



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

**ISSUE 211**

**JAN 2012**

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

**SEEING OUT**  
**2011**

**Round-up of November and December's best birds**

**RARE BREEDERS**

**The UK's rarest breeding birds**

**PLUS!**

**Latest news**  
**2012 meetings**  
**Dates for your diary**



## Northern England Raptor Forum Annual Review out now

The Northern England Raptor Forum published their 2010 Annual Review in November 2011.

The Review opens with reports from Paul Irving, Chair and Ian Court, Secretary. The thought provoking foreword by Richard Saunders, Ornithologist, sets the tone for the Review.

Part 1: summaries the activities undertaken by the Forum during 2010, including geographical and habitat coverage, conservation status of raptors in the NERF region and persecution data recorded by members.

Part 2: the species report, covering all 23 species of raptor, including

raven, that occur in or transit through, the NERF region. Each species report includes a historical overview, population and conservation status together with threat assessments. Monitoring and productivity data from each NERF Group is presented in a tabular format followed by individual group reports.

Part 3: the following articles are presented in this section

- A Review of the RSPB Birdcrime Report 2010: Guy Shorrock, Senior Investigations Officer, RSPB
- Monitoring Raptor Demography on a National Scale: Dr Dave Leech, Senior Research Ornithologist, BTO
- Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme: Lee Walker, PBMS, Cen-

tre for Ecology & Hydrology

- A Tale of two Ospreys, a report from Cumbria detailing the different stories of 2 chicks as they migrated from the UK to Western Africa: Phil Cheesley & Pete Davis
- Lake District Osprey Project
- Monitoring Nests with Cameras: Nigel Butcher, Technical Development Officer, RSPB
- National Merlin Survey 2008: Steve Ewing and Mark Eaton, RSPB
- Conservation Project for Lesser Kestrels in the Alta Murgia National Park, Italy: Pino Giglio & Marco Gustin, [translated by Gabriele Zambelli]

Copies can be purchased from Steve Downing for £12. Email [throstlebower@hotmail.com](mailto:throstlebower@hotmail.com)

## News in brief

### Donation thanks

A very big thanks to the anonymous, and generous, member who made a donation of £100 to the group's Atlas Fund at the October indoor meeting. Also, please note that although several members have been in touch in recent weeks to sponsor a species for the Atlas, there are still plenty of species up for grabs, and anyone interested should get in touch with a member of the committee for more details.

### Wyming Brook volunteer days

Sheffield Wildlife Trust are running bi-monthly, third-Sunday workdays throughout 2012, at

their Wyming Brook and Fox Hagg reserves. The first is on 15th January.

The work includes the clearing of trees and scrub, and tools, gloves, hot drinks and biscuits are provided. The work days run 10am-3pm, meeting at the Wyming Brook car park on Redmires Road.

Weekday work days are also continuing on the first Tuesday of the month - for more details of any of the above contact [s.sidgwick@wildsheffield.com](mailto:s.sidgwick@wildsheffield.com).

### Kowa scope for sale.

The following item is for sale - a Kowa TSN-661 with 20x to 60x eyepiece, Skua case, Cullmann

2703s hide clamp, complete with two way head and a Q/R system. For more details please contact Sarah Smith on [sa.ruth@hotmail.com](mailto:sa.ruth@hotmail.com), or 07539 546313.

### New members

The group welcomes new members Simon Rowlands, Janice Connell, Roger Kay, David Mowbray, Tessa Pirnie, Kate Thomas and Jean Wilson. A warm welcome to you all, we hope you enjoy your memberships in 2012!

### Cover photo

This month's cover shot is a Waxwing at Crookes, taken by Andy Deighton.

## Deadline for next Bulletin

The next Bulletin will be issued at the March 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 26th February**.

## 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

#### **Tim Melling - Wild Western Canada**

Wed 8th February 2012, Sheffield University Arts Tower, Lecture Theatre 5, 7.15pm

Dr Tim Melling is the RSPB's Senior Conservation Office for the North of England, and former Secretary of the BOU Records Committee. If that wasn't enough in itself to convince you of his ornithological credentials, he has a lifelong interest in natural history, gained his PhD in butterfly ecology, is a tour leader for Naturetrek, and came overall second in Radio 4s natural history quiz 'Wild Brain'. Tim is an accomplished speaker on natural history topics, and will be sharing with us the wonders of Western Canada, on what promises to be an excellent talk.

#### **AGM + Review of 2011**

This meeting will be the group's Annual General Meeting, also including a review of the ornithological highlights of 2011.

### Field Meetings

#### **Ringling demonstration**

4th February, Blackburn Meadows

This event will be run by Kev Bower of the Sorby Breck Ringing Group. Keep your eyes on the SBSG website for further details nearer the time.

#### **Derwentdale raptor watch**

March, details tbc

Our annual pilgrimage to Derwentdale will take place once again in early March, hoping to see display from the area's resident raptors, that may include Goshawk and Peregrine, as well as Buzzard, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk, and perhaps something even rarer. Crossbills and Ravens are also a distinct possibility on what usually turns out to be a memorable field meeting. See the SBSG website for announcements nearer the time.

*For the full 2012 programme of meetings, see page 7*

### OTHER DATES TO NOTE

**18th Jan - Dearn Valley Tour (RSPB)** - Guided walk around the RSPB's Dearne Valley reserves, starting at Old Moor. 10am-12noon, £3 RSPB members, £5 non-members. Booking essential - 01226 751593 or old.moor3@rspb.org.uk

**29th Jan - Big Garden Birdwatch (RSPB)** - Family event at RSPB Old Moor. 10am-3pm, events free but usual reserve charges apply.

**2nd Feb - RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting.** Tim Melling will be giving a talk on 'Mexico's Great Wildlife Spectacle'. 7.30pm, Central United Reformed Church, Chapel Walk, Sheffield.

**15th Feb - Dearn Valley Tour (RSPB)** - Guided walk around the RSPB's Dearne Valley reserves, starting at Old Moor. 10am-12noon, £3 RSPB members, £5 non-members. Booking essential - 01226 751593 or old.moor3@rspb.org.uk

**18th Feb - South Yorkshire Natural History Day** - 10am-6pm, Treeton Village Community & Resource Centre. A full day of presentations and displays by local Natural History groups.

**24th Feb - DOS Indoor Meeting.** Martin Garner will be giving a talk on 'Frontiers of Birding'. 7.30pm, The Evergreen Club, Allestree, Derby.

**1st Mar - RSPB Sheffield Group Indoor Meeting.** Mike Taylor will be speaking on 'Peak District Birds'. 7.30pm, Central United Reformed Church, Chapel Walk, Sheffield.

**10th Mar - DOS Indoor Meeting.** The speaker will be Nigel Slater, on 'Garden Birds and their songs'. 7.30pm, Methodist Church Rooms, Buxton.

### Group contacts

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# Tributes to Dave Herringshaw

David Herringshaw died at his Sheffield home on 21st November 2011, aged 63, from a ruptured duodenal ulcer. Although he had been in ill-health for some time, his tragic death was unexpected as his health seemed to be improving. David played a major role in the re-vitalisation of the Sorby Natural History Society in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and then became one of the main founders and the driving force behind the Sheffield Bird Study Group from 1972 throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

I first met Dave in 1971 when I enrolled on his Workers Educational Association evening course on bird-watching (as it was then known). I was soon inspired by Dave's enthusiasm and vast knowledge to devote more and more of my spare time to this pursuit and join his field-meetings to explore local sites such as Strines and Broomhead Moors, Langsett and Broomhead Reservoirs, Rivelin Valley and Old Denaby.

At that time the Sorby Natural History Society was the only home for a keen naturalist and of course Dave was prominent in its activities. However, he decided that a new group dedicated purely to local "birding" was needed, and with the help of a few others, notably Betty and Marcus Moore, established the Sheffield Bird Study Group in late 1972. Dave was elected Recorder and editor (with Dave Gosney) of its annual bird report, and subsequently Chairman.

It wasn't long before I was invited to become Treasurer and then Hon. Sec, when Keith Tayles "retired" from that role. Hence I was able to witness Dave's energy at work, from

production of the bird report to organisation of surveys on a variety of species such as Kestrel, Swift, House Martin, Magpie and Rook. In 1975 he decided the group was big enough to undertake a five-year breeding bird survey based on geographic tetrads, way before this type of survey became well-known.

It was a great success largely due to Dave's drive and his leadership and support for the strong Junior Section. He had recruited keen youngsters from his Myers Grove School, such as Ian Francis, Keith Clarkson, David Gosney, Clive McKay, Andy Deighton and David Marshall, and from further afield the likes of Bill Sutherland and David Glaves, and trained them in fieldcraft and the importance of keeping a field notebook. Many of these fledgling birders have gone on to successful careers in ornithology or conservation.

At the end of the survey, Dave decided to incorporate the results into a comprehensive book that became "Birds of the Sheffield Area" with major contributions from himself and several others heavily involved in the survey. He and Dave Gosney started the task of writing it but it stalled due to pressure of other work. I took over from DG and the two of us managed to bring the book to press in 1985.

Dave also had reports of surveys of reptiles, amphibians and squirrels published in *The Naturalist*, made regular contributions to the Sorby Record, was co-author of two guides to birdwatching in north Nottinghamshire and the Peak District. He also founded **The Magpie**, the SBSG Journal of Ornithology, and co-edited and

contributed to several volumes. He was active in the BTO, YNU Ornithology Section and South Pennine Raptor Group, but was never happier than when watching Goshawks in N Derbyshire and S Yorkshire, where his knowledge of the species was unrivalled.

Dave's qualities as a teacher did not go unrecognised. He was widely held as being the best biology teacher in Sheffield and was appointed Head of Science at Myers Grove, a large comprehensive school. With his ability to make easy contact with the pupils and willingness to help anyone with problems, he found his time was being increasingly spent on the vital "pastoral" side of the school, leading to his appointment to its management team and eventually to the assistant headship of the school. Unfortunately, more and more was piled on to him and requests for staffing help refused by Sheffield Education Authority.

The stress of the job increased his blood pressure to such an extent that he was forced to stay at home, to prevent a heart attack. Medication did not solve this problem and so with great reluctance, he had to apply for early retirement, a bitter pill to swallow. It took nearly two years for this to be granted and he was obliged to agree he would never be able to run his evening courses again, another sad blow. In recent years his illness made him virtually house-bound but he remained remarkably cheerful despite this. He will be missed by many, none more so than Matthew Pont, to whom he was very much a father figure.

I will end with a quote from Ian Francis, a graduate of the Myers Grove juniors and now a major

figure with the RSPB in Scotland and member of the prestigious Rare Breeding Birds Panel:-

*"Without doubt, Dave was absolutely pivotal in setting the direction of the lives of Dave Gosney, Keith Clarkson, Clive McKay and myself, and strongly influential on others. The combination of a man with a strong interest in birds and the environment in the position of being an influential teacher, together with a group of friends of similar age who shared the interest, led to this interest being sustained and nurtured in the best possible way. Bill Sutherland (now Professor of Conservation Biology at Cambridge) and others in his group such as Tom Preston and Derek Cawthorne, were also influenced by Dave, though not so directly as they were from King Edwards School. I think Dave's all-consuming interest in birds, together with his great knowledge, set standards that inspired us to match them as kids, and coupled with his generosity and support in many ways, led to him being arguably the seminal figure in my life."*

David Herringshaw was one of those rare people who had the ability to help and inspire others to make the most of their lives. The SBSG and ***Birds of the Sheffield Area*** are his legacy. I am proud to say that he was my friend and, like many others, I will sorely miss him.

**Jon Hornbuckle**

Everyone who knew Dave Herringshaw will be deeply saddened by his death at the relatively young age of 63. We were about to ring him to arrange another session of food, reminiscence and natural history discussion when the phone message concerning his death stunned us.

I met him in 1978 at Myers Grove School, and we became firm friends. I can't comment on his co-founding of the group, but can speak of the width and depth of his knowledge of birds, insects and plants. He took his knowledge and expertise into the classroom, inspiring one year group after another to love the environment, and encouraging a succession of students to pursue biology to a higher level or devote their spare time to bird recognition and study.

Student welfare and discipline became his strengths, and so much reliance was placed on him being constantly available and in control, that his health suffered badly, badly enough for him to have to take early retirement in 2002, a sad loss to school and pupils.

Since then, David had increasing problems with mobility, so ending the Derwentdale goshawk and moorland merlin ringing trips and free-climbing. He wanted his ashes to be scattered at Strines where he and protege Matt used to watch hobbies. One of his favourite objects in his home was a mounted stuffed goshawk which he had ringed and which died in his arms, poisoned by gamekeepers, about whom he was vitriolic.

Two years ago, he was able to go buzzard-counting in

Wentworth Park, but of late had become house bound and restricted to close observations of, and notes on, garden birds and a fine summer show of butterflies. Not many Sheffield gardens now boast dozens of house sparrows, but David's did.

The paintings and sculptures in his home were a feast to the eye, and he had several thousand natural history books, together with long runs of magazines and a huge collection of his own notes. And yes, there were all the New Naturalists in hardback, including all the monographs such as the rare oysters, and fleas, flukes and cuckoos. These, I believe, are going to the libraries of bodies such as the BTO, which is typical of the man's generosity.

Sadness number one, of course, of all those who enjoyed a crack with Dave, discussing sightings and patterns, flicking through and smelling books old and new, theorising about patterns that seemed to escape the professionals and the publishers, proving how the world might be a better place than it is.

Sadness number two is about the work he could have carried out given a longer span of years, in terms of research, leadership and publication of what he already had.

**John Kirkman**

## Lecture report

### Mark Holling - Rare Breeding Birds in the UK

The lecture at November's meeting was delivered by Mark Holling, secretary of the rare birds breeding panel (RBBP). Mark's talk covered the background to the panel and its work, details of the recent breeding history of some of the species covered by the panel and what can be learnt from these records. He concluded with some predictions about those species which may become regular, albeit rare, breeders in the near future.

The panel comprises an independent group of UK ornithologists and was set up in 1972 in the wake of the first national breeding atlas. That initiative highlighted the problem of managing breeding records of rare species, many of them confidential, made both at the time and in the future. The panel, which is supported by the RSPB, BTO and JNCC, oversees the documentation of the breeding efforts of rare birds across the whole of the UK.

Data are also collected on scarce non-native species. A definitive archive is maintained with records obtained from over 100 primary sources and information is fed back to the birding community through the publication of an annual report in 'British Birds.' All the panel's reports, with the exception of the most recent, can be downloaded from the website: [www.rbbp.org.uk](http://www.rbbp.org.uk). The website also contains guidance on how to properly record breeding activity of rare species.

Posing the question as to what comprises a rare breeding bird, Mark explained the panel has a main list, currently comprising 76 species, to which other species with populations up to about 1500 breeding pairs are added. Occasional or potential breeding species are also monitored, as are the breeding attempts of rare escaped or introduced species.

Mark then went on to summarise breeding data for over 20 species. Whooper Swan reached a record 17 pairs in 2009, almost half in Shetland, whilst Barnacle Goose is becoming more widespread as a breeding bird. There were some 700 pairs of Common Pochard in 2009,

mainly in the south-east, whilst Shoveler reached 882-1157 pairs between 2006 and 2009 with an important population in Yorkshire. About 30 pairs of Pintail breed annually, almost half in Orkney. Among the waders, there were about 900 pairs of Little Ringed Plover in 2007.

One or two pairs of Purple Sandpiper breed annually, with around 17 pairs of Wood Sandpiper in most years, mainly in north-west Scotland. Whimbrel numbers may be declining; a partial survey in 2009 found >300 pairs, mainly in Shetland. Greenshank numbers were last surveyed in 1995, with some 1080 pairs. The Common Crane returned as a breeding bird in 1981 and currently about 12 pairs breed each year. There were >200 pairs of Osprey in 2008, and there may now be >250 pairs, with about 12 in England and 1-2 in Wales.

Nationally the Goshawk is doing quite well, with a minimum of 400-500 pairs breeding annually. Red Kite is also doing well, with numbers now above the panel's limit of 1500 pairs, although it appears to be the subject of persecution in northern Scotland. There were about 1225 pairs of Red-throated Diver in 2006, mainly in the Western Isles and northern Scotland. Currently there are about 217 pairs of Black-throated Diver on the bigger lochs of northern Scotland.

Among sporadic breeders, Red-necked Grebe has been successful once, in 2008. Red-backed Shrike has bred annually in recent years but only at the level of a couple of pairs each year, often in Scotland, although a pair bred in Devon in both 2010 and 2011. A pair of Rosefinch built a nest in the Highlands in 2008 but otherwise has not been recorded since 2001; Black-winged Stilt has bred seven times since 1945.

Other species coming to the attention of the panel are those whose numbers are falling below the level of 1500 breeding pairs per year; in 2010 Arctic Skua, Long-eared and Short-eared Owls, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Willow Tit fell un-

der scrutiny. The latter has disappeared from many areas but is commonest in South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Nottinghamshire, eastern Wales and Dumfries and Galloway.

Assessing breeding numbers over the last 40 years or so has highlighted interesting trends, with numbers of Cetti's Warbler, Little Egret, Avocet, Mediterranean Gull and Firecrest showing exponential increases over the last decade or so. Cetti's Warbler has successfully withstood recent harsh winters whilst Firecrest is now so common in some southern woods that numbers are no longer monitored. Among species that have not shown this trend, Quail continues to show a pattern of eruptions, with four such years since 1986. The Bearded Tit population has remained stable at around 600 pairs in recent years and Fieldfare remains very unpredictable with 0-13 pairs annually since 1973. Golden Oriole has almost disappeared, with perhaps two or three pairs left around Lakenheath in Suffolk.

Looking ahead, Mark foresaw the possibility of Cattle Egret (Somerset 2008) and Purple Heron (Dungeness 2010) becoming regular breeders, following Spoonbill which bred occasionally in recent years at scattered sites across the country before suddenly forming a colony in East Anglia in 2010. Great Reed Warbler and Subalpine Warbler are also potential candidates, although Mark reminded the audience of the cautionary tale of Snowy Owl; despite the high hopes raised by breeding attempts in Shetland many years ago there has been no hint of activity since.

Mark was warmly welcomed to the group and thanked for an authoritative presentation on a fascinating subject.

**Rod Hinchliffe**

## SBSG meetings 2012

*Roy Twigg, ably assisted by Rich Hill, has put together an outstanding programme for our 40th Anniversary year. He has tried to keep things mainly local, attracting key SBSG figures from the past 40 years, whilst also pulling in a several more widely known names to add to the impact of the programme.*

January	Clive McKay	This Birding Life
February	Tim Melling	Wild Western Canada
March	AGM	Including 2011 review of the year
April	Jon Hornbuckle	40 Years of World Birding
May	Tim Birkhead	Bird Sense - What It's Like To Be A Bird
September	Ian Newton	The Sparrowhawk
October	Derek Yalden	Common Sandpipers
November	Keith Clarkson	Changes in Yorkshire's Bird Populations
December	Kevin Gould	40 Years of the SBSG - A Recorder's Perspective

*The outdoor field meetings for 2012 are as follows - please see the SBSG website and future Bulletins for announcements of further details.*

**Jan - Winter Birding at Carr Vale/Poolsbrook CP.**

**Feb - Ringing Demonstration at Blackburn Meadows**

**Mar - Raptors at Derwentdale**

**Apr - Waders and Wagtails at Orgreave Lakes/Bolehill Flash**

**May - Migrants at Padley Gorge**

**Jun - Moorland Fringe (location tbc)**

**Sept - Ringing Demonstration at Ramsley Reservoir.**

**Oct - Visible Migration at Redmires Reservoir**

**Dec - Winter Wildfowl (location tbc)**

## Birds Are Amazing!

I had a very good working day in December, as I was fortunate enough to be part of the team providing audiovisual support for Prof Tim Birkhead's 'Birds Are Amazing' Christmas Lecture at the University of Sheffield.

The event saw 1,000 Year 5-7 schoolchildren from around Sheffield captivated by Prof Birkhead's lecture, which covered all aspects of birds' lives. Demonstrations included a close up examination of a hen's egg, dissection of owl pellets, and videos of various aspects of birds' lives. The children were in peals of laughter at the comical displays of birds of paradise, gave gasps of awe at the 200mph stoop of a peregrine, and many gave a suitably theatrical "eeeeew!" at the extraction of rats' skulls from the pellets.

The best was saved until last, however, with a tame Golden Eagle brought on stage, which was an impressive sight for all concerned. To hold the attention

of young children for such a period of time (somewhat over an hour) was a testament to Prof Birkhead's showmanship, passion and enthusiasm - at the start of the lecture the audience were asked how many already thought birds were amazing. There was a smattering of arms in the air, but I would wager there would be considerably more afterwards - this is exactly the sort of event that can spark the imagination of tomorrow's birdwatchers, ornithologists and conservationists.

*Tim Birkhead will be giving a talk to the SBSG at the May indoor meeting, on 'What It's Like To Be a Bird'.*

**Pete Mella**

# RECENT SIGHTINGS

1st November - 27th December 2011

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

**Red-necked Grebe** - One was at Silverwood Lagoon on 10th November.

**Bittern** - Present at Pit-house West on 12th and 19th of November.

**White Stork** - One spent three hours in the grounds of King Ecgbert's School on 22nd November, apparently also seen flying over the same site on 21st.

**Bewick's Swan** - 7 were at Orgreave Lakes on 11th December.

**Whooper Swan** - The largest counts were 35 ESE at Ewden Height on 5th November, and 11 E at the same site the following day. Other sightings included four at Redmires on 1st Nov, five SE at Redmires on 5th, three at Thrybergh on 22nd, three at Poolsbrook on 4th December, and four at Renishaw Park on 26th.

**Pink-footed Goose** - Numbers moving through the area throughout the period, with highest counts at

the start of November, with a large movement day on the 6th including 2,200 in 13 parties over Barbrook Pools.

**White-fronted Goose** - Two were at Orgreave Lakes on 13th, 14th, 15th and 17th of November. Three adults and one juv were at Renishaw Park on 16th.

**Barnacle Goose** - One was present among the usual Canada Geese at Morehall Res on 9th and 20th November, with (presumably) the same bird at Broomhead Res on 30th.

**Wigeon** - Maximum counts included 132 at RVCP on 13th November, 41 at Orgreave Lakes on 21st, 46 at Orgreave Lakes on 17th December, and 235 at RVCP on 18th.

**Eurasian Teal** - Highest counts included 58 at Langsett Res on 19th November, 88 at Middleton Moor 23rd, 50 at Firsby Res on 26th, 72 at Catcliffe Flash on 4th December, 30 at Aldwarke SF on 11th, 54 at Orgreave Lakes on 17th, 96 at

RVCP on 18th, and 53 at Old Whittington SF on 26th.

**Mallard** - Peak counts included 228 at Ulley CP on 5th November, 251 at RVCP on 13th, 132 at Graves Park on 13th, 190 at Dale Dike Res on 28th, 170 at Morley Pond on 2nd December, and 181 at Broomhead Res on 18th.

**Pintail** - One at Middleton Moor on 21st November, and two at Blackburn Meadows on 5th December. The presumed feral bird was still at Damflask Res on 2nd December.

**Red-crested Pochard** - Singles at Rother Valley CP on 13th November and 18th December.

**Pochard** - Month maxima at Orgreave Lakes were 128 on 14th November, and 182 on 17th December.

**Tufted Duck** - Peak counts included 90 at Orgreave Lakes on 9th November, 64 at Harthill Res on 18th December, 68 at Thrybergh CP on 18th, and 53 at Rother Valley CP on 18th.

**Scaup** - Two females at Ulley CP on 12th November were the first site record since 2008. A first winter drake was present at Thrybergh CP from 20th November until at least Boxing Day.

**Goldeneye** - Highest counts were nine at Thrybergh CP on 12th November, seven at Rother Valley CP on 13th, six at Treeton Dyke on 27th, and nine at RVCP on 18th December.

**Smew** - A redhead was present at Orgreave Lakes/Treeton Dyke from 18th November until at least Boxing Day. Elsewhere single redheads were also present at Silverwood



This Scaup was at Thrybergh CP (M. Smethurst)



Lagoon on 22nd November, and Thrybergh CP on the same date.

**Water Rail** - Singles at the River Rother at Orgreave on 4th and 13th November.

**Ringed Plover** - One at Orgreave Lakes on 19th November.

**Golden Plover** - Widespread reports, with higher counts including 33 S over Wheata Wood on 6th November, 30 N over Ravenfield on 6th, 25 at Leash Fen on 10th, 22 E over Big Moor on 19th, 64 at Leash Fen on 26th, 80 at Peat Pits on 2nd December, 137 at Ulley CP on 4th, 116 at Barlborough on 6th, 60 at Sheffield City Airport on 17th, 60 at Orgreave Lakes on 17th, 300 at Peat Pits on 17th, 30 at Agden on 18th, 500 at Peat Pits on 21st, and 91 SW at Ulley CP on 24th.

**Lapwing** - Larger counts include 200 at Redmires on 1st November, 100 at Firsby Res on 12th, 140 at Orgreave Lakes on 12th, and 267 at Rother Valley Country Park on 13th.

**Dunlin** - 15 at Redmires on 5th November was the highest count. Other sightings included one at Orgreave Lakes on 4th November, one at Barbrook Pools on 5th, nine at Thrybergh CP on 12th, one at Middleton Moor on 13th, one S at Thrybergh CP on 14th, one at Silverwood Lagoon on 14th, three at Orgreave Lakes on 19th, and singles at Orgreave on 25th November and 17th December.

**Jack Snipe** - One was flushed at Upper Hey on 23rd November. There were reports of single birds at Silverwood Lagoon on 8th, 17th and 23rd December.

**Snipe** - 40 at Woodhouse Washlands on 24th December was the highest count. Other reports included five at Orgreave Lakes on 13th November, and three at RVCP, also on 13th.

**Curlew** - Two at Rod Moor on 6th November, one at Redmires on 6th, and one at Thrybergh CP on 14th, were all late records for this species in the area.

**Redshank** - One at Silverwood Lagoon on 7th November, two at Rother Valley CP on 13th, and three, also at Rother Valley, on 18th December.

**Greenshank** - A very late bird at Thrybergh CP on 6th November.

**Green Sandpiper** - Single birds reported from Blackburn Meadows, Aldwarke SF, Silverwood Lagoon and Catcliffe Flash.

**Grey Phalarope - One at Orgreave Lakes on 3rd November.**

**Mediterranean Gull** - All 2nd winter birds. Orgreave saw one on 3rd November, with one roosting on various dates between 26th November and 17th December. One flew south at Normanton Spring on 19th, and one roosted at Broomhead on 24th and 27th December.

**Little Gull** - An immature was at Thrybergh CP on 5th December.

**Black-headed Gull** - Maximum counts included 1,900 at Langsett Res on 8th November, 1,264 at Orgreave Lakes on 26th, and 2,500 at Broomhead Res on 13th December.

**Common Gull** - Peak counts included 12 at Langsett Res on 8th November, 17 at Silverwood

Lagoon on 14th, 25 at Middleton Moor on 27th, 20 at Poolsbrook CP on 4th December, 12 at Orgreave Lakes on 10th, and 62 at Broomhead Res on 18th.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** - Highest counts included 150 at Langsett Res on 4th November, 110 at Redmires on 5th, 150 at Orgreave Lakes on 18th, and 750 at Middleton Moor on 27th.

**Herring Gull** - Maximum counts included 180 at Hillsborough on 12th December, 500 at Orgreave Lakes on 17th and 22nd, and 700 at Broomhead Res on 22nd.

**Yellow-legged Gull** - One at Langsett Res on 3rd November, two at Orgreave Lakes on 5th, one at Middleton Moor on 6th, three at Middleton Moor on 19th, a first winter roosting at Orgreave Lakes on 12th December, an adult at Orgreave Lakes on 13th, three at Orgreave Lakes on 15th and two still there on 16th, and an adult at Broomhead Res on 17th.

**Caspian Gull - An adult at Orgreave Lakes on 26th November and 1st December, two reported at Treeton Dyke on 27th November, adult at Poolsbrook CP on 4th December, a probable at Broomhead Res on 16th, and a 2nd winter and adult at Owlerton on 19th and 20th respectively.**



**This cracking Grey Phalarope was at Orgreave Lakes on 3rd November (M. Smethurst)**

**Great Black-backed Gull** - Highest counts included 58 at Poolsbrook CP on 5th December, 254 at Orgreave Lakes on 17th, and 500 at Broomhead Res on 21st.

**Woodpigeon** - There was a truly staggering movement of 40,690 S over Rod Moor on 6th November. Other high counts during a good period of movement for this species included 2,238 SE over Ewden Valley on 1st November, 2,600 S at Redmires on 5th, 9,000 W-SW at High Green on 6th, 6,400 S at Redmires on 6th, 2,890 S at Moscar Cross on 6th, 4,000 W at Leash Fen on 6th, 2,890 SW at Thrybergh CP on 6th, 3350 mainly W at Wheata Wood on 6th, 1,448 S at Ewden Valley on 7th, and 2,600 S/SW at Redmires on 12th.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** - Trios were at Sheffield City Airport on 26th November, Brincliffe Edge on 21st December, and Parson Cross on 27th.

**Pied Wagtail** - The roost outside Sheffield Hallam University peaked at 1,027 on 16th December. 40 roosted on the main shopping precinct at Stocksbridge on 22nd November.

**Waxwing** - A quiet winter so far, with just a smattering of records. One at a Stannington Garden on 12th November was the first of the year, with 25 briefly at Barlborough on 14th the highest count. Elsewhere four were at Heeley City Farm on 20th November, two were at Crookes on 23rd and 27th December, and six were at Upper Crabtree on 24th.

**Stonechat** - A few records from the usual moorland areas, with four at Burbage Bridge on 6th November being the highest count. More unusual records were a female at Castleton on 2nd December, and a male at the Outo Kumpo steelworks on various dates in December.

**Wheatear** - A late record of a female at Orgreave Lakes on 2nd November.

**Fieldfare** - Large counts on visible migration include 480 S/SW at Redmires on 5th November, 422 (309 S and 113 N) at Rod Moor on 6th, 285 S at Blacka Moor on 12th, 270 S at Rivelin Dams on 20th. Grounded flocks include 250 feeding on berries at Dore on 14th November, 150 at Silverwood Pit Top on 26th, 150 at Mayfield Valley on 26th, 120 roosting at Middleton Moor on 27th, 240 at Silverwood Lagoon on 2nd December, 120 at Hathersage on 17th, and 350 at Thrybergh CP on Christmas Day, that included a leucistic bird.

**Redwing** - Numbers generally lower than Fieldfares, with largest numbers including 80 SW on 1st November, 60 at Firsby Res on 14th, 70 at Silverwood Lagoon on 10th December, 100 at Inkersall on 11th, 60 at Woodhouse Washlands on 16th, 60 at Botanical Gardens on 20th, and 150 at Aldwarke on 26th.

**Blackcap** - Reports of singles at Broomhill, Aldwarke SF, Walkley Bank, Longley Estate, Millhouses and Handsworth, with two (a male and female) at Treeton Dyke on 4th December.

**Chiffchaff** - Singles at Kilnhurst Ings, Harthill Res, Dore, and Aldwarke SF.

**Great Grey Shrike** - One present at Leash Fen throughout November. Elsewhere one was at Burbage Valley on 6th November, and at Blacka Moor on 19th.

**Chaffinch** - Largest flocks were 50 at Wheata Wood on various dates in November, 50 at Broomhead Res on 2nd December, and 60 by the Don at Hillfoot Bridge on 5th.

**Brambling** - Numbers during this period were generally low, including

three at Wheata Wood on 5th and 12th November, six W at Redmires on 6th, 13 at Ewden Valley on 7th, eight SW at Rivelin Dams on 20th, 15 at Lodge Moor on 7th December, three at Chatsworth Park on 11th, and eight at Longshaw on 27th. 200 feeding on beech nuts at Mam Nick bucked the trend on 24th December.

**Siskin** - Larger flocks 70 at Parkwood Springs on 13th November, 30 at Ulley CP on 18th and 26th, 70 by the Don at Hillfoot Bridge on 5th December, and 50 at Broomhead Res on 22nd.

**Twite** - Two were at Orgreave Lakes on 3rd November.

**Common (Mealy) Redpoll** - At least one bird was among a flock of 100 Lesser Redpoll at Orgreave Lakes on 17th December.

**Lesser Redpoll** - Larger counts included 100 at Wheata Wood on 5th November, 60 at Shillito Wood on 20th, 45 at Firsby Res on 10th December, 50 at Inkersall on 11th, 47 at Canklow Woods on 11th, 100 at Inkersall on 18th, and 120 at Pit-house West on 22nd.

**Crossbill** - Generally low numbers, with the highest counts being 10 at Redmires on 1st November, 18 at Ewden Valley on 1st, 40 at Derwent Valley on 5th, 10 at Redmires on 5th, 11 at Leash Fen on 6th, 13 S at Rod Moor on 6th, 14 at Redmires on 6th, 17 at Leash Fen on 6th, 12 at Broomhead Res on 2nd December, and 50 at Broomhead Res on 21st.

**Snow Bunting** - November was an excellent period for this species, with singles recorded from Orgreave Lakes on 4th, S at Redmires Res on 5th, N at Rod Moor on 6th, Moscar Cross on 6th, and one feeding on grass at Ewden Valley on 27th.

**Records were received from the following observers, with apologies for any omissions:** MG Archer, A Bailey, B Bailey, S Bailey, A Baverstock, AR Bell, RP Blagden, C Bonnington, K Bower, SJ Branch, MC Brew, PL Brown, V Browne, R Burton, R Butterfield, DJ Buttle, DM Bye, M Capper, BM Carr, EO Chafer, I Chapman, J Clarke, B Cole, R Compson, J Crank, N Cross, A Deighton, S Duckworth, NP Dummigan, H Egan, MG Fenner, D&J Franklin, D Gains, G Games, M Garner, P Garrity, G Grant, S Green, T Grose, S Guymmer, D Hallam, R Harris, D Heathcote, I Hedge, M Hibbert, A Hill, RD Hill, DJ Hitchen, M Hodgson, J Hornbuckle, J Housden, C Hurst, G James, Anne Johnson, A Jones, JE Kenward, S King, J Kingsland, N Kipling, K Knowles, M Lacey, P Leonard, P Lockwood, JL Marriott, C Measures, P Mella, B Merryweather, T Middleton, M Miller, TH Minskip, D Mowbray, J Mowbray, D Neill, B Orme, S Platts, MN Reeder, P Ridsdale, D Roddis, SJ Roddis, S Samworth, J Sherwin, M Sherwin, MA Smethurst, B Spencer, MJ Sweeney, J Taylor, N Taylor, SG Tebbutt, P Thomas, A Thompson, M Timms, R Twigg, C Tyler, SE Vickers, EC Vincent, MC Wells, RDR Williams, P&A Wilson, D Wood, D Woodriff, P Wragg, Rotherham & District Ornithological Society, BTO Bird Track.

# 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 2009 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  
Treasure*

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# ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2012 become due in January.

We have a good programme of speakers planned for next year (see page 7), and many local 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 Martin Hodgson 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 email to martinjhodgson@btinternet.com

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