



**SHEFFIELD BIRD STUDY GROUP**  
**BULLETIN**

**ISSUE 210**

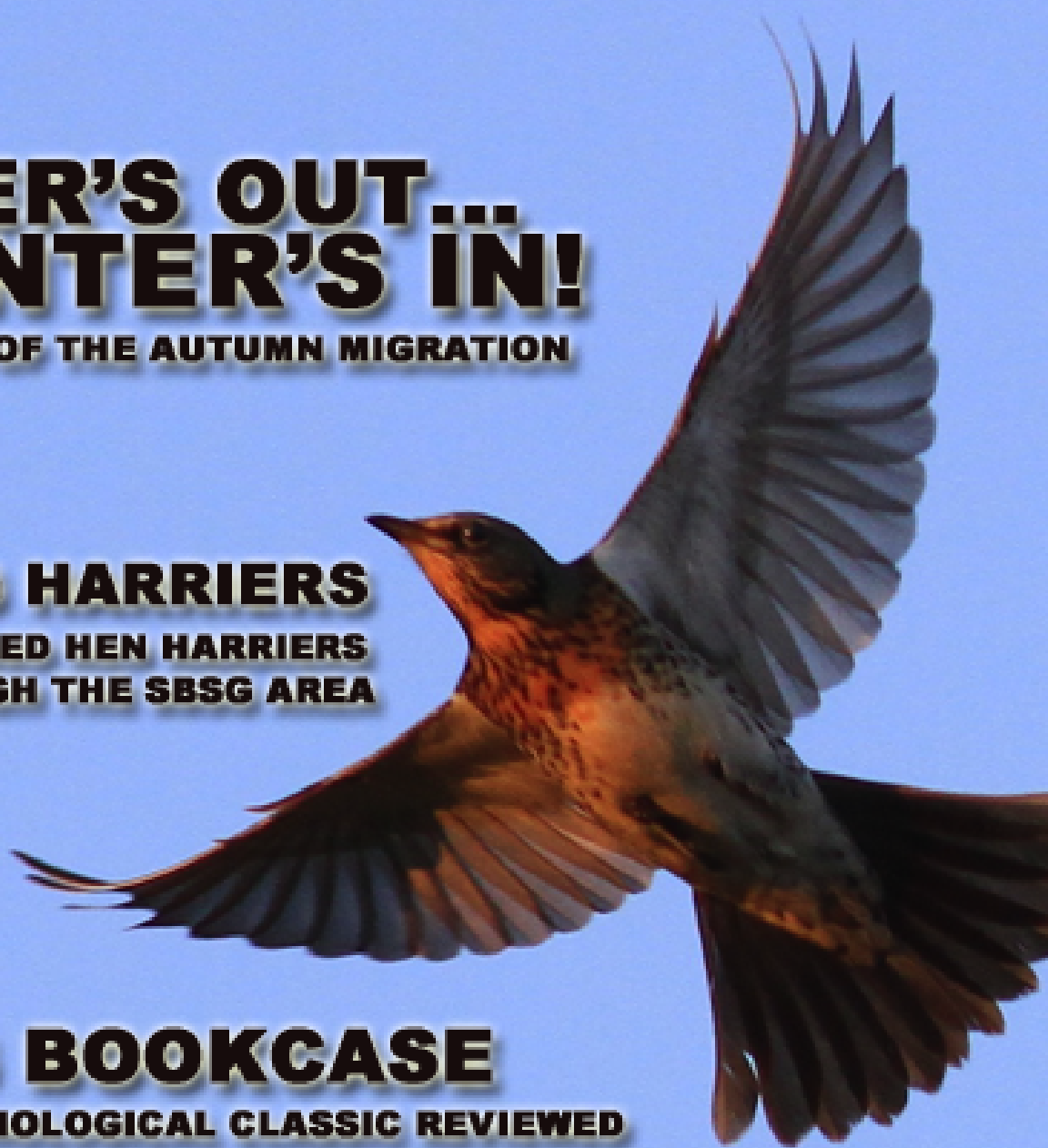
**NOV 2011**

[www.sbsg.org.uk](http://www.sbsg.org.uk)

**SUMMER'S OUT...  
...WINTER'S IN!**

**THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUTUMN MIGRATION**

**TRACKING HARRIERS**  
**FOLLOWING TAGGED HEN HARRIERS**  
**THROUGH THE SBSG AREA**



**BIRDING BOOKCASE**  
**ANOTHER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLASSIC REVIEWED**

**PLUS! The latest news, dates for your diary,  
letters and more**

## Breeding Atlas - Species Sponsorship

Following the extensive survey work carried out by members of the Group over a six-year period, resulting in well over 20,000 breeding records, the bulk of the species accounts for the Breeding Atlas to be published by the Group are now written, and have had a first edit.

Much of the artwork, being produced by Paul Leonard and Richard Dale, whose talents we are extremely lucky to have, has also been completed. With progress towards the book coming along well, we are now moving into a critical period to secure funding for its publication. We have written to a number of local, regional and national organisations inviting them

to become sponsors of either the project overall or a species, at appropriate corporate rates, and will also be seeking funding from one of the national lottery's schemes.

Some local groups have already agreed to sponsor species in the report, notably RDOS and SK58. We are also seeking species sponsors from the Group's membership: for £20 your name appears at the foot of the page for the species you sponsor, a small price to pay to be associated with a favourite bird in the context of the most significant project undertaken by the Group in many years. The publication of the Atlas will be a fitting way to mark the Group's 40th

anniversary and the efforts of all involved in bringing it to fruition.

So far, almost half of the species found to be breeding locally in our Atlas have a sponsor, and below is a list of species as yet 'unclaimed'. If all of the Group's members sponsor a species, we will have it covered with some room to spare, and will have gone a long way to providing the matched funding often required by external funders. To sponsor one (or more!) species, please contact David Wood, either at an indoor meeting, by e-mail ([david.wood@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:david.wood@sheffield.ac.uk)) or by phone (0114 2306928).

Water Rail	Moorhen	Coot	Dunlin	Common Sandpiper
Black-headed Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Turtle Dove
Barn Owl	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Woodlark	House Martin	Tree Pipit
Meadow Pipit	Yellow Wagtail	Pied Wagtail	Dunnock	Black Redstart
Redstart	Blackbird	Fieldfare	Song Thrush	Mistle Thrush
Grasshopper Warbler	Sedge Warbler	Reed Warbler	Dartford Warbler	Blackcap
Garden Warbler	Lesser Whiethroat	Whitethroat	Chiffchaff	Spotted Flycatcher
Pied Flycatcher	Marsh Tit	Willow Tit	Blue Tit	Great Tit
Treecreeper	Jay	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook
Carrion Crow	Starling	House Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch
Goldfinch	Lesser Redpoll	Hawfinch	Reed Bunting	

## Deadline for next Bulletin

The next Bulletin will be issued at the January indoor meeting. Please note that any items for inclusion in the Bulletin must be received by Pete Mella at [peterjmella@googlemail.com](mailto:peterjmella@googlemail.com) (for preference), or 21 Lump Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield, S35 8PL, by **Saturday 22nd December**. **Note earlier date due to Xmas.**

## Bulletin by email

More and more members have agreed to receive their Bulletins by email, and now **well over half** of you are on our email list, meaning we have been able to cut our print run considerably, and make big savings on postage. Many thanks to all members who have agreed to this, and if you would like to switch over to receiving your Bulletin in pdf format then please email me at [peterjmella@googlemail.com](mailto:peterjmella@googlemail.com).

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Indoor Meetings

### Glyn Sellors - Spring at McGee Marshes and Waders at Cape May

Wed 14th December 2011, Sheffield University Arts Tower, Lecture Theatre 5, 7.15pm

A rescheduled talk which will definitely be worth the wait - birdwatcher and photographer Glyn Sellors will be sharing some of his stunning pictures of some of the amazing birds seen on his American adventures.

### Chris McKay - Visible Migration

Wed 11th January 2011, Sheffield University Arts Tower, Lecture Theatre 5, 7.15pm

A speaker that many members will be familiar with, Chris McKay is a pioneer of visible migration, and will be sharing some of his experiences and insights on this exciting field of bird study,

## Field Meetings

### Winter Wildfowl at RVCP

Date tbc

The usual field meeting to RVCP, seeing what winter wildfowl can be found will take place in December. Will there be something rarer lurking among the more usual species that spend the winter on the reserve? The date is to be confirmed, see the website and group's Twitter feed for updates.

## Cover photo

This month's excellent cover photo is by Scott Duckworth.

## Group contacts

### Bulletin

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## OTHER DATES TO NOTE

**Every Wednesday – Optics Event.** RSPB Old Moor, 10am-4pm, one to one advice bookable. 01226 751593.

**Tue 15th Nov – 'Where's Harry The Hedgehog' (YWT).** Hibernation-themed family day at Potteric Carr. Free, 10am-12noon.

**Fri 25th Nov – DOS Indoor Meeting.** The speaker is Keith Offord, with a talk entitled 'Costa Rica, Paradise of the Neotropics'. 7.30pm, Evergreen Club, Allestree. £1 members, £1.50 non-members.

**Sun 27th Nov – Bird Feeder event (YWT).** Family bird-feeder day at Potteric Carr. 10.30am-12noon. Booking essential – normal admission + £2 per child. 01302 570077

**Thu 1st Dec – RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting.** The talk will be by Alan and Susan Parker, on North Norfolk Birding, £1.50 members, £3 non-members.

**Sat 10th Dec – Lantern Walk (YWT).** Lantern-making and night time walk for children at Potteric Carr. 3.30pm-5pm. Booking essential – normal admission + £2 per child. 01302 570077

**Tue 20th Dec – Beginner's Birds (YWT).** ID class for beginners. 10am-12noon. Normal admission charge (free to members). Booking essential – normal admission + £2 per child. 01302 570077

**Sun 11th Dec – Christmas Winter Talk and Lunch (YWT).** Talk by Patrick Harding and Christmas lunch. 10am-12noon. £4.50pp, plus optional lunch at café. Booking essential – normal admission + £2 per child. 01302 570077

**Sun 18th Dec – Winter Wreaths and Warming Wander (SWT).** Wander around Wyming Brook with holly wreath making, mince pies and festive drinks. Booking essential – contact Hannah Whitram on 0114 2634335. £2 minimum donation.

**Thu 5th Jan - RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting.** Paul Hobson will give a talk entitled 'A Wild Photographer Abroad'. Central United Reformed Church, Sheffield. £1.50 members, £3 non-members.

# HARRIERS ON THE MOVE

There have been several sightings of ringtail Hen Harriers on the Western moorlands, moving into or through the area from breeding grounds further north. Precise details of records are not published due to the history of persecution of this species.

However, in a recent development, satellite tracking programmes that record the birds' movements from when they leave the nest have resulted in some very interesting details. For example, a first-winter male from Langholm spent some time in our area in mid-October before moving on to northern France - see map 1.

Another first-winter male, starting from the Bowland area, also headed south at around the same time, and they may have even travelled together, since they ended up in Northern France around the same time.

Map 2 below shows the location and movement of five individuals. Note how, over a short period, the red, yellow and purple birds stayed put (two females and a male), showing only local movements, while the other two young males headed south. It is now thought that both birds took a fairly direct route to their respective landfalls, since the widespread green markers represented weak and therefore inaccurate signals.

This map was somewhat clearer in the original; I was sadly unable to persuade the lines showing the actual tracks taken to show up!

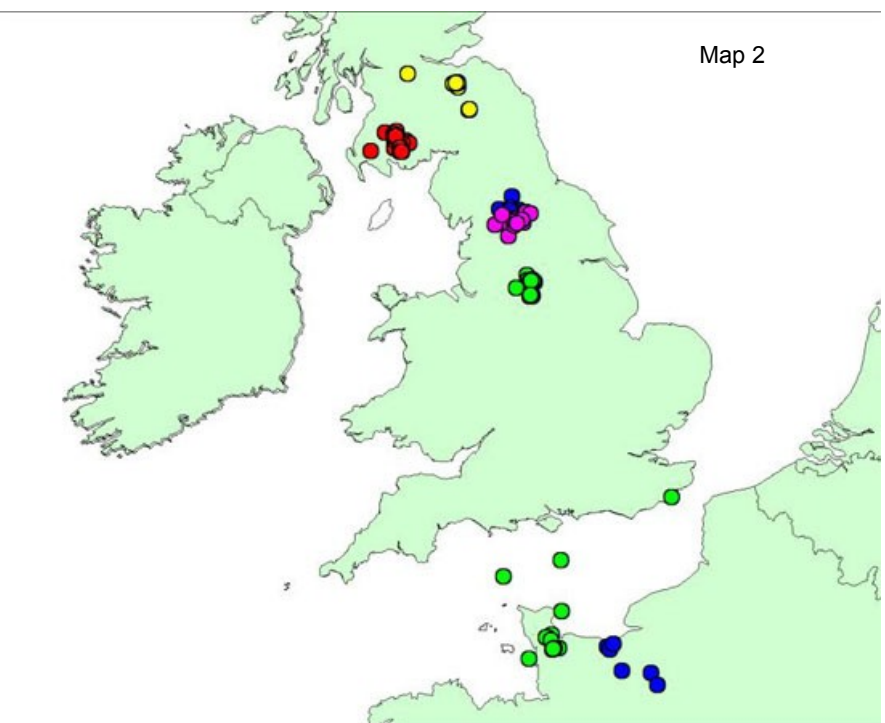
Subsequently one of the males has reached SW Brittany, while

the other is still much nearer the north coast. Altogether a fascinating glimpse into the as yet poorly understood details of Hen Harrier migration.

SBSG are grateful to Stephen Murphy of Natural England for the information and maps, and the Langholm Moor

demonstration project who satellite tagged the birds. You may recall Stephen gave an excellent talk to the group on Hen Harriers in April 2010.

**Simon Bailey**



# BIRDING BOOKCASE

In the second of his book reviews, **Dermot Smythe** looks at Charlie Elder's *While Flocks Last*.

RSPB has around a million members in the UK. But, as well as these and all the local group activists, there several million more people with a 'low-intensity' interest in birds. For every 1000 of the latter, surely 500 would become eager birding conservationists after reading *While Flocks Last*. What recruitment drive could achieve a 50% success rate?

It is also the only book I can think of where the blurb on the back cover understates its virtues! It is not only a well-researched and beautifully crafted summary of the 40 bird species on the UK most-threatened list of 2008 and the reasons for their decline.

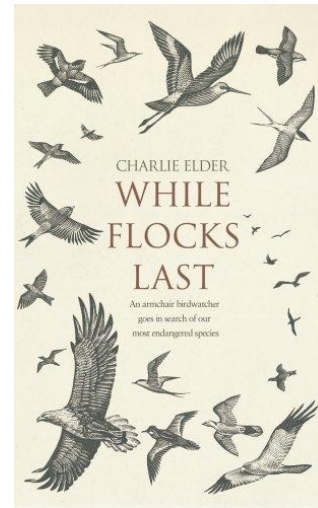
It is also a guide to how you would go about seeing these birds, if you had the time, energy and perseverance of Charlie Elder, that is.

He gave himself a year to see all 40, travelling to some of the most remote and unique habitats in the British Isles to do so. From dragging his family around Eigg in search of Twite, through finally catching up with Wryneck after innumerable failures, to seeing the last bird on his list, Savi's Warbler in Cornwall, *While Flocks Last* reads like a thriller.

But what makes it a killer-app for creating a passion for conservation in those not yet seized is the fact that is seriously funny, in every sense. Equal space is given to the jibes he receives from his family, work colleagues (and himself) as to the fifty odd conservation activists he meets along the way. Name-dropping the likes of Simon King, David Noble, Grahame Madge and Lee Evans, Elder sensibly quotes only a sentence or two from each.

Nothing in the book is allowed to detract from the birds themselves and the fascination they arouse in those who see them and care about their protection.

How much do you spend in a year



o n

birthday and Christmas presents? How many of these presents never get used? You couldn't do better than buy up half a dozen copies of Elder's book and present them to friends and relatives. You could help to save UK-breeding Red-backed Shrikes and Marsh Warblers in the process.

*If you have a favourite book, new or old, that you want to review for the Bulletin, then please get in touch.*

## Letter - Accurate grid reference plea

By now, everyone must have heard of the somewhat contentious subject of Rotherham's latest forthcoming visitor attraction. It appears that the planned Chinese theme park destined for the Pithouse West site is still in the pipeline and still has the support of the leader of Rotherham Council! To destroy a significant part of the legacy of industrial South Yorkshire that everyone can share in for free, all for the sake of a tacky theme park, the promise of a handful of full-time jobs and a questionable 'boost to the local economy', would be a shameful act - but that's just my opinion!

The length of time that these kind of proposals take to become concrete means that it may be several years yet before things happen - if indeed

they do. This gives us a relatively short time to boost the rather 'patchy' biological data that we have for the site, which may go some way towards overturning the project, limiting its adverse effects or forcing appropriate and adequate mitigation at the very least. The problem at present is, that most of the records held are very imprecise, many having a 4- figure grid reference at best. This makes using them as evidence in an inquiry very difficult as locations for rare/sensitive species cannot be proven and any arguments based on them can be shot full of holes.

This is an appeal to birders - and other naturalists for that matter - to make that little bit more effort to record with greater accuracy; vague locations such as 'Pit House West'

are simply not enough. We all appreciate that it is difficult to record things as transient as birds with any degree of precision but trying could make all the difference. At the Biological Records Centre in Rotherham, we don't even have an accurate location for the Bittern roost site, which is quite ridiculous given the number of observers who visit to see them each winter! When the time comes for naturalists to stand up and be counted on this one, I for one would like SBSG to be prepared. Making a little extra effort now could make all the difference later.

PLEASE help to put us in a good position when/if it comes to the crunch.

**Paul Leonard**

# SURVIVING THE DRY SPELL

*We may not complain during dry spells, but, as **John Kirkman** investigates, summers like 2011's can upset the natural order of things for birds and other wildlife.*

Looking around, in August, and back to March, in many regards the natural world has had a demanding six months, a half-year that has put some birds and many other animals, and plants as well, under sever pressure.

The three months of March to May were the driest on record over most of England, including Sheffield. Our dryness was less dramatic than in parts of Surrey and Lincolnshire, which had only 1% (!) of their spring rainfall average. Nevertheless, rainfall was very limited, the Sheaf and its two headwaters, the Old Hay and Totley Brook, at a very low level for the entry into summer, and local woodland paths parched, cracked, ridged and hard.

Sun and temperature levels were also high, lovely for humans deprived of a good summer since 2006, but sucking moisture from the ecosystem without replacing it. April was the city's warmest since records began 150 years ago.

Paul Hudson, on Look North, expected a cool, wet and cloudy summer, based on the statistics of summers following hot dry springs, actually giving a 70% likelihood.

In fact, lat May and June were cloudy and cool, but there was little rain. July forecasts of rain largely passed by the area south-east of the Pennines. "Rain to sweep the whole country; Yorkshire to be deluged." These were the shock-horror headlines for the first half of August – Scotland was deluged, several times, but Sheffield found the fronts passing well to the north of the forecast routes, receiving only light falls from occasional frontal coat-tails.

And the effects of all this dryness, as observed in a corner SW of the city? The four species of tits seemed to breed well. Blues and

Greats bred in our garden, with both leading flocks of six plus around the shrubs. In June and July there were plenty of all of them in Poynton Wood and in local gardens.

This, I imagine, is because three-leaves opened rapidly and small caterpillars hatched from overwintering eggs at just the right time for the adults to feed nestlings fully and with ease.

Blackbirds, on the other hand, found surface snails, worms, beetles and so on, increasingly hard to discover. The prey either died, dug deep or sealed themselves in. I saw and heard no young blackbirds until mid-June, when ironically one flew into a window and killed itself. There have been others since then, but in smaller numbers than usual – certainly 2010 had yielded a second brood by June. Many birds this year also looked thin. It is mid-August now, and I haven't seen a young Song Thrush locally.

Dunnocks, in contrast, have produced two healthy sets of offspring in the garden, and we have a flock of them. A glance through the kitchen window at any hour of the day will find at least six, sunbathing, hunting or wing-flicking and chasing through the branches. I had thought the Dunnock diet was similar enough to the Blackbirds for them to suffer from the same weather problems, but clearly not. I expect numbers of small fry *in* the plants have held up better than those *under* the plants or in the top layer of the soil.

Aerial insects probably did well, and were airborne more often than in a cloudy year, and local martins, Swallows and Swifts all bred reasonably successfully. For example, the Swift flock at Totley Rise was around 40 – strong in May and contained roughly 80 at the time of departure.

Butterflies have had a rough year. This, I take it, is the result of December's harshness killing eggs and pupae of last year's adults; and hibernating adult Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells must have

been hammered.

Early fliers like Orange-tip were few; let's hope those few met and mates, or 2012 will be even drabber than 2011 was.

Also low round this corner have been normally common mid-season species such as Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown. The whites managed some early appearances, but disappeared for at least two weeks during incessant cloud in the second half of May. They are back in August, but unusual enough to be worth of note, as a House Sparrow or a Starling now is. A few Gatekeepers are around, but I haven't yet seen a Wall Brown in the garden.

Had eggs and pupae got through the winter, these insects would not have been too disadvantaged by the weather since March.

By mid-August, the three Silver Birches in my garden have shed a quarter of their leaves, the lawn is as well covered with leaf litter as in September, and the grass itself has needed one cut since June. One of the birches has more brown leaves than green, even as warm sun shines. Leaves lose water, and the birch cannot replace it.

The Totley Brook and Old Hay, main feeders of the Sheaf, are in poor shape, and low as I have seen them, and on the way to becoming pools with thin dribbles inbetween. The Trout hang on in these pools, which must be low in oxygen. The lives of Herons should be easier, but the shallowness could be a problem for a diving bird such as a Kingfisher!

Of course the global warming consensus is that weather will become more variable in large areas of the world, old extremes will look like minor disturbances, and irregularity will become less predictable. Summer migrants will struggle to survive African winters and then the migration north, and the patterns we oldies have grown used to, and comfortable in, will fade away.

# RECENT SIGHTINGS

1st September - 30th October

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

**Manx Shearwater** – One was picked up in poor condition at Beighton on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**Bittern** – One roosted at Pit-House West on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October – the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive winter for this species on the site. One flew from Holmes Farm Flash at Blackburn Meadows on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** – A single was at Catcliffe Flash on various dates from 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September. Other sightings were again singles, at Orgreave Lakes on 10<sup>th</sup> September, Langsett Res on 26<sup>th</sup> (a rare western record), and Thrybergh CP on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Whooper Swan** – The first of the winter was one at Thrybergh CP on 8<sup>th</sup> October. This was followed by two at Redmires and 15 at Middleton Moor on 19<sup>th</sup>, three at Rother Valley and two over Redmires on 20<sup>th</sup>, and 15 at Thrybergh CP on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Pink-footed Goose** – 39 SE over Stocksbridge on 25<sup>th</sup> September were the first of the winter. Several skeins were reported throughout October, the largest being 105 WNW over East Herringthorpe on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 140 W over Green Moor on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 107 W over Stocksbridge on 13<sup>th</sup>, 150 S over Sheffield University on 14<sup>th</sup>, 200 SE over Emlin Ridge on 16<sup>th</sup>, 220 E over Intake on 20<sup>th</sup>, and 240 E in two skeins over Redmires on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Pintail** – All females – one at Middleton Moor on 14<sup>th</sup>, two among Mallards at Redmires on 14<sup>th</sup>, and one at Rother Valley on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Scaup** – Two at Thrybergh CP on 15<sup>th</sup> October, with a first winter female remaining until 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Scoter** – One at Redmires Bottom Res on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**Goldeneye** – Singles at Rother Valley on 16<sup>th</sup>, Midhope Res on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and Thrybergh CP on 24<sup>th</sup>

**Honey Buzzard** - One at Redmires Conduit on 15<sup>th</sup> September, which funnelled up Wyming Brook.

**Red Kite** – Singles at Ulley CP on 6<sup>th</sup>, and Agden and Ewden Valley on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Marsh Harrier** – All singles, one at Moscar Moor on 17<sup>th</sup>, Middleton Moor on 25<sup>th</sup>, and Stange and Middletom Moor on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Osprey** – Birds reported at Cutthorpe on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, Ogston Res on 5<sup>th</sup>, Ladybower on 7<sup>th</sup>, Ulley village on 10<sup>th</sup>, Silverwood Lagoon on 13<sup>th</sup>, Stocksbridge on 14<sup>th</sup>, East Moor on 14<sup>th</sup>, Peat Pits on 18<sup>th</sup>, Kilnhurst Ings on 27<sup>th</sup>, and Ravenfield on 7<sup>th</sup> October. One, a juvenile with under-developed tail feathers, spent much of late September at Morley Pond at Wentworth from 18<sup>th</sup> September, and a regular bird was at Thrybergh CP from 8<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October.

**Little Ringed Plover** – A juv was at Midhope Res on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ringed Plover** – Present at Orgreave Lakes for much of September, peaking at 11 on 11<sup>th</sup>. A juv was at Redmires on 10<sup>th</sup>, one was at Middleton Moor on 18<sup>th</sup>, and 1 flew W at Redmires on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Plover** – Six flew NE at Canklow on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5 S at

Middleton Moor on 14<sup>th</sup>. The flock at Peat Pits built up throughout October, with a maximum of 300 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

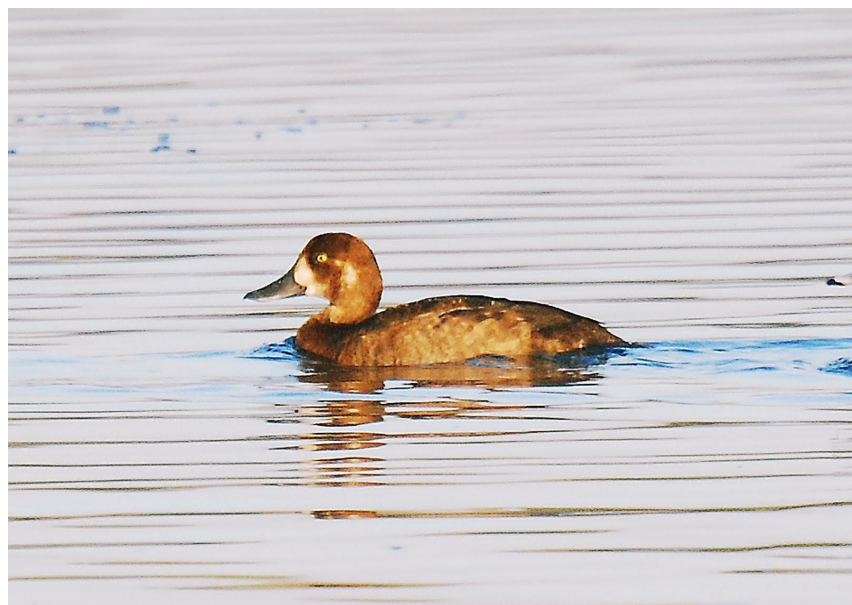
**Grey Plover** – One was at Langsett Moor on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**Lapwing** – Maximum counts were 175 at Rivelin Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 327 at Rother Valley on 19<sup>th</sup>, 185 at Thrybergh CP on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 126 at Stopes on 27<sup>th</sup>, 130 at Redmires on 16<sup>th</sup> October, and 100 at Peat Pits on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** – A juv was at Orgreave Lakes from 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Curlew Sandpiper** – All records were from Orgreave Lakes in September, a juv on 4<sup>th</sup>, and four present on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** – Present on several dates in September at Orgreave Lakes, with maximum counts of two on 4<sup>th</sup>, three on 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and two on 12<sup>th</sup>. Singles were at Barbrook Pools on 16<sup>th</sup>, Thrybergh CP on 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Silverwood Lagoon on 7<sup>th</sup> October, and Redmires on 8<sup>th</sup>. Five flew W at Middleton Moor on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and one was at Orgreave Lakes on 25<sup>th</sup>.



Scaup (MA Smethurst).

**Ruff** – One at Thrybergh CP on 1<sup>st</sup> September, eight at Orgreave Lakes on 18<sup>th</sup>, and a single at the same site on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodcock** – One “crash-landed” in an Ecclesall Garden on 29<sup>th</sup> October before flying off W, presumably a migrant bird.

**Black-tailed Godwit** – Nine SW at Thrybergh CP on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** – 19 W at Moscar Cross on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, and six WNW at Redmires on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank** – Singles were at Redmires on 19<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October.

**Greenshank** – Single birds at Orgreave Lakes on 11<sup>th</sup> September, Thrybergh CP on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Redmires on 18<sup>th</sup>, and Middleton Moor on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Common Sandpiper** – Last of the year were singles on the Rother at Orgreave and at Orgreave Lakes on 4<sup>th</sup> September, Thrybergh CP on 10<sup>th</sup>, Catcliffe Flash on 16<sup>th</sup>, and Thrybergh CP on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Mediterranean Gull** – An adult winter was with Black-headed Gulls at Redmires on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

**Black-headed Gull** - Peak counts included 190 at Middleton Moor on 8th September, 115 at Thrybergh CP on 12th, 180 at Ulley CP on 19th, 117 at Langsett on 4th October, 120 at Silverwood Lagoon on 13th, 285 at Redmires on 13th, 500 at Orgreave Lakes on 23rd and

165 at Catcliffe Flash on 26th.

**Common Gull** - 12 at Soughley Lane on 10th October were notable.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - Peaks counts included 900 at Middleton Moor on 8th, 1,016 at Langsett Res on 26th, 570 at Redmires Res on 16th October and 286 at Orgreave Lakes on 23rd.

**Yellow-legged Gull** - Reports throughout September and October, from Orgreave Lakes, Langsett Res, Redmires/Soughley Lane and Middleton Moor. The highest counts were four at Middleton Moor on 8th September, and four at Langsett Res on 14th and 26th.

**Caspian Gull** - An adult/4th winter was present at Redmires from 13th-15th October.

**Arctic Tern** - All records from Orgreave Lakes, with one juv present on 7th and 9th September, and two juvs present on 13th and 22nd.

**Black Tern** - A juv was present at Orgreave Lakes/Treeton Dyke from 7th-9th September. At Rother Valley a single was reported on 14th, 19th, 20th, 22nd and 24th.

**Woodpigeon** - Numbers of 1,000+ were counted on vis mig from mid-October, culminating in some impressive counts of 10,030 SE at Ewden Valley on 24th, 18,150 at Ewden Valley on 26th, 15,000 at Ewden Valley on 28th, and 15,420 at Redmires on 28th.

**Cuckoo** - Late reports included juvs at Stanage Edge on 8th September, and Burbage Bridge on 9th and 10th.

**Short-eared Owl** - One was at Redmires on 13th October, an “extremely elusive” bird at Silverwood Lagoon on 23rd and 26th, and one at Thrybergh on 27th.

**Swift** - Last of the year were three at Malin Bridge on 1st September, three at Firsby Res on 2nd, two at Thrybergh CP on 2nd, four at Firsby Res on 4th, and one feeding with House Martins at Wharcliffe Side on 6th.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** - One among a tit flock at Firsby Res on 9th September.

**Woodlark** - One south at Redmires on 18th September was a first for the site.

**Skylark** - High counts included 50 at Orgreave Lakes on 20th September, 85 at Thrybergh CP on 25th, 20 at Peat Pits on 7th October, and 43 at Ulley CP on 15th. On migration the largest numbers included 190 S at Silverwood Lagoon on 13th October, 38 S at Thrybergh CP on 16th, 88 mainly S at Ewden Valley on 26th.

**Sand Martin** - September records included 18 at Orgreave Lakes on 5th, 20 at Thrybergh on 6th, 11 at Orgreave Lakes on 7th, and 30, also at Orgreave, on 7th and 14th. A pre-migration flock was present at Thrybergh on 15th and 16th, and 10 were the last site record on the 24th.



Osprey (R. Layton)



**Swallow** - High counts included 600 S at Wharncliffe Chase on 3rd September, a roost 700 disrupted by hunting Hobbies at Middleton Moor on 4th, 570 S/SW at Redmires on 4th, 1,000 roosting at Middleton Moor on 8th, and 1,584 SW at Wharncliffe Chase on 15th. Later records included 13 S at Manor Park Fields on 3rd October, eight E/SE at Midhope Res on 3rd, 10 S at Lodge Moor on 13th, four S at Ewden Valley on 17th, one SE at Intake on 20th, and two at Firsby Res on 21st.

**House Martin** - Large counts included 485 S/SW at Redmires on 4th September, a feeding flock of 300 at Thrybergh CP on 8th September, and 567 SW at Wharncliffe Chase on 15th. Late records include one at High Green on 1st October, one at Fulwood on 2nd, five W at Redmires on 2nd, and two S at Canklow on 14th. A dead, recently fledged bird was found at Great Longstone on 7th October.

**Tree Pipit** - Later records included one at Moscar Cross on 3rd September, two at Redmires on 4th, three S at Ewden Valley on 4th, one at Wharncliffe Chase on 5th, one S at Greystones on 5th, one at Firsby Res on 9th, two SW at Redmires on 9th, and one SW at Wharncliffe Chase on both 11th and 15th.

**Meadow Pipit** - Big counts on migration include 1,169 SW at Wharncliffe Chase on 19th September, 1,000 S/SW at Redmires on 23rd, 800 at Wharncliffe Chase on 24th, 500 at

Agden Side on 25th, 847 SW at Ewden Valley on 30th and 620 SW at Redmires on 4th October.

**Rock Pipit** - All records from Redmires - One SW on 2nd October, two SW on 4th, and one circled and left NNE, with another later N, on 15th.

**Yellow Wagtail** - 14 were at Firsby Res on 2nd September. Later reports included two SW at Moscar Cross on 18th September, two S at Firsby Res on 22nd, one S at Orgreave Lakes on 22nd, and one at Ulley CP on 24th.

**Pied Wagtail** - 740 roosted in the City Centre on 22nd September. On migration 87 were SW at Ewden on 1st October, with 81 the following day at the same site, and 40 E over the Longley Estate on 11th.

**Redstart** - Late records included one at Ramsley Moor on 1st September, one at Redmires Conduit and two at Redmires Plantation, all on 15th.

**Whinchat** - Highest counts later in the season included four on Wharncliffe Chase on 3rd September, six at Barbrook Bridge on 8th, and three at Swine Side on 15th. The latest were a female on Wharncliffe Chase on 24th September, and one at Manor Fields Park on 3rd October.

**Stonechat** - Higher counts included 10 at Ramsley Moor on 3rd September, five at Bar Brook on 8th, and five at Broomhead Moor on

24th. A more unusual record were a pair at the Outu Kumpo steelworks at Tinsley on 8th October.

**Wheatear** - Records throughout September, with a maximum of six at various sites. October records included four at Agden Rocher on 1st, one at Silverwood Lagoon on 3rd, two at Redmires Conduit on 7th, and a single at Orgreave Lakes from 22nd-25th.

**Ring Ouzel** - September records included five at Moscar Cross on 3rd, three at Fairthorn Clough on 9th, two at Ramsley Moor on 16th and another three at Fairthorn Clough on 21st. In October one was W with Mistle Thrushes on 2nd, one was at White Edge on 3rd, two were at Ramsley Res on 14th, and one was at Ulley CP on 15th.

**Fieldfare** - Nine were at Redmires on 7th October, with an influx on 13th that included 207 at Canklow and 300 at Redmires, with 600 at Ewden Height, 200 at Richmond Park and 590 at Redmires the following day. Other big counts included 610 at Barbrook on 15th, 500 at Ewden Valley on 23rd, 2,500 at Agden on 23rd, 370 at Wharncliffe Chase on 23rd, 610 at Ewden Valley on 24th, 518 at Ewden Valley on 26th, and 404 at Ulley CP on 29th.

**Redwing** - Six were at Barbrook on 2nd October, and 12 at Redmires the same day, heralding a dribble of records at the start of the month. As with Fieldfare, there was an influx starting on 13th, with 200 SW at



Wheatear (A. Jones)

Silverwood, 471 S/W at Canklow, 270 SW at Sothall, and 200 W at Longley Estate. Other high counts include 1,050 S at Redmires on 14th, 440 SSW at Richmond Park on 14th, 900 SE at Parkwood Springs on 14th, 226 at Ulley on 15th, and 360 S/SW at Millhouses Park on 23rd.

**Mistle Thrush** - Post-breeding flocks included 44 at Ewden Valley on 4th September, 25 at Redmires on 17th, 30 at Agden Side on 25th, 22 at Wharcliffe Chase on 25th, and 31 at Redmires on 2nd October.

**Grasshopper Warbler** - One at Ramsley Res on 4th September.

**Sedge Warbler** - A juv at Effingham St on 1st September, and singles at Ulley CP on 3rd and Fairthorn Clough on 15th.

**Reed Warbler** - One was singing at Firsby Res on 9th September.

**Lesser Whitethroat** - Single birds recorded at Effingham St on 1st September, Ulley CP on 3rd, Firsby Res on 3rd, Thrybergh Tip on 4th, Thrybergh CP on 11th, Firsby Res on 22nd, and Thrybergh CP on 24th.

**Whitethroat** - Late records included singles at Firsby Res on 10th, Thrybergh Tip on 11th, Firsby Res on 15th and 17th, Thrybergh Tip on 18th and Thrybergh CP on 24th.

**Blackcap** - October records include two at Ulley CP on 1st, one at Midhope Res on 3rd, one at Manor Fields Park on 3rd, one at Hillsborough on 8th, and one at Norwood Allotments on 11th.

**Chiffchaff** - High counts in September included 21 at Firsby Res on 15th and 23 at Thrybergh on 25th. Late records include one at Firsby Res on 21st, one at

Thrybergh CP on 23rd, and one at Owlthorpe on 24th.

**Willow Warbler** - Five at Ulley CP on 3rd, four at Redmires on 4th, and four at Firsby Res on 15th and 17th were the highest counts of September, with one singing briefly at Thrybergh on 18th and one in a garden in Ravenfield being notable. In October there were records of twos at Haningwater and Firsby Res, both on 2nd.

**Spotted Flycatcher** - Later records include two at Firsby on 2nd and 10th September, one at Wheata Wood on 7th, three at Midhope Res on 11th, one at Parkwood Springs on 12th, and one at Redmires Conduit on 15th.

**Great Grey Shrike** - One at Whitwell Moor on 16th October.

**Chaffinch** - Higher counts include 125 W at Redmires on 18th September, 703 SW at Ewden Valle on 30th, 413 S at the same site on 1st October, 259 W at Redmires on 2nd, and 279 S at Ewden Valley on 26th. A feeding flock of 40 were at Wheata Wood on 23rd.

**Brambling** - Early records were one feeding with Chaffinches at Ughill on 7th October, and one SW at Ramsley Moor on 8th. More widespread reports from 13th onwards, all four or less other than 38 W at Redmires on 15th.

**Greenfinch** - The largest counts were at Remires, with 371 W on 2nd October, and 228 W on 15th. 117 were S/SW at Ewden Valley on 26th.

**Goldfinch** - Larger flocks included 160 at Firsby Res on 2nd September, and 80 on The Moor on 8th. On vis mig 336 were S/SW at Ewden Valley on 30th September, and 468 S/SW at Redmires on 2nd October was a site record.

**Siskin** - Larger counts included 80 at Wharcliffe Wood on 5th September, 85 at Fairthorn Clough on 9th, 100 at Midhope Res on 16th, 100 at Linacre Res on 17th, 218 SW at Moscar Cross on 18th, 400 at Fairholms on 24th, 648 SW at Ewden Valley on 30th, 452 S at the same site on 1st October, and 260 S/SW at Redmires on 2nd.

**Linnet** - The biggest counts were 100 at Roper Hill on 4th September, 100 at Thrybergh CP on 4th, 290 at Ulley CP on 8th, 111 at Redmires on 11th, 100 at Orgreave Lakes on 11th, 113 at Redmires Res on 18th, 200 at Orgreave Lakes on 21st, 116 at Firsby Res on 27th, 112 SW at Ewden Valley, and 101 S at the same site on 1st October.

**Twite - Singles at Ramsley Res on 23rd September, one at Barbrook Res on 15, and 11 at the same site on 16th.**

**Lesser Redpoll** - High counts of 400 at Ramsley Res on 16th September, 326 SW at Moscar Cross on 18th, 205 SW/W at Redmires on 2nd October, and 100 at Agden Side on 16th.

**Crossbill** - Many sightings, mainly of small groups, but with maxima of 37 at Redmires on 9th September, 31 at Slippery Stones on 15th, 21 at Redmires on 18th, 20 at Langsett on 23rd, 24 at Agden on 24th, 95 SW at Ewden on 30th, 26 SW at Redmires on 2nd October, and 54 at Redmires on 22nd.

**Snow Bunting - Male W at Big Moor on 26th October.**

**Bunting sp. - Probable Lapland Bunting S at Redmires on 15th October.**

Pete Mella

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

MG Archer, S Ashton, J Atkin, B Bailey, S Bailey, R Barnard, A Baverstock, AR Bell, T Birkhead, RP Blagden, K Bower, SJ Branch, PL Brown, V Browne, R Butterfield, DJ Buttle, DM Bye, I Chapman, J Clarke, L Coates, B Cole, J Crooks, A Deighton, S Duckworth, H Egan, D Gains, P Garrity, G Grant, S Green, S Guymer, D Hallam, R Harris, I Hedge, M Hibbert, A Hill, RD Hill, D Hitchen, M Hodgson, J Hornbuckle, J Housden, C Hurst, G James, M Jarvis, Anne Johnson, A Jones, C Kelly, T Kettle, N Kipling, K Knowles, M Kramer, M Lacey, D Lakin, JM Laskey, P Lawson, CL Leonard, P Leonard, P Lockwood, JL Marriott, C Measures, P Mella, B Merryweather, T Middleton, M Miller, TH Minskip, D Mowbray, D Neill, B Orme, MG Oxlade, J Partridge, T Peel, R Platts, NR Porter, MN Reeder, D Roddis, SJ Roddis, J Sherwin, M Sherwin, A Siddall, D Simmonite, MA Smethurst, M Snook, B Spencer, D Stables, CG Stack, MJ Sweeney, J Taylor, M&L Taylor, N Taylor, SG Tebbutt, P Thomas, A Thompson, M Timms, R Twigg, C Tyler, SE Vickers, EC Vincent, S Vincent, RV Walker, D Warburton, P Wareham, MC Wells, C Wilkinson, RDR Williams, P&A Wilson, D Wood, D Woodriff, RDOS, Thrybergh CP Bird Log, BTO Bird Track.

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Baslow  
Derbyshire  
DE45 1SJ

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*Ron Blagden  
Treasure*

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