

Sheffield Bird Study Group

BULLETIN



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Bulletin

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A. Jones

WAXWING WINTER!

**Scandinavian invaders
arrive in their
hundreds!**

ALSO

Vanishing House Sparrows

Patch-watching column

Recent sightings



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BTO News

Regrettably, I have resigned as Regional Representative for Yorkshire SW and SE regions owing to work commitments and personal circumstances.

This is an ideal opportunity for anyone who is interested in working more closely with the wonderful staff at the BTO and dedicated volunteer fieldworkers across the region. If you are interested, please contact Ieuan Evans at BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU, Tel. 01842 750050, e-mail: ieuan.evans@bto.org

David Gains

New Members

The group welcomes new members Andy Wilson, TJ Bagshawe, Kevin Glossop, Mick Sweeney, David Beardsall, and welcomes back Michael Lacey and John Atkin.

We hope you all enjoy your memberships, and good birding to you all!

2011 meetings programme

The 2011 meetings programme has been finalised, and is as follows.

Indoor Meetings

January	Martin Garner	Gull Identification
February	Glyn Sellors	Spring at Magee Marshes & Waders at Cape May
March	AGM	Includes 2010 Review of the Year
April	Keith Clarkson	Birds on the Edge
May	Pete Brown	San Diego to the Sea of Cortez
September	Tim Melling	What's In A Name?
October	Roy Taylor / Danny	The Future of the
November	Mark Holling	Rare Breeding Birds in the UK
December	Graham Catley	Varanger and Northern Finland

Field Meetings

March	Derwentdale	Raptors
April	Thrybergh CP	Spring Migrants
May	Padley Gorge / Ecclesall Woods	Dawn Chorus
June	Sheffield	Evening Birds
June/July	Wharnccliffe Heath	Nocturnal Special
October	Redmires	Visible Migration
December	Rother Valley CP	Winter Wildfowl

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Indoor Meetings

Martin Garner - Gull Identification

Wed 12th January 2011, Sheffield University Arts Tower, Lecture Theatre 5

After his excellent 'Frontiers of Sheffield Birding' talk last year, Martin Garner will be returning with another lecture that promises to be equally illuminating. The author of the groundbreaking 'Frontiers of Birding', Martin was a key player in identifying both Yellow-legged and Caspian gulls in the UK, and this talk is a must for all larophiles, and may well make a few converts to the gull-watching cause!

Glyn Sellors - Spring at Magee Marshes and Waders at Cape May

Wed 9th February 2011, Sheffield University Arts Tower, Lecture Theatre 5

Glyn Sellors is a wildlife photographer from Derbyshire, who will be sharing with us his photos and experiences of two of his favourite American haunts - the Magee Marshes in Ohio, and Cape May in New Jersey. This promises to be a fantastic talk, with some stunning photography of some beautiful species.

Deadline for next Bulletin

The next Bulletin will be issued at the February Meeting. Please note that any items for inclusion in the Bulletin must be received by Pete Mella at peterjmella@googlemail.com by **Saturday 29h January**. If anyone's sending hard-copies of articles please note my new address on the cover of this issue.

Bulletin by email

More members have now agreed to take their Bulletins by email in PDF format. This is now about one-third of membership and this will help funds in cutting down the cost of sending out Bulletins, as it saves both printing and postage costs.

It is appreciated that not all members have the email facility but many thanks to those who have and are willing to receive their copies in this way.

OTHER GROUPS' DATES TO NOTE

14th Dec - Blacka Moor Merry Mince Pies. Festive walk with Sheffield Wildlife Trust, 11am-1pm, meet at Stony Ridge Car Park.

15th Dec - Optics Demo. At RSPB Old Moor, 10am-4pm.

6th Jan - RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting. The talk is entitled 'Yorkshire Wildlife Through The Lens'. 7.30pm, Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield.

29th Dec - Optics Demo. At RSPB Old Moor, 10am-4pm.

22nd Jan - Rivelin Valley Wander. 6 mile linear walk through the Valley with Sheffield Wildlife Trust, meeting at Lodge Moor bus terminus at 10am. To book contact Hannah Witram on 0114 2634335 or h.witram@wildsheffield.com

12th Jan - Optics Demo. At RSPB Old Moor, 10am-4pm.

26th Jan - Optics Demo. At RSPB Old Moor, 10am-4pm.

28th Jan - DOS Indoor Meeting. Mike Leach will be giving a talk entitled 'Owls of the World'. 7.30pm, Evergreen Club, Allestree.

29th Jan - South Yorkshire Wildlife Action Day. Event at Kelham Island Museum, with guest speakers including Dr Tim Sparks, on Climate Change & Phenology, and workshops, walks, discussion groups and a demonstration by Graham Banwell of OPAL. Contact John Birbeck john@hallamec.plus.com for more details.

3rd Feb - RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting. The talk is entitled 'The Secret life of the Nightjar'. 7.30pm, Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield.

25th Feb - DOS Indoor Meeting. Mike McKavett will be giving a talk entitled 'From Mytilini to Antalya - my quest for the Balkan Ten', 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Chesterfield.

Email peterjmella@googlemail.com with any bird-related events you may have to promote here.

Lecture Report - Paul Hobson

October's lecture was by Paul Hobson, a Sheffield-based photographer who took us through a year of his life, taking stunning shots of some very charismatic species.

Starting in the winter, he showed us photographs of winter thrushes, mainly taken through patient waiting in a hide by a feeding station in the Rivelin Valley. The highlights included dramatic shots of fighting Blackbirds in the snow, and Paul shared tips along the way how to take similar shots - which sadly for the impatient photographer largely involved waiting for hours while lying on his belly in the cold!

Paul took us through his collections

of grouse photographs, with local Red Grouse, action-packed photos of lekking Black Grouse, and some very creative shots of Capercaillie in their native Scottish pine forests. One of Paul's interesting techniques is not being scared to show the subject small in the frame in the context of its surroundings, which did nothing to diminish the presence and majesty of the mighty Caper.

Other projects included songbirds in flight, Sand Martins, Woodcocks, Irish seabird colonies and Swedish Cranes. However one of the most fascinating was a series of evocative shots of a Mistle Thrush nesting in a traffic light in Leeds City Centre, juxtaposed with an

urban night-time setting, and creating truly unique pictures.

Paul gave his biggest tip as to watch and learn wildlife, and it was clear that, while he considered himself a photographer rather than a birdwatcher, the effort he made to learn the habits and behaviour of his subjects, and immerse himself into their world, was immense. This, combined with patience, technical skill and an artistic eye, came together to produce some truly outstanding images.

An entertaining speaker, who was very generous with his advice, Paul was thanked by the group for a very memorable lecture.

Pete Mella

Field Trip Report - East coast, October 2010

This was Paul Medforth's last journey as the organiser and driver of the SBSG minibus trips, and if all was right and proper, the birding gods should have rewarded his many years of service with a gorgeous day with rarities dripping from every bush. Sadly this was not to be, and the group was instead given torrential downpours for most of the day. Despite the weather, optimism was kept that something rare would be found, and the first stop of the day was made at Filey, where a long-staying Wryneck sensibly decided not to emerge from the relative warmth and comfort of its favoured bush. This was despite the best efforts of a well-known twitcher, also present at the site, who was trying hard to get one of us to shimmy round a perilous cliff edge in the pouring rain to flush it for him...

After that we retreated to Filey Dams, which won the vote due to the fact we could all dry off in the hides. Several Snipe were around, Sparrowhawks hunted, waterfowl including Shoveler and Wigeon

loafed, and Tree Sparrows flitted around the bushes, but nothing particularly out of the ordinary appeared, except for one lucky member of the group who caught glimpse of a probable Otter.

After this our next stop was North Landing at Flamborough, where we joined on to a small group of birders waiting for a Rustic Bunting to show itself in a set-aside field. After a damp and miserable wait, some of us decided a hot drink was in order, and when suitably warmed headed back just in time to see those with more stamina returning with big smiles on their faces as the bird had just shown very well indeed (luckily negating the need for the "organised flush" that was sadly being advertised on BirdGuides). Eventually most of the group got to see it, albeit through raindrop-laden scopes and for many of us misted up glasses. Other birds around included a few distant Gannets over the sea and a small party of Red-legged Partridge, but we decided to move inland and end the day at Blacktoft

Sands. We arrived just in time for the rain to stop, and even a few shafts on sunlight to pierce the clouds, and added an impressive count of waders to the day's tally, that included Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit. And of course Blacktoft's Marsh Harriers put on a good show for us.

Although the weather was miserable at times, everyone ended the trip in good spirits and the day proved what the minibus trips are about - as much as the birds they're about the company, the banter and the adventure. The passengers dug deep for a generous whip-round, with which Pete Brown bought a selection of birding books to thank Paul for over a decade of ferrying us all around the country to look at birds. I'm sure I'm not on my own in being grateful for the hard work he's put in over the years.

Pete Mella

Sparrows and Chaffinches

John Kirkman looks at the very different fortunes of two "common" garden birds.

October and November have been months of contrast in my garden, on the one hand interesting and very watchable, on the other a sad first.

The months used to be sparrow time, with a regular three dozen entertainers, after the rigours of the breeding season. The monosyllabic call would be heard for hours at a time, occasionally reaching bedlam when a pack of them would love some scandal to discuss or dispute to settle, invisible but very audible in the dense interior of a large cotoneaster.

There would be chasing parties, or half a dozen would line the shed roof and look around, half-turning their heads upward in case a sparrowhawk was on the roam. A glance at the next cotoneaster would light on a series of heads peering out, the hindquarters being in safely.

Mornings would see them flying in, and much better fliers they were than seems to be acknowledged. They would approach from over the road and houses at the back at great speed, alternating quick bursts of flapping with power glides, head over our birch trees, and spiral onto the lawn or bushes. Changes of direction and speed were startling, and would have impressed waders!

However, October opened as bleakly as September had been, with only two or three birds at once. Then the last fortnight of the month was sparrow-free. Not one did I see, a symptomatic emptiness that was quite poignant, the symptom being of our trying to control our environment by paving gardens, spraying weed-killer and

pesticides, barricading our houses behind plastic boarding. November continued the poverty-stricken pattern of October, so that by the last week of the month, the garden had been seven weeks without a single sparrow.

The fortunes of the chaffinch are in a complete contrast. In summer there is one breeding pair, usually raising two broods. Early autumn usually find mother, father and six or so juveniles. The family is a distinctive one, the males tending to sport an unusually wide and eye-catching white

"...By the last week of the month, the garden had been seven weeks without a single sparrow"

wing-bar. The easily recognisable males have been around for two decades, sons replacing fathers it seems, for as the juveniles develop their adult plumage they develop the wing-bar that signals their parentage.

During September, chaffinch numbers rise, so that into the spring there can be over 20, and it is rare to look out of the window and see fewer than 10. I imagine there are continental visitors, escaping harder winters than ours by crossing the North Sea from the Eurozone! If so, they are here every year, and my garden has some combination of random falls and birds with good memories and superb navigational skills.

They are there, waiting, at dawn in October, and earlier in the three darkest months, and are still around as the light fades. They use the bushes, birch trees, cracks in the patio, table and lawn to feed, though they feed less in the birches than the far more occasional goldfinches, which rarely use any other part of the garden.

They are confident birds, but as numbers on the lawn grow into double figures, they become more edge and likely to take sudden flight, though they are often back in under a minute. They vary greatly in their approach to the hanging nuts, this dispelling the notion that birds are machines. Some land directly and boldly, some hover in front and peck the odd fragment, some sidle along twigs and try to reach it, some seem to have no idea or be able to learn by observing the more talented ones.

They are peaceable creatures. Hardly ever do I see any aggression between them, or obvious resentment by the residents when foreign interlopers arrive for five months. Nor is there evidence of a pecking order, or of females having to wait until the males finish feeding or having to eat on the outer edges of the food or in more dangerous locations.

On the table, they seem to be on a par with great tits, though unwilling to fight for any supremacy; blue tits usually leave, but not because chaffinches push them off. Quite often, two female greenfinches have been with them this year, and it makes you notice the strong greenish presences also found on chaffinches.

Then, come late March, and they have gone, leaving just the resident pair. Since numbers remain steady, the continentals seem to have a strategy of winter survival that works, unless they die and are instantly replaced, which is unlikely.

At any rate, their winter survival is far better than that of the sparrows, which are clearly unable to feed their young well enough to get them through to the next breeding season.

Local birding

David Woodriff has his patch-listing century within his grasps, but which species will be his hundredth?

Hopefully, our cricketers in Australia will knock numerous centuries in their quest to retain The Ashes but for me, in local patch birding terms – I'm stuck on 99 species not out!

As well as Wharnccliffe Chase and Woods, I also include the general High Green area as within the theoretical boundaries of my local patch. This has contributed species such as Kingfisher (numerous sightings at Charlton Brook) and a solitary Willow Tit in Thornccliffe Woods observed whilst out jogging in April 2007.

The star species on my list to date was a Wryneck which showed briefly from the top of a solitary tree at the northern-end of Wharnccliffe Chase in August 2007. After performing its slow "snake like" neck turn, it darted back within the remaining foliage and performed the most amazing disappearing act. How many other patch lists in the region can boast four Woodpecker species with Great Spotted, Green and the (hard to see) Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers all resident!

The area is well known for its breeding Nightjar and evening walks also produce roding Woodcock. Wheatears are regular passing through, Stonechats can be elusive and I've also had Whinchat on two occasions.

There's a small flash towards the centre of the Chase that holds over 100 moulting Mallards every year, post-breeding season. It also acts as a bird-magnet and I've seen Green Sandpiper (Aug'09), Water Rail (Dec'06) and a late juvenile

Grasshopper Warbler (Aug'09) that was reported to have bred here that year. I can't recall seeing other reports of Water Rail anywhere else in the area so this was a particularly pleasing find on a cold mornings birding.

The lack of a larger body of water has deprived me of adding many wildfowl to the list although I've seen Shelduck and Goosander passing over. Cormorant heading between the northern reservoirs are a regular site and skeins of Pink-footed Geese never fail to take my breath-away. I feel destined to add to my list with either Mute or Whooper Swan at some point as the lofted vantage point affords excellent views, especially to the east.

"How many other patch lists in the region can boast four woodpecker species?"

Raptors are well represented on my list to include Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Hobby and Peregrine. However, I retain hopes of adding to my list in future with species such as Red Kite, Merlin, Marsh Harrier and Goshawk that have all been seen in the area by other birders. Tawny and Little Owls are around but how I long to see any of their other 3 cousins here which I believe is a possibility.

Warblers on my list include Willow, Wood, Grasshopper, Garden, Common and Lesser Whitethroat, Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Spotted Flycatchers breed in the woods but I've yet to find a Pied passing through.

Vis-migging brings me great enjoyment in terms of observing strong numbers of passing Woodpigeon, Fieldfare, Swallows and Starling, but it's also the

anticipation of seeing both new and unexpected species that makes me stand in the same spot time after time. It was this vocation that forwarded species #99 in October this year – a Ring Ouzel, associating with Redwings.

I also enjoy picking out the "hangers-on" that use mass volume moving species as a vehicle to pass through. These includes Stock Dove (with Woodpigeon); House Martin (Swallows); Pied Wagtail (Meadow Pipits) and three Waxwings moving with Winter thrushes a few weeks ago.

Finches can be a frustration on passage unless they give (for me anyway!) a recognisable call.

Perseverance has allowed me to familiarise myself with the Redpoll call as well as Brambling, Siskin and Crossbill which are all fairly regular. I'm certain I'll get a Hawfinch one-day as there are good habitats close by which could support this species such as the parkland at nearby Wortley Hall.

Snow and Lapland Buntings have been well recorded in the country on passage this year but, despite much internet based call learning, I've not yet been able to add these species to Yellowhammer and Reed Buntings which are resident.

What will be the century-busting species? I'm frustrated not to have picked out any Sand Martins within the passing hirundines and I'm sure a Merlin will zip-by at some point. Could it be a mega – Firecrest, Great Grey Shrike (recently reported) or Yellow-browed Warbler? Either way – I'm definitely a "list man" and, like our cricketers – when I get the 100 I'll be setting my sights on the 150 mark!

RECENT SIGHTINGS

1st October - 26th November 2010

These records are largely unchecked. Records in bold require supporting details.



P. Thomas

No birdwatcher in Sheffield will have failed to notice by now that it's a Waxwing winter!

The first to arrive were three NW at Wharnccliffe Chase, and eight NW at Graves Park, on the 24th October - only two days off the area's record earliest date of 22nd October in 1979.

By the end of October small flocks had been seen at Midhope, Lodge Moor, Millhouses, Redmires, Ramsley Res, Porter Clough, Ecclesall, Leash Fen Firsby Res and Ecclesall.

Numbers built up throughout November, with daily reports ranging widely across the area. However the main core of the area's birds concentrated around the High Storrs/Greystones area, peaking at 342 on 20th November, and one of the most regular feeding sites being Cemetery Avenue, where up to 200 birds could be seen during the day.

Elsewhere large groups have included 150 at Heeley City Farm on 24th November, and 110 were seen at Redmires on 27th.

The winter's still young, and as always Waxwings can turn up almost everywhere - so if you haven't seen any yet keep your eyes on those berries and listen for that trill!



M. Wood-Bonelli



S. Winslow



A. Jones

Great Northern Diver – An immature was at RVCP main lake on 13th November.

Cormorant – The largest counts included 20 at Thrybergh CP on 14th November, and 27 at Renishaw Park on 20th.

Bittern – One roosted at Pit-house West on 2nd, 14th and 16th November.

Mute Swan – The large group at Parkgate Canal Basin peaked at 61 on 18th November, including 12 1st winters.

Whooper Swan – One was at Thrybergh CP on 10th October, with four at the same site on 18th and a single on 22nd. Three were at Redmires on 22nd and 23rd, and four at Bolehill Flash on 27th, two at Woodhouse Washlands on 29th, and eight at Rother Valley on 31st. In November 15 flew south at Orgreave Lakes on 1st, 15 ESE over Haywood Farm on 6th, one south at Orgreave and west at Barbrook Pools on 6th, three over Thrybergh CP on 7th, a 1st winter at Orgreave Lakes on 11th and 12th, and three at Carr Vale on 22nd.

Pink-footed Goose – Largest counts in October included 210 over Linacre Res on 6th Oct; 120+ over Dore, Leash Fen and Forge Dam on 9th; 120 over Agden Side on 10th; 200 over Morborough, 450 over Rother Valley, 103 over Firsby Res, 130 over Normanton Spring, 250 over Aston and 290 over Millhouses on 12th; 1,016 over Ramsley Res on 13th; 390 over Wharncliffe Chase on 17th; 500 over Redmires, 200 over Intake, 100 over Ecclesall and 200 over Sothall on 22nd; 400 over Eyam on 24th; and 380 over Owlthorpe on 28th. In November the largest flocks were 1,700 over Barbrook Pools, 900 over Totley Moor and 650 over Blacka Moor on 6th; and 360 over Hurl Field and 250 over Ecclesall on 10th.

Brent Goose – Seven flew west over Rod Moor on 24th October.

Mandarin – A large flock at Linacre Res reached a peak of 136 on 27th October, and 135 on 3rd Nov.

Pintail – A female was at Treeton Dyke on 18th October.

Red-crested Pochard – a drake was on Orgreave Lakes on 7th November, and was found later in the same day at Catcliffe Flash.

Scaup – A juvenile was at Carr Vale on 21st October.

Common Scoter – A female/immature was present at Orgreave Lakes on 19th and 20th November.

Red Kite – one over Moss Valley on 12th November, mobbed by corvids.

Water Rail – records from Thrybergh Tip, Firsby Res, Pit-house West and Poolsbrook Marsh, with the highest count being three at Firsby on 15th November.

Golden Plover – a flock at Peat Pits peaked at 500 on 11th November. Elsewhere 20 were at Leash Fen on 10th October, 100 at Barborough on 10th November, 40 at Ulley CP on 13th November, and 32 at Longstone Moor on 14th November.

Grey Plover – 1 flew south over Redmires Bottom Res on 15th October.

Lapwing – largest counts included 350 at Peat Pits on 19th October, 117 at Rod Moor on 24th October, and 221 at Redmires on 27th Oct.

Dunlin – singles were at Thrybergh CP on 3rd October, 13th October and 19th November; Middleton Moor on 24th October; Redmires Res on 1st, 7th and 21st November; Barbrook Pools on 7th November; and Orgreave Lakes on 21st November. Five were at Ramsley Res on 1st November, and three at Orgreave on 22nd November.

Jack Snipe – singles were at Aldwarke SF on 7th November, Silverwood Lagoon on 13th October, and Thrybergh CP on 25th Oct.

Snipe – 49 were flushed from rushes at Blue Man's Bower on 16th October.

Woodcock – Records from Ramsley Res, Wyming Brook, Ulley CP, Canklow, Sharrow and Lady Canning's Plantation, where four were reported on 13th November.

Black-tailed Godwit – Two were at Orgreave Lakes on 6th November.

Greenshank – One at Thrybergh Tip on 17th November.

Green Sandpiper – One at Thrybergh CP on 10th October; one at Silverwood Lagoon on 21st October; two at Underbank Res on 15th November; and one at Firsby Res on 15th November.

Mediterranean Gull – One immature at Thrybergh CP on 11th October.

Black-headed Gull – largest counts included 255 at Middleton Moor on 3rd October, 420 at Thrybergh CP on 29th October, 300 at Orgreave Lakes on 15th November, 500 at Langsett Res on 17th November, and 250 at Blackburn Meadows on 20th November.

Common Gull – 13 were at Redmires on 1st November, 30 at Peat Pits on 11th November, and 27 at Silverwood Lagoon on 21st November.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – Maxima at roost sites included 710 at Redmires on 28th October and 700 at Middleton Moor on 14th November.

Herring Gull – 18 were at Orgreave Lakes on 14th November.

Yellow-legged Gull – Birds were reported at Orgreave Lakes on 1st and 5th October; Thrybergh CP on 3rd October; three at Middleton Moor on 3rd October and 14th November and two on 31st October; and one at RVCP on 8th October. Birds were regularly reported at Redmires up to 31st October, peaking at three on 1st.

Caspian Gull – A 1st winter was at Redmires Reservoir on 15th October.

Great Black-backed Gull – One at Firsby Res on 6th November, two at Orgreave Lakes on 14th, four at Firsby Res on 15th, one at Langsett Res on 22nd, and a maximum of 10 at Parkwood Springs on 24th.

Kittiwake – 2nd winter at Carr Vale NR on 3rd October was identified as the long-staying French bird that has been in the north Nottinghamshire area for eight months.

Common Tern – Singles at RVCP on 6th and 8th October.

Ring-necked Parakeet – Birds seen widely across the city, with sites including Botanical Gardens, Brincliffe Edge, Crookes, Endcliffe Park, Graves Park, Manor Oaks, Bingham Park, Handsworth, Hurl Field, City Centre, University of Sheffield, Wharncliffe Side and Heeley City Farm. Most related to single birds, with the exception of four at Manor Oaks on 28th October, four at Handsworth on 29th October, two at Hurl Field on 30th October, and



This Great Grey Shrike was at Leash Fen in October.

two at Heeley City Farm on 18th and 22nd November.

Skylark – Largest counts included 108 at Firsby Res on 7th October, 54 at Ulley CP on 9th October and 47 at Totley Moor on 6th November.

Sand Martin – The latest reports were two south at Orgreave Lakes on 2nd October, and 1 south with swallows at Firsby Res on 4th.

Swallow – Many reports into October, the latest being one over Redmires on 17th October, and three at Firsby Res the same day.

House Martin – Several reports up to 9th October, when four fed over Westwood CP, with one very late report of a single bird over Ramsley Res on 30th.

Tree Pipit – One at Moscar Cross on 2nd October.

Meadow Pipit – the largest count was 303 SW over Wharnccliffe Chase on 7th October. A notable influx of 45 were at Blacka Moor on 7th November.

Water Pipit – A pager report of one at Barbrook Res on 17th October.

Rock Pipit – One flew NE over Redmires Res on 30th October.

Pipit sp. – A rock/water pipit flew NE over Redmires Res on 1st November.

Yellow Wagtail – There were two October reports, consisting of singles at Thrybergh CP on 1st, and Orgreave Lakes on 2nd.

Pied Wagtail – A large flock roosted at Northern General Hospital on 24th October, and a flock of 82 roosted at Sheffield Hallam University on 1st

on 14th November.

Black Redstart – Single birds were reported at Stanage Edge on 10th Oct, and Thrybergh Cemetery on 12th November.

Whinchat – late birds were at Redmires on 12th October, Big Moor on 15th, and Barbrook Res on 17th.

Stonechat – maxima included three at Ramsley Pools on 4th October, and three at Agden Side on 25th October and 21st November.

Wheatear – Several records throughout October, including two at Derwent Edge on 17th, and the latest of the month being one at Stanage Edge on 23rd. There was an unusual November record on 6th November at Totley Moor, just two days off the record for the area's latest date.

Ring Ouzel – Three were at Ramsley Moor on 4th October; one at Moscar Cross on 5th October; one associating with redwings on Wharnccliffe Chase on 7th; two over Redmires Res on 10th; one at Stanage Edge on 10th; one at Ramsley Res on 10th; five at Redmires on 12th and 13th, and the final records of the year being one at Stanage and two at Mill Brook on 17th.

Blackbird – Maxima include 36 at Thrybergh CP on 19th October, 29 at Stubley Hollow on 22nd, 27 at Sharrow

October. 56 roosted at Middleton Moor on 31st.

Waxwing – see page 7.

Robin – maxima of 17 at Firsby Res on 4th October, 24 at Thrybergh on 8th October, 14 at Redmires on 10th October, 22 at General Cemetary on 28th October, and 10 at Wheata Wood

General Cemetery on 28th, 22nd at Langsett on 1st November; 72 at Ulley CP on 10th; 47 at Firsby Res on 16th; and 56 at Stubley Hollow on 19th.

Fieldfare –The largest movements were 1,068 at Firsby Res on 20th October, 1,200 at Wharnccliffe Chase on 24th; 1,200 at Ulley on 24th; and 1,500 at Langsett Moor on 28th.

Song Thrush – largest counts were 15 at Richmond Park on 2nd October, 16 at Redmires on 10th, 18 at Firsby Res on 10th November.

Redwing – Largest movements were 1,000 at Leash Fen on 10th Oct, and 750 over Wharnccliffe Chase on 12th.

Mistle Thrush – Largest counts were 16 at Orgreave on 1st October, 15 at Walker edge on 2nd, 12 at Thrybergh on 8th, 10 at Redmires on 13th, 13 at Firsby Res on 15th.

Cetti's Warbler – One was at Carr Vale on 25th October, the second ever record from the site. It was heard again on 22nd November, and present until at least 28th.

Reed Warbler – One at Firsby Res on 18th October.

Whitethroat – One at Firsby Res on 2nd October.

Blackcap - Reports from Firsby Res until 7th October. A wintering female/immature was reported on 28th Oct, and later on 15th and 22nd Nov, a male was at Ecclesall on 30th



This handsome Bearded Tit was one of four, at least one of which was present at Pit-house West through much of November.

October, and a female was at Brincliffe Edge on 14th November.

Chiffchaff - The last larger counts were sixes at Harthill Res and Thrybergh CP on 8th Oct, with a single at Firsby on 23rd. There was one November record, also at Firsby, heard calling on 15th.

Goldcrest - Larger counts included 14 at Firsby Res on 7th and 31st Oct, 14 at Redmires on 10th Oct, and 11 at Ulley on 16th.

Firecrest - one was at Blacka Moor on 14th and 15th November.

Bearded Tit - Four birds were found at Pit-house West on 14th November, where one lingered until at least 28th November.

Great Grey Shrike - One was at Leash Fen/Ramsley Moor from 6th-10th October. One was at Longshaw on 20th, and Great Hucklow on 25th. One was on Blacka Moor on 28th, and (the same?) one at Blacka Hill from 3rd-6th November proved to be an interesting bird showing characteristics of the SE Russian form *homeyeri*. One was at Wharnccliffe Chase on 13th

November, and at Langsett Res on 26th.

Corvid sp. - A mixed roost of Rook and Jackdaw totalled 1,500 at Ecclesall Woods in November.

Starling - The Middleton Moor roost peaked at 3,800 birds on 14th November. 1,464 were recorded NW over Langsett on 1st November.

Chaffinch - Highest counts were 143 SSW over Moscar Cross on 2nd October, and 80 over Langsett on 1st November.

Brambling - Many reports across the area, including vis mig counts at Redmires of 46 on 22nd October, 55 of 23rd, 140 on 30th and 62 on 7th November.

Greenfinch - 150 were at Ramsley Res on 7th October.



This Lapland Bunting was one of a small group at Orgreave from 6th-13th November.

Lesser Redpoll - Largest count was 128 at Firsby Res on 19th November.

Crossbill - Largest groups were 13 at Derwent Valley on 25th October, 10 at Redmires on 21st November, and 20 at Strines Moor on 26th.

Lapland Bunting - Up to three were present at Orgreave Lakes between 6th-13th November.

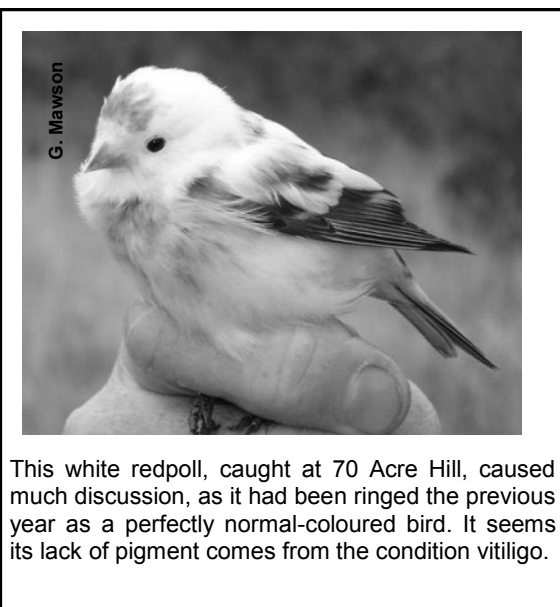
Snow Bunting - Two were at Orgreave Lakes on 6th November, with one lingering up to 13th.

Yellowhammer - Larger flocks included 17 at Stubble Hollow on 28th October, 19 at Firsby Res on 30th October, and 15 at Wheata Wood on 27th November.

Reed Bunting - The largest counts were 50 at Thrybergh CP on 25th October, 55 at Barbrook Pools on 6th November, and 65 at Firsby Res on 10th November.

Corn Bunting - Two were at Pebley on 10th November.

Pete Mella



This white redpoll, caught at 70 Acre Hill, caused much discussion, as it had been ringed the previous year as a perfectly normal-coloured bird. It seems its lack of pigment comes from the condition vitiligo.

Siskin - Highest counts were 85 at Agden Rocher and 149 at Moscar Cross on 2nd October.

Linnet - 80 were at White Lee Moor on 2nd October, and 120 at Pebley on 8th.

Common (Mealy) Redpoll - One was at Firsby Res on 30th October, and two were at the same site on 10th November. 2 were ringed at Blackburn Meadows on 31st Oct, and 3 were at ringed at 70 Acre Hill on 14th.

Records were received from the following observers, with apologies for any omissions:

- N Anscomb, MG Archer, S Ashton, J Atkin, A Atkinson, B Bailey, S Bailey, R Barnard, N Barnes, S Barnes, MA Beevers, AR Bell, RP Blagden, K Bower, P Bradley, SJ Branch, A&C Brewster, PL Brown, R Butterfield, DM Bye, BM Carr, EO Chafer, I Chapman, N Clark, J Clarke, B Cole, N Cross, T Damahi, A Deighton, J Ducker, NP Dummigan, H Egan, D&J Franklin, M Garner, P Garrity, KR Gould, S Green, T Grose, D Hall, D Heathcote, I Hedge, A Hill, RD Hill, G Hobley, M Hodgson, J Horscroft, C Hurst, G James, M Jarvis, Anne Johnson, A Jones, JE Kenward, J Kingsland, K Knowles, M Kramer, M Lacey, P Lawson, CL Leonard, P Leonard, P License, D Martin, P Mella, M Miller, TH Minskip, D Neil, R Parkin, J Partridge, PH Pearsall, NR Porter, MN Reeder, P Ridsdale, D Rossis, S Samworth, M Sanders, J Sherwin, M Sherwin, A Siddall, D Simmonite, M Sizer, MA Smethurst, C Smith, B Spencer, D Stables, J Stobart, CB Stride, M&L Taylor, SG Tebbutt, P Thomas, A Thompson, W Thomson, M Timms, R Twigg, C Tyler, D Vine, D Warburton, A Watson, MC Wells, N Wheat, G Williams, RDR Williams, S Winslow, D Wood, D Woodriff, P Wragg, Rotherham and District Ornithological Society, Sorby-Breck Ringing Group, Thrybergh CP Bird Log.

GIFT AID AND MEMBERSHIP

In recent years there have been changes to Gift Aid legislation, making it easier for charitable organisations to reclaim income tax on the contributions, including subscriptions, made by members.

The group is constantly looking for sources of income to offset the increasing costs of running the group, such as printing the excellent Annual Report, (the better it gets, in terms of photos etc, the more it costs) and also room hire for our Indoor Meetings.

Gift Aid is a means by which every basic rate tax-paying member can contribute to the group's income, courtesy of the Inland Revenue (what an incentive!). If you are about to pay your 2011 subscription and have not already filled in a Gift Aid form, please complete the tear off slip below, and return it to any committee member at an indoor meeting or send with subs to Martin Hodgson by post. Alternatively, please send it to me at:

Anselm,
White Edge Drive,
Baslow
Derbyshire
DE45 1SJ

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*Ron Blagden
Treasurer*

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Subscriptions for 2011 become due in January.

As you will have seen from the list in this Bulletin we have a good programme of speakers planned for next year, and many local and more distant field trips are also in the pipeline. A copy of the Annual Report for the year prior to membership is also included. The subscriptions remain the same at £14 for individual members, £16 for family membership, and £7 for juniors (up to age 16), which I am sure you will see as good value for money. A subscription form is below. To renew, please see Jenny Kingsland at any meeting, or send your cheque payable to Sheffield Bird Study Group, together with a stamped addressed envelope for return of your membership card, to Martin Hodgson, 142 Hangingwater Road, Sheffield, S11 7ET. For new members an application form is available at meetings, or by e-mail to martinjhodgson@btinternet.com

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