

# The Notts Birder



**Newsletter of the Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers**  
**September 2015**

# IN THIS EDITION

Editorial	Sam Viles	3
Chairman's Chatter	Carl Cornish	4
Fantasy Birding League	Rae Harrington	6
Young Birders' Grant		7
Nature Notes	Derick Scott	10
Birders & Photographers	Jack Perks	16
Mike's Progress	Mike Hill	18
July Bird News	Andy Hall	20
WeBS Counter Required	David Parkin	25
Dates For The Diary		26
Contacts		27
<i>Conference Information</i>		28

***Items, statements and opinions contained within articles, letters and any other format within this Newsletter or eNews are not necessarily the policy or opinion of either the editor of this newsletter, the committee of the Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers or any other person connected with the club.***



Thanks for all the feedback on the previous month's newsletter. It's nice to know the effort is appreciated and what you do or don't like about the new layout.

For those of you wishing to attend the Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers Annual Conference there are directions, a programme of the day's events and a booking form at the end of the newsletter.



Storm Petrel, © Sam Viles

Until this summer, European Storm Petrel was one of my biggest 'tarts'. Understandably therefore, I was excited by the prospect of an NGB Storm Petrel ringing session this July. A couple of friends had the opportunity to work alongside the National Trust's ringing group at Whitburn over the summer and had managed to secure us the opportunity as well as a campsite and barbeque for the weekend.

After a boozy meet and greet we headed down to the cove where the nets were to be set up. Once the nets were set it was a waiting game for it to get dark. Once dark it didn't take long for the hoped for result and we caught our first Storm Petrel at about 11.30pm. Things began to breeze by at this point and we caught a further 6 before packing up at around 2am in lieu of an imposing storm front. A thoroughly enjoyable evening!



# CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER    CARL CORNISH

Last night there was a committee meeting of Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers and we discussed some upcoming events, which hopefully will be of interest and be events for you to attend.

**Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers' Conference:** After last year's successful conference, held jointly with BTO, there is another conference being held on 22nd November 2015 - details and booking form in this newsletter. This is a good opportunity to hear some updates on national and county work, and to meet fellow birders in the county.

**Christmas Quiz:** There will be the annual Christmas Quiz in the first part of December, just waiting to confirm the date with the Nottingham University Sports and Social Club.

**New Year's Day Bird Race:** Sam Haworth was instrumental in organising the New Year's Bird Race on 1st January 2015 and we plan to repeat it on 1st January 2016. Further details will be published in the newsletter and on the website. Four teams took part this year and it would be good to see more teams take part – there's even a trophy for the winning team.

**In County Trips:** Sam Haworth continues to do an excellent job organising in county field trips and she is putting together of programme of walks over the winter and spring. Details will be published in the newsletter and on the website. If you have any ideas for a field trip, or would like to volunteer to lead one at a site you know, please do get in contact with Sam.

**Annual Report:** Publication of the 2013 report is later than initially planned but should be out in November. There is a lot of hard work put in from volunteers writing the species accounts, compiling and proof-reading the report, all in their spare time outside of work.

It was a pleasure to be able to welcome the new newsletter editorial team of Sam Viles and Mike Hill to the committee meeting and to congratulate them on a fantastic first newsletter. They have set the bar high for future issues. Sam is off to Newcastle University to study his first degree and I, along with the rest of the committee, wish him all the best. I'm not sure at his age I had the maturity or commitment to go away from home to study and still want to be editor of my local bird club's newsletter (in fact I know I wasn't) – so he's a great asset for the club.





Nottinghamshire  
Birdwatchers



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# FANTASY BIRDING

RAE HARRINGTON

## LEAGUE

[rae.harrington5@ntlworld.com](mailto:rae.harrington5@ntlworld.com)

August: Pectoral Sandpiper 5 points, Red-necked  
Phalarope 15 points



A. Marshall	80	A. Olleremshaw	50	J. Straw	40
F. Heys	80	N. Matthews	50	T. Heard	40
J. Mowbray	80	B. Brooker	50	R. Reedman	40
N. Slater	75	J. Turton	50	R. Dakin	40
G. Osborne	75	S. Scarth	50	K. Stevenson	40
L. Bidwell	70	N. Crouch	50	K. Hutchby	40
J. Hill	65	J. Revill	50	M. Hill	40
R. Jordan	65	S. Browne	50	D. Young	40
J. Lewis	65	V. Wotton	45	A. Pask	35
R. Hopcroft	65	M. Smith	45	P. Read	35
M. Heys	65	K. Etherington	45	D. Erwin	35
C. Howat	65	R. Pask	45	R. Hoare	30
B. Beck	65	D. Wood	45	P. Matthews	30
D. Shuttleworth	60	R. Mellor	45	J. Feeney	30
R. Bennett	60	R. Demaine	45	S. Bradford	30
H. Middleton	60	J. Reece	45	R. Harrington	30
T. Lowry	60	J. Ellis	45	J. Glenn	25
T. Wardell	60	B. Beales	45	A. Lane	25
M. Dennis	60	R. Charman	45	M. Lee	25
H. Broughton	60	L. Archibald	45	K. Smith	25
P. Wilson	60	S. Newbold	45	J. Bultan	25
D. Branston	60	J. Lloyd	45	K. Rainford	20
R. Heath	55	B. Hopkinson	45	J. Boot	20
C. Cornish	55	J. Dennison	45	P. Buxton	20
N. Davis	55	M. Watson	40	T. Pask	20
N. Glenn	55	P. Beresford	40	J. Pam	20
A. Barks	55	B. Smith	40	M. Gordon	10
S. Brazier	50	M. Bartle	40	C. Pask	10
L. Demaine	50	P. Burnham	40		



# GRANTS FOR YOUNG BIRDERS

The committee would like to offer a number of young birders the opportunity of funding towards training or attending an event to help improve skills. Examples of the type of training/event we consider as eligible for funding includes:

- Attendance on a taught training course
- A visit/stay at a bird observatory
- Volunteering to help with bird surveying or conservation work
- Attending a bird conference

These are examples and others can be considered. We have decided to set an overall budget of £200 for the first year. So, depending on interest, it could be that there is a contribution by Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers towards the cost, which can include travel.

Eligible members interested in applying for funding should do so by emailing the Chairman, Carl Cornish, with details. The criteria for eligibility are:

- Applicant is 21 or under
- Applicant is a current member of Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers
- Details of cost will be provided
- Upon completion of the course/event, a short article will be written for publication in the newsletter.

When applying, please allow adequate time before the training event for a decision to be made by the committee.

If you would like to discuss a potential event for funding before applying please do contact Carl Cornish.

Also, if you are a young birder and have suggestions of what we can do to help further please do let us know.





# BEESTON WILDLIFE GROUP

## INDOOR MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2015-2016

**VENUE** Trent Vale Infants School, Trent Road, Beeston Rylands, Nottinghamshire, NG9 1LP.  
**TIME** 7.30 - 9.30pm.  
**ADMISSION** £2.00 Adults, £1.00 Children - includes refreshments.

**Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 2015** **THE MIGHTY OAK** **Patrick Harding**  
We have huge affection for the Oak tree. From ancient times it has provided timber for battleships and buildings. They are steeped in legend from the Druids to Robin Hood, even Kate Moss has an interest! Living for over 250 years and hosting over 200 species, there is much to discover.

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 2015** **THE CAIRNGORMS** **Nick Martin**  
The Cairngorms are Britain's highest mountains; below them are ancient forests, bleak moorlands and deep lochs. Wildlife that live here are specialists, like Ptarmigan, Capercallie, Mountain Hare and Red Squirrels. A chance to experience elusive species in this spectacular National Park.

**Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 2015** **GEOLOGY OF THE PLANET** **Colin Bagshaw**  
The rocks making up the surface of the Earth have formed over millions of years. By studying these rocks we can determine their history and their role in supporting plants and other life forms by looking at the fossils they contain. Specimens of local rocks will be looked at in more detail.

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup> 2015** **KAMCHATKA-THE REMOTEST PLACE ON EARTH?** **Tim Melling**  
This is the far east of Russia, where bears outnumber people. Check out Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Steller's Sea Eagle, Sea Otter, Whales and Walrus. Tim's legendary enthusiasm to deliver the stories about these very special animals will make this a pre-Christmas treat.

**Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 2016** **WILDLIFE IN THE HOME** **Nigel Slater**  
Our homes attract wildlife by unwittingly providing food and shelter. Some 'visitors' are welcomed, some loathed. Some cause damage, others disease. From moths to mice, bats to beetles - we are never alone! You will be amazed what goes on under your very own roof.

**Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2016** **THE BOTTOM END OF DOWN UNDER.....** **Martin Butler**  
Join Martin when he goes in search of unique animals, snakes and birds on the South Eastern coast of Australia. We will also visit Tasmania in search of the Devil and visit the deep blue sea. What about the Thylacine, does it still exist?

**March 21<sup>st</sup> 2016** **THE CHANGING SEASONS** **Paul Hobson**  
Paul is an award winning wildlife photographer. With his expert commentary we are certain to gain new insights into familiar species. A night to indulge in stunning year-round images of animals and the changing scenery.

**April 18<sup>th</sup> 2016** **ATTENBOROUGH - THE BIG YEAR** **Tim Sexton**  
In an attempt to spot over 1,000 species in just one year, Tim turns detective and leaves no stone unturned and every leaf examined in his quest. Expect an entertaining evening!

*This meeting includes our brief AGM and reflects on the work of our founder Keith Corbett.*







**BEESTON WILDLIFE GROUP**



## **GUIDED WALKS PROGRAMME 2015–2016**

**LOCATION** Attenborough Nature Reserve

**MEET** Nature Centre Car Park, Barton Lane, NG9 6DY

**TIME** 10.00am Start - Finish~1.00pm

### **SATURDAY GUIDED WALKS – FREE OF CHARGE**

**Apr 25<sup>th</sup> 2015      May 16<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Jun 20<sup>th</sup> 2015      July 18<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 2015      Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 2015      Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 2015**

#### **CHRISTMAS BREAK**

**Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016      Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Mar 26<sup>th</sup> 2016      Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> 2016      Jun 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> 2016      Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**

#### **CONTACTS**

**Bill Wheatley 0115 9250208, Nigel Slater 0115 9166518**

**Beestonwildlifegroup@hotmail.co.uk**

**[www.attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk/activities/beeston-wildlife-group](http://www.attenboroughnaturecentre.co.uk/activities/beeston-wildlife-group)**

**[www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/events/](http://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/events/)**

**EVERYONE WELCOME TO ALL EVENTS**



I was in Argyll-shire recently, visiting an old friend and colleague at his home on the south/western end of Loch Awe. We hadn't seen each other for almost 10 years, so we had a lot of catching up to do. So we did. We ate good food, drank excellent malt whisky, and talked non-stop, well into the night; mostly about birds. Well you do, don't you, especially with some one you've known for over 50 years. So birds were top of the agenda, from common ones such as Lapwing, Curlew, Hooded Crow and Song Thrush, and the rare ones, the mouth-waterers, such as Greenshank and Merlin, Golden Eagle and Dotterel, Snow Bunting as well. And we bided a wee on Corncrake, and then much, much longer on my wife's favourite, the magnificent Black-throated Diver. Then my friend told me that the divers were back, and nesting on their ancestral loch. Weather permitting, and hopefully capable, we would see them the next morning. My friend Julio excused himself and walked through his kitchen and into his larder.

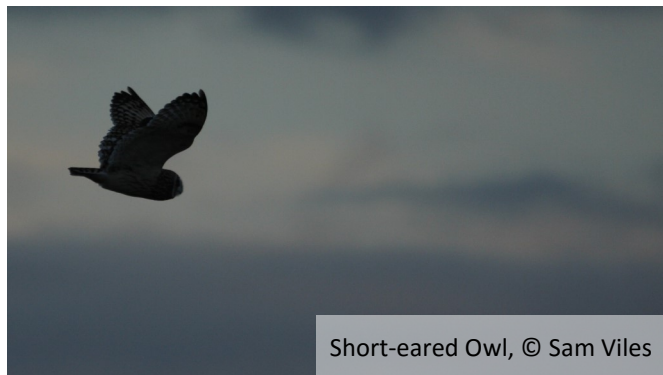
He returned after a while with an empty bottle in his hand. "Remember this?" he said, as he passed me the bottle. Oh yes. I remembered it well. It was 50 years ago that I and possibly others were introduced to a brand of Scotch whisky I once believed was fictitious. Peter Dawson, a whisky drank by The

Snow Bunting, © Sam Viles



Saint, that larger than life adventurer created by Leslie Charteris. And on the side of this empty bottle was this little stick-like character of the Saint, complete with halo set at a rakish angle. And immediately those faraway days returned.

My two friends and I had been working in the area for a week, mostly recording, but finding time for a little photography. Good weather had allowed us to visit an “easy” Golden Eagle’s nest where the single youngster had been ringed, weighed and measured. Others sharing the eagle’s domain were Buzzard, Hen Harrier, two pairs of Short-eared Owls, several Ring Ouzels and pairs of Whinchats along every roadway. Then we were introduced to a local landowner, who invited us to see the Black-throated Divers on his biggest loch. And so we did. And both birds were in residence, one on its small island nest site,



Short-eared Owl, © Sam Viles

the other on the water, watching us watching it. Later on we heard their mystical and magical music, the kind of music that brings tears to eyes and increases heartbeats. By comparison, the songs of Great

Northern and Red-throated Divers come second and third. We decided Saturday night was a time for some light celebrating.

Our evening began in a mild way. A fair dinner and a drop of wine, then the introduction to Peter Dawson. Fellow guests at the hotel joined us a little later. There was this small, jovial American from Illinois, on a whisky tasting tour of Scotland; so said he. He could drink, and he could tap dance. Then there was the retired Rear Admiral, quiet in the beginning but noisy later. I think his war began on destroyers, but I forget what happened to him after hostilities. He and his wife were on a fishing holiday, and he knew the difference between



Goosander and Red-breasted Merganser. I do remember his wife going to bed long before our riotous assembly.

The landlord produced a second bottle of P. Dawson, then began to thump away on the old piano. David our senior researcher played his concertina, which I knew he could. Whisky man produced a small harmonica, and I went behind an ancient drum kit, of sorts. I always knew that drumming in a small jazz band during my college days would prove fruitful one day. Julio and Ken, our other team member rattled empty bottles, glasses and thumped tables. We made a lot of noise, some music but not much rhythm.

We played, we danced—there were others present including ladies—and we drank, from Peter Dawson to classic malts; and more malts. Just before midnight the landlady brought us a platter of sandwiches and pies the size of Perthshire. We ate and we drank, amid much laughter. In the wee hours the admiral's wife appeared, in a floral dressing gown and coloured hair rollers. She looked like moving flower arrangement, badly done. She demanded her husband follow her to bed. Now there was a man used to giving orders not taking them. By then the wiring inside my head was coming loose, and whisky disappeared down throats, some of it.

By now I was hoping to hear gentle music inside my head, but all I heard were the drummers of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders beating the retreat. Minutes later the massed bands of the Gordons and Seaforth Highlanders were marching through my brain. Drums and pipes, and other regimental bands joined in. I forget which, but I was sure the cortex was becoming detached from my cerebrum. I felt my head growing to twice its nor-

Ring Ouzel, © Rob Hoare



mal size with much thumping and beating. I was terrified that should I bend over, my eyes would fall out, and the sodding Illinois tap dancer would tread on them.

Eventually we all died, and went to our respective heavens—or hells—with the speed of sloths. The next morning we were all resurrected, and fell in for breakfast. Hot, strong tea never tasted so good. I think I might have nibbled on a rusk. Full Scottish breakfast was eaten on our tables, and I never realised bird song was as loud as that morning. At least a thousand Song Thrushes were on maximum decibels. “Shut up you fool”, whispered I to an eardrum-splitting Dunnock.

The day did get better. The weather was good. Whinchats seemed everywhere. We found a lovely Ring Ouzel’s nest built among stones in a drystone wall. Julio got a soaking when he waded across a burn to get a photographic record of a Dipper’s nest. And, in spite of having a marshmallow filled head, I almost stepped on our second Short-eared Owl’s nest. Six young meant a good vole year.

*(The second part of my Scottish ramblings continue next month)*





# A9 BIRDS



**CHOOSE A9BIRDS FOR YOUR NEXT BREAK TO THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS!**  
Offering personally tailored full day, half day and summer evening trips as well as photography opportunities. Contact Mike & Karen on 01309 611736, visit our website and look for A9Birds on Facebook

Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers discounts available for solo birders and small groups

[www.a9birds.com](http://www.a9birds.com)

## **Choose A9 Birds for your next break to the Scottish Highlands!**

Members of the Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers will receive a 15% discount off full- and half-day birdwatching trips for solo birders at a basic charge of £10 per person per hour, or—if travelling with a friend/partner (the 4x4 used can hold up to 3 people)—then a discount of half-price rates apply to any 2nd and 3rd person. This rate is the same whether the customer is a birder, a photographer, or both!

This offer does not include any private access hide photography, such as the fishing Ospreys, and specific charges for these will apply.

One-to-one tuition is guaranteed, unless the customer comes with a friend/partner. Over this autumn/winter hide access will be expanded for 2016 to hopefully include Short-eared Owl and Black Grouse. Guiding is also offered for any customers taking in the Isle of Skye for Sea Eagle, Great Skua and Corncrake photography.



NWPS



# Nottinghamshire Wildlife Photography Society

Combining the love of nature and photography.  
Come and hear our talks by experts and amateurs alike.



Jack Perks

**13th October 2015**

Des Ong - British Wildlife & Exotics

Covering exotic wildlife, native fauna and projects Des has worked on.

**10th November 2015**

Mike Lane - British Wildlife

This talk includes Dartford Warbler, Snow Buntings, Choughs, Corncrakes as well as a selection of mammals.



Gordon Roach

**8th December 2015**

Robert Falconer - Magic of Mull

Having lived & worked on Mull gave Robert the chance to capture this island on camera.



Chris Overton

**12th January 2016**

Chris Upton - Essential Composition

Perplexed or confused about the subject? This talk will enlighten you and improve your image creation.



Roger Bennett

**9th February 2016**

Tonight our members will be giving short talks on a variety of subjects.

**8th March 2016**

AGM and Special Guest Speaker

Tonight is for ideas & opinions, plus the groups 1st competition winners.

(Note this meeting is at Nottingham Mechanics NG1 4EZ)

In association  
with



Nottinghamshire Wildlife  
Photography Society



@NottsWPS

Website: [nottswps.squarespace.com](http://nottswps.squarespace.com)

Contact - [notttinghamwps@hotmail.com](mailto:notttinghamwps@hotmail.com)

7pm - 9pm West Bridgford  
Library, NG2 6AT  
N.W. T. members £3.00  
£6.00 non members  
Refreshments included



# BIRDERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS JACK PERKS

Photographers and birders can be at loggerheads sometimes but in most cases we try to be responsible, ethical and non-intrusive with the subjects we aim to photograph, and of course most wildlife photographers are guilty of indulging in a spot of birding (I've twitched a Waxwing or two in my time), as are a lot of birders keen on photography whether its digiscoping or a 500mm lens.

One of the noticeable differences I've found is when I'm guiding if I have a general wildlife enthusiast and we see an Osprey from a far they are normally quite pleased to just see the bird however a wildlife photographer would be quite grumpy that said Osprey isn't 3 feet away from them so the challenge is finding the animals or locations that allow for very close interactions but minimal disturbance to the bird.

Having been a full time photographer for the past three years now, one thing I've certainly noticed is you'll never find two wildlife photographers that agree on everything whether its fridging moths, using bird calls, live bait for kingfishers or manipulating the image heavily in post production its maybe not a bad thing that's its mostly a solitary pursuit.

Though I don't go birding very often I am finding myself enjoying it more and more. I have to admit I even do the odd twitch but haven't quite got the point of hoping in the car last minute and driving to the other end of the country....yet. I think because of my interest in freshwater habitats it's the birds you

Red Grouse, © Jack Perks



find on rivers and wetlands that interest me most with Great-crested Grebes being my favourite bird but Kingfishers, Herons and waterfowl all have a deep interest for me also. I'm currently working on a project to do more underwater images of freshwater birds but it's in the early stages!



Waxwing, © Jack Perks

In recent years it's been much easier to blur the line between being just a birder and just a photographer. Digital cameras are much more accessible and cheaper than they used to be and the smaller compact and bridge cameras can yield fantastic results meaning you don't have to carry around a bazooka like lens when walking Attenborough. Digiscoping is becoming ever more popular and for I.D. and recording purposes is a useful tool. Likewise with wildlife recording apps and social media it's never been easier to alert people to what's been seen in real time. If I spot anything unusual I tend to copy in the Notts Birders on a Twitter post as it's quick and easy.

A couple of years ago I set up the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Photographic Society mostly because there was nothing else like it in the county and wanted to bring together people with a keen interest in both wildlife and photography. To my surprise people turned up to meetings! So far it's a small but steady group of 20 + members having winter meetings in West Bridgford Library. We have a good mix of amateurs, naturalists and birders attend.

See some of Jack's work at [www.jackperksphotography.com](http://www.jackperksphotography.com)

The Photographic Society can be found at [www.nottswps.squarespace.com](http://www.nottswps.squarespace.com)





# MIKE'S PROGRESS

MIKE HILL

Thanks to those of you who provided feedback to our first newsletter, it is nice to see that our efforts are appreciated. If you have any suggestions on how to improve it, things you would like to see or indeed want to put pen to paper and write an article please contact either Sam or myself.

We had a couple of fairly long distance, out of county, trips in August to catch up with a couple of species that we have wanted to add to our British list for a while. First off was a drive over to RSPB South Stack on Anglesey to get Chough. It was a lovely day and the cliff top heather was in full flower. The Choughs didn't disappoint with one individual being very confiding and feeding down to a few feet. According to the RSPB staff this was probably one of this year's birds who is not fazed by the visitors. It certainly gave for great photo opportunities. Offshore were good numbers of Manx Shearwater passing through along with the odd Gannet. A couple of Fulmars were riding the breeze along the cliff edge and a couple of Ravens cronked overhead. Stonechats were present in good numbers along with Meadow Pipit, both providing good photo opportunities with the heather as a backdrop.



Chough, © Mike Hill

A few days later and we had a day trip up to Cumbria for our second target, the breeding Bee-eaters near Carlisle. They were using a nest site at a working quarry and the owners and RSPB had worked closely together to arrange for a viewpoint to be set up once the young had hatched. The news was released late July and as I had a week off in August it





seemed only right that we should pay them a visit. Although reasonably distant we did get great views of at least two adults going in and out of the burrow with one very obligingly perching up in a birch for several minutes to allow great scope views. Well worth the long drive.

Nearer to home and I was very lucky to have what may well be a once in a lifetime experience. I've been fortunate to do some ringing of pulli at work this year under the watchful eye and close supervision of my boss Kev, who is a member of Birklands Ringing group. During the spring and early summer I've ringed the pulli of Jackdaw, Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Nuthatch, Great Tit, Song Thrush, Pied Wagtail and Blackbird. Unfortunately I missed out on Spotted Flycatcher as I was on a chainsaw course the week they were ringed. But that was more than made up for when Kev invited me along to Budby one evening with Andy Lowe and his partner Anne. They are undertaking some monitoring of the Nightjar population on the site and would be mist netting that night. Within about 10 minutes of the birds becoming active and calling a female was netted and under the very close supervision of Anne I got to ring the bird. A brilliant experience and one I am very grateful to all concerned for.

A few ticks of various types came my way in August. Late on the 7th whilst out checking the moth trap we had two Oystercatchers go over calling loudly, taking my garden list to 61. And then a week or so later Jake and myself paid a first visit to the Newington area, specifically Hagg Lane Flash. This flash is in Notts but the South Yorks border is very close so care is needed when ticking for the county. A Great White Egret had been commuting between the two counties but was nowhere to be seen however a lifer in the form of a Pectoral Sandpiper was so that more than made up for the egret. This took me to 153 for the year in Notts and the 154th was present in the form of at least 10 Ruff. Also present were 12 Little Egret, Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper, Lapwing, Snipe, Pied and Grey Wagtail and a couple of Common Terns paid a brief visit. Not bad for around an hours birding!



# JULY BIRD NEWS

SORREL LYALL &  
ANDY HALL

*Some of these records include reports pending ratification by the  
NBWRC and BBRC*

**Eurasian Wigeon** – 3 birds at Attenborough NR on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Gadwall** – A very impressive count of 180 was noted on 30<sup>th</sup> at Attenborough NR.

**Garganey** – A pair was noted at Attenborough NR throughout the month.

**Red-crested Pochard** – 13 birds were recorded at Attenborough NR on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldeneye** – A single was noted at Attenborough NR on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Partridge** – 2 birds were noted at Langford Lowfields on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Quail** – A single bird was heard calling at Kilvington Lakes on 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Bittern** – 1 bird was seen twice in flight at Netherfield Lagoons over the Slurry Lagoon on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup>, and another was seen at Attenborough NR on 30<sup>th</sup> flying across the bay in the reedbed in Clifton Pond at 1715 on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** – A maximum count of 11 was recorded at Attenborough NR throughout the month and at Kilvington Lakes on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**GREAT WHITE EGRET** – 1 was seen at Attenborough NR to fly south over Delta on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Red Kite** – Single birds were seen on several occasions throughout the month, with birds seen over Hoveringham, Bunny Hill, Cropwell Lings Farm, Colston Basset and Costock, and 1 bird was seen on carrion on the road in Staunton-in-the-Vale.

**Marsh Harrier** – 1 male was seen high over Blotts Pitt at Holme Pierrepont on 5<sup>th</sup>, and a juvenile/female flew north over Budby Pumping Station on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Goshawk** – 2 birds were noted at Welbeck Raptor Watch Point on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Hobby** – Throughout the month mostly single birds were seen at a variety of



locations; Annesley Pit Top, Holme Pierrepont, Kilvington Lakes, Hoveringham, Attenborough NR, Clifton Grove, and Barton-in-Fabis. 2 birds were seen at Staunton-in-the-Vale flying past the church on 27<sup>th</sup>, and a maximum of 3 birds were seen at Holme Pierrepont on 5<sup>th</sup> and at Hoveringham on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Peregrine Falcon** – Single birds were seen at Hoveringham, Holme Pierrepont, Annesley Pit Top and Kilvington Lakes throughout the month, with 2 birds seen at Holme Pierrepont on 11<sup>th</sup> and 3 at Hoveringham on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Rail** – 2 birds were seen mating at Blotts Pit at Holme Pierrepont on 4<sup>th</sup>, then singles were seen at the same site throughout the month.

**Avocet** – A pair and 4 large juveniles were seen at Langford Lowfields on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** – There were many records throughout the month of adult and juvenile birds, predominantly on Blotts Pit at Holme Pierrepont, where the maximum count was 12 on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ringed Plover** – 3 birds were noted at Holme Pierrepont and Langford Lowfields, with singles also seen at Attenborough NR on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kilvington Lakes on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Sanderling** – Singles were noted at Budby Pumping Station on 19<sup>th</sup> and at Coltingham Pits on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** – 1 bird was seen at Idle Valley NR on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin** – Birds were seen at a range of sites, with a maximum count for the month of 3 birds seen at Holme Pierrepont on 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff** – 9 was the highest count at Idle Valley NR on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Snipe** – 1 bird was seen at Hoveringham on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-tailed Godwit** – 24 birds was the highest count for the month, seen at Langford Lowfields on 6<sup>th</sup>, and counts of c20 were recorded at Attenborough NR and Kilvington Lakes.

**Whimbrel** – Singles were noted at Holme Pierrepont on 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, and at Hoveringham on 24<sup>th</sup> and Kilvington Lakes on 24<sup>th</sup>.





**Curlew** – 3 birds were seen at Annesley Pit Top on 12<sup>th</sup>, singles or pairs were also noted at Kilvington Lakes, Holme Pierrepont, Collingham Pitts and Budby Pumping Station.

**Common Redshank** – 10 birds was the highest count for the month, seen at Attenborough NR on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenshank** – 1 bird was seen at Holme Pierrepont on 12<sup>th</sup>, 1 at Attenborough NR on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Bennerley Marsh on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** – Birds were noted across the county, with a maximum count of 6 at Langford Lowfields on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** – Again birds were seen across the county at the usual sites, with 6 at Holme Pierrepont on 6<sup>th</sup>, and 1 at Newark Sugar Factory on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Turnstone** – 1 bird was seen at Attenborough NR on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Gull** – 1 worn adult bird was seen flying east over Budby Pumping Station on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Gull** – 2 birds were seen at Kilvington Lakes on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – The maximum count for the month at Kilvington Lakes was 510 on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull** – 8 were noted at Hoveringham on 23<sup>rd</sup>, c25 birds was seen at Cotham Landfill on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 32 was the maximum count at Kilvington Lakes, also a single bird was seen at Attenborough NR on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Great Black-backed Gull** – 1 bird was seen at Kilvington Lakes on 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Tern** – 1 adult bird was seen at Idle Valley NR on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Turtle Dove** – 1 purring male was noted at



Barton-in-Fabis throughout the month, 1 bird was heard at Besthorpe on 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, singles were seen flying over Budby Pumping Station on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a maximum count of 4 birds was made at Meering.

**Cuckoo** – 1 singing male was noted at Holme Pierrepont on a number of occasions plus 1 juvenile was seen, 1 bird was seen at Attenborough NR on 8<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Budby Pumping Station on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Owl** – 1 was seen at Holy Cross, Costock, on 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Owl** – 2 individuals were seen on separate occasions at Holy Cross, Costock, and a pair with 1 juvenile were seen at Clifton Grove on 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Tawny Owl** – 1 bird was noted at Holy Cross, Costock, on 3 occasions, also 1 was noted at Hoveringham on 15<sup>th</sup> and Attenborough NR on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-eared Owl** – 1 was seen flying around Gedling Pit Top on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Swift** – The highest count for the month was 248 at Annesley Pit Top on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** – 1 was seen at Budby Pumping Station on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow Wagtail** – Singles were seen at Annesley Pit Top, Welbeck Raptor Watch Point, Cropwell Rings Farm, Holme Pierrepont and Kilvington Lakes.

**Grey Wagtail** – A few birds were seen throughout the month, with 3 birds including 2 juveniles seen at Attenborough NR on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**DIPPER** – 1 juvenile bird was seen feeding on the River Leen in Bulwell on 23<sup>rd</sup>, still present in August, it was the first new arrival since 2009.

**Whinchat** – 2 adults were seen at Budby Pumping Station on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Grasshopper Warbler** – Singles were noted at Barton-in-Fabis on 21<sup>st</sup> and at Attenborough NR on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Whitethroat** – 1 bird was seen at Annesley Pit Top on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 at Attenborough NR on the same day.

**Spotted Flycatcher** – Breeding pairs were seen at Gonalston, Norwood Park





and Bevercotes Colliery Site.

**Willow Tit** – 1 was noted at Newark Sugar Factory on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Tit** – 2 birds were seen at Cotgrave Forest on 11<sup>th</sup> and at Hoveringham on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Raven** – Birds were seen at Annesley Pit Top, Cotgrave, Budby Pumping Station, Costock and Hoveringham.

**Siskin** – The highest count for the month was 16 seen at Annesley Pit Top on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Crossbill** – 1 flew southeast over Sutton-in-Ashfield on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**List of contributors:**

AO Aitken, LC Archibald, RC Brace, HE Broughton, P Burnham, P Buxton, A Clewes, P Cottam, S Gauton, P George, R Hoare, JA Hopper, D Housman, D Ingram, Sr M Julian, MJ Leatherland, AT Lane, M Lee, S Lyall, D Morton, P Naylor, N Pinder, A Scrimshaw, T Sexton, EG Staunton, J Steele, RJ Stevens, MJ Warren, M Watson, J Wilson, V Wooton, Lound Bird Club, Netherfield Wildlife Group.

**September records to be with Andy Hall by 9th October.**



# WEBS COUNTER REQUIRED

A vacancy has arisen for the Wetland Bird Survey at Rufford Park Lake in mid-Notts. The current surveyor has had to withdraw for health reasons. This site has been monitored almost continuously since the early 1960s, and it would be very unfortunate if counting stopped.

The survey involves visiting the site once a month on pre-ordained dates and counting all of the ducks, geese, swans, herons, waders, gulls and terns. Unlike BBS, it is not necessary to go at the crack of dawn. The counts can either be entered directly into the BTO website or the forms sent to me for entry. Each year, all WeBS counters are sent a copy of the annual report, and the BTO keeps a close eye on any changes so that 'alerts' can be issued for particular species.

WeBS started life over 50 years ago as the 'Birds of Estuaries Enquiry' and has grown and expanded to include inland sites as well as coastal locations. The commitment is to monthly visits, although if you are away (for example, on holiday) then a gap can occur. Alternatively, you can try to persuade a friend to cover for you.

So, if you know your wetland birds and would like to help with one of the longest-running BTO surveys, please get in touch. I can probably arrange with Nottinghamshire County Council to get you free access to the car park during the summer months!

David Parkin

[bluethroat@btinternet.com](mailto:bluethroat@btinternet.com)

0115 9320090



# DATES FOR THE DIARY

## **Idle Valley Guided Walk**

**Saturday 26th September**

Guided autumn bird walk at Lound led by Gary Hobson at 8am. Meet at the Chainbridge Lane viewpoint and arrive at least ten mins before. A circular walk from here to the area around Neatholme Lane and back via the river bank. Allow 3-4 hours. There are no toilets on site. Park cars safely and don't leave any valuables on show. Contact Samantha Haworth for further information.

## **Notts Birders Conference**

**Sunday 22nd November**

Held at Ravenshead Village Hall, the event will include talks by Ian Newton on raptor migration, Andy Lowe on tracking birds in the Dukeries, Sorrel Lyall on being a young birder, Jim Lennon on colour-ringing Grey Herons and Little Egrets at Besthorpe and Guy Shorrocks (RSPB Investigations) on raptor persecution. The price (including coffees, teas and lunch) will be around £17. The booking form is attached to this newsletter

## **Attenborough Guided Walk**

**Sunday 10th January**

Guided winter bird walk led by Neil Glenn at Attenborough, meet at 10am by the sightings board adjacent to the car park. Contact Samantha Haworth for further information.

## **Hoveringham Gull Roost**

**Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th January**

The Hoveringham roost offers a good opportunity to see some of our rare winter gulls such as Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Mediterranean Gull and Caspian Gull. Although they can never be guaranteed, mid-January is a proven time for sightings of these species. Experienced observers will be on hand to assist with locating and identifying any birds. Gull watching can be extremely cold and observers are advised to wrap up warm. Directions will be provided closer to the event.



# CONTACTS

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@NottsBirders  
#nottsbirding



Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers



**Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers Annual Conference 2015**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2015**

**Booking Form**

Names (as you want them printed on the name badge)

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Dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

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Please give numbers of those who use a wheelchair or crutches, so we can arrange seating

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Landline \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque of £15 for each delegate, total £\_\_\_\_\_, made payable to 'Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers'.

Would you be able to offer a lift to someone who lives near you?    **Y / N**

Please return to:

**Jenny Swindells, 21 CHAWORTH ROAD, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7AE**

**07763 110 758**

**[j.swindells@btinternet.com](mailto:j.swindells@btinternet.com)**



## **Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers Annual Conference 2015**

Sunday 22 November 2015

Ravenshead Village Hall, Vernon Crescent, Ravenshead, Notts, NG15 9BN

### **Programme**

09:30 – 10:00		Arrival and welcoming coffee/tea
10:00 – 10:15		Chair : Carl Cornish
10:15 – 11:00	Andy Lowe	<b>Tracking birds in the Dukeries</b>
11:00 – 11:30		Coffee/Tea
		Chair: Chris du Feu
11:30 – 12:30	Ian Newton	<b>Raptor Migration</b>
12:30 – 13:00	Sorrel Lyall	<b>Birding: a young person's perspective</b>
13:00 – 14:00		Lunch
		Chair: Nick Crouch
14:00 – 15:00	Guy Shorrock	<b>Raptor persecution – the work of RSPB Investigations</b>
15:00 – 15:45	Jim Lennon	<b>What does ringing tell us about birds in the Trent Valley</b>
15:45		Coffee/Tea and disperse

## **Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers Annual Conference 2015**

Sunday 22 November 2015

Ravenshead Village Hall, Vernon Crescent, Ravenshead, Notts, NG15 9BN

### **Directions**

Directions to Ravenshead Village Hall, Vernon Crescent, Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire, NG15 9BP

**From A60:** At Newstead Abbey Gates, turn east onto Longdale Lane, which is opposite Newstead Abbey.

After approx 200yds turn left onto Vernon Avenue.

At the T junction turn left onto Vernon Crescent.

The Village Hall is on the right, just after the school.

**From A614:** Coming from the North, go past the A6097 to Leicester.

Turn right onto Longdale Lane at the next roundabout. Signed Mansfield (A60), Ravenshead 2.5m

At the sign Ravenshead Village Centre turn right onto Vernon Avenue.

At the T junction turn left onto Vernon Crescent.

The Village Hall is on the right, just after the school.

If the car park is full, turn right at next road and park in the shopping centre on the left.

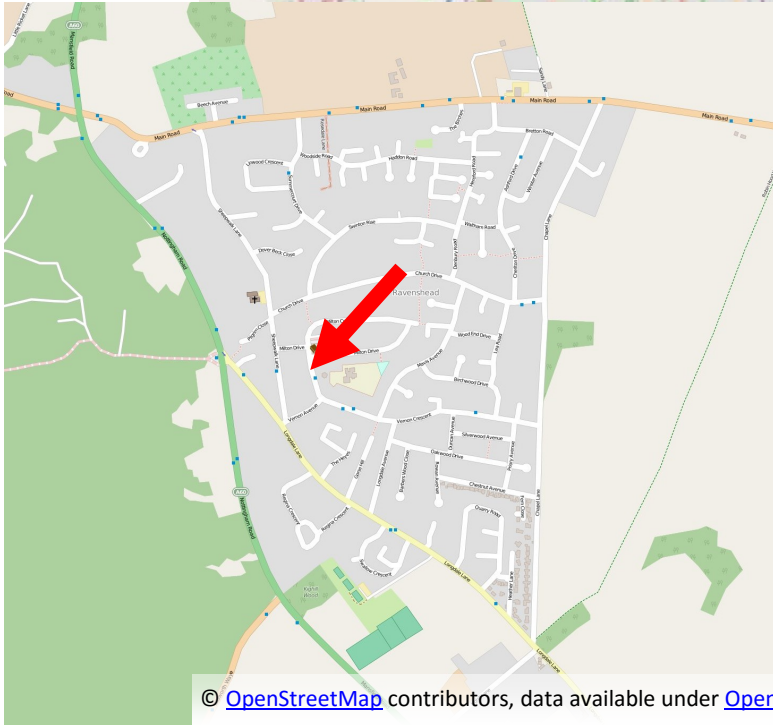
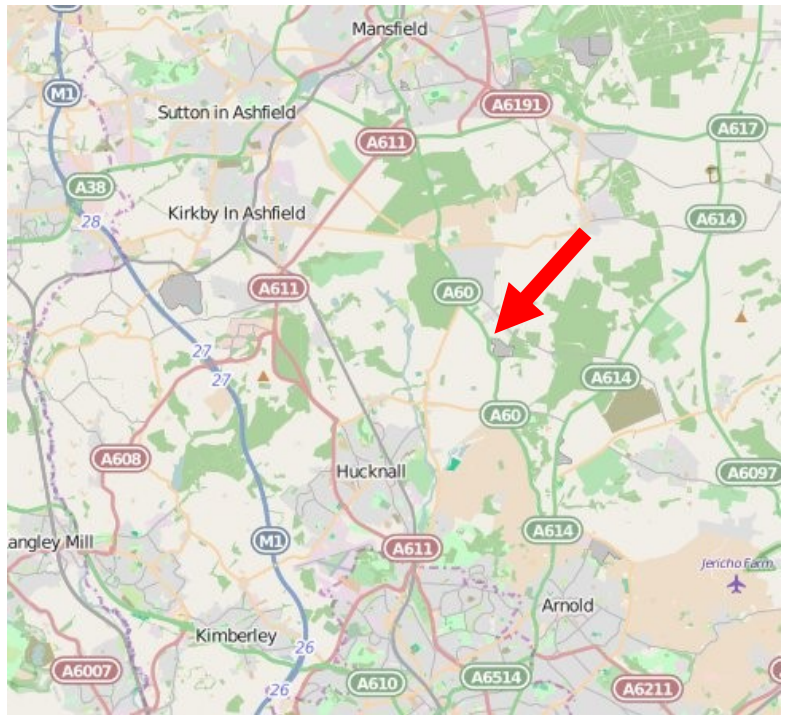
***By Bus:*** Trent Barton 141 runs from Nottingham to Mansfield along the A60, stopping at Newstead Abbey Gates.

Leaves Nottingham Victoria Bus Station at 09.15.

Leaves Mansfield Bus Station at 09.00 and 09.15.

**Any problems, please ring Jenny Swindells on 07763 110 758**

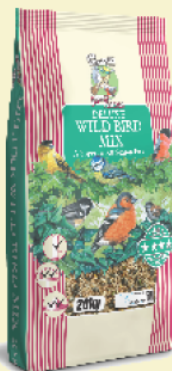
# Map





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