europe, Africa and USA.

His talk will cover his “adventurous” research into Raptor Migration which has taken him to Southern Spain on 11 occasions capturing images of over 25 different raptor species.

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