

Birding Surrey



No.112



Summer 2016

Photograph Gallery



*Fig 1. Black-winged Stilts,
Island Barn Res., 4 May 2016
(Dave Harris)*



*Fig 2. Brambling, Pyrford,
30 Mar 2016 (David Carlsson)*



Fig 3 Garganey, Island Barn Res., 21 Mar 2016

(Dave Harris)

Birding Surrey

The Newsletter of the Surrey Bird Club

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Front Cover: Black-winged Stilt, Dave Harris

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From the Chairman

Welcome to issue number 112 of *Birding Surrey*.

Woking Peregrines

There have frequently been Peregrines in central Woking for a number of years but sporadic nesting attempts have always failed. This has been primarily due to the lack of a suitable safe nest site on the building used. However, in the last year a new group of enthusiasts has come together and a state-of-the-art nestbox and webcam have been installed. SBC member James Sellen, a regular photographic contributor to *Birding Surrey*, is a leading member of the project and has written a detailed article on this extremely exciting project that you will find later in this edition. Hopefully many of you have become familiar with the project website at <http://www.wokingperegrines.com/> where fascinating live footage can be watched 24 hours a day, should you have the time! After considerable discussion the Club General Committee approved a donation of £1,700 to support the project to date, significantly the largest contribution to such a project the SBC has ever made. To the delight of everyone involved, four eggs were promptly laid and in due course three hatched. Although one chick failed to survive the rigours of hatching, as I write the remaining two are thriving, receiving regular feeds and growing very fast. In recognition of the SBC's support, members were invited to the recent

talk by leading expert Nick Dixon (who designed the Woking nest), hosted by the Guildford Environmental Forum and it was good to see several of you there. The Club is also a manning a stand below the nest in Woking town centre several Saturdays in May and June and you are very welcome to come along and see the birds in the flesh.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM in late June is rapidly approaching and we are delighted to be welcoming the prominent natural history author, radio presenter and television producer Stephen Moss as the guest speaker. Stephen spent many of his formative birding years in Surrey, and those of you who attend the Rutland Birdfair will probably have seen what an accomplished and entertaining speaker he has become. The meeting is also of course an opportunity to meet the Club's Committee in person and to socialise with other members. If you have any questions or wish to raise any matters this may be done either formally during the AGM proceedings or informally during the break for tea and biscuits or at the end of the meeting. Last year's meeting was the best attended I can remember and I do hope to see even more of you there this time.

Recording Scarce Birds in Surrey

There are a number of species (listed in the Surrey Bird Report and on the

Club website and published periodically here) for which supporting evidence is required for a record to be accepted by the Surrey Records Committee and therefore included in the official record and publications such as the Surrey Bird Report. These species are those which are unusual in the county and for which certain identification and separation from similar species is not straightforward. There are an increasing number of records for which no such supporting evidence is being presented and they are therefore sadly "lost", despite in the majority of cases very probably being correctly

identified. With the recent proliferation of high quality digital cameras a photo can be one way to provide much of the required support for a record. A photo is not however compulsory and field notes and sketches are equally as useful, although they sadly seem to be rather a dying skill. Whatever your preferred method please do make an effort to submit something to support your most exciting Surrey birds so we can make the recording of Surrey's birdlife as accurate as possible.

Steve Chastell

Bird News-Winter 2015/16

- part 1: late 2015

Shaun Peters

♦ Highlights of the quarter

These included a party of five **Whooper Swans**, two **Scaup**, a **Great Northern Diver**, two **Iceland Gulls**, a **Lapland Bunting**, as well as good numbers of **Short-eared Owls** and **Bearded Tits**.

Whooper Swan A family group of a pair and three juveniles were at the London Wetland Centre early on Nov 22nd. They left NW at 0900hrs.

White-fronted Goose Nine flew south over Thorncombe Street on Dec 4th.

Brent Goose A typical showing in the late year with reports of small

numbers from six sites. Two flew south over Leith Hill on Oct 10th, five were at QE2 Res on Nov 4th, one was at Barn Elms Playing Fields / London Wetland Centre and the nearby Thames from Nov 5th-25th, two flew south over Puttenham on Nov 11th, one flew over Holmethorpe SP on Nov 22nd, with another there on Dec 26th-27th.

Shelduck There were two at Thorpe Water Park on Nov 15th, one at Beddington SF on Nov 21st, with up to four there from Dec 20th-29th, one at the London Wetland Centre from Dec 2nd-31st, two at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Dec 15th, one at Walton Res on Dec 23rd and one at Frensham Great Pond on Dec 30th-31st.

Wigeon The largest reported numbers were 59 at Tongham GP on Oct 3rd, 163 at Walton Res on Oct 7th, 115 at Boldermere on Oct 22nd, 84 at Longside Lake (Thorpe) on Nov 15th, 85 at the London Wetland Centre on Nov 28th and 107 at Frimley GP on Dec 30th.

Gadwall The largest reported numbers were 58 at Walton Res on Oct 11th, 54 at Holmethorpe SP on Oct 18th, 64 at Longside Lake (Thorpe) on Nov 15th, 65 at Beddington SF on Nov 15th, 115 at Battersea Park Lake on Nov 15th, 54 at Thorpe Water Park on Dec 13th and 55 at Frimley GP on Dec 13th.

Teal The largest reported numbers were 113 at Stoke Water Meadows on Oct 18th, 325 at Beddington SF on Nov 15th, 153 on the Thames from Putney to Barnes on Dec 13th, 108 on the Thames from Kew to Richmond on Dec 14th and 212 at the London Wetland Centre on Dec 19th.

Pintail There were four juveniles at Walton Res on Nov 5th, one or two

males at Beddington SF from Dec 7th-30th and a male on Pen Ponds on Dec 26th. The feral flock at the London Wetland Centre numbered four from late November to the end of the year.

Shoveler The largest reported numbers were 130 at the London Wetland Centre on Oct 15th, 70 at Beddington SF on Oct 18th, 37 at Walton Res on Oct 28th and 35 at Gatton Park on Nov 15th.

Red-crested Pochard A pair were on Pen Ponds on Dec 18th-19th.

Pochard No three-figure flocks were reported and at only three sites did numbers reach 40. There were peaks of 82 at Walton Res on Oct 1st, 59 at Thorpe Water Park on Nov 15th and 46 at Frensham Ponds on Dec 5th.

Tufted Duck The largest reported numbers were 105 at Longside Lake (Thorpe) on Oct 18th, 180 at Holmethorpe SP on Oct 28th, 97 at Island Barn Res on Nov 5th, 459 at Thorpe Water Park on Nov 15th, 166 at Walton Res on Nov 16th and 151 at Frimley GP on Dec 30th.

Scaup A male was at the London Wetland Centre on Nov 8th. A female was at Newdigate Brickworks SWT from Dec 7th-11th, then moving to Earlswood Lakes on Dec 13th, before returning to Newdigate on Dec 15th.

Goldeneye The first was at Walton Res on Oct 21st. At nowhere did numbers reach double-figures, the largest count being a mere four at Thorpe Water Park on Dec 20th. Birds were also reported from Berrylands SWks, Frensham Ponds, the London Wetland Centre, QE2 Res and Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea).

Goosander The first were at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) and Frensham Great Pond on Oct 21st. The largest reported numbers were ten at Cutt Mill on Dec 11th and 18th, and 19 at Walton Res on Dec 30th.

Great Northern Diver One was at Island Barn Res from Nov 17th-20th.

Slavonian Grebe One was at Frensham Great Pond on Dec 29th.

Black-necked Grebe There were four at Island Barn Res on Dec 25th.

Bittern Reflecting the mild weather, just three were seen. Single birds were at the London Wetland Centre from Sep 29th-Dec 30th, Frensham Great Pond on Oct 18th and Nov 28th and Frensham Little Pond on Oct 31st and Dec 19th.

Little Egret Around 40 were reported from a total of 29 sites. All the reports involved one to three birds except for four at Unstead SF on Dec 26th and 27th.

Marsh Harrier A male was at Beddington SF on Dec 29th.

Hen Harrier Ringtails were at Thorncombe Street and Winterfold Heath on Oct 17th, Thursley Common on Nov 22nd and Beddington SF on Dec 28th.

Merlin Single birds were seen at Thursley Common on Oct 17th and Nov 13th and a male was at Woldingham on Nov 16th.

Water Rail Birds were reported from Beddington SF (up to 7), Egham Hythe Lake (1), Frensham Great Pond (up to 4), Frensham Little Pond (up to 5), Frimley GP (1), Holmethorpe SP (1), River Mole at Leatherhead (1), the London Wetland Centre (up to 4), Pen Ponds (2), South Norwood CP (up to 6), Stoke Water Meadows (up to 4) and Winkworth Arboretum (1).

Moorhen There were 150 at the London Wetland Centre on Dec 13th and 141 along the River Wandle from Carshalton to Wandsworth on Dec 28th.

Coot The largest reported numbers were 307 at Beddington SF on Oct 7th, 291 at Walton Res on Oct 18th, 194 at Tongham GP on Nov 14th, 266 at Longside Lake (Thorpe) on Nov 15th, 409 at Holmethorpe SP on Nov 15th, 269 at Frimley GP on Dec 13th and 395 at Thorpe Water Park on Dec 13th.

Dunlin There were two at the London Wetland Centre on Dec 14th.

Jack Snipe The first was at Walton Res on Oct 12th, with one present there to Nov 22nd. Elsewhere, up to two were at Beddington SF from Oct 17th onwards, up to four were at the London Wetland Centre from Oct 18th onwards, six were at Holmethorpe SP on Nov 6th and one was at South Norwood CP on Nov 24th.

Curlew Single birds were at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Nov 12th and Dec 14th, and Island Barn Res on Nov 22nd and Dec 14th.

Green Sandpiper Birds were reported from Beddington SF (up to 6), Holmethorpe SP (2), Island Barn Res (up to 3) and Tice's Meadows, Badshot Lea (up to 8).

Common Sandpiper One was at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) from Nov 26th-Dec 31st (a rare instance of over-wintering in outer Surrey) and one was at Beddington SF on Dec 13th,

Mediterranean Gull Another rather poor early winter with perhaps as few as five birds involved in the following reports. Single adults were at Beddington SF on Nov 9th and Dec 29th, Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Dec 1st, Thames at Truss's Island on Dec 6th, Pen Ponds on Dec 18th, Island Barn Res on Dec 18th and 27th,

and Walton Res on Dec 28th.

Little Gull A first-winter was at Beddington SF on Dec 1st.

Iceland Gull There were two first-winters at Beddington SF on Nov 27th, with one present the next day. A first-winter was also present from Dec 29th-31st.

Stock Dove There were 170 at Holmethorpe SP on Nov 10th and 100 at Woldingham on Nov 20th.

Short-eared Owl Another excellent late year with perhaps as many as 40 seen, with a distinct late October peak of passage birds. Two were seen at Richmond Park on Oct 23rd, Wimbledon Common on Oct 23rd, Beddington SF on Oct 25th and the London Wetland Centre on Nov 3rd. Single birds were at Beddington SF on Sep 6th, Oct 16th-21st, Oct 24th and Oct 31st, Stoke Water Meadows area from Sep 22nd-26th, Papercourt Water Meadows on Oct 7th-8th, the London Wetland Centre on Oct 14th and Nov 12th, Dungeon Hill (Woodmansterne) on Oct 15th, Barn Elms Playing Fields on Oct 16th, Oct 21st and Oct 23rd, Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Oct 16th and 25th, Richmond Park on Oct 20th, 22nd and 25th, Nov 28th and Dec 12th, Selsdon Wood on Oct 22nd, QE2 Res on Oct 23rd, Lonsdale Road Res on Nov 1st, South Norwood CP on Nov 1st, 11th and 12th, Thursley Common on Nov 4th and 11th, Walton Res on Nov 8th,

Woldingham on Nov 16th, South Norwood on Nov 20th, Kingston Bridge on Nov 28th and Holmethorpe SP on Nov 29th.

Skylark There were flocks of 50 at Woldingham on Nov 20th and 85 at Holmethorpe SP on Nov 23rd.

Water Pipit The first were at Beddington SF on Oct 24th, with up to three present there to the end of the year. The only other record was of one at the London Wetland Centre on Dec 16th.

Black Redstart Single birds were at Leith Hill on Nov 11th and Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Nov 14th.

Fieldfare The first was at Richmond Park on Oct 1st, followed by others at Leith Hill and Thursley Common on Oct 9th.

Redwing The first were at South Norwood Lake on Sep 7th, followed by others at Leith Hill on Sep 11th and Sep 28th, Frensham Little Pond and Richmond Park on Sep 29th, and Winkworth Arboretum on Sep 30th.

Cetti's Warbler Up to three were at Beddington SF from Sep 26th-Dec 31st, two were at Walton Res from Oct 3rd-Dec 31st, one was at Tongham GP on Oct 19th, one was at Holmethorpe SP from Oct 31st-Dec 6th and one was at South Norwood CP from Dec 20th-31st.

Dartford Warbler Single birds were at Beddington SF from Oct 23rd-Nov 29th, Richmond Park from Nov 2nd-Dec 31st, with two there on Dec 21st, and Shalford Water Meadows on Dec 10th.

Chiff-chaff One showing the characteristics of the race tristis was at Thorpe Water Park on Nov 30th and Dec 31st.

Firecrest Single birds were at Busbridge on Nov 3rd, Banstead Downs on Nov 4th, Winkworth Arboretum from Nov 4th-Dec 2nd, Beddington SF on Nov 7th and Dec 24th, south Croydon and Thorncombe Street on Nov 9th, Littleworth Common (Esher) on Nov 12th, Thorpe Water Park on Nov 15th and 30th, Redhill Common on Nov 28th, Stoughton (Guildford) on Dec 6th and 13th, Littleton Manor Farm (Reigate) on Dec 13th, Bookham Common on Dec 18th and Godalming on Dec 21st. There were two at Frensham Great Pond from Nov 11th-Dec 16th, the London Wetland Centre on Nov 11th and along the North Downs Way at Farnham on Dec 5th.

Bearded Tit There were seven at South Norwood CP on Oct 3rd, with two remaining to Nov 12th and one to the end of the year. Up to four were at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) from Oct 10th-20th, one was at Beddington SF on Oct 17th and one or two were at the British Wildlife Centre (Lingfield) from Dec 7th-28th.

Great Grey Shrike A good late year with at least seven birds recorded. The first was at Thursley Common on Oct 18th. One remained here to the end of the year, with a second bird seen on Oct 22nd-26th and Nov 14th. Other birds were at Frensham Common from Oct 28th-Dec 28th, Leith Hill on Nov 1st, Pewley Down on Nov 5th, Witley Common on Nov 21st, Hankley Common on Dec 28th, Chobham Common on Dec 29th and Ash Ranges on Dec 31st.

Brambling The first was at Duke's Warren on Sep 25th, followed by five there on Oct 10th, three on Oct 12th and 16 west on Oct 18th. The first reported away from there were at Richmond Park on Oct 19th and Winkworth Arboretum the next day. Birds were reported from 16 sites, although most sites saw only ones or twos. The largest numbers reported were ten at Headley Heath on Nov 11th and 18 at Winkworth Arboretum on Dec 2nd.

Goldfinch There were 100 at Holmethorpe SP on Nov 15th, 124 at Beddington SF on Nov 28th and 97 at Portsmouth Road Filter Beds (Surbiton) on Dec 2nd.

Siskin Siskins were even scarcer in the County this winter than last. Birds were reported from 11 sites with no three-figure flocks seen. The largest were 60 at Winkworth Arboretum on Nov 23rd, 50 at the London Wetland Centre on Dec 2nd and 50 at

Frensham Great Pond on Dec 29th.

Lesser Redpoll Birds were reported from seven sites in November/December with the largest flocks 15 at Beddington SF on Nov 8th and 26 at Tice's Meadows (Badshot Lea) on Nov 26th.

Crossbill It is evident that most of the birds seen in the autumn were just passing through. Reports in November totalled 40 birds from nine sites with the largest numbers ten over Richmond Park on Nov 3rd and seven over Rowledge on Nov 15th. There was just one report in December which was of ten over Haslemere on the 11th.

Lapland Bunting One was at Beddington SF on Nov 29th.

Yellowhammer There were 100 in two flocks at Holmethorpe SP on Dec 15th.

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

◆ Contributors

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**Note: January to March 2016 news to Shaun Peters ASAP please
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Woking Peregrine Project

I first started seeing peregrines in Woking when WWF-UK moved offices from Panda House, Catteshall Lane in Godalming to The Living Planet Centre, Brewery Road in October 2013. I knew peregrines had been seen in the town but it wasn't until February 2014 that I had my first 'fix'. I had occasional sightings during the following months but it was in February 2015 I gave them more attention. On the 18th I saw three birds on Export House (formerly known as the B.A.T. Building); a pair and a lone individual with more noticeable brown plumage. One of the pair kept diving at the intruder but it stood its ground. During the following weeks I saw a tiercel and what appeared to be a young falcon. Could the youngster have been the third bird? During March 2015 I witnessed both peregrines performing stunning aerobatics near Export House and on

numerous occasions the pair could be seen on Export House's north west stairwell ledge that over looks the entrance to Sainsbury's in Wolsey Place. It could have been wish full thinking but I suspected possible breeding behaviour. I needed more expert help so I mentioned this to Steve Chastell who referred me to Richard Denyer. I had a very interesting meeting with Richard and learnt that he'd spent much time in the



*Peregrines on Export House, Woking,
15 Aug 2015 (James Sellen)*

past trying to get a peregrine nest box installed on Export House. Unfortunately, the owners of the then B.A.T. building refused permission. Richard has many detailed observations of the Woking peregrines (different individuals have been present for at least the last 10 years) and the two previous breeding attempts on the north west stairwell ledge. His study of their prey remains is amazing which included nightjar and golden plover. By chance, I then met Martin Pooley (Head of Operations Woking Shopping Ltd) one lunch time when I was watching one of the peregrines from the entrance to Lloyds Bank. Martin was aware that peregrines roosted on Export House and was keen to know more about them. Fortunately, he gave me his business card.

In 2014, I had the good fortune to be introduced to John Bannister by a colleague at WWF. John is an officer for the Guildford Environmental Forum who promotes community projects (<http://www.gefweb.org.uk/conta.html>) and he shares a passion for peregrines. He monitors local birds and had a peregrine nest box installed on Guildford cathedral. Apparently, peregrines stash food there but have not used it as a breeding site. I kept John updated on the Woking peregrines and in June 2015 he suggested we contact the owners of Export House to see if they would consider the installation of a peregrine nest box. Remembering I had Martin's business card, I passed his contact details to John. In July, we

had our first meeting with Martin and we were very impressed with his enthusiasm for the project. We were allowed onto the roof of Export House to look for any suitable nest sites. The views from the roof are amazing but you need a still day and a head for heights! You can see why peregrines have chosen this building - with their incredible eye sight they are able to spot prey at a considerable distance. Following this meeting, we decided that expert advice was needed. John had the good idea of contacting Nick Dixon who's an urban peregrine falcon research specialist

(<http://www.urbanperegrines.co.uk/>)

In September and October 2015, Nick joined us for two further meetings with Martin and he produced a very detailed report giving the reasons why Export House could be suitable and the location of three possible nest sites. Through out this process Martin was extremely helpful and gained the support of Woking Borough Council and the building's tenants. John also gained consent for the project from English Nature following concerns we had about a new building development near Export House.

The preferred nest box location was in the lockable north west ventilation room which is close to the north west stairwell ledge. This was supported by Richard's previous observations and additional information given by Denis Corley, a local peregrine enthusiast who has studied this species in the UK and abroad for many years. Further



Nick Dixon, John Bannister & Richard Denyer on roof of Export House (James Sellen)

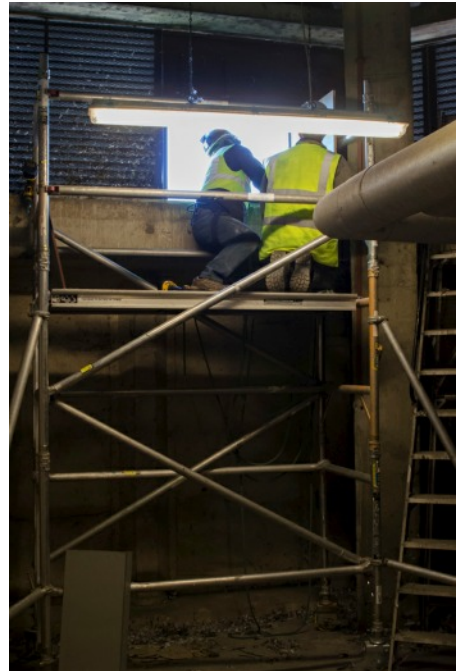


Martin Pooley, Jason Fathers & John Bannister in ventilation room of Export House (James Sellen)

evidence in and around the ventilation room showed peregrines use the near by external ledge to stash and feed on prey. Within the room there's a large filter that covers the air intake vent. The filter has been replaced regularly because it gets covered in feathers which are sucked through the surrounding grill. If you're good at feather I.D. , it's a great way to see what the peregrines are feeding on.

Following Nick Dixon's recommendation, John contacted Jason Fathers who runs Wildlife Windows (<http://www.wildlife-windows.co.uk/>) - a company that's a leading designer of innovative wildlife camera systems. Nick has worked with Jason on previous projects and advised him of the specific design details for the construction and installation of the peregrine nest box. Jason was then able to recommend a suitable CCTV system which could be installed at the same time. Arrangements were then made with Martin Pooley so the installation work could start at the end

of January 2016 - in time for this year's peregrine breeding season. Jason built the nest box in his workshop in Cowgrove / Wimborne so it could be easily assembled on site.



Jason Fathers & Alan Crane installing nestbox. (James Sellen)



Exterior view of nestbox (James Sellen)

On the 29th January the work was complete and ready for the local Woking peregrines.

There seemed to be a long wait before the resident pair were noticed taking an interest in their new home. Both birds would perch and feed within feet of the nest box entrance but made no attempt to explore within. Jason and Nick decided an incentive might do the trick. On the 19th February (following evening observations by myself and John to ensure the peregrines weren't roosting in the nest box) Jason made another visit to Export House. He put a dead quail in the box and a dead pigeon just outside the entrance. This was done after dark with the hope that either peregrine might think its mate had left the prey. Again, both peregrines seemed to ignore their free snack - growing frustration was mounting within the Peregrine Project group! On the 29th February I noticed one of the peregrines perched directly above the nest box at 09.00 and 17.00. On the 1st March I saw the pair spending most of the morning on the north west stairwell ledge and at 16.00 John

witnessed two copulations whilst watching from the Peacock's car park. At 17.10, I joined John on the car park to see the falcon feeding approximately 10 feet to the right of the nest box entrance. She then flew and landed in the nest box entrance after which she spent 5 minutes looking in - game on! Another copulation was seen shortly afterwards. Copulation was seen again by John on the 2nd March and Martin Pooley obtained video footage of the falcon feeding on the quail inside the nest box. At this point, real time images from the CCTV could only be obtained by connecting a tablet or laptop to an Ethernet port outside of the ventilation room. On a few occasions, Martin and a colleague managed to get good behavioural footage following sightings John had from the Peacock's car park. Quite an achievement if you see the stairs and distance to the entrance to the ventilation room that need to be covered at short notice! Whilst taking photos of the nest site from the Peacock's car park on 6th March, I saw and photographed the pair entering the box on two occasions and witnessed a food pass. The following week I saw both peregrines taking more of an obvious interest in their new home; perching in the entrance, making slow fly passes in front of the box and going into the box for longer periods. On March 13th, I decided another photo session was necessary and was very fortunate to be able to record another copulation - within feet of the nest box. Finally, CCTV



*Peregrines, Export House, 13 Mar 2016
(James Sellen)*

images obtained by Martin showed the first egg was laid on or around the 22nd of March and three additional eggs were laid in approximate 2 day intervals. The last egg we believe was laid on Bank Holiday Monday, March 28th.

Additional help was given by two Export House tenants; Arcom for the work necessary for the transmission of the live CCTV images and Craig Denford / Akiko Design who has done a superb job with the current Woking Peregrine Project website (<http://www.wokingperegrines.com/>) which went live on the internet on 14th April. Craig advised the website had approximately 2,500 hits per day leading up to the first hatching. On May 1st, the number of hits was over 5,000. The first hatching (1st May 2016) was noticed by Nick Dixon at 05.20. That's dedication

We are very grateful for Surrey Bird Club's financial support with this project and the Club will be undertaking public engagement activities with Woking's visitors to encourage the public's interest in these



Webcam: 4 eggs, 17 Apr 2016



Webcam: Feeding time, 30 May 2016



*SBC stand, Jubilee Square, Woking
(Rich Mooney)*

peregrines and ultimately birds in general. This will take place on Saturdays starting on 7th May to June 11th.

James Sellen

News from Surrey's Heathlands

Penny Williams suggested that you might like to hear about the project I'm involved with, the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership Project. I'm one of sixteen wardens, you may have seen us out and about in our claret uniforms? We're labelled up as SPA Wardens, but we haven't escaped from a health spa, we're wardening 8,200 hectares of Special Protection Area! So I'm lucky enough to be paid to walk around heathlands, such as Chobham, Horsell and Whitmoor Commons, engaging with visitors!

Walking around nature reserves and talking to people are two of my favourite pastimes! But I'm not just enjoying myself, there's a purpose.

The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area is home to some of the UK's rarest breeding birds, the nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler, all of which nest on or near the ground, making them vulnerable to disturbance.

Like many places, the SPA's under pressure from increasing visitor numbers. And with thousands of new homes built or planned within 5km of its boundary, a strategy was needed. And that's where the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership Project comes in. Hosted by Natural England, working in close partnership with land owners and managers, and funded by contributions from new housing



Nightjar, Chobham Common NNR

(Rob Solomon)



Chobham Common (Sarah Bunce)

developments, the project monitors visitor trends and provides coordinated visitor engagement.

I joined the wardening team in July 2015. Armed with informative leaflets, friendly advice and free poo bags, we're engaging with visitors across the SPA, spreading the word about these special places and encouraging responsible behaviour, particularly by dog walkers. Staying on paths, keeping dogs close, throwing sticks down the path rather than into the heather, can all make a huge difference and help our birds have a successful season!

Luckily it's a win-win situation, keeping dogs out of the heather also helps avoid adder bites and ticks! It's a win-win in other ways too, looking after the heathland habitat protects it for the benefit of other species, and from threats such as urban expansion. Because they're protected by law, if we look after the birds, their presence will help protect our special wild places!

We also promote Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces

(SANGs), a catchy title for greenspaces designed to mop-up the recreational pressure generated by all those new houses! Some are new spaces open to the public for the first time, others have been enhanced to cope with more visitors. Either way, the idea is that they're convenient, provide free parking, poo bins and a pleasant natural environment for a stroll with the dog. So if you follow us on Facebook or Twitter, you'll see that we're plugging these too.

I count myself very lucky to spend time in such interesting and beautiful places, getting to know the haunts of the ground-nesting birds. I'm getting to know some of the people who walk here too and it's a joy to find that many care about our heathlands. There are those who don't of course, but, hey, that's why I'm here, to spread the word about this amazing habitat and try to change people's behaviour for the better.

Sarah Bunce

(sarah.bunce@naturalengland.org.uk)

Find us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/thamesbasinheathspartnership>

Follow us on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/TBHPartnership>

Tice's Meadow Spring BioBlitz

Over the weekend of April 29th to May 1st, the Tice's Meadow Bird Group held their second 48 hour BioBlitz. Building on last years successful event, this year we decided to go bigger and better and involve as many members of the public and local conservation organisations as possible.

Over the course of the weekend around 90 members of the public visited the site, took part in the activities and enjoyed the wildlife present. As well as seasoned birders, naturalists and 7 members of the Army Ornithological Society, local residents and families with young children were well represented.

Eleven hardy souls braved the freezing cold weather and camped on site for the full 48 hours, joined by four more campers on the Saturday night. Catering for the campers was kindly provided by Dave Baker.

86 species of bird were recorded on site over the weekend, quite an impressive total considering the cold, clear conditions and northerly winds. Highlights of the weekend included:

- Little Ringed Plover - up to 5 were present all weekend.
- Dunlin - 2 were present in the Workings Friday.
- Wheatear - 3 were seen in the Meadow Friday, with 1 present Saturday.
- Yellow Wagtail - a steady trickle of overflying birds were heard all weekend, and 3 were seen in the

Meadow Saturday.

- Yellow-legged Gull - a 3cy individual was spotted in the Workings on Friday.
- Hobby - 3 seen flying over the site, with 2 together Sunday afternoon a late highlight.

Some less scarce birds, but site rarities, were also recorded including the first Rook of the year, the first Tawny Owl of the year, a Red-legged Partridge and a late Siskin and Lesser Redpoll.

Saturday morning saw a noticeable fall of warblers on site, with the Woods alive with the songs of Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs, Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Garden Warblers, and the Reedbeds resonating to the sounds of Reed and Sedge Warblers.

Roger Dickey, chairman of the Army Ornithological Society and a BTO licensed ringer, once again conducted bird ringing on site



Yellow Wagtail

(©Andy Little)

throughout the weekend. This year Roger was ably assisted by Mark Cutts (Royal Naval Bird Watching Society) and Laura Robertson. 79 birds were caught and rung (10 were re-traps), consisting of 17 species, including Garden Warbler, Reed Warbler and record numbers of Sedge Warbler. Watching the ringers skilfully handle the birds and explain the intricacies of ageing and sexing them was a highlight of the weekend for many of the visitors, especially the young children and those new to birding.

A new addition this year was a large marquee which, when not being used to shelter from hailstorms, housed exhibits by the Tice's Meadow Bird Group, Surrey Bird Club, British Trust for Ornithology, Blackwater Valley Community Partnership and Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust.

Another new addition, and much welcomed, was a Portaloo kindly sponsored by the Surrey Bird Club.

Saturday morning saw a very well attended guided walk of the site, lead by Richard Sargent. The walk was well received and the pre-arranged Peregrine fly-past a highlight.

Saturday night saw a guided bat walk lead by Steve Bailey of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, using bat detectors he'd kindly provided. Three species of bat were recorded: Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle & Noctule.

Bernard Baverstock of the Surrey Mammal Group set-up small mammal traps on the Friday, and lead a group



Guided Walk (© Mark Elsoffer)

of interested visitors on a walk Sunday morning to examine the contents. Five Wood Mice were trapped and recorded.

Steve Minhinnick and Lynne Millard set-up trail cameras in the Reedbed in order to capture any nocturnal activities.

Other wildlife recorded on site over the weekend included:

- Nine species of butterfly - Brimstone, Orangetip, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Green Veined White, Small White, Large White, Holly Blue & Speckled Wood.
- Nine species of mammal - Fox, Grey Squirrel, Roe Deer, Bank Vole, Wood Mouse, Brown Rat, Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle & Noctule.
- Five species of reptile/amphibian - Common Lizard, Grass Snake, Smooth Newt, Toad & Slow Worm.

Nine new species of insect were identified over the weekend and added to the site's Pan Species List, taking the total to 995 species recorded on site.

All present considered the weekend a roaring success, with many of the first time visitors indicating that they would return, and some putting their name down for the programme of regular volunteer tasks conducted on site by the Tice's Meadow Bird Group.

Approximately £130 was raised by the Tice's Meadow Bird Group during the event through generous donations and sales of our 2015 Annual Report (there are still a few copies available at £14 each, please contact us if interested in buying one). All proceeds will go towards projects on the nature reserve.

Please keep your eyes peeled for announcements of future events, work parties and guided walks. We hope to see you at Tice's Meadow again soon.

How to Visit Us

Tice's Meadow is a newly developed nature reserve and Site of Nature Conservation Interest, covering approximately 150 acres, on the site of the former Farnham Quarry. The habitats on site consist of a mosaic of open water, gravel islands and scrapes, reedbeds, scrub, woodland, ephemeral ponds and wet and dry grassland.

The site is located between Badshot Lea and Tongham, on the southern outskirts of Aldershot, at the southern end of the Blackwater Valley, on the boundary between Surrey & Hampshire.

The best place to park is on the Lower Farnham Road (B3208) near

the Pea Bridge (at SU 86759 49018). The nearest railway station is Aldershot. Stagecoach Bus run regular services from Aldershot, Guildford and Farnham with stops near the site (routes 15 & 46).

There is free open access to the site with permissive footpaths running across the northern perimeter. Public access to the Meadow, Workings and Works is strictly prohibited on health & safety and wildlife protection grounds. The Meadow and the Workings are best viewed from Horton's Mound.

The unimproved nature of the site means that it is currently not suitable for wheelchair users. However, a gate with a "RADAR" lock has been installed on Badshot Lea Road (at SU 86712 48939) to enable easier access by disabled visitors.

Further Information

Please follow us on Twitter: @TicesMeadow

To contact us via email: ticesmeadow@hotmail.co.uk

Please visit our website: www.ticesmeadow.org

Please visit our Flickr Group: www.flickr.com/groups/tices

Bird Forum thread: www.birdforum.net/showthread.php?t=194943

Mark Elsoffer - Tice's Meadow Bird Group

Patchwork and Detective Work

Bookham Common in early February - a flock of eight Grey Herons flying in a flock calling to each other around the usual site of the heronry. The following day eighteen do the same. Unusual as they do not fly around in flocks, and no mention of this even in the small print in BWP. Must be the males returning to the heronry - were they males as eighteen nests this year? Note to BB sometime?

On 7 April Dorking RSPB Spring newsletter arrives. Charlotte and Rustom Daruwalla have their patch in the Mole Valley. She mentions a group of herons flying around, and up to twelve Little Egrets around. But herons don't fly in groups except..... and with Little Egrets? Curiouser and curiouser says Alice. Could two and two make five? Will Charlotte please contact me? Meanwhile check that Little Egrets do not nest in Surrey, and no heronry where Charlotte and Rustom have their patch. Penny as BTO rep and

Eric as Surrey recorder very helpful and enthusiastic - no heronry known there and Little Egrets not recorded nesting in Surrey.

Charlotte tells me of seeing Little Egrets in trees and flapping their wings, gives me a map reference, though she and Rustom have not visited it. I recce the general area 17 April and see two Little Egrets in the fields. Rather wild and wary of approach but stalked and they are in breeding plumage apart from blue lores - but I know from personal experience the courtship colour of lores in Cattle Egrets disappears by egg laying time. Same for Little Egret? BWP says yes.

Another visit 20 April. Three small white dots visible from other side of the valley at the map reference site. Walk there very quietly, to a convenient bridle track. A soft unfamiliar vibrating "caw" tells me where they are, in dense almost impenetrable woodland. Through



Little Egret, Mole Valley, 20 Apr 2016

(Alan Prowse)

foliage I can see three Little Egrets in a group of yews 50 metres away. Restless, so I stay very still. One watches me with a Gannet style binocular stare. The three become six over about twenty minutes, on nests!! And one has yellow lores!! An adult comes in and a greeting ceremony. At least three herons' nests with incubating birds, but the egrets will have only just begun laying (and incubate from first egg). Withdraw quietly and will not revisit till young.

So unknown heronry, first breeding record of Little Egrets in Surrey, and a lovely record for Charlotte and Rustom. Charlotte's map reference accurate to 50 metres - I would not have found it otherwise.

When Little Egrets first bred in this country at Brownsea Island in 1996 and 1997 the dates of hatching and fledging were deliberately suppressed. Why? I only have figures for France from BWP. Secrecy is one thing but let it be sensible. I want to know what they are in UK to know when it is safe to follow up. Mark at the Rare Birds Breeding Panel gives me the UK figures. Incubation is early in Mole Valley. Hatching perhaps starts about 11 May, so no visits advisable till about 21 May. The species is protected by Schedule 1 only on the Isle of Man, and they don't occur there - it's a mad, mad world.

Alan Prowse

BTO Matters

By the time you receive this newsletter the 2016 BTO House Martin survey will have started. Before typing this article I looked on the BTO website and, to date, only 3 sites have registered for Surrey. I know House Martin numbers have done down considerably but I am sure there are more sites than this in the county. If you know of any nest site that you can view please do get involved.

If you are aware of nest sites which you cannot view, why not drop a BTO leaflet through the door so that the occupant can become involved in the survey. I am quite happy to send out more leaflets if needed. Remember I

did put one in the envelope addressed to you which sent out the spring newsletter (if you get the paper version).

BBS Practice Course

I ran this course in March again. Some 9 people came along (2 cancelled last minute) and I got another 4 BBS squares covered as a result of it. One person had already taken on a square but had come along to get some tips. It was a grey, quite chilly morning but, fortunately, dry. As has happened most of other times I have been out this spring, the birds were not singing too much but I got very positive feedback from everyone

after the course was run. Some participants came along to the pub afterwards for a nice meal and a short lesson about BBS online as the pub has wi-fi so I was able to login and demonstrate how to enter data online. I am proposing to run the course again next year. I am happy to run it either further west or further east in the county (or both) if anyone wants to suggest a site. It would be nice to have a site which has a reasonable amount of parking plus a pub nearby which has wi-fi.

Tice's Meadow Bioblitz

This event was organised by the Tices Meadow group and they put on a great show. A small marquee was provided and the club sponsored the portable toilet (much appreciated). Roger Dickey (on the Council of the BTO had come along in order to carry out ringing and there was a bird walk on the Saturday morning. Sunday morning was due to be the results of the moth trapping but, unfortunately, it was just too cold for it. However, in the sunshine, there were a few butterflies flying around plus an early Red Damselfly.

Unfortunately the Whimbrel and Nightingale which had been there earlier in the week had moved on so my year list did not go up on the Saturday. However Sunday morning there were loads of Swifts flying over plus a lone Wheatear so my list went up by 2!

Charlotte Gray and I manned the joint SBC and BTO stand that we put

up. The marquee was large enough that we could have a table with reports, newsletters and BTO leaflets on it plus some abandoned nests. Alongside it we were able to put up the display panels with lots of lovely photos on them including some recent ones showing the status of the Woking Peregrine Project. We kept telling everyone who came to the stand about the Project. In fact, although Charlotte kept checking her phone, no sign of any young on the Saturday and, although Tim Chinn checked his phone on the Sunday, we saw no sign of young although it appeared two had just hatched out by then.

It was well worth having a stand there as new members were recruited and quite a few people took BTO leaflets too so great publicity for both organisations.

SWT Bioblitz

There will be a stand at the Surrey Wildlife Trust Bioblitz which is taking place at Burpham Park Farm over the weekend of Saturday 25th June (moth trapping and bats) and then Sunday 26th June (bird, butterflies, plants etc.). Again it will be a joint stand for both the club and BTO. If you come along to the event do come along and say hello. It would also be nice to have a few helpers so, if you fancy a couple of hours on the stand trying to recruit new members and answering questions about birds, please do let me know.

Penny Williams

From your Membership Secretary

We have had renewal time again and, if you have not paid your subscription yet, enclosed with this newsletter is a renewal notice.

I know a number of people use internet banking now and so, again, I am more than happy if you decide to make your payment directly in to the club's bank account. However, if you do pay your renewal subscription by internet banking please make sure that you quote your membership number (shown on the renewal notice) as the reference.

Do I have your up to date e-mail address? If you received 3 e-mails around the early May bank holiday

weekend telling you about:

- i) the nesting Woking peregrines
- ii) about the Bioblitz at Tices Meadow

iii) about the talk on Urban Peregrines being given in Guildford on 4th May,

then I have your current e-mail address. If you did not hear about the talk then I do not have your current e-mail address in the Surrey Bird Club database so please e-mail me with it.

Remember I have to keep entirely separate the Surrey Bird club database and the information I get in with my BTO hat on.
Penny Williams

Notes

❖ **Welcome to new members:**

Peter & Julie Rozanski, Ashford,
Alan Castree, Leatherhead,
Simon Stacey, Walton-on-Thames,
David Skeels, Croydon,
Kevin Gowers, Sanderstead,
Brian and Debbie Chubb, Weybridge,
James Hampton, Ash Vale,
Micky Roberts, Tongham,
Mike Higton, Chobham,
Philip Jones, Guildford,
Shalini Andrews, Woking,
Carolyn Prior, Woking,
Donald Munro, Woking,
Stephen Willson, Woking,
Andy Smith, Woking,
Matt Sparkes, Dorking,

Lewis Morton, Woking,
Richard Mooney, Woking,
Ava Wooller, Woking, and
Chris Taylor & Helen Cammark,
Woking.

❖ **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.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Surrey Bird Club presents a talk:

"Tweet of The Day, with a Twist of Surrey"

by

Stephen Moss

Preceded by the

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on

Friday 24th June 2016

7.45pm for 8.00pm start

**At the Main Hall, East Horsley Village Hall,
Kingston Avenue, East Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6QT**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2015 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Officer's Reports for the Club's year to 31st March 2016
5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts for the Club's year to 31st March 2016 & ratification of subscription rates
6. Election of Officers and members of the General Committee
7. Ratification of the composition of the Records Committee
8. Any Other Business

AGM Notes:

1. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were published in Birding Surrey No 109 and consequently they will be taken as read. Should you require a copy of the minutes please contact the General Secretary.
2. Nominations for election to the General Committee will be accepted at the meeting but preferably should be sent to the General Secretary before the meeting.

Light refreshments will be served between the meeting and the talk.

Officers Reports for 2015/16

Membership Secretary

We are very gradually increasing the club's membership with 35 new memberships in 2015/16 and only 30 memberships coming to an end. Of those 4 had moved out of the area, and a further four died. Some leaving said they had become too frail or could not afford the subscription and some did not say (I do always ask). I just did not renew by the cut off date of 30th September. I asked last year for members' views on whether we should allow such a long period for renewal. Two newsletters are sent out between 1st April and 30th September and my personal opinion is that, if someone has not renewed within, say, three months, then their membership should lapse automatically. It is not only the cost of postage and the newsletter but time spent issuing renewal notices. I did not get any views when I asked in last year's membership report but, if anyone agrees with me, I would suggest we put the leeway period down to a maximum of 3 months.

As before the majority of new members who contacted me by e-mail had heard of the club through the Twitter account or through the internet. However we recruited a few new members at the AGM (where we were really pleased with the numbers coming along - social media really does help). Also a couple of people put on the joining form where it asks "how did you hear about the club" Penny" which pleased me greatly.

I have also noticed that the age of the membership does seem to be coming down a bit. Quite a few new members are younger than me now but perhaps

that is just because I am getting older! I still do not have the dates of birth of all members (in fact I only have dates of birth for 80 members) but we do have one member who will be 100 in 2018.

The number of members paying by standing order only increased marginally. More members are making payments directly into the bank account, which is certainly easier for me than receiving payments by cheque. It is still the case that around one-quarter of the membership do not pay by standing order which means I have to produce around 100 renewal notices to send out with a newsletter.

In my report last year I talked about receiving income from standing orders where the payee is no longer a member. There are still two payments one of £5.00 and one of £2.00 from people who were obviously members a long time ago. In 2015/16 these payments totalled £157 which compared to the previous year of £139 is a bit higher. It is an additional income for the club but still a nuisance when trying to reconcile payments to members' names as the name is not on that list!

Penny Williams

County Recorder

This has been a steady rather than eventful year, but one development that might be mentioned is the preparation of a Surrey list, which is referred to in the notice of the AGM and accessible through the Club website News Page. The availability of a county list brings us into line with many other counties. The list is in three parts, the main list; species not recorded in Surrey since before

1900; and species recorded only in Spelthorne (part of modern Surrey but outside the recording area). For the rarest species, the number of records and the date of the last record are included.

The aim is to update the list when decisions by the County Records Committee are published in Club newsletters and when decisions by the British Birds Rarity Committee are published in British Birds.

However, please note that the list currently accessible via the notice of the AGM and the website needs to be updated to reflect the recent changes to species in the red and amber lists set out in the recently published Birds of Conservation Concern 4. The work has already been done and the updated Surrey list should be available on the website shortly.

This report provides another opportunity for the Club to thank those local societies and organisations that continue to submit their records as well as the individuals who do so. Thanks are due also to websites like Surrey Birders for making their records available to the Club. We very much hope that they will all continue to support us in this way.

As I mentioned last year, one of our main sources of data is the British Trust for Ornithology. We download the Surrey records from Birdtrack, the Wetland Bird Survey and the Heronry Survey. Last year I noted that the number of Surrey records put into Birdtrack had recently increased to about 10k per month and wondered whether that increase would be maintained - by and large it has been. However, a high proportion of records still merely record presence rather than numbers. Please try to give an estimate of numbers wherever possible, particularly for red and amber

listed species and for species which are of local conservation concern - Woodlark is a prime example. While no longer amber listed, it is a localised species and one which should continue to be monitored.

We are now extending our use of BTO records by including the results of the annual Breeding Bird Survey, starting with the 2014 records, although we may go further back in time as the opportunity arises.

Finally, could I repeat the plea I made last year? With so many sources of data the risk of duplication of records is high. Some duplicate records are easy to identify, but others are less so and are hard to weed out, particularly where, on the face of it, they seem to be different records. That complicates the preparation of reports and extracts, and can introduce error. So where you input the same record to different recording systems, please try to make them consistent by using the same site name, if needs be by adding a name in the comments column, and if possible provide a four or six figure map reference. Thanks.

Eric Soden

Records Database Manager

During the last year both the master database and the County Recorder's copy have been upgraded to the latest version of Recorder 6. Back-up copies of the database files are now stored in a Dropbox folder to which the County Recorder has full access to update his copy whenever required.

2012 records were supplied to the Surrey Bird Report Editor and 2013 records have been completed and just await the outcomes from an upcoming Records Committee Meeting. Full listings

of 2013 and 2014 Records Committee birds have been produced for that meeting.

A total of 136,712 records have been added to the database during the year, increasing the total by 40%. This reflects the hard work by the County Recorder in bringing current records up to date, whilst the load into the database of all historic records for 2006 has been completed and good progress made on 2005.

Current Database (comparative figures from 2015 AGM Report):

2016	6,563	(0)
2015	48,230	(77)
2014	55,943	(33,858)
2013	44,368	(35,596)
2012	44,591	(43,263)
2011	48,867	(48,614)
2010	37,114	(37,038)
2009	39,562	(39,563)
2008	49,410	(49,423)
2007	32,074	(32,071)
2006	58,370	(19,864)
2005	11,138	(151)
2004	1	(1)
2003	123	(123)
Total	476,354	(339,642)

Steve Chastell

Field Meetings Officer

I took over organising the field trips from Kevin last June, even though he continued to lead the ones he had organised through til September. We had a couple of 'old favourites' in the winter, with Papercourt and Staines Reservoir, followed by a break from tradition with a visit to Farlington Marshes in February and then Holmethorpe sandpits led by Gordon Hay and Ian Kehl. This marked the start of my plan to get our members to show to their local patches and

introduce us to the birds there, the reasoning being that they will know the area really well and will know where to find which birds, and so far is being well received by members. So if you have a patch you want to share with us, please get in touch with me.

Charlotte Gray

Publicity and Social Media Officer

A good year for Social Media with both the Bird Club Twitter and Facebook pages continuing to grow in popularity - the followers of each standing, at the time of writing, at 1,356 and 223 respectively. The numbers of followers on Facebook represents an exact doubling of the number from May 2015. The Facebook follower number is substantially lower as the people on Facebook tend to be localised and interested more specifically in the Club whereas on Twitter people will follow large numbers of bird news type accounts to maximise the amount of bird news in their feeds. The aim therefore is to get as many of the Twitter followers to join the Club as possible!

To this end we have been posting regular membership reminders - especially relating to the Birds of Surrey offer where new members can receive a free copy of this book if they join by standing order - as well as reminders of walks and events such as Nick Dixon's Peregrine talk in Guildford recently. It has been encouraging to hear from Penny that at least a handful of recent new members have said that they've been made aware of the Club through Twitter.

We now regularly have Surrey birders sharing photos and sightings from around the county, either direct to our Facebook page or by tagging in the @SurreyBirdNews Twitter handle. Use of the hashtags (searchable links that can

be added to tweets to catalogue them with others of a similar theme) #rbnSRY, #rbnLND and #londonbirds have also ensured our tweets are seen by a wider audience than just our immediate followers. The latter two relate to sightings that are both within the Surrey VC and London recording areas which has meant some useful co-operation with the London Bird Club Twitter page, again increasing the potential awareness for the Surrey Bird Club and the work that we do.

Particularly popular recently have been the posts relating to the Woking Peregrine Project which has received much interest and hopefully helped drive traffic to the live nestcam on the website. This was proven by the amount of people who visited the Bird Club stand in Woking in May and told us they were already aware of the project.

Offline publicity has been slow and I have struggled to get local magazines and radio interested in the Club and its

events. With this in mind, I think it best if I concentrate my efforts on the online side of things for the next twelve months and let someone else have a go at the Publicity Officer role!

Matt Phelps

Ringling in Surrey 2015

In 2015 20,451 birds of 97 species ringed, made up of 18,521 full grown birds and 1930 nestlings.

A Shoveller was a new species added to the ringling list this year

Notable recoveries included a Lesser Whitethroat ringed at Queen Mary Reservoir and re-caught by another ringling in Israel!

The top three species ringed were, Blue Tit 2842, Blackcap 1842 & Chiffchaff 1829.

A new longevity record was set for Goldfinch 7yr 10 mth. 23 days

Richard Denyer

SBC Draft Accounts 2015/16

Please find below the draft Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 which will be presented to the AGM for formal approval.

The year ended with expenditure exceeding income by £4,756 due to increased costs for the production of the Bird Reports, a Donation and general cost increases.

Income increased by 5% (£356) over the previous year after adjusting for the Legacy received in 2014/15. Expenditure from the General Fund increased by 14% (£1,109), principally due to the increased

cost of producing the Bird Reports and from the Designated Fund by £1,750 due to the Donation made to the Woking Peregrine Project.

Cash Balances have decreased over the year by £1,730 and the Trustees also invested £20,000 cash in a Skipton Building Society Two Year Fixed Bond to maximise the interest potential and security of the cash funds. Gift Aid due from HMRC is claimed after the end of the Financial Year and we are awaiting receipt of the 2014/15 amount as the Accounts are produced.

Current Liabilities have increased due to an increase in the accrual for the costs for the production of the Bird Reports against what was provided in the prior year and the Sundry Creditors item includes the provision for the payment of the Donation to the Woking Peregrine Fund. The decision by the Executive Committee to make this payment was approved before the end of the end of

the Financial Year so it is correctly recorded but payment was not made until the first week of April.

The Club's Reserves as at the end of the 2015/16 Financial Year total £22,133 comprising of General Fund £18,197 and Designated Fund: Enthusing Young People £3,936.

S.R. Cupit, Treasurer

Surrey Bird Club				
Registered charity no. 248285				
Balance sheet at 31 March 2016				
	2016	2016	2015	2015
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investments	<u>102</u>		<u>102</u>	
		102		102
Current assets				
Cash at bank:				
Skipton Building Society - 2 year Fixed Bond	20,000			
Skipton Building Society	10,107		20,076	
Nat West	1,668		13,429	
HMRC:				
Tax on interest income	512		504	
Deeds of Covenant/Gift Aid declarations	<u>1,704</u>		<u>858</u>	
		33,991		34,867
Current liabilities				
2014 Bird Report	3,160		2,450	
2013 Bird Report	3,000		2,450	
2012 Bird Report	3,000		2,450	
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	2,330		548	
Subscriptions for 2016/17 rec'd in advance	<u>470</u>		<u>182</u>	
		11,960		8,080
Net assets		<u>22,133</u>		<u>26,889</u>
Surrey Bird Club funds:				
General Fund		18,197		20,921
Designated Fund: Enthusing Young People		<u>3,936</u>		<u>5,968</u>
		<u>22,133</u>		<u>26,889</u>

Surrey Bird Club

Registered charity no. 248285

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 March 2016

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Total	Total
	2016	2016	2016	2015
	£	£	£	£
Income and expenditure				
Income:				
Membership subscriptions	4,575		4,575	4,563
Income tax on subscriptions:				
Provisional Gift Aid declarations re 2014/15			—	858
Provisional Gift Aid declarations re 2015/16	846		846	
Adjustment to prior year refunds to be claimed	0		0	-626
Sales of Bird Reports	100		100	72
Donations	459		459	43
Legacies	—		—	9,589
Survey fees	—		—	175
Net income from sales of books & artwork	338		338	888
Interest receivable	38		38	27
Total income	6,356	—	6,356	15,589
Expenditure:				
2014 Bird Report production costs	3,160		3,160	2,450
Adjustments re costs of previous years Bird Reports	1,657		1,657	1,241
Donation re Woking Peregrine Project		1,750	1,750	—
Newsletters	2,210		2,210	2,130
Postage & stationery	1,522		1,522	1,317
Insurance	113		113	113
Meetings	304		304	50
Subscriptions	54		54	54
Information Commission	35		35	35
Conservation and Research Projects	—	282	282	396
Marketing, Gifts and Donations	25		25	467
Total Expenditure	9,080	2032	11,112	8,253
Net surplus of income for the year	-2,724	-2,032	-4,756	7,336
Fund balances brought forward	20,921	5,968	26,889	19,553
Fund balances carried forward	18,197	3,936	22,133	26,889

Woking Peregrines - Help still needed

Those of you for whom I have an e-mail address will already have received (via e-mail) an appeal for helpers with this Project.

For those of you not on e-mail, what the e-mail was saying was that, as supporters of the project, we were keen to have a presence in Woking every Saturday from 7th May through to 11th June in order to engage the public's interest in these peregrines and ultimately birds in general.

In order to do this, we have been calling on our members to help man the stand from 10am to 4pm each Saturday, divided into two shifts of 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm.

At the time of writing this article the two surviving chicks are just over a week old having hatched on Sunday 1st May. As the young are supposed to fledge after 42 days this means that we expect them to fledge on Sunday 12th June. We have already had one stand in Jubilee Square (on Saturday 7th May) and it was very successful. We engaged with well over 60 members of the public including quite a lot of children and managed to recruit a few new members too. It was extremely enjoyable but we do need more help. On the morning of 7th May when I was covering the stand with Rich Mooney (whose input was fantastic) and it was a struggle with just the two of us speaking to everyone and showing them what was happening so, if we can get more than two people on each shift, it would be

wonderful. All you need to bring along is your binoculars (and a scope if you have one). Barlow Robbins (Solicitors in Woking) have kindly provided us with parking within a stone's throw of where we put the stand.

The stand consists of a table which has a laptop/tablet with live pictures of the nest, telescopes, a display of recent newsletters and bird reports plus the membership offers we are running. We have also printed off flyers for the club which have a picture of one of the Woking peregrines on it.

So far as the shifts are concerned, one member of the afternoon shift will need to return the stand to my house (only a couple of miles away in Chobham) so that I have everything ready to take to set up the following Saturday. Some technical savvy will be necessary from one member of each shift to keep hooked up to the webcam so that the chicks can be shown to the public. This is because every now and then the link seems to be lost but it just takes a couple of seconds to get hooked back on.

Charlotte Gray is organising the rota of helpers so, if you would like to volunteer for this, for any Saturday up to 11th June, please contact her on 07971 000568 or 01483 890380 or please e-mail her at charlotte.gray88@gmail.com.

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 Charlotte Gray at charlotte.gray88@gmail.com

Saturday 18th June , Crooksbury Common for Nightjars. Meet at 8pm. Situated just north-west of Elstead. Go north along the Seale Road from the B3001 Farnham Road. Along the Seale Road take the track on the left just before the horse paddock at SU895452. Leader Richard Horton(07930 929496)

Saturday 13th August , Ringing demonstration at Queen Mary Reservoir by the Hersham Ringing Group. Meet at 9am at Ashford Road (B377) gate, Laleham (TQ055695). Morning only. Leader: Steve Chastell

Sunday 25th September, Holmethorpe Sandpits
Meet at 9am at the Aquasports shop/cafe, Mercers Country Park, Merstham, Redhill, RH1 4EU. Leaders Ian Kehl and Gordon Hay. The cafe is a couple of minutes walk beyond the first car park.

Saturday 22nd October, Leith Hill Migration Watch
Meet at 6.30am at Starveall Corner carpark, Abinger Road (RH5 6LU) for the 20 minute walk up to the tower. There is limited space up on the tower so no telescopes please. Refreshments available at the tower from 10am. Leader Matt Phelps (07809 870034)

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.

Beddington Field Trip. We are able to arrange access to this site for a field trip in September or October. Are there any members out there who know the site well and would be willing to lead such a trip ? If so please contact Charlotte.

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.

The copy date for the next issue of Birding Surrey is 31 July 2016

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Fig 4. Little Owl, Cobham, 30 Mar 2016

(David Carlsson)



Fig 5. Black-tailed Godwit, Lambeth Res., 24 Apr 2016 (Dave Harris)



Fig 6. Ring Ouzel, WWT Barnes

(David Carlsson)



Fig 7. Redstart, Thursley Common, 11 Apr 2016

(David Carlsson)