



THE HOBBY

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the early winter edition of The Hobby. November seems to be a wind-down month after the autumn with short days and dull conditions making birding difficult and seemingly unrewarding though there are arriving wintering birds out there to be discovered. Amongst the local news and updates, Richard has provided us with an article on a trip to the US. that reminds us of the excitement of finding new things. With holiday thoughts in our minds, I can vouch for the quality of birding in some of the locations he mentions. We would also ask you to give some thought to the requests for volunteers to support some of our Club activity noted at the end of this bulletin. Thank you and Good birding to all...

Andy Grimsey

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2016 BIRD NEWS

Contributors: please phone Steve Blain on 07979 606300 or email recorder@bedsbirdclub.org.uk with any news or records. Records are preferred via the online system BirdTrack, using the Excel file found on the Bird Club Website, singly using the online form (<http://tinyurl.com/2v6oweh>), or on paper.

September 2016

Pintail - One was at Broom GP on 18th

Northern Gannet - A juvenile flew over Broom GP on 17th (JP)

Great White Egret - One was at Harrold and Odell CP on 16th September (JM)

Honey-buzzard - A juvenile flew over Pegsdon Hills on 3rd (AG, SCB)

Marsh Harrier - One flew over Galley Hill on 8th, and two flew over Brogborough Lake on 18th.

Hen Harrier - A male was near Eyeworth on 29th (FJ)

Grey Plover - One flew over Henlow on 18th

Bar-tailed Godwit - One flew over the Lodge on 16th.

Eurasian Curlew - One flew over Henlow on 7th, one at Meadow Lane GP on 11th



Ruff - Two were at Broom GP on 16th.

Spotted Redshank - Two were still at Brogborough Tip pools on 3rd, with presumably the same pair also on the Pillinge, MVCP on 4th.

Greenshank - One flew over Henlow on 6th

Little Stint - One was on the Pillinge, MVCP on 16th-17th.

Sandwich Tern - Three flew through Priory CP on 14th.

Common Redstart - Three were on Knocking Hoe NR on 1st, one at Pegsdon Hills on 3rd, one at Galley Hill on 8th.

Whinchat - One was at Pegsdon Hills on 1st, one at Broom GP on 4th, one at Knocking Hoe on 6th, one at Galley Hill on 8th, three at Sandy Smith NR on 11th, two at Henlow on 18th, two at Sandy Smith NR on 18th, one at Pegsdon Hills on 21st, four near Biggleswade Common on 22nd, two at Sandy Smith NR and one near Ampthill on 23rd, four near Biggleswade Common on 26th

Common Stonechat - One was near Ampthill on 23rd, and one at Blows Downs on 25th

Northern Long-tailed Tit - an record of the white-headed northern race of this species was at Stopsley Common on 7th September (MK). It would be a first for Bedfordshire if accepted.

October 2016

Pink-footed Goose - Three were at Broom GP on 10th then near Biggleswade Common from 11th.

Common Scoter - A female was on the Pillinge at MVCP on 30th, and a flock of 11 were at Blunham Lake on 31st.

Great White Egret - One was at Radwell Lakes from 16th-23rd (SCB et al)

Black-necked Grebe - One was at Brogborough Tip pools from 22nd remaining into November (KO)

Marsh Harrier - One flew over Quest and Coronation clay pits on 8th

Merlin - The first of the winter was at Cockayne Hatley on 27th

Red Knot - One was at Harrold and Odell CP on 6th.

Jack Snipe - The first of the winter was found at Broom GP on 11th.

Common Tern - a late bird was in Quest Pit on 8th then subsequently at Stewartby Lake until 15th

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker - A female was seen at Wigmore CP on 24th.

Firecrest - One was at Pegsdon Hills on 15th

Ring Ouzel - Four were on Warden Hills on 7th, one at Pegsdon Hills on 8th, one over the Pinnacle on 9th, and two over the on 23rd. Four flew over Blows Downs on 30th.

Redwing - 6107 flew over the Pinnacle, Sandy on 9th.

Common Redstart - One was at Old Warden Tunnel on 7th.

Whinchat - One was at Pegsdon Hills on 1st, one at Warden Hill and another at Sandy Smith NR on 2nd, one on Sandy Heath on 8th-13th

Common Stonechat - Two were at Pegsdon Hills on 1st, one at Warden Hill, up to three at Sandy Smith NR on 2nd-27th, two on Chicksands Base up to 22nd, two on Warden Hills on 7th, two on Sandy Heath on 9th with up to six there on 11th. Two were at Octagon Wood, Willington on 16th. Two were at East Hyde from 22nd, one at Swedish Cottages, Streatley on 22nd, two at MVCP, five at Blows Downs, one at Meadow Lane GP on 23rd, two at Aspley Heath on 30th.

Tree Sparrow - Six flew over the Pinnacle on 22nd, with two again present in fields north of Upper Caldecote from 30th.

Tree Pipit - One flew over Pegsdon Hills on 1st

Rock Pipit - One was at Broom GP on 6th, one over Biggleswade on 8th, another at Broom GP on 21st, and one over Pegsdon Hills on 23rd.

Observers:

JP - Jim Porter; JM - Janet Munroe; AG - Andy Grimsey; SCB - Steve Blain;

FJ - Frank James; MK – Matt Kirkland; KO - Keith Owen

We thank all contributors who have submitted their records directly to the Recorder, or via Bedsbirds Email Group as well as other sources.

Compiled by Steve Blain
recorder@bedsbirdclub.org.uk

PROGRAMME MATTERS

We were pleased to host David Lingard of the UK branch of LIPU at our October meeting. David graphically demonstrated their fight against the wholesale slaughter of song birds in Italy and sought our support. Members will be interested to know that we raised £141.85 from an exit collection which was warmly received – in David's words "the generosity of the group was wonderful".

I should add that as a policy the Club rarely asks members to put their hands in their pockets, only for really important causes. I believe this is only the third time we have made such a request since the formation of the Club.

Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday 29th November 'Fighting for Birds' by Dr Mark Avery, Writer, Blogger and Britain's leading wildlife campaigner.

As I wrote in the last issue, Mark was Director of Conservation at the RSPB until he left in 2012 to campaign for our most threatened species. His very successful petition against driven grouse shooting exceeded the magic figure of 120000 signatures earning a parliamentary debate on 31st October. We will no doubt learn where the fight goes next! Mark has authored several books to support his campaigns and will, I'm sure, bring some along for sale on the night, so remember to bring some cash. This promises to be a memorable talk so do come along and come early to be sure of a good seat !

Tuesday 20th December Our annual review of the county's birds on video. This ever popular event evolved over the years from the original 'twitchers' evenings of the eighties, remember them ? Richard Bashford, the mastermind behind both the making and presentation of these videos for quite a few years needs no introduction. We should not forget our skilled photographers, led by Steve Blain, who make it all possible. Expect another bumper turnout so come early and bring some change for the raffle and a copy of the DVD.

Tuesday 31st January. 'Saving Nature - the RSPB's international work' by Dr Tim Stowe, Director of Overseas Operations

We are delighted that Tim has agreed to give us an insight into some of the ongoing overseas projects. These include an update of the Indian Vulture recovery programme, the Albatross Taskforce, and most importantly, vital work in the UK Overseas Territories such as the eradication of predatory mice from Gough Island in the Tristan da Cunha Group.

This work is little publicised but does demonstrate the far-reaching influence of the RSPB's international work. We shall look forward to Tim's presentation.

Don Green

REQUEST FOR CONTENT FOR DECEMBER 20th

Hi all, I'm starting to pull together the end of year film for the bird club's December meeting. and I would welcome contributions from anyone. Doesn't have to be all birds and can even be from Cambridgeshire at a push! But anything considered.

Please send me contributions via Dropbox or similar or send me a memory stick or DVD. I can usually work out a way of using it.

Richard Bashford

HONEY BUZZARD



A surprise on Pegsdon Hills, 8th September - some hopefully instructive images showing the underwing plumage, yellow cere and soaring style and profile of this dark juvenile bird.

Watch out for Steve's video at the December bird club meeting...

Andy Grimsey

BEDSBIRDS IS DEAD. LONG LIVE BEDSBIRDS!

In late October we moved service providers for the BedsBirds email group. It now resides on a new platform hosted by groups.io, rather than Yahoo. All members were moved over smoothly as well as the 40,000 messages sent since the group first began.

If you are already a member you hopefully shouldn't have noticed a significant change, however you will need to note two things – we have a new email address to send messages (**bedsbirds@groups.io**) and there is a new web address for the group website: **<https://groups.io/g/bedsbirds>**

The new platform offers us better stability over Yahoo as well as a few extras such as integration with the BedsBirds blog and feeds from those using Twitter. I have created a feed that searches Twitter for any messages that use the hashtag #rnbBDF and will then post a message to BedsBirds. I've been testing this for a while and it seems to work nicely for getting news only posted on Twitter as an email to BedsBirds (but can take up to an hour to arrive). So for those of you who do post your Beds bird news on Twitter please use the hashtag #rnbBDF next time and it will come through to here too.

Enjoy the new BedsBirds!

PS please note that although I run the BedsBirds group, it has no connection to the Beds Bird Club.

Steve Blain

ROOK BEHAVIOUR

On Friday 14th October 2016, I was in Arlesey @ 10.00 am -10.20 I caught sight of a rook on a chimney stack of a house, peeling the green outer casing off of a Horse chestnut. Looking around I observed this behaviour happening on other surrounding houses.

The Rooks (there was a constant flow) were landing in a nearby Horse Chestnut tree, picking the spikey green nuts then flying to the nearby rooftops, stripping off the outer case then taking the nuts in their bills and flying away in the same direction that the others were arriving from.

I observed this for the 15 - 20 minute period after I first noticed it. I have looked in 'HBBWP' and 'Crows and Jays' by Madge and Burn but this behaviour is not noted. However both mention that Acorns are stored for later use.

Lester Bull

THE IMPORTANCE OF BREEDING CODES

With the breeding season well and truly finished this is a timely reminder to ask you to ensure you add any breeding evidence codes to your bird records in BirdTrack. Not only is this evidence used when compiling the annual report summaries, it is also used when sending our rarest breeding bird records off to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel - they are crucial to our understanding of how that species did during the course of the year in our county.

However they shouldn't be used just for our rarest species, they should be used for any species you see in a breeding situation. As we have seen from some of our once common species, you never know when our records will come in handy. It would have been fascinating to see how and where the decline of our Turtle Dove, Tree Sparrow, or Woodcock populations happened.

The other important use for your records (and breeding evidence is often key) is to identify Bedfordshire's most important bird sites via the County Wildlife Sites criteria. These criteria set out which locations in the county are our best for birds and have been designed by the officers of the Beds Bird Club specifically with this in mind. Your data underpins the definitions of these sites and is crucial for designating them in the first place.

Below are the BirdTrack codes you can use as a quick reference.

F	F lying over	Non-breeding
M	Species observed but suspected to be still on M igration	Non-breeding
U	Species observed but suspected to be s U mmerring non-breeder	Non-breeding
H	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting H abitat	Possible breeder
S	S inging male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat	Possible breeder
P	P air observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season	Probable breeding
T	Permanent T erritory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc) on at least two different days a week or more apart at the same place or many individuals on one day	Probable breeding
D	Courtship and D isplay (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat; be cautious with wildfowl)	Probable breeding
N	Visiting probable N est site	Probable breeding
A	A gitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby	Probable breeding
I	Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting I ncubation	Probable breeding
B	Nest B uilding or excavating nest-hole	Probable breeding
DD	D istraction- D isplay or injury feigning	Confirmed breeding
UN	U sed N est or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)	Confirmed breeding
FL	Recently F Ledged young (nidicolous species) or downy young (nidifugous species). Careful consideration should be given to the likely provenance of any fledged juvenile capable of significant geographical movement. Evidence of dependency on adults (e.g. feeding) is helpful. Be cautious, even if the record comes from suitable habitat.	Confirmed breeding
ON	Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating O ccupied N est (including high nests or nest holes, the contents of which can not be seen) or adults seen incubating	Confirmed breeding
FF	Adult carrying F aecal sac or F ood for young	Confirmed breeding
NE	N est containing E ggs	Confirmed breeding
NY	N est with Y oung seen or heard	Confirmed breeding

Steve Blain

BLACKBIRD RE-USING NEST

On 01 May 2015, a female Blackbird *Turdus merula* began building a nest in a *Euonymus* shrub growing in our garden against a wooden fence. Building continued over the next four days after which less activity was noted. It was assumed that this was the female of a pair that had earlier nested in a neighbour's garden and had fledged three young that were still being looked after by the male. The female was first seen carrying food to the nest on 20 May and the first chick was out of the nest on 03 June. The remaining chicks fledged over the next couple of days and hid among the raspberry canes waiting to be fed by the parent birds.

On 14 June and the following day, the female was again seen carrying nesting material into the *Euonymus* shrub while also still feeding the fledglings from the earlier brood. When I investigated the shrub, I could only find the one nest but did not delve too far for fear of disturbing the birds. I next checked on 22 June and was surprised to find the female was sitting on the original nest which she had presumably refurbished rather than building new. By 07 July, the adults were ferrying food to the nest and the chicks fledged on the 15 July. Six chicks from two brood had fledged from the one nest.

The nest was built 1.4m above the ground among the branches of the *Euonymus* shrub and less than 30cm from an open-fronted nest box (which has never been used). The nest measured 10cm deep and 15 cm across while the cup had a diameter of 9cm. When I looked at the nest, a couple of weeks after the second brood had fledged, it was not obvious were it had been 'done up'.

Although successful nests may be re-used for subsequent broods (Snow 1988), this is the first time I have recorded this behaviour.

Snow, D.W. 1988. A Study of Blackbirds 2nd Edn. BMNH

Roger Hicks

FILLING IN SOME GAPS

I've been to North America a few times. A cracking birding blitz of Florida in 1991 with two mates, an essentially non-birding trip to Arizona and California with a girlfriend (now the wife because she said yes on the side of the Grand Canyon), leading a tour to Manitoba (mainly for Polar Bears), a family trip to Ontario and a city break to New York. I'd notched up a fair United States list but there were big gaps. For me it was the warblers, and let's face it, the looking in the book, this is quite a smart group. Most are stunning.

My Florida trip was early April and, although we ended our trip in the far south on the Dry Tortugas (a short hop from Cuba), it was a very late spring and we just didn't get many warblers. Similarly, my visit to Arizona and California was early April and we timed our visit to coincide with snow storms. The Weather Channel reported these freak conditions "Snow in Phoenix. That's something you don't see very often!" We sat in our motel thinking "Yeah, right..." I didn't see many migrant warblers. The Polar Bear tip was great but October in Manitoba is not renowned for its warblers. The Ontario trip had possibilities being early May but it rained most of the time I had in the forests. I only saw a few

new birds – one of which was the fabulous Chestnut-sided Warbler – a single bird in a sapling outside our cabin. Probably quite early so I was lucky to see it. On this trip, a visit to Long Point provided me with a welcome couple of warblers – one of the best – Blackburnian and the not half bad, Black-throated Green. A great spot of birding but this was a family holiday with Katie, Molly and Frankie by the car waiting for me. I guess we're talking 15 minutes total. A subsequent early morning visit without the family was a bit more of your standard birding holiday type birding! - Pretty good with a fair few birds including Magnolia Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler – both stunning and both new. But, being in-the-hand having just been ringed, I didn't tick them as I would not have seen them had someone not trapped them and shown them to me. In my opinion, that is just too easy. Each to their own of course and it's my list..! I did search the trees for the next hour in case I could find my own but no joy with those two species anyway. They would have to wait.

So, here I was in 2008 with an invite to my good friend Andy Wilson's wedding. Andy is an astounding birder who I met when working at the BTO. We did a lot of birding, surveying and twitching in the 1990s. I've been birding for about twenty years beforehand but I learnt a great deal from Andy and in particular his enthusiasm for local patch birding and what you can achieve over time – this I employed on my return to Bedfordshire birding proper in 2000.

The wedding was at the end of May so not bad for birding – at least a good number of these warblers missing from my list would be in the country – but unfortunately on their breeding grounds. In truth, we were about two to three weeks late. Many birding trips are timed to coincide with peak migration and would focus on places like Cape May, Point Pelee, Long Point etc where you could just watch them all file past you... So what is the best plan of action if you arrive in Pennsylvania in late May? Well I'll tell you - Having a good friend who is one of the main fieldworkers for the Pennsylvania State Bird Atlas. There are about twelve of them and fortunately for me and my mate Andy Impey, Andy Wilson was one of them.

We'd managed to muster a seven day trip which started by meeting Andy and fiancée Sue at Newark airport. For a birding trip, you normally do loads of research, get maps, guides and plan an itinerary down to the minute so no opportunities were missed. We didn't bother this time and did feel somewhat under prepared. I need not have worried. Andy met us at the airport with a map, a guide to birding in New Jersey with a few pages marked. We sorted out the hire car and got a ten minute debrief. Essentially a full birding itinerary – he'd only had his wedding to plan after all...

So, we headed south down the Garden State Parkway towards Cape May, our base for the next two days. A few things over the road on the journey, Black & Turkey Vultures, Blue Jays, Grackles, all birds I'd seen before but for Dr Impey, these were new – this is the awkward thing about birding trips – the journey to the first stop. You really need to get to the first stop, get out and have a wander – but you keep seeing things you need to stop for – almost without exception, these are common species and things you'll see loads of – but it can be frustrating... With me driving, another classic birding trip scenario happened – a cuckoo flew over the road – I called it "Cuckoo!", Andy saw it, got a good view of its reddish underwings meaning it was a Yellow-billed rather than Black-billed. Argh! The one I've not seen.... I couldn't identify it from my views so couldn't count it of course. Thanks to a bit of twitching in my younger days, I'd seen Black-billed on Scilly but had failed to catch up with Yellow-billed. Ah well, early days...

Onward. Andy W had suggested we head down to New Jersey because there are good wetlands, coastal habitats and a few species we'd not get in Pennsylvania. Particularly good for Andy I with his

limited New World birding (a four day trip to Canada), we had the chance to build up a fair species list if we could get to the habitats. We arrived at Brigantino Forsyth Reserve at 15.30 and decided a quick walk around the woodland trail would be best before the wetland bits... Strange things were singing. For me, many of the species I'd not seen since the '91 Florida trip so my first singing Carolina Wren was great to see again. House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Purple Martin etc. But the drive around the saltmarshes was great. It took ages to drive the 2km route but we had the time. I think we were still there at 20.30. We think we saw both Semi Palmated and Least Sandpiper – (their legs did keep changing colour though), Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet and a host of other waders you can spend an age chasing in the UK but here they were all lined up for us. A Glaucous Gull was a bit of a surprise but star of the day for me were Skimmers. Great to see them after 17 years and to watch them fly and feed right next to you was spell-binding – their extended lower mandible in the water and their beak snapping shut when it gets something. Loads of Ospreys around too.



My new bird of the day was the weird Seaside Sparrow – at least I think it was new – need to check the old note books. It was a great start to the trip but now it was dusk – time for some nightjars. We did well with Chuck-Will's Widow and Whip-poor-Will – only the former seen though. Also the bubbling call of an Eastern Screech Owl which had us fooled for a bit but thanks to all the east coast bird calls on my Ipod, we sorted it out. Andy W had booked accommodation for us in a place called Avalon so we headed on – arriving late at night with no chance of a beer....

Day two was fabulous. We basically headed for the second of Andy's markers in the site guide – an area called Belle Plain. If I was to imagine (and hope), what a bit of spring birding would be like in woods, this was it. First warbler was Pine – not bad, seen that before but good. The next, oh my, a real treat, especially when you've been grilling the field guides for years – Worm-eating Warbler. Very active and noisy too. Onward with a double whammy – Wood Thrush singing and then a Veery on the other side of the road – one minute and two ticks... Onward and my first Louisiana Waterthrush – technically a warbler but one which hangs around small streams. One of my great "misses" when twitching was having to forego a trip to Portland to see a Northern Waterthrush because I had a talk to give in Edinburgh so I'd wanted to see one of these for years. Next, one of my favourite birds – Prothonotary Warbler – few better than this in my experience and this was singing. Tracking down the next unfamiliar was a stroke of luck – after a minute or two, Andy and I got great views of Kentucky

Warbler. All this with the supporting cast of Ovenbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird and the striking Yellow-throated Warbler. Our next stop was in a scrubby area. This time, the unfamiliar call was coming from the top of a tree in a clearing – it was blue...and one of my target birds – the fabulous Blue Grosbeak. We saw several over the next day or so. In similar habitat to another blue bird which made us think we'd made a mistake at first. But no, there were Indigo Buntings here too. Some great birding followed, even in the heat of the day. Highlights being Clapper Rail, Belted Kingfisher, a migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Piping Plover. Down by the lighthouse we saw Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo and Prairie Warbler. Not a bad day at all and time for some beers tonight.

Our second full day was one of travel back north but with stops on the way. In woodland near Avalon we saw our first Magnolia Warblers. We then travelled into Pennsylvania through Philadelphia to Andy and Sue's house for the afternoon where we met friends and family. Of course there were lots of wedding things to do here and there but Andy made sure our list was in good order and sorting out where we needed to go for the remaining species. He was also right in the middle of state atlas work so there was fieldwork to do.

The next morning, following our instructions, we went to Alan Seeger Natural Area where, as hoped, we saw Black-throated Blue Warbler. Nearby at Bar Meadows, also as expected, the magnificent Canada Warbler with a bonus Least Flycatcher. We then met up with Andy and family for lunch and then, in the afternoon, the wedding itself. Great fun, lovely and an honour to be there.

The next day was spent locally around the wedding venue, a stop at a waffle joint and a game of volleyball. We still managed a new bird – Willow Flycatcher.

Back to birding proper the next day as Andy had some point counts to do. Luckily for us, this coincided with a ridge where he knew Cerulean Warblers bred. Obliging, we went there and saw them – stunning. Also missing was Yellow-breasted Chat, so down the road to some ideal habitat and Andy picked it up on song – bingo! We also jammed in on a roadside Barred Owl – a species I'd previously seen on the roadside, but dead.

We were running out of warblers, but local knowledge came in again as Andy pointed out we should visit some farmland. Here we saw Horned Larks, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows.

On our last day, Andy took us to Scotia Barrens for our last lifer – a Blue-winged Warbler – my ninth new warbler of the trip (of 28 species of warbler seen), and my eighteenth lifer of the trip.

So all in all, a fabulous holiday with some great birding and a great wedding. I'd written most of this article at the time (2008), but not quite finished it. In April 2016, I celebrated my fiftieth birthday and as part of that, the family and I stayed with Andy and Sue (and three year old twins), now living in Maryland. Primarily this was a social trip – a visit to Washington and a visit to New York. But I'd identified a few more gaps in my list – Andy took me to a small group of trees near his home where we saw a pair of Great Horned Owls with chicks in the nest – a bird I'd only heard previously. On my actual birthday, he found me my most recent American lifer - Wilson's Snipe.

So where next? I've got a good birding friend living in California. I wonder if he has a spare room...?

Richard Bashford (June 2016)

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Beds Bird Club:

Martin Hickman, Leighton Buzzard
Connor Hickman, Leighton Buzzard
Diana Parsons, Heath and Reach
Mary Wooldridge, Ampthill
Luke Woodhead, Ampthill

We hope you will enjoy many years of membership with us.

Mary Sheridan

SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR CLUB PUBLICATIONS

Editor of Bird Report (Bedfordshire Naturalist Part 2)

After editing the county bird report since 2003, Barry Nightingale has decided to stand down as Editor after he has completed the report for 2016. This presents an opportunity for someone to take over in early spring 2018 to work on the report for 2017. However if this person is able to get involved earlier this would be most welcome and offer the opportunity to work alongside Barry in compiling the report for 2017.

This voluntary job involves pulling together accounts from the writers of various sections, editing them to meet the BNHS house style, completing some parts themselves and generally liaising with the County Recorder to ensure accuracy throughout. The job also involves working with the typesetters (who will coordinate activities with the printers) in the task of checking proofs etc through to production of the finished journal.

Species account writers

One of the key sections of the Bird Report is the individual species accounts which are currently written for inclusion by a team of eight volunteer writers. We would welcome interest from any members of the Bird Club who would wish to support us in this writing task. The amount of work involved is dependent on the number of species but, for most writers, amounts to a few hours during the late spring to collate data input from the submitted records into suitable paragraphs for submission to the Editor for compilation into the draft report

How to volunteer...

We would invite any member who is interested in learning more about these activities or is willing to help with these tasks to talk to a member of the committee or contact by email at editor@bedsbirdclub.org.uk

IMAGES BY:

Andy Grimsey: Honey Buzzard (2); Black Skimmer, Osprey
Steve Blain: Ruff

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