

Birding Surrey



No.121



Autumn 2018

Photograph Gallery



Fig 1. Great White Egret, Richmond Park, 31 Aug 2018. (Nigel Jackman)



*Fig 2. Little Gull, Walton Res.,
8 Apr 2018 (Dave Harris)*



*Fig 3. Red-backed Shrike, Thursley
Common, 15 Jul 2018 (Dave Carlsson)*

Birding Surrey

The Newsletter of the Surrey Bird Club

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Front Cover: Woking Peregrines by James Sellen

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From the Chairman

This is my first 'From the Chairman' since taking over from Steve Chastell following the 2018 AGM. Steve served as Club Chairman for 13 years, which is more than anyone has the right to expect, and he will be a very hard act to follow.

The 2018 AGM

The AGM was held on 29 June 2018 and was reasonably well attended. There were some changes of officers, following the decisions by Hugh Evans and Steve Chastell to stand down as President and Chairman respectively. The Club owes a large debt of gratitude to both, although we won't be losing Steve's services because he has taken over from me as County Recorder. Hugh was deservedly elected an Honorary Life Member while Stella Bignold was elected President to follow Hugh. Happily she has agreed to carry on as Report Editor - we'd struggle without her.

Once the formalities were over we had a presentation from the Tice's Meadow Bird Group (TMBG) - 'Tice's Meadow, Past, Present and Future'. It showed just what can be achieved by a small group of enthusiastic volunteers working with a co-operative site owner

(Hansons). A former gravel working has been turned into one of the best birding sites in Surrey, with a range of habitats from open water to woodland. While TMBG have already achieved a great deal, there is more on the way, including hides and a high-tech Swift nesting tower. There is the possibility that one of the hides might be put in place by Chinook helicopter - now that should be worth watching. SBC has provided some financial support, including a display board, and has manned an SBC stand at the annual Tice's Bioblitz. If you haven't attended one of the Bioblitzes, I can thoroughly recommend them.

Going Birding Surrey

It won't (or shouldn't) have escaped your notice that the Club introduced a new on-line reporting system at the beginning of the year, Going Birding Surrey (GBS). It's easy to use and makes sightings of note available to other Surrey birders. The broad concept behind GBS was that it would be used for the more interesting records and BTO's BirdTrack would be used for the remainder, but the division is not absolute, and if you would prefer to put all your records on GBS then please do so. There was

some comment at the AGM that, unlike the Club website which it replaced, GBS was displaying records of common species which were of limited interest to other birders. However, you don't have to see such records if you don't want to. There is a filter to allow you to choose the level of scarcity of the records displayed - you can choose one of eight levels from Abundant to Very Rare.

GBS is a good system and it is used by a number of counties. At present the Surrey system is not being used as much as we had hoped. Please use it - it can be used to keep your records, it alerts you and other Surrey birders to interesting records and all records can be downloaded by the county recorder. (If you think I'm not practicing what I preach, it's because these days I do most of my birding on my local patch, all of which is private land.)

Where are all the birds?

Perhaps I've just been unlucky with my local patch near Milford, but I can't remember a summer when there seem to be so few birds around. Hirundines have been few and far between, with Swallows failing to breed for the first time in the 25 years I've been watching the patch. Swift numbers are down, as

is the number of breeding pairs of Chiffchaffs, Reed Warblers and Whitethroats. Numbers of hirundines during autumn migration have been better, but still on the low side, and Swifts have been staying quite late - there are still two around as I write this on 27 August. On a brighter note three pairs of Common Terns tried to squeeze onto a small raft on a local farm reservoir. After a lot of squabbling one pair was chased off and the remaining two pairs raised 5 young, all of which have now departed south.

Maybe - hopefully - the low numbers are not typical, but if it is, it's hard to see the reason. The number of migratory species apparently affected is quite large, so they winter over a large area, which seems to make adverse conditions at the wintering grounds an unlikely explanation. An explanation may lie in adverse conditions on migration, in which case the so-called 'Beast from the East' may have been a factor. But other factors may also be involved, because numbers of woodland birds on my patch also seem to be low. It's all a bit worrying.

Eric Soden

Bird News - Winter 2017/18

Shaun Peters

- part 2: early 2018

♦ Highlights of the quarter

These included a **Great White Egret**, a **Spoonbill**, three **Iceland Gulls**, three **Glaucous Gulls**, a **Waxwing**, the overwintering **Lesser Whitethroat**, a **Twite**, and the flock of **Parrot Crossbills**, as well as the continued presence of **Hawfinches**. Also, a spell of cold weather and snow in late February and early March, dubbed 'The Beast from the East', produced cold weather movements and a number of displaced birds, particularly waders.

Brent Goose There were single birds at Beddington SF and the London Wetland Centre on Jan 11th and a party of 15 flew SE at Hedgecourt Lake on Feb 23rd.

Shelduck Birds were seen at Beddington SF, Berrylands SWks, Frensham Great Pond, the London Wetland Centre, Lonsdale Road Res, QE2 Res, Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) and Walton Res, with the largest number being eight at Beddington SF on Jan 23rd.

Wigeon The largest reported numbers were 97 at the London Wetland Centre on Jan 13th, 106 at Island Barn Res on Jan 25th, 92 at Buckland SP on Feb 3rd, 152 at Burpham Court Farm on Feb 18th, 84 at Thorpe Water Park on Feb 18th and 79 at Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Mar 3rd.

Gadwall The largest reported numbers were 118 at Holmethorpe SP on Jan 21st, 52 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 21st, 69 at Beddington SF on Feb 22nd and 85 at Walton Res on Mar 5th.

Teal The largest reported numbers were 125 at Beddington SF on Jan 21st, 108 on the Thames from Kew to Richmond on Jan 22nd, 112 at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 10th and 227 on the Thames from Putney to Barnes on Feb 17th.

Pintail At Walton Res there were a pair on Jan 21st and six on Jan 27th. The cold weather in early March produced birds at five sites. There were two males at Walton Res from Mar 1st-7th, 15 flew over Beddington SF in two flocks on Mar 1st, a male was at Holmethorpe SP on Mar 1st, a female was at Stoke on Mar 2nd and a

male was on Pudmore Pond (Thursley Common) on Mar 5th. This latter bird was then seen on Thursley Moat Pond on several dates from Mar 7th-21st. The feral flock at the London Wetland Centre peaked at 16 on Mar 5th-6th.

Shoveler The largest reported numbers were 50 at Beddington SF on Jan 2nd, 138 at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 18th, 41 at Thorpe Water Park on Feb 18th and 50 at Walton Res on Mar 4th.

Pochard The largest reported numbers were 57 at Hedgecourt Lake on Jan 2nd, 42 at the London Wetland Centre on Jan 31st, 51 at Thorpe Water Park on Feb 18th and 54 at Walton Res on Feb 27th.

Tufted Duck The largest reported numbers were 159 at Island Barn Res on Jan 1st, 214 at Walton Res on Jan 11th, 288 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 21st, 144 at Holmethorpe SP on Feb 18th and 139 at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 18th.

Scaup The female remained in the Walton area, favouring Island Barn Res, until Mar 26th. Another female was at Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) from Feb 18th-Mar 16th.

Goldeneye At just one site did numbers reach double-figures. This was Walton Res, which saw a peak of 11 on Mar 14th. Birds were also at Great Bottom Flash (Ash Vale), Holmethorpe SP, the London Wetland

Centre, Longside Lake (Thorpe), QE2 Res, Thorpe Water Park and Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea). The last of the winter was a first-winter male that remained at Holmethorpe SP from Mar 2nd-May 2nd.

Red-breasted Merganser The male was seen at Pennymead Lake (East Horsley) on five dates from Jan 15th-24th. It was only seen on the reservoirs in the Walton area on Jan 5th and 14th.

Goosander Numbers in the Walton area peaked at 16 on Jan 14th. Numbers reached double-figures at two other sites with 15 at Pennymead Lake (East Horsley) on Jan 4th and 15 at Cutt Mill on Jan 10th. Smaller numbers were reported from 16 other sites, with the last of the winter at Cutt Mill on Apr 12th.

Slavonian Grebe One was at Walton Res on Jan 11th.

Black-necked Grebe One was at Walton Res from Jan 11th-14th.

Bittern Up to four were at the London Wetland Centre until Mar 14th. In March at Frensham Little Pond four were seen, with two leaving high NE on Mar 13th and another two doing likewise on Mar 16th.

Little Egret At least 60 were reported from a total of 28 sites. The largest reported gatherings were nine at Watchmoor Park (Camberley) on

Jan 1st and ten at Chilworth Water Meadows on Mar 12th.

Great White Egret One flew over Hollow Farm (Worplesdon) on Feb 1st.

Spoonbill One was at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 11th.

Marsh Harrier At the London Wetland Centre one flew east on Jan 8th and one flew north on Jan 13th. One was at Papercourt Water Meadows on Jan 13th.

Merlin A male was at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Jan 1st and 3rd, one was at Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Jan 22nd and a female flew west over West Putney on Feb 28th.

Water Rail Birds were reported from Battersea Park Lake (1), Beddington SF (up to 3), Capel (1), Cranleigh Waters (2), Fetcham Mill Pond (1), Frensham Great Pond (up to 5), Frensham Little Pond (up to 10), Hedgecourt Lake (1), Hogsmill Open Space, Ewell (1), the London Wetland Centre (up to 3), Lonsdale Road Res (1), Molesey Heath (1), Morden Hall Park (up to 3), Newdigate Brickworks SWT (1), Papercourt Marshes SWT (1), Pen Ponds (2), South Norwood CP (up to 8), Stoke (2), Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea (1) and Unstead SF (1).

Moorhen There were 157 at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 18th.

Coot The largest reported numbers were 136 at QE2 Res on Jan 18th, 240 at Thorpe Water Park on Jan 21st, 157 at the London Wetland Centre on Jan 21st, 150 at Beddington SF on Jan 21st and 154 at Papercourt GP on Jan 22nd.

Oystercatcher One was at Thorpe Water Park on Feb 18th and two were at Island Barn Res from Feb 22nd-Mar 9th

Avocet One flew west over West Putney on Feb 28th, one was at Beddington SF on Mar 1st and one was at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 11th.

Golden Plover The cold weather in late February and early March produced some movement, as well as a small number of grounded birds. Birds were reported from 15 sites between Feb 26th and Mar 4th. The largest movements were 170 SW over Canon's Farm (Banstead) and 40 south over Clandon Wood on Feb 28th, and 69 SW over Capel on Mar 1st.

Grey Plover Two flew over Beddington SF on Mar 1st and one was at Walton Res on Mar 2nd.

Knot One flew south at Beddington SF on Mar 1st.

Dunlin The cold weather in late February and early March saw birds recorded at nine sites between Feb

28th and Mar 6th. Most sites saw ones or twos, but there were nine at Walton Res and four at Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Mar 1st and six at the London Wetland Centre on Mar 6th.

Ruff One or two were at Beddington SF on Mar 1st-6th, one was at Holmethorpe SP on Mar 4th and one was at Walton Res on Mar 7th.

Jack Snipe Birds were reported from Beddington SF (up to 6), Holmethorpe SP (1), the London Wetland Centre (up to 6), Morden Hall Park (1), Rushett Farm, Malden Rushett (1), South Norwood CP (1), Stoke (1), Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea (1), Walton Res (up to 4) and Wandle Park, Croydon (2). The last was at the London Wetland Centre on May 1st.

Black-tailed Godwit At the London Wetland Centre there was one on Feb 4th and two on Mar 8th. Single birds were at Beddington SF on Mar 1st and Holmethorpe SP on Mar 3rd-5th, and two flew east at Walton Res on Mar 11th.

Bar-tailed Godwit On Mar 1st a flock of 19 flew over Beddington SF and seven were at Walton Res.

Curlew Single birds were at the London Wetland Centre on Jan 13th, Mar 4th-5th, Mar 8th and Mar 10th, Island Barn Res on Feb 21st-23rd and Mar 4th, Tice's Meadow (Badshot

Lea) on Mar 4th and QE2 Res on Mar 12th.

Green Sandpiper Monthly maxima at Beddington SF were three on Jan 19th, two on Feb 22nd and five on Mar 16th. Birds were also reported from Island Barn Res (up to 3), the London Wetland Centre (1), Portsmouth Road FB, Surbiton (1), Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea (2), Walton Res (1), Wandle Park, Croydon (1) and Wrecclesham Floods (1).

Common Sandpiper The overwintering bird remained at Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) until Mar 25th.

Mediterranean Gull At Beddington SF single adults were present on Jan 20th, Feb 9th, Feb 21st and Mar 4th. Other adults were at Hedgecourt Lake on Jan 2nd, by the Thames at Twickenham Bridge on Jan 6th, Walton-on-the-Hill on Feb 7th, Holmethorpe SP on Feb 23rd, Richmond Park on Mar 1st and the London Wetland Centre on Mar 2nd, 11th and 12th. First-winters were at QE2 Res on Jan 4th and Island Barn Res on Mar 13th and two adults flew east over Clandon Wood on Feb 28th.

Little Gull At West Putney on Mar 2nd parties of three and six flew west on Mar 2nd.

Iceland Gull The first-winter was seen at Beddington SF on 17 dates

between Jan 3rd and Apr 24th. It was seen in the roost at Island Barn Res on seven dates between Jan 5th and Mar 21st. The second-winter was seen at Beddington SF on just three dates between Jan 6th and Mar 28th, but was seen in the Island Barn Res roost on five dates between Jan 6th and Feb 7th and in the QE2 Res roost on Mar 9th and 20th. A second-winter north over Woking on Jan 7th may have been this bird. An adult was in the Island Barn Res roost on Jan 31st and it, or another adult, was at Beddington SF on Apr 7th.

Glaucous Gull A second-winter roosted at Island Barn Res on Jan 23rd. At Beddington SF a first-winter was seen on 18 dates between Feb 3rd and Apr 15th. One was in the roost at QE2 Res on five dates from Mar 8th-28th and in the roost at Island Barn Res on Mar 22nd, with a different first-winter in the QE2 Res roost on Apr 11th and the Island Barn Res roost on Apr 13th.

Kittiwake An adult was at Beddington SF on Mar 1st and a first-winter was at Island Barn Res on Mar 4th.

Long-eared Owl One was at Beddington SF on Jan 5th.

Water Pipit At Beddington SF monthly maxima were five on Jan 28th, five on Feb 22nd and five on Mar 4th and 30th, with the last one on Apr 5th. Single birds were at the

London Wetland Centre from Jan 1st-Apr 10th, Morden Hall Park on Jan 21st, Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Mar 2nd-3rd and one flew over Allden's Hill (Thorncombe Street) on Mar 4th.

Waxwing One was at North Camp Railway Station on Feb 14th.

Black Redstart A female was at Morden Hall Park on Feb 25th and a male at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Mar 5th.

Fieldfare The latest reported were at Canon's Farm (Banstead) on Apr 7th, Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Apr 9th and Holmethorpe SP on Apr 29th.

Redwing The latest reported were at Thorncombe Street on Apr 8th, Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Apr 9th and South Norwood Lake on Apr 11th.

Dartford Warbler There were five in Richmond Park on Jan 13th, but thereafter only one or two were seen up to Feb 15th. One was at Beddington SF from Jan 27th-Mar 4th, with a second bird there on Mar 2nd and single birds were at Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Feb 13th and Westcott on Feb 14th.

Lesser Whitethroat The overwintering bird frequenting gardens in Richmond remained until Apr 22nd. A DNA analysis from a feather sample showed it to be referable to the subspecies *blythi*.

Firecrest Single birds were at Bramley Park Lake and Effingham Forest on Jan 1st, Mytchett on Jan 6th, Roundshaw Downs on Jan 8th, Pirbright village and Wimbledon Common on Jan 9th, Tice's Meadow (Badshot Lea) on Jan 14th, Feb 16th and Mar 13th, Thorncombe Street on Jan 28th, Bramley Mill Pond on Feb 3rd, Westcott on Feb 6th and 18th, Frensham Great Pond from Feb 10th-15th, Englefield Green on Feb 18th, Frensham Outlet Pond from Feb 18th-Mar 24th, Common Meadow (Leatherhead) on Feb 21st, Merrow Downs and Sydenham Hill Wood on Feb 25th, Wimbledon village on Mar 5th, Tooting Bec Common from Mar 6th-22nd, South Croydon on Mar 6th and Stave Hill (Rotherhithe) on Mar 18th, whilst there were two at Redhill Common on Jan 15th, Nunhead Cemetery on Feb 11th and Putney Heath on Mar 14th.

Great Grey Shrike One was at Thursley Common from Jan 6th-30th.

Brambling The low numbers of late 2017 continued into early 2018 with only a small increase involving passage birds in March/April. Birds were reported from 20 sites, with the largest numbers ten SE over Allden's Hill (Thorncombe Street) on Mar 21st and seven at Frensham Little Pond on Apr 8th. The last were at Thorncombe Street on Apr 15th.

Siskin A slight improvement on late 2017 with birds reported from 25

sites, but just a single three-figure flock. This involved 100 at Enton Ponds on Jan 1st. The next largest flocks were 60 at St Catherine's Lock on Jan 24th and 60 at Buckland SP on Feb 3rd.

Twite The bird remained at Beddington SF until Jan 28th.

Lesser Redpoll Birds were reported from 24 sites with the largest flocks 40 at Thorncombe Street on Jan 7th, 100 at The Sands on Mar 17th, 40 at Capel on Mar 18th and 55 in Richmond Park on Mar 31st.

Mealy Redpoll Single birds were ringed at Capel and Hollow Farm (Worplesdon) on Jan 12th. Elsewhere, one was at Thorncombe Street from Jan 20th-27th at least, two were at the London Wetland Centre on Feb 22nd-23rd and one was in Richmond Park on Mar 31st.

Crossbill The low numbers at the end of 2017 continued in to 2018. The only reports in January involved a male at Blackheath on Jan 7th and two south over Thorncombe Street on Jan 28th. The situation did not change much in February with three or four at Crooksbury Common on Feb 10th, one at Winterfold on Feb 16th and a couple of small movements over Thorncombe Street. March was no better, with the only reports one SW over Capel on Mar 21st and two at Leith Hill the next day.

Parrot Crossbill The flock of 16 birds remained on the Berkshire/Surrey border at Wishmoor Bottom until Jan 30th. There was, though, a heavy army presence, with manoeuvres taking place, on Feb 4th. After that just ten were seen on Feb 11th, seven on Feb 17th, three on Mar 3rd and four on Mar 4th.

Hawfinch During January birds were reported from 27 sites with numbers fairly low during the first three weeks of the month (highest counts being 11 at Clandon Downs and 14 at Capel, both on the 11th). Much higher numbers were found in the last week of January, with 70 at Newlands Corner, 50 at Juniper Top and 46 at Capel all on the 28th. Numbers then increased at these sites, with 200 at Juniper Top on Jan 31st, 72 at Capel on Feb 3rd and 100 at Newlands Corner on Feb 20th. Early February saw the discovery of birds using Bramblehall Wood (east of Juniper Top), where the first large count was

170 on the 10th. Numbers here increased to 420 on Feb 22nd and 600 on Mar 13th (not just the largest flock recorded in Surrey, but the largest ever recorded nationally). Other high counts at this time were 80 at Box Hill on Feb 17th, 250 at Dorking Wood on Feb 22nd, 70 at Newlands Corner on Mar 7th, 80 at Ranmore Common on Mar 8th, 250 at Juniper Bottom on Mar 15th, 110 at Leith Hill on Mar 17th, 85 at Middlehill Wood on Mar 20th and 80 at Mickleham Downs on Mar 20th.

- *Some records are subject to final check by the county or national records committees.*

◆ Contributors

*Barn Elms Bird Group/WWT,
Beddington Farm Bird
Group,
Doug Boyd,
Croydonbirders website,
Steve Gale,
Jeremy Gates,*

*Dave Harris,
Haslemere Natural History
Society,
Holmethorpe website,
David Knight,
Londonbirders website,
North-west Surrey RSPB*

*Group,
Surbiton & District Bird
Watching Society,
Tice's Meadow Bird Group,
Penny Williams and the
'twittersphere'.*

**Note: April to June 2018 news to Shaun Peters ASAP please at:
'Glendeven', School Rd, Rowledge, Farnham, GU10 4EJ.
Tel. 01252 793887 Email: recbirds@yahoo.co.uk**

Savi's Warbler - First for Surrey

Extract from submitted Rarity Form

Description:

On 3 June 2018 I arrived at Barnes WWT at 09.30 and headed straight to Wildside Hide. From upper storey I settled down and started to scan grazing marsh, enjoying the juvenile Lapwings feeding on the grass bank. Shortly after another unknown 'birder' popped in and settled down, too.

At approximately 10.00 I realised I was listening to an unusual buzzing sound coming from distance on the far side of the main reedbed. Initially I thought it was the electric fence 'buzzing'. It continued for a minute or two, stopped and then began again for another minute. I soon realised this could be a Savi's Warbler as I have good knowledge of Grasshopper Warbler song and was almost certain it was not this species. The 'reeling' was lower pitched and less 'metallic/electric'. It was also more monotone. I mentioned to the other man, 'that sounds like a Savi's Warbler singing, but it can't be, we are at Barnes'. He replied, 'I wouldn't know one' and duly left. Luckily, I had my recently purchased Collins Bird App on my mobile and played the Savi's Warbler song, which was exactly the same as the singing bird. I couldn't believe it! At 10.30 I decided to post on Rare Bird Alert 'possible

Savi's Warbler singing, London WWT'. The singing then stopped so I moved outside the hide onto the bridge as bird song was clearer there. It then started again for 30 seconds very close, then stopped.

Approximately 11.00 I decided to go to the main reception to write my (heard only) record in the log book as I knew it was significant. But a Barnes Birder lady stopped me in the courtyard and asked if I could show her where it had been singing from. Back at the bridge she contacted a few local birders and Jake, a young warden from WWT. It did not sing for a while though. At 12ish it sang for a few seconds again very close and Jake confirmed it was not a Grasshopper Warbler singing.

By 13.00 a small group of Barnes Birders had showed (names not taken) at which time it began to sing for a longer period from the far willow(?) scrub in centre of main reedbed. It became louder and more continuous when one man spotted it moving and singing from the scrub, relatively exposed, low down just above the reed line from a bare branch. At which point I quickly picked it up in my scope on x20 magnification (with some heat haze). It was observed quite well, singing for about 5 mins and I let others use my scope so they could pick up on it.

Having never seen or heard Savi's Warbler before I was surprised how well the bird's jizz distinguished it from the very many Reed Warblers close by. The Savi's Warbler perched quite erect above the reeds in scrub, with its head thrown fully back and was clearly seen singing/reeling. It was, or at least appeared, noticeably larger than the Reed Warblers (maybe this was just its upright posture and puffed throat?). The most obvious difference though was its rufous colouration above, appearing more nightingale-like than Reed Warbler-like. Unfortunately the distance of the bird and heat haze did not allow closer scrutiny of plumage. Suffice to say, it was the bird's jizz (noted above) which really stuck with me once it dropped down into the reeds, making

me realise just how important this aspect of birding is.

It was still singing on and off when I left the site at 16.00 and I believe it was also seen briefly by other observers watching from Wildside Hide between 13.00 and 16.00. It did prove very elusive though and I only observed it once for five minutes.

NB, whilst I am 42 and have been birding since I was 8 (visiting Barnes WWT since it opened) I would only describe myself as a semi-competent amateur. Clearly I know my Savi's Warbler song from Grasshopper Warbler though! It is the only officially rare U.K. bird I have ever found and I will remember the day for a long time to come.

Matt Bradbury

Swifts!

Work to help swifts in Surrey seems to be gaining momentum, with at least three great projects on the go at the moment. These are projects we can all get involved with, whether by building or installing nest boxes, hosting a nest box or recommending a suitable site, or simply by sending in sightings. If the projects know where the birds are nesting, they'll know the best places to put up the boxes, so that the swifts can grow their colonies. We can all help, and we'll be encouraging everyone to get involved next season!

Swifts in Woking

Woking Borough Council has teamed

up with sustainability company Thameswey Ltd. to help swifts in the Woking area. It's a fantastic community project, with local volunteers building the boxes and residents coming forward to have a box installed on their house. To help the project understand where the swifts are, Thameswey would love to hear from us at swifts@thamesweygroup.co.uk. So if you see a swift in Woking Borough Council area, please send in the record. Also, if you know of a non-domestic building in the Woking area, that might be a suitable breeding site, they'd love to hear about that too.

NEW DATES!

- Learn how to build a nest box for these endangered birds
- £15pp to cover materials
- Available to residents of Woking Borough
- Email to book: swifts@thamesweygroup.co.uk



BUILD YOUR OWN SWIFT NEST BOX



14TH AND 28TH SEPTEMBER

Photo by James Sellen

They are running two workshops in September open to anyone living in the Borough of Woking. Build your own swift box and take it home, 14th & 28th September. Woking Borough Council are also planning a Swift Tower in Woking town centre that will hopefully be in place when our swifts return next season!

More information at <https://www.woking.gov.uk/swiftsinwoking>.

Guildford Swifts

Guildford Borough Council are also calling for us to scan the skies for swifts! To report your records for the Guildford Borough Council area, send information including location, number of swifts, behaviour and date to johnwbannister40@gmail.com.

More information at <http://www.gefweb.org.uk/Guildford%20Swifts%20text%20a.pdf>.

Swifts in the Blackwater Valley

Colin Wilson has been running a very successful venture in the Blackwater Valley area over the last couple of seasons. In the last update from Colin he had over 130 nest sites. Amazing! To get involved, email Colin at colin.wilson@bvct.org.uk. He'd love to hear from you, especially if you have spare time to help. The project has focused on building and installing boxes this season and will turn its attention to call systems next year.

More information at <https://www.bvct.org.uk/blackwater-valley-swift-project/>.

If you know of other councils or individuals doing great work for swifts in Surrey, please let our conservation officer Sarah Bunce know on sarah@rivercourt.plus.com, and she'll add the information to the list.

Sarah Bunce

Filtering Records in Going Birding Surrey

Tailoring the bird records that you see in Going Birding Surrey

Feedback was received at the AGM that some users were frustrated by Going Birding as it was showing them all records entered, whereas they were only interested in news of the scarcer birds in the county. This can be addressed quite simply by setting a filter level to one of the options shown below. The news page of Going Birding will then just include that category and all those above it. The further down the list the option you select is, the more records you will see. Scarce or Fairly Common are perhaps the best options to see just the more "interesting" birds (the categorisation of species is of course not an exact science, to check the category for a species you are interested in look in the "Species" section of the website.)

Table of Going Birding Surrey Categories:

Category	Examples
Very rare	Alpine Swift, Caspian Tern
Rare	Spotted Crake, Hoopoe
Very scarce	Bearded Tit, Iceland Gull
Scarce	Bar-tailed Godwit, Raven
Fairly common	Hobby, Wheatear
Common	Linnet, Wigeon
Very Common	Dunnock, Moorhen
Abundant	Blue Tit, Robin

This filter can be selected temporarily from the news screen by selecting the "Filter by" box at the top of the species list and refreshing the screen.

Alternatively, your personal filter can be changed permanently (although you can of course change it again) so you only see selected categories whenever you visit the page. To do this on a PC or tablet select "Account" in the top right-hand corner of the screen. This takes you to your profile page. The third section down is called Preferences and the middle box there is where the Bird news filter is set.


Preferences

Bird news sort

Bird news filter

Photos filter

Once you have selected an option press "Save" at the bottom of the page.

On a phone the procedure is the same, but the profile page is accessed via this icon  in the top right of the screen.

Steve Chastell

Woking Peregrine Project Update - 2018

This year's breeding season has been very eventful with more drama than an England penalty shoot out. For the the third consecutive year, the same adult pair have bred successfully, raising four juveniles (2 males / 2 females) so they've been able to fledge. More later on events that occurred next.....

I'm lucky to be able to watch the Woking peregrines most days as I work at the WWF Living Planet Centre which is within viewing distance of the nest site on Export House. The adult pair are resident all year but are seen more regularly when the breeding season starts during February. This year we had an added bonus when a new external PTZ (pan / tilt / zoom) camera was installed by Jason Fathers/Wildlife Windows on the service ladder that gives access to the north end stairwell ledge. This camera was used last year by Woking Borough Council and thanks to their Green Infrastructure Manager, Tracey Haskins, the Council arranged and paid for the camera's installation before the start of this year's breeding season.

From early January both adults were seen regularly perched at the north end of Export House, more often in front or near the nest box entrance. On the 2nd February the PTZ camera was installed and Craig Denford (WPP

webmaster) fired up the webcams on the 6th February. One of the first images from the new PTZ was an awesome view of the adult tiercel perched on the north end stairwell ledge - things are looking very good! I first saw the tiercel making a depression in the nest box substrate (via the nest cam) on the 9th February but it wasn't until the 3rd March copulation was first reported. An unusual sight via the south facing Ledge Cam occurred on the 23rd February; a very subdued but much alive lapwing on the ledge approximately 15 ft. from the nest box entrance. Craig managed to capture interesting webcam footage when the tiercel decided to have a closer look! The lapwing was last seen making a quick exit with the tiercel close behind.

March started well when I saw one of the resident adult peregrines give chase to a red kite above Jubilee Square. On the 6th March the tiercel was seen twice taking freshly caught prey to the falcon and both were seen in front or near the nest box. The PTZ camera gave unique views of the falcon feasting on a Moorhen on the 12th and at 22.45 she was seen sleeping in the nest box entrance via the nest cam. There was a false alarm on the 15th when the falcon was seen (via the nest cam) to be very agitated and showing signs of immanent egg

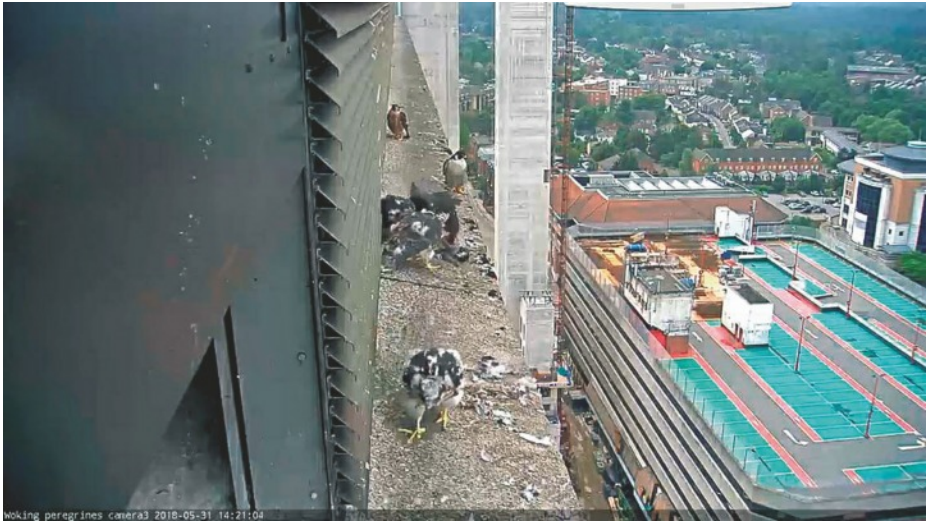


*Falcon, tiercel & 5 eggs, 12 Apr 2018
(Woking Borough Council webcam)*

laying. (The tiercel spent much time looking into the nest box...) March 17th - the action has begun! First egg laid at approximately 17.00 and the second shortly before 08.00 on the 20th March. Both adults were seen taking turns at incubation during various times of the day. A further three eggs were laid on; 22nd March (before 09.00), 24th March (approx. 05.00) and 26th March (approx. 10.30) Later in the day, both of the resident adults were seen to chase of a third adult peregrine - impressive team work as each took turns dive bombing the escaping interloper. The new PTZ camera showed its full potential on the 28th when Craig was able to zoom in on the tiercel's B.T.O. leg ring whilst it was feeding on the north end stairwell ledge. The letters and first two numbers were clearly seen but annoyingly the all important remaining numbers remained hidden - but we did see 'London'. This means the Woking tiercel had its leg ring attached somewhere in the UK. (The Woking tiercel has no additional coloured leg ring and the resident falcon has no leg rings)

During the first part of April, both adults were seen taking turns at incubating their five eggs and up until 17.00 on the 26th all eggs were seen to be intact. I spoke with Nick Dixon (<http://www.urbanperegrines.co.uk/>) that day and he mentioned the eggs of the breeding peregrines in Bath had started to hatch on the 25th April. Their eggs had been laid on approximately the same dates as the Woking peregrines. On the 27th, Nick phoned me and said he'd heard (via the Nest Cam) a chick calling at approximately 11.00. A later website screen grab confirmed one of the eggs had started to hatch! By the 28th, three more eggs had hatched. The last egg was reported to have hatched on the 29th but the adults didn't incubate this chick with its siblings. It died later presumably because it couldn't thermo regulate its body temperature.

There was some welcome publicity when 'That's Surrey TV' broadcast a WPP news report on the 18th May; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TzFXfvlmBQ&feature=youtu.be&a=> and it was then used by 'BBC Surrey' radio. (Chris Packham makes it look easy...) A date was arranged by Richard Denyer to fit the juveniles with their leg rings and this was carried out on the 22nd, watched by Surrey Bird Club's B.T.O. rep, Penny Williams. By the 29th at least one of the juveniles had started to venture outside the nest box and on the 30th three had the urge to explore the nearby ledge. This often cause much



Falcon, tiercel & 4 juveniles, 31 May 2018 (Woking Borough Council webcam)

concern with website viewers but the young ones come prepared with a good set of very sharp talons and no fear of heights. The last day of the month saw all four juveniles and both adults on the ledge near the nest box - an awesome sight made more memorable when the adult falcon chased off an inquisitive red kite.

No year is the same when you're able to have intermit views of the peregrines' breeding cycle - June this year has been a good example. I took my first set of photos this year on the 3rd and managed to add a group shot of all four juveniles, seen from Jubilee Square whilst I was helping with the Surrey Bird Club stand on the 9th. I didn't know at the time but this could have been the last photo taken showing all four youngsters grouped together. On the 10th, one of the juvenile females had a bad landing

on a window sill, eight floors up on the west side of Export House. The impact was fortunately heard by two peregrine enthusiasts who were on the top floor of the Peacocks car park; Hugo Wilson (@HugoJWilson) and Jamie Gordon - a WWF colleague. The juvenile was seen to land at the base of Export House, near some ventilation units, but appeared to have difficulty flapping its wings. Hugo and Jamie could see it was in distress and had the good idea of contacting Wildlife Aid who are based in Leatherhead

- <https://www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/> They arrived very quickly and managed to retrieve the young female. Had it stayed where it was, there was a strong possibility it could have been killed by a fox. (Foxes are known to scavenge here on prey remains discarded by the local peregrines) We had an update from Wildlife Aid on



*Juvenile female release, 29 Jun 2018
(James Sellen)*

the 11th advising the female was being assessed and could be in care for up to three weeks. A suspected damaged / broken clavicle bone could heal by itself if the peregrine was kept in a temporary cage or an operation may be needed. As it turned out, confined rest worked wonders helped by the dedicated staff and volunteers of this excellent Foundation. On the 18th I was lucky to see two food passes within 10 minutes, from the Peacocks car park, between an adult and one or more juvenile peregrines. This is a privileged view of the adults training their offspring how to catch prey in flight. Very frustrating as well - on this occasion no camera! I decided another photo session was needed and during a lunch break on the 22nd I struck lucky - food pass seen and photographed above the Peacocks car park - awesome!! Wildlife Aid advised the juvenile female would be released from the top floor of the Peacocks car park on the 29th at 10.00. Debbie Hickman (Marketing Communications Officer at Woking Borough Council and dedicated volunteer at Wildlife Aid)

arranged for 'That's Surrey TV' to cover this unique event (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZowkf_fqb4). Simon Cowell (Wildlife Aid's CEO and founder) arrived and placed a large transportation box on the roof of his car. From a respectful distance, we watched as he slowly opened the door to reveal the back of the young peregrine. It seemed to take a while before it realised freedom was beckoning but when it turned round it shot out giving an outstanding view of its new found flight skills. After it flew past the lower floors of Export House it was seen to fly high and fast behind the new buildings being constructed south of the car park. As we watched, it was approached by another peregrine, possibly one of the resident adults, which made several stoops at the inexperienced youngster. I was a little concerned and knew further observations were needed to try and work out what may be occurring.

On the 4th and 5th of July, I was watching the peregrines from the Peacocks car park and saw what I thought was aggressive behaviour between both adults and one of the juveniles. On the 5th I couldn't be sure I was watching the recently released juvenile female but the adult tiercel made several attempts to push the youngster off the ledge near the nest box. When it eventually flew, the adult tiercel gave chase and it was quickly joined by the adult falcon. She flew past two of the other



*Adult Falcon and juvenile,
22 Jun 2018 (James Sellen)*

juveniles, who were circling above Export House, and joined the adult tiercel. Both adults then took turns at stooping at the fleeing juvenile which regularly rolled onto its back showing its talons. Not a good sign. Both adults weren't seen to make contact with the juvenile but appeared to be forcing it lower down until they all disappeared from view slightly north of Jubilee Square. I was on leave the following week but on the 16th and 17th two juveniles were seen near the nest box with one of the adults. The 18th of July proved to be very eventful. At 10.30 I had a phone call from Craig - he was photographing a juvenile peregrine on level one / yellow zone of the Peacocks car park and thought I should have a look. When I arrived, the juvenile was trying to feed on the remains of a pigeon in the middle of the car park's access route. Several cars managed to drive around it before Craig and I persuaded it to fly a very short distance onto a nearby low wall. We picked up the carcass and left it very close to the peregrine. It stayed on the wall and allowed us to get within 5ft.

It's plumage was very unkempt and its eyes looked partially closed. She made no attempt to fly and gave the impression that she didn't have the will or energy to move. I decided to phone Wildlife Aid for some advice and they suggested we should catch the juvenile and take it to Leatherhead..... I have no experience of catching or handling wild peregrines but remembered some advice Nick Dixon once told me - have a jacket and a suitable box handy! I made a quick phone call to Martin Pooley who over sees the management and security of Export House and the neighbouring car parks. Within 10 minutes he joined me in the car park armed with a large box / old jacket and arranged for the area to be cordoned off. I explained what we needed to do and warned the juvenile's talons are exceptionally sharp.... he looked a little nervous. I tried to coax her off the low wall but she decided to fly the short distance to the car park's red zone. After landing on a vertical wall, she managed to clamber over it and fall on to a walkway within the car park. Having relocated her, Martin approached from behind (armed with the jacket) and I tried to distract her from the front. The plan worked; Martin dropped the jacket over her and she was bundled into the box! Once secured, we made some air holes and phoned the Council offices. Debbie Hickman arrived with a colleague and they took the peregrine to Wildlife Aid. We had an update from Wildlife Aid on the 20th - she was still alive

and was being assessed by the Foundation's vet.

At the time of writing this report, Debbie visited Wildlife Aid on the 25th July and had a good chat with the vet. It seems our suspicions were confirmed; the juvenile had sustained an attack most probably from one of the adult peregrines and suffered two lacerations caused by talons. One was to the neck and the other more serious wound was in the shoulder. An operation had been carried out to stitch the wounds and the vet advised she had no intentions of putting her to sleep unless the injuries made no attempt to heal. The WPP group were also concerned if the juvenile was released again near Export House, she may sustain more serious injuries. The vet had similar reservations and advised the juvenile would need a greater spell of rehabilitation if she recovered from her injuries. It's possible the juvenile could be sent to The Hawk Conservancy for specialist treatment and it seems very unlikely she'll be released back into the wild.

Much of this year's breeding action has been enjoyed by many people viewing the WPP website. From the 6th February to the beginning of July, there were a total of 29,080 views from 25 different countries including; UK (26,823 views), USA (490 views), Malta (60 views), Philippines (48 views), Peru (23 views) and Hungary (16 views) The viewing numbers peaked on the 30th April =

1,621. A selection of photographs taken this year can also be seen on the website's 'Gallery' page; <http://www.wokingperegrines.com/gallery/>

Surrey Bird Club had another successful series of public engagement events in Woking's Jubilee Square, professionally organised again by Charlotte Gray. They took place on; Sunday May 20th, Tuesday May 29th, Saturday 9th June and Saturday 16th June with help of the following SBC volunteers; Charlotte Gray, Richard Denyer, Carolyn Watkins, Steve Chastell, Penny Williams, Eric Soden, Marilyn Frame, Peter Bryant, Simon Stacey, Ken Anckorn, Debbie Hodges, Carey Lodge, Phil Delamont and James Sellen. This an excellent way of promoting the Club's valuable conservation work, recruiting new members and educating the public about peregrines. Many Woking residents said they love having these raptors in town and numerous children mentioned they now have 'Peregrine TV' at school, being shown the live webcam whilst in class!

As with the previous two years, the Woking Peregrine Project has again had the help of many enthusiastic people and generous organisations. On behalf of the WPP group, I would like to pass on our grateful thanks.

James Sellen
Woking Peregrine Project

BTO Matters

The Heronries Census

This is what Ian Woodward, the BTO survey organiser had to say a few weeks ago "Thank you for your work on the 90th anniversary of the Heronries Census this year. It's great to see that many regions have already achieved increased levels of coverage this year, including many re-visits to heronries which haven't been checked for some time, and a few regions already have complete or near complete coverage." Surrey is one of the regions with complete coverage which is great. I have also managed to get a couple of old sites checked out too. Still some more to check out. Are you able to visit any of these places for me this winter?

Site	Grid Ref
Ashley Park, Weybridge	TQ0965
Burwood Park	TQ1064
Broadwater, Farncombe	TQ0865
Town Pond, Godstone	TQ3551
Sendholme, Send	TQ017547
Stanley Pool, Pirbright	SU928564

The Wetland Bird Survey

We are back to the start of the main survey period for this survey. Not many of my sites which are covered become vacant and I am struggling to get my other sites covered. If I finally manage to retire (I may have managed it by the time you read this) then I will try and check out these, uncovered, sites gradually in order to see whether or not they are accessible. However if you are able to help me check them

out or, indeed even better, take them on please do let me know.

The list of sites is on the next page.

The Tawny Owl Point survey

Would you like to get involved in a survey that is really very straightforward? The survey started on 15 August but does not end until 15 October and only involves 2 sessions of 20 minutes (excluding travel time). This survey is the Tawny Owls Point survey and all you have to do is listen out for owls (in certain locations).

As is usual with any BTO survey, you cannot choose your own survey site. This is a shame because I can hear Tawny owls calling from my bedroom. However I do record the Tawny owls in BirdTrack so the data does get through to the BTO.

BTO has only chosen one 10 km² in Surrey for the survey and that is TQ16 which covers from Surbiton in the north-east through to Cobham in the south-west. However, as many of you will know, Surrey, so far as the BTO is concerned, does not necessarily mean the County of Surrey. The BTO have chosen 10 km squares in Hampshire, Berkshire, West Sussex and Kent all of which will include a very small amount of Surrey. These squares may be more convenient to you.

The best thing to do is go the BTO website in order to see what squares are still available:

<https://app.bto.org/tops/pub/sq>

If you cannot get involved in this survey then do not worry because, from the end of September, there is going to be an Owl survey you can carry out from your own home. Here is what the BTO website says, "Anyone can help us by taking part in the survey, and listening for Tawny Owls in your garden or local green space or any other place that can be visited repeatedly. All you need to do is to listen for Tawny Owls for 20 minutes on one evening a week from 30 September to 31 March. Although the more weeks you listen the better, you'll be able to do as many or as few weeks during the survey period as you feel able.

Be a zero hero! We need your help even if you have never heard a Tawny Owl locally. Records of where we can't hear them are just as valuable to us as records where owls are present. You will be able to register for this survey soon, and full instructions as well as resources to help identify Tawny Owl calls will be provided." So please go to the BTO website when you get this newsletter and register for this survey.

Penny Williams

Table of vacant WeBS sites:

10K	Unit	Grid Ref
SU84	Badshot Lea	SU862490
SU84	Swamp in Moor Park	SU865465
SU85	Frimley Gravel Pits (FGP)	SU877573
SU85	Tomlin's Pond	SU887586
SU86	Rapley Lakes	SU898646
SU86	RMA Lakes	SU862606
SU94	R Wey - Lammas Lands	SU971442
SU95	Whitmoor Common (other pond)	SU982538
SU95	Worplesdon Place Hotel	SU975535
TQ03	Vachery Pond	TQ070372
TQ05	Boldermere Wisley	TQ076583
TQ05	Painshill Park	TQ095598
TQ06	Ashford Common Waterworks	TQ086697
TQ06	Charlton GP - N	TQ087694
TQ06	Charlton GP - S	TQ086692
TQ06	Chertsey Reservoir	TQ048681
TQ06	Elmbridge Model Club Gravel Pits	TQ017694
TQ06	Feltham Piscatorial	TQ030696
TQ06	Genets Marine Gravel Pits	TQ038694
TQ06	Littleton Lane West Gravel Pits	TQ055675
TQ06	Old Charlton Road Gravel Pit	TQ078683
TQ06	Wey Farm	TQ017627
TQ06	Wey Navigation & Mill Pond	TQ070645
TQ07	Brps GP	TQ035745
TQ07	Egham Hythe Lake	TQ026702
TQ07	Poyle GPs (Old)	TQ025765
TQ07	Poyle Meadows Gravel Pits	TQ027767
TQ07	Spout Wood GP	TQ045755
TQ07	Staines Moor GPs (South)	TQ032736
TQ07	Staines Moor Meadow	TQ031731
TQ13	Vann Lake	TQ156395
TQ14	Dorking Mill Pond	TQ167498
TQ14	Ockley Court Lake	TQ156404
TQ14	Park Farm Reservoir (Nr Capel)	TQ164414
TQ16	Longwater, Burwood Park, Hersham	TQ103641
TQ17	Ham Common Pond	TQ189717
TQ27	King George's Park Lake (Wandsworth)	TQ254743
TQ27	R Thames - Battersea to Vauxhall	TQ285777
TQ27	R Thames - Wandsworth Br to Putney Br	TQ250752
TQ27	R Wandle - Mill Close to Beddington Park	TQ283652
TQ27	R Wandle - Carshalton to Mill Close	TQ281651
TQ27	R Wandle - Mill Close to Goat Bridge	TQ274663
TQ27	R Wandle - Morden Hall Tram crossing to Wandsworth	TQ260715

What your Committee has been doing

The club has been involved in a couple of events this year, over and above the Woking Peregrine Project.

Bay Pond

Surrey Wildlife Trust has not had a bioblitz this year (or if it has we have not been contacted about it) but the trust held an open day at Bay Pond in Godstone and the club was invited to have a presence there. Steve Chastell kindly agreed to carry out some ringing and Charlotte Gray and I covered a stand at the event. Ken Anckorn (a former committee member and a and an employee of Surrey Wildlife Trust) and I led a couple of bird walks around the reserve. Other organisations were present and I got to meet a member who had recently rejoined (on the SARG stand) and network with other organisations present.

We had quite a few children attending the bird walks which was really good. Unfortunately there were not a huge number of birds around (a full list is below) and no terns were nesting on the raft put out on the lake but the greatest event, so far as the children was concerned, was when a grey heron flew off and did a big "poo" over the water. There were screams of excitement at that.

We ran a competition for the children to identify some birds and the winners

won a Bird book plus membership of the club for a year. Although the children were told about the ringing event being run by the club at Queen Mary in July (the parents seemed to be really interested as were the children) unfortunately none of them came along to that event (trip report on that event is elsewhere in this newsletter).

Species seen at Bay Pond:

Black Headed Gull	Herring Gull
Blackbird	House Martin
Blackcap	Jackdaw
Blue Tit	Kestrel
Buzzard	Magpie
Carriion Crow	Mallard
Chaffinch	Moorhen
Chiffchaff	Ring Necked Parakeet
Collared Dove	Robin
Dunnock	Song Thrush
Goldfinch	Stock Dove
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Tufted Duck
Great Tit	Woodpigeon
Greenfinch	Wren
Grey Heron	

Heath Week

Heath Week was an event organised by the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership (in particular Sarah Bunce our conservation officer). Although not strictly part of the heaths Richard Denyer was invited to run a ringing session at Heather Farm (which adjoins Horsell Common) and at the same time moth traps were opened

(with some beautiful moths being found). Richard rang the ringing event from 8 am to 12 noon and I put up a display with both the club's Atlas for sale plus BTO leaflets on view. Unfortunately most of the children came along when the bird recovery numbers had gone right down. Early in the morning there were good numbers of species including a Reed Warbler. Lots of Tits were caught plus Wren and Blackcap.

Future events

There is one other event at which the club will be present. There is a River Mole Discovery Day on Sunday 30th September from 12 noon to 4 pm. It is part of World Rivers Day and is being organised by the River Mole Catchment partnership. I will have a stand there advertising both the club and the BTO. If anyone would like to come along and join me for a few hours you would be more than welcome. There will be a competition

for children and it would be good to run a couple of short walks but I can only organise walks if I have some help on the stand. Please contact me if you can help. The event is being held at KT22 9AD in Leatherhead (see map below). The event is free

Penny Williams



Notes

• Welcome to new members:

Nigel Ansell, Woking,
Mo & Jan Rubin, Woking,
Ram Urs H.S., Woking,
Joanne Josey, Farnborough,
Valerie Stubbings, Redhill,
Brian Hobley, Warlingham,
Oscar Ristic, Epsom,
James Rule, Caterham,
Vikram, Ria & Shay Patel, Worcester Park,

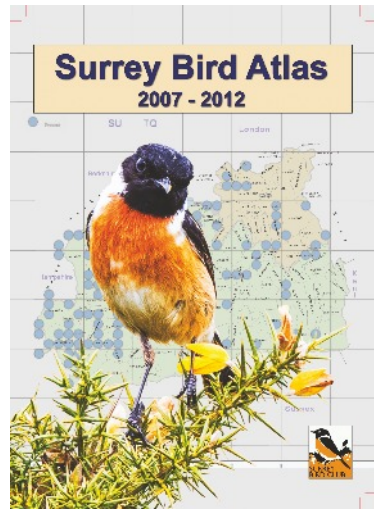
Graham Read, Slough,
Colin & Susan Prescott, Camberley
&
Barry Jennings, Guildford

• **Birds of Surrey** - Our county avifauna. Available from Penny Williams. Great value at £25.

• **Notes, Sketches, Articles, Photographs** - Anything that you

think may be of interest to the members of the Club would be gratefully received for publication in Birding Surrey, the Surrey Bird Report or on our website.

- **Surrey Bird Atlas 2007-12** - Now available from Penny Williams, price £20 or £25 including postage and packing. Great value for an A4 size, hardback book with 400 full colour pages!



From your Membership Secretary

Outstanding renewals

There are a few members who have still not renewed. The membership year runs from 1st April and the cut off date is 30th September. If you have not renewed by then your membership will lapse so no more newsletters.

If you have not renewed, you will have received this newsletter with a separate renewal reminder. Please arrange to pay the subscription that is due immediately. There will be no more reminders issued.

GDPR (or the General Data Protection Regulations 2018)

In April and May I was being bombarded with emails from many organisations telling me all about their privacy policies. I am sure you were too. At the same time I and the

rest of your committee were involved in looking at the club's policies and updating them to take account of these regulations which came into operation on 25 May 2018.

The club has to be sure that all members are aware of what our policies are and so we have decided the easiest way is to publish the policies in the newsletter. All new members joining after the publication of this newsletter will be sent a copy of both the Privacy Policy plus the Data Protection Policy and Procedures both of which are set out below.

For those of you who are on the email, you will be aware that the club only sends out a few emails each year. These emails are to let you know about events in which the club has some involvement. The club also sends out tweets through Surrey Bird

Club News but you can cease following that Twitter account at any time if you wish to do so. Hence the policies do not include Surrey Bird Club News.

If you do not want to receive emails from the club then please could you let me know as soon as possible. I now have a field in the database for

those members who do not wish to receive emails. I am assuming that every member would like to receive the newsletter and any bird report published in the membership year. However if you do not want to receive either of those publications please do let me know.

Penny Williams

Data Protection Policy and Procedures for Surrey Bird Club

The Data Controller for the purposes of the GDPR is the Chairman of the Club. This document should be read in conjunction with the Surrey Bird Club Privacy Policy

Personal data held by the Club

Membership Records (Past and Present)

These include names, contact addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, e-mail addresses and joining and leaving dates. The records also show the amount of membership fee paid, how and when paid, whether communications can be sent electronically and whether or not the member has signed the Giftaid Declaration.

The membership records are kept by the membership secretary and the personal details of members will only be supplied by the membership secretary:-

- a) to other committee members for use in connection with the Club's activities
- b) to an organisation sending out any Club publication on behalf of the Club (names and addresses only with the Club requiring that the organisation only use the records as a mailing list and that the records be destroyed once the publication has been sent out)
- c) to another member as long as the member whose details are being supplied agrees to those details being supplied
- d) for publication in the Club's Newsletter (name and nearest town only)
- e) to an organisation so that it can hold the member's name, salutation and e-mail address for the purpose of sending out e-mails to all members for whom the club has e-mail addresses (as at 2018 this organisation will be Mailchimp and any member can unsubscribe from that mailing list at any time)
- f) to the organisation providing the online backup for the membership records

Records of past members will be retained by the Club for 7 years after the cessation of membership. At that time all documentation and information relating to that member's membership record will be destroyed or deleted as appropriate.

Other Data Records held by the Club

1. Bird Observations

These will involve sightings of birds reported by not only members of the club but also by other members of the public. These records are kept entirely separately from those kept by the membership secretary and are kept by the County Recorder and his assistants.

a) Non-rarity sightings: Such records (when sought by the club) only ask for the name of the person making the report plus where that person was when the sighting was made. There is a space for notes where additional contact details can be supplied if the observer wants to supply such details.

b) Rarity sighting. Such records (when supplied to the club) ask for not only the name of the observer but also the address and telephone number of the observer. Also the observer has to indicate where that person was when the sighting was made.

Some of these records are passed to the birds report editor for inclusion in the bird reports. The bird report editor passes these records on to her assistants for compiling. Some of the records are used in the quarterly newsletter and so are passed to the person writing the quarterly newsletter's Bird News. Such records only include the name of the observer. Only if there is a query over the record are the contact details of the observer passed over.

By supplying sightings, unless the person reporting the sighting has advised to the contrary, the person is agreeing that the Club may use his or her personal information supplied with that sighting for the following purposes:

1. to distribute or lend the personal information to organisations with which the Club shares survey information
2. to publish on the Club's website, in the Club's Bird Reports, newsletters and other publications (name of the person only unless the person concerned agrees otherwise)
3. to supply to the organisation providing the online backup for the bird records

Save as listed in 1-3, the Club will only supply the sightings personal information to any other third party (unless the Club has permission from the person) if required to do by law.

The club does not intend to destroy at any time any bird observations as it is never known when recourse might be needed.

2. Bird Photographs

These will show the name of the photographer and the date and location when the photograph was taken. These photographs are taken not only by members of the club but also by members of the public. These photographs are kept separate from those kept by the membership secretary and the County Recorder. The majority of the photos are stored either by the newsletter editor, the webmaster or the bird report editor.

By supplying photos, unless the person supplying the photo has advised to the contrary, the person is agreeing that the Club may use his or her personal information supplied with that photo

for the following purposes:

1. to publish on the Club's website, in the Club's Bird Reports, newsletters and other publications
2. to supply to the organisation providing the online backup for the bird records

Save as listed in 1-2, the Club will only supply the personal information connected to a photo to any other third party (unless the Club has permission from the person) if required to do so by law.

The club does not intend to destroy at any time any bird photographs as it is never known when recourse might be needed.

3. Other personal information (members and non-members)

a) Members who pay by standing order sometimes supply details of their bank account. These details are not part of the membership database but a copy of the standing order form (if supplied) is retained by the membership secretary in case there is any query over the standing order in the future.

b) Giftaid forms

c) Field trip lists. The club endeavours to make a list of all those attending a field trip. Any list will be destroyed in the membership year running 7 years after the field trip.

d) Personal information provided on purchasing a publication from the club will be destroyed in the membership year running 7 years after the purchase.

e) Non-members may supply personal information for example on attending a field trip or when purchasing from the club. This personal information will not be supplied to anyone other than other committee members unless it is necessary for the Club to do so in order to arrange for the delivery of a purchased item or if the non-member consents to the supply of such information. An example would be where a non-member wants to join in a field trip and would like a lift and supplies their telephone number so that arrangements can be made for that lift.

f) Questionnaires sent to club members will be destroyed /deleted 7 years after completion.

4. Committee members' personal information

a) Meeting minutes will retained permanently.

b) Other personal information supplied will be destroyed 7 years after the committee member has retired from the committee.

Supplying details of the particular personal information held.

The Club is willing to supply at any time details of the personal information held about a person to that person upon application. If the information is required please write or e-mail to:

Mrs Penny Williams at Bourbrook House, Sandpit Hall Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8HA or e-mail sbc@waxwing.plus.com

The Club will correct as soon as possible any information found to be incorrect.

Privacy Policy of Surrey Bird Club

This privacy policy sets out how the Surrey Bird Club ('SBC') complies with its data protection obligations as a Data Controller. You can always access this statement from our website or by requesting it directly.

If you have any queries, then you can contact us via:

Email: sbc@waxwing.plus.com

Phone: 01276 85773

Address: Bournbrook House, Sandpit Hall Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8HA

SBC is committed to respecting the privacy of all visitors to its website. We have structured our website so that you can visit SBC on the web without identifying yourself or disclosing any personal information. Once you choose to provide us with any information by which you can be identified, then you can be assured that it will only be used in accordance with this privacy policy.

Who we are

SBC is a registered charity, No 248285 whose objects are;

- a. To advance public education in the birds of the County and the Vice County of Surrey referred to in this document as "the County")
- b. To promote and, with others, participate in ornithological studies in the County
- c. To support and encourage the preservation and conservation of birds and places of ornithological interest in the County
- d. To publish an annual report about the birds of the Vice-County (the Surrey Bird Report).
- e. To publish, from time to time, a book on the birds of the County

SBC is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 (Registration No Z1947744) and has given all appropriate notifications to the Information Commissioner.

All Personal Data held by SBC will only be accessed in order to further the Club's activities.

In order to run the club and support our charitable activities in the most effective manner and to ensure that we communicate with you in the way that you prefer, we may collect and hold personal information about you in the following ways:

Personal information that you may provide to us:

Your name, address, e-mail address and other relevant information when you join SBC, enquire about SBC membership, become or express an interest in becoming a volunteer, report a sighting or ring-recovery, make a donation, purchase goods or services, attend a field trip, enter a competition, request data or make general enquiries.

Financial information to support the processing of payment information, such as whether donations qualify for Gift Aid, or if discounts or concessions are claimed.

Information regarding your personal or professional interests and demographics (such as age).

Personal information created through your engagement with SBC:

Your reporting of bird sightings creates data which may be classed as personal information (as an observation can identify where you were on a particular date). Likewise the submission of a photograph

Members of the committee and other volunteers helping SBC may collect information relating to their interactions with you whilst carrying out their role supporting SBC.

If you subscribe to receive an email newsletter, your response to emails you receive may be logged, allowing us to determine, for example, if the email is opened and if links within the email have been visited. This information is used to help assess the effectiveness of such emails so that we can improve them and may occasionally be used to send relevant further communications in response to your actions (e.g. clicking a particular link) or inactions (e.g. not opening an email), in accordance with your contact preferences. You can unsubscribe from recurring email communications at any time using the unsubscribe link contained in each message, or by updating your contact preferences (by contacting us directly).

Personal information received from third parties:

Regularly SBC obtains information from other organisations, blogs, and tweets about bird observations recorded by you. Such information will lead to the transfer to us of personal data.

What we may do with the information we collect

SBC will never sell your personal data, and will only ever share it with other individuals or organisations where necessary and where guarantees as to its privacy and security have been provided.

SBC will only process your personal data where it has a lawful basis for doing so (as specified under Article 6 of the EU General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR). In most cases, the lawful basis is that processing such data is necessary for the legitimate interests of SBC. We reinforce your rights by offering you the option not to receive information linked to this purpose. If you feel your personal rights override our legitimate interests, you will have the opportunity to ask us not to use your information in such a way.

In other cases, the legal basis for processing your personal data may be:

- where you have given clear consent for us to do so for a specific purpose (and for the avoidance of doubt this includes publishing your name when we publish a photo you have provided and publishing your name against a bird sighting published either in a bird report or in a Rarities Committee decision.;
- where the processing is necessary for a contract SBC has with you, or because you have asked us to take specific steps before entering into a contract;
- where the processing is necessary for SBC to perform a task in the public interest or for its official functions, and the task or function has a clear basis in law;
- where the processing is necessary for SBC to otherwise comply with the law.

Where we process personal data on the basis of our legitimate interests, we do so for the following purposes:

- to manage members and volunteers.
- to ensure the effectiveness and rigour associated with our publications, including contacting you to validate and/or verify your data;

If you are under 18 years of age and wish to engage SBC then we will require permission from a parent or guardian to store and, in some cases, to use your personal data. If we obtain personal data from you whilst you are under 18, this information may remain associated with your profile when you reach the age of 18. After this point you will be able to manage your personal data preferences alone.

Justification of the Legal Basis for Processing Personal Information

- **Trading:** SBC processes personal information in connection with the sale of products and

services provided by SBC to SBC members, supporters, customers and others, entered into by way of a contract for goods or services. We reinforce data subjects' rights by offering data subjects the opportunity not to receive information linked to this purpose.

- **Membership:** SBC processes personal information in connection with the provision of membership services and products provided by way of a contract entered into with SBC members and/or those individuals purchasing for themselves or for other parties. We reinforce data subjects' rights by offering data subjects the opportunity not to receive information linked to this purpose.

- **General Information:** SBC may acquire and retain personal information in order to provide general information, education and knowledge about the projects, services and resourcing of the charity. SBC balances this legitimate interest with the rights of data subjects under the GDPR. We reinforce data subjects' rights by offering data subjects the opportunity not to receive information linked to these general purposes.

How we store your information

We are committed to ensuring that your information is secure. In order to prevent unauthorised access or disclosure we have put in place suitable physical, electronic procedures to safeguard and secure the information we collect.

We will only store your personal information for as long as it is required for the purposes it was collected for. How long information will be stored for depends on the nature of the information collected and what it is being used for. We will undertake regular reviews of the personal information that we hold and will delete personal information that is no longer required to be held.

Your rights

Whilst we collect and process personal information in order to undertake our work, SBC very much wishes to protect your rights and here we set out a brief description of them.

You have the right to confirmation as to whether or not we have your personal information and, if we do, the right to obtain a copy of the personal information we hold (this is known as a Subject Access Request). Should you wish to make such a request, please contact us as detailed above.

You have the right to request that we remove some or all of your personal information (though this may not apply where it is necessary for us to continue to use the data for a lawful reason). If you wish to make such a request, please contact us as detailed at the start of this policy.

You have the right to have any inaccurate personal information corrected; and/or to specify some of the purposes for which we may contact you; and/or to specify some of the channels by which we may contact you. You can do this at any time by contacting us directly as detailed at the start of this policy.

If you believe that any aspects of your data protection or privacy rights have been infringed by SBC, you can complain to the UK Information Commissioner's Office which regulates and enforces data protection law in the UK. Details of how to do this can be found at www.ico.org.uk.

Links to external sites

Please note that our website may contain links to enable you to visit other websites of interest easily. However, once you have used these links to leave our site you should note that we cannot be responsible for the protection and privacy of any information which you provide whilst visiting such sites, which are not governed by this privacy statement. You should exercise caution and look at the privacy statement applicable to the website in question.

Minutes of Surrey Bird Club AGM 2018

Held at 8pm on Friday 29 June 2018 at East Horsley Village Hall, KT24 6QT

Apologies

Apologies were received from Stella Bignold, Dave Harris, Maggie Washington and Jean Wheatley. 35 members attended.

Minutes of 2017 AGM

The minutes were published in Newsletter 117/8 and no comments had been received. They were taken as read.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Officers' reports

Officers' reports for 2017/18 were published in Newsletter 120. Summarising the year, the Chairman noted that it had been one of progress. Highlights had included the publication of the Surrey Bird Atlas; the introduction of a new on-line reporting system - Going Birding Surrey; and the Woking Peregrine project, where the Club had again manned a stall in the town centre on a number of days during the breeding season. Field meetings had been well attended. The 2013 Surrey Bird Report had been published, and the 2014 report would be published shortly.

In questions, Robin Stride and Piers Devereux welcomed the introduction of Going Birding Surrey, but questioned the inclusion of records of common species in the sightings page, which they suggested could act as a disincentive to users and might be filtered out. The Chairman explained that the broad aim was for records of common species to be entered on BirdTrack, with the scarcer species being reported on Going Birding Surrey. However, the Club's website was being reviewed, and that review would include how Going Birding Surrey was being used.

Robin Stride proposed a vote of thanks to Dave Harris for his many years as webmaster and manager of the Club's sightings page. This was carried.

Treasurer's report and statement of accounts

The Club's accounts for 2017/18 were published in Newsletter 120. The Treasurer reported that the Club's financial position was broadly similar to the previous year. He

explained that the decision had been taken to incur the whole of the cost of producing Surrey Bird Atlas in the 2017/18 financial year and recoup the cost from sales. Sales were going reasonably well, with about half of the copies sold, but some members who had said they would purchase a copy had not yet done so. He urged them to do so.

The Treasurer also urged members who had not yet completed a gift-aid declaration to do so because it increased the value of their membership to the Club.

A motion that the accounts be approved was proposed by Eric Soden, seconded by Robin Stride and carried.

Election of Officers and members of the General Committee

Hugh Evans had reached the end of his 3-year term as Club President and had decided not to stand for a further term. A motion that Stella Bignold be appointed President was proposed by Steve Chastell, seconded by Hugh Evans, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said he was standing down after 13 years in office, and would be standing as County Recorder, while Eric Soden would be standing as Chairman. Charlotte Gray proposed that the General Committee should consist of Eric Soden (Chairman), Steve Chastell (County Recorder), Stella Bignold (Report Editor), Penny Williams (Membership Secretary and BTO Rep), Tim Chinn (Newsletter Editor), Steve Cupit (Treasurer), Richard Denyer (Ringing Secretary), Matt Phelps (Social Media), Sarah Bunce (Conservation), Dave Harris and David Griffin. The motion was seconded by Carey Lodge and carried.

Ratification of composition of the Records Committee

Penny Williams proposed that the Records Committee should consist of Dave Harris (Chairman), Steve Chastell, Jeremy Gates, John Clark, Jeff Wheatley, Shaun Peters, Eric Soden and David Campbell. The motion was seconded by Kevin Duncan and carried.

Any other business

Steve Chastell proposed that Hugh Evans should be made an Honorary Life Member of the Club in view of his many years of outstanding service. This was seconded by Kevin Duncan and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Field Trip Reports

Ringing demonstration at Queen Mary Reservoir, Saturday 21st July 2018

Again thanks to the Hersham ringing group and Steve Chastell holding this field trip that I was able to attend. 6 members attended in all. I am always surprised at how few members come along because I find it fascinating seeing birds in the hand. One is able to see a lot of young birds and learn so much about how their appearance changes as they moult from juvenile plumage into adult plumage. You also get really good views of the birds as well.

As usual everyone who was there carrying out the ringing was very informative explaining what they were looking for when handling the birds in order to sex and age them. They were also at extremely willing to hold the bird so that it could be photographed before being released hence you can see a couple of photos from the ringing demonstration.

Unfortunately, although it has been a very successful years there for breeding of Blue and Great Tits, (there were lots of those being caught) the number of warblers at Queen Mary has been down. Steve Chastell explained that, as at the date of the field trip, no Sedge Warbler has been caught at Queen Mary in 2018.

Perhaps that has changed now.

However it was good to see a Garden Warbler and realise just how few distinguishing features it has - none!. There were also Robins in various stages of moult from juvenile to adult plumage as well as the noisy Blue and Great Tits. We started off with a female Reed Bunting which was a nice start.



Reed Bunting (Penny Williams)

As far as I was concerned it was also a successful field trip as I managed to sell a number of copies of the Surrey Bird Atlas. Everyone who looked at the book agreed it was a fantastic publication and bought one. Have you got yours yet? If not I still have supplies!

Penny Williams

Future Field Meetings

If you have a local patch you know well and would like to lead a field trip to show others what is there please contact a member of the committee.

Sunday 28th October, Leith Hill, migration watch. 06:30 start at Starveall Corner car park (RH5 6LU) for the 15 minute walk up to the tower. Space is limited up the tower so no scopes please. Morning only.
Leader: Matt Phelps

Saturday 24th November, Papercourt Water Meadows for Owls.
14:30 start meet at Tannery Lane car park (GU23 7EF).
Leader: Carey Lodge Tel. 07743 734499

Saturday 15th December 2018, London Wetland Centre, Barnes
Meet in the visitor car park at 9.30 am. Unless you are a WWT member you will have to pay for entry. Entrance fee is 10% less if pre-booked via <https://wwt.digitickets.co.uk/tickets?branches.branchID=332>
Leader Penny Williams Tel 07771 804357 (only on day) or 01276 857736 beforehand.

All the walks are FREE (except for travel costs, car park or entrance fees). Everybody is welcome, from beginners to experts. Field trip details can be found on the Surrey Bird Club website www.surreybirdclub.org or in the 'Birding Surrey' quarterly magazine.

*The Surrey Bird Club hereby gives notice that all arrangements made by the Club for any person taking part in any meeting, visit or other activity are made by the Club as agents for that person and that consequently the Club accepts no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience arising from his or her participation in Club activities.
Passengers accept lifts in private cars at their own risk.*

The copy date for the next issue of Birding Surrey is 31 October 2018

President and General Committee

President: Stella Bignold

38, Chaffers Mead, Ashtead, KT21 1NG

Tel: 01372 272933

Email: stella.bignold@gmail.com

Chairman: Eric Soden

Ceres, Moushill Lane, Milford, GU8 5BQ.

Tel: 01483 429799.

E-mail: ericsoden@aol.co.uk

General Secretary: Vacant

Correspondence to the Chairman please.

Membership Secretary & BTO Regional Rep: Penny Williams

Bournbrook House, Sandpit Hall Road,

Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8HA.

Tel: 01276 857736

Email for membership:

sbc@waxwing.plus.com

Email for BTO queries:

bto@waxwing.plus.com

County Recorder / Records Database

Manager: Steve Chastell, 8, Burnet Avenue,

Guildford, GU1 1YD Tel: 01483 560122

Email: steve.chastell@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Steve Cupit

144 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7DF

Tel: 07876 146313

E-mail: srcupit125@gmail.com

Bird Report Editor: Stella Bignold

38, Chaffers Mead, Ashtead, KT21 1NG

Tel: 01372 272933

Email: stella.bignold@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Tim Chinn

11, Bishop Sumner Drive, Farnham, Surrey,

GU9 0HQ. Email: tim.chinn@ntlworld.com

Chairman of Records Committee : Dave Harris

84, Dudley Road, Walton-on-Thames,

KT12 2JX. Tel: 01932 700018

Email: dave.harris23@ntlworld.com

Social Media: Matthew Phelps

29 Carpenters Meadow, Pulborough,,

West Sussex, RH20 2HQ

Email: mattytheduke@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 07809 870034

Ringling Secretary: Richard Denyer

20, Crofton Close, Ottershaw, Chertsey,

KT16 0LR Tel: 01932 872787

Conservation: Sarah Bunce

5 Bullswater Common Road, Pirbright,

GU24 0LZ. Email: sarah@rivercourt.plus.com

Tel: 01483 322888 Mob: 07765 867383

Field Meetings: Vacant

Other members:

David Griffin

51a, Palace Road, East Molesey, KT8 9DN.

Tel. 0208 979 0748



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www.surreybirdclub.org.uk



Fig 4. Blue-headed Wagtail, Walton Res., 30 Apr 2018

(Dave Harris)



Fig 5. Nightingale, Chiddingfold, 6 Jun 2018

(Dave Carlsson)



Fig 6. Firecrest, Windsor Great Park, 26 May 2018

(James Sellen)



Fig 7. Wood Warbler, Royal Common, 4 May 2018

(Dave Harris)