



## Welcome to the Spring Newsletter...

A very happy new year to everyone. Here's to another year of great birdwatching opportunities. We have an outstanding events programme with socials, walks and talks. We have focused particularly on Nidderdale this year. Hen harrier persecution is one theme we are carrying forward. Please read the letter to our MP for Skipton and Ripon in the newsletter. If you would like to write your individual letter that would be a positive thing to do. Also, a positive help to birds is getting out and about and keeping records of the birds you see. Pete Seaman is our Club Recorder and any sightings within the AONB area please send to him. You can record from time to time what you see in your garden, occasional exceptional sightings or keep a regular record perhaps once a week, of your own patch as I do. I am starting my fourth year now of the Silver Hill area and really enjoy getting a feel for my patch and its birds year round. If you have any questions ask me or Pete. Here's to Spring!

**Ros Wade**

Contents	Page
Chairman's Welcome	1
Chirps	1
Spring events	2/3
Your events pin-up	4
Reports on Club events	5/6
Club News	6
Conservation Report	6
Members' Trip	7
Book Review	7
Letter to MP	8
Pete's Corner	9

## Chirps

*Failed to find the Glasshouses Waxwings on 12th December, but there were 18 there the next day proving very cooperative. Despite the cold and the need for Audrey to thaw me out with coffee and flapjack when my fingers no longer worked, got some good photos. What fantastic looking birds!*

**Tony Knowles**

*Earlier this year our ringing group received news of a Waxwing which we'd ringed in Feb 2011, being re-caught by a ringer in central Sweden.*

**Jill Warwick**



*Group of 8 Waxwings on Green Lane, Harrogate mid-morning. Livened up a double maths lesson somewhat.*

**Alex Penn**

*11th November, a beautiful late autumn morning with magnificent colours in the Dale. At the top of Silver Hill there were 6 buzzards and one red kite all in the air at the same time, and in a field off Wath Lane, 50+ lapwing, 50+ golden plover and 35 starlings.*

**Tony Knowles**

*Just counted 10 redpoll on or near the nyger feeder in the garden. One male has a beautiful blushing chest. 27th December.*

**Ros Wade**



*Is this mature male sparrow hawk indulging in a late season paddle?.....*

*Now I'm teaching the pheasants to skate!*

**Angus Gosman**



*No, he's drowning his rather large prey (Greater Spotted Woodpecker) in order to eat it more easily!!!!!!*

*Regrettably recorded 8th November at 9am ish.*

**Sue Harrison**





## SPRING EVENTS PROGRAMME

The description of each outdoor event gives the name and contact details of the Event Organiser. **Please let the Organiser know if you intend to go on a trip.** This does not mean that you cannot attend at the last minute but trips may be cancelled if there appears to be insufficient interest, so we need to know in advance who wants to go.

Some events demand a reasonable level of fitness depending on distances and terrain to be covered so if in doubt contact the organiser. Under 16s should be accompanied by an adult on all outdoor events. Non members are welcome at events.

*We would also advise that you check the website or ring the Organiser just before the event to ensure that it is still happening and the arrangements haven't changed.*

***The rendezvous point for car sharing is the car park in Pateley Bridge opposite Towler's newsagent at the bottom of the High Street unless otherwise notified.***

### Friday 8th February Swinsty Reservoir

Halfday trip with mainly easy walking through the plantation looking for wintering Thrushes such as Fieldfare and Redwing as well as resident Lesser Redpoll and Tits. There should be a chance to scan the reservoir for gulls and waterfowl and there is always a chance of raptors in this valley.

Considering the time of year and the fact that it can be muddy underfoot, please come suitably attired. Meet at Pateley Bridge 8.30am or at Swinsty Reservoir Fishermans car park at 9.00am grid ref. SE 186538.

### Monday 18th February Illustrated Talk on HACKFALL

Hackfall is a Grade One Registered Aislable Landscape Garden, an SSSI and semi natural ancient woodland, now owned and managed by the Woodland Trust and Hackfall Trust.

In 2007 a major restoration project funded by a £1 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund was implemented. This will include the restoration of Hackfall's key follies, paths and water features as well as an extensive range of interpretation materials, education activities, events and volunteer days.

**Paul Mosley**, the Hackfall Officer, will give an illustrated talk.

**Please note: this meeting will be back at the Royal Oak at 7.30pm**



### Saturday 23rd February Old Moor



This RSPB Reserve deservedly keeps winning awards and compliments and always offers the prospect of an excellent day out as well as some very good bird watching. In the Dearne Valley on a former colliery site, there are a variety of habitats. Lots of water birds and a good range of woodland birds including tree sparrows. A reasonably easy reserve to negotiate with good level paths and only one short steep path. 5 hides on the reserve and one overlooking the bird-feeding area. There are 2 viewing platforms in the pond and picnic area. A café and shop are also on site. RSPB members free, adults £4.00, Children £2.00, concessions £2.50. A full day trip.

Car-sharers meet at Pateley Bridge at 8.30am or at the reserve at 10am. From the M1: Leave at junction 36 and take the A61 (Barnsley). At the small roundabout, continue straight ahead on the A6195 (Doncaster) for approximately four miles. After passing Morrison's, follow the brown RSPB Old Moor signs. From the A1: Leave at junction 37 (Doncaster), follow the A635 towards Barnsley, then follow the brown RSPB Old Moor signs.

### Friday 8th March Lofthouse—Scar Road



Using cars and easy walking, we will follow the River Nidd and the valley bottom looking for early spring arrivals as well as any resident birds and any remaining wintering birds. There will also be a chance of raptors along the Dale edge. A half day trip.

Meet at Pateley Bridge at 8.30am or Lofthouse at 9am

## Monday 18th March What's In A Pellet?

*Did you know that a Barn Owl swallowing a rat is equivalent to a human consuming a 15lb hamburger in one big gulp!?*

An evening organised by **Adrian Roberts** to learn about, look at and examine Owl pellets, the sausage shaped objects containing the undigested parts of the birds' food which is regurgitated through the mouth. What can pellets tell us about the bird? By a bit of prudent detective work they can tell us among other things, what it eats, when it hunts, where it hunts and how much it eats.

The meeting is at **The Royal Oak, Dacre Banks at 7.30pm** **Adrian hopes to have real owls present!**



## Saturday 23rd March Foxglove Covert—Catterick Garrison



This reserve is a real mixture of habitats - with feeding stations, woodland, stretches of water and moorland -edge areas. This is a full day trip - bring a packed lunch.

Meet at Pateley Bridge at 8.30am or 10am at the Reserve. Take the A3136 from the A1 at Catterick, following signs for Catterick Garrison. Keep straight ahead in the town on the Leyburn road. Turn right at Alma Road; the Reserve is signed from Cambrai Lines.

See [www.foxglovecovert.org.uk](http://www.foxglovecovert.org.uk) for further details.

**Please note all drivers need ID (e.g. driving licence) as this is an MOD site.**

## Friday 12th April Shaw Farm—Stang Forest near Reith

A full day's outing to Arkengarthdale looking for Black Grouse and moorland birds near Shaw Farm then on to Stang Forest on the North Yorkshire/County Durham border hoping for Crossbills and raptors. There may be a walk in the forest so come prepared for some walking. Packed lunch required. Meet Pateley Bridge 8.30 am then Reeth village green (grid ref. SE 036994) 10.00 am before travelling up the dale to Shaw Farm.



## Monday 15th April AGM and Social

Come along and have your say at the Annual General Meeting. **On Monday 15th April at 7.30pm**

## Saturday 20th April RSPB Leighton Moss



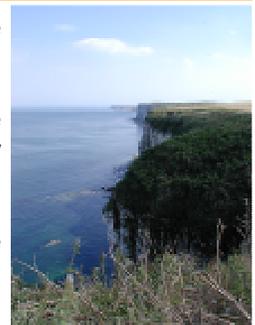
The largest reedbed in north-west England, and home to some really special birds such as breeding bitterns, bearded tits and marsh harriers. There are a selection of trails and hides, which get right to the heart of the reedbed. There is also a nature trail alongside two coastal lagoons to see lots of wading and water birds. A full day's trip looking for Bittern, Bearded Tits and lots more. Meet at Pateley at 8.30am or at the visitor's centre at 10.15 am.

## Friday 10th May RSPB Bempton Cliffs



Easily the best place in England to see, hear and smell seabirds! More than 200,000 birds (from April to August) make the cliffs seem alive – with adults bringing food to their nests, or young chicks making their first faltering flights. With huge numbers to watch, beginners can easily learn the difference between gannets, guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and fulmars. The easily recognisable puffins (here between April and July) are always a delight. Specially-created cliff top viewpoints are wheelchair accessible with care.

A full day's trip. Meet at Pateley Bridge CP at 8.30pm or at the reserve reception at 10.30am.



## Monday 20th May Ramsgill/Bouthwaite

An evening walk up on the moors to enjoy the spring birds. Meet opposite the Yorke Arms at 6.15pm (car sharers from Pateley meet at the bottom carpark at 6pm).

## Saturday 25th May Scar House Reservoir

A half day walk to look for Ring Ouzel and other Summer visitors, some walking in this exposed area so please dress accordingly. We may explore the valley bottom fields along Scar Road on the return. Meet Pateley Bridge 8.30 am, Scar House Car Park 9.00 am.



## PINUP OF EVENTS for the first half of 2013



Month	Date	Venue and Type of Event
February	Friday 8th	Swinsty Reservoir <i>Half day trip</i>
	Monday 18th	Illustrated Talk on HACKFALL <i>Please note: this is back at The Royal Oak, Dacre Banks at 7.30pm</i>
	Saturday 23rd	Old Moor <i>Full day trip</i>
March	Friday 8th	Lofthouse – Scar Road <i>Half day trip</i>
	Monday 18th	What's In A Pellet? <i>Evening event at The Royal Oak</i>
	Saturday 23rd	Foxglove Covert—Catterick Garrison <i>Full day trip</i>
April	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Shaw Farm – Stang Forest nr Leith <i>Full day trip</i>
	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting & Social <i>Evening event at The Royal Oak</i>
	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	RSPB Leighton Moss <i>Full day trip</i>
May	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	RSPB Bempton Cliffs <i>Full day trip</i>
	Monday 20th	Ramsgill/Bouthwaite <i>Evening walk</i>
	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Scar House Reservoir <i>Half day trip</i>
June	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Farnham <i>Half day guided visit to Harrogate and District Naturalists' reserve</i>
	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Brimham Rocks <i>Evening Walk round the NT Woods</i>
	Sat/Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup>	Farne Islands <i>Weekend Trip</i>

## CLUB EVENTS

### Reports by members on past outings

#### Friday 9th November North Cave Wetlands Nature Reserve

Four members turned up for the event, one bringing a friend and one bringing her husband to make the total up to six. The day, although mostly dull and quite windy, gave us some good sightings. At the first hide we got excellent views of a Jack snipe as well as Snipe, Lapwing and Redshank. Both at this hide and at others we saw in all nine species of duck, missing only Pintail of the likely sightings. Large numbers of Greylag, only one Canada, two Mute swan and one Whooper, Little and Great crested grebe and of course Moorhen and Coot were all included in the water birds. Two kestrels, the only raptors seen, were hunting for food fairly close to one of the hides.

By two thirty only two of us were left and we decided to walk round the further parts of the reserve adding Green woodpecker and Waxwing to the total and in one tree we were lucky enough to see Redwing, Fieldfare and five Waxwing all feeding on the hawthorn berries.

We weren't surprised to see a crow feasting on a dead unidentified bird but seeing a moorhen also feeding on the carcass was less usual. The sight of mallards courting and mating seems a little untimely, but that's mallards for you. Forty nine species in all and a very enjoyable day. The development of this YWT reserve is continuing and I think will be one of its flagships in years to come. **Tony Knowles**



#### Monday 19th November Managing a Quarry for Wildlife—A Talk by Bob Orange

An evening talk at The Royal Oak by Bob, who is Unit Manager of the Hanson's Quarry on Greenhow. Bob talked about the project of Greater Crested Newts and also of the development of Hanson's site near Ripon. This was a very interesting talk by Bob who has always taken a great deal of interest in local wildlife.

#### Sunday 25th November Eccup Reservoir



An exclusive group of three made it to Eccup on Sunday 25th November. Heavy overnight rain cleared miraculously as we arrived but the blustery wind remained. Our first sighting was a female bullfinch as we took the footpath leading from Alwoodley road to the reservoir. Despite mud and standing water we managed an invigorating walk right round and picked up a total of 33 species including a large flock of goosander numbering about 100 and up to 5 red kites in the air at a time. We also saw some large flocks of redwing and heard them calling as they flew overhead.

Eccup makes for a rewarding visit and there were a number of cheery locals as mad as us to chat to on the way round.

**Ros Wade**

#### Friday 14th December Gouthwaite and How Stean

Due to appalling conditions this event was cancelled—we're hard, but not that hard!

#### Monday 17th December Christmas Social at The Royal Oak

I rate it the best we have had. There were about 25 of us and the evening just flowed so well. Sue excelled herself with her quiz. There were 4 parts to it. The first was the first letter of a word that was linked to a bird theme e.g. BITHWTITB (see bottom of this article for answer !!! ) The second part was a reference to something that could be a bird e.g. Push door bell hard (picture of door bell ) answer Buzzard ! Third was a wild life clue and the last film extracts that had a Christmas theme AND you had to guess the year of the film !!! (bit of leeway given ). Thanks Sue for the time you obviously put in. The winning team was power led by Alwin and Alan Harrison. The refreshments were excellent seasonal sandwiches and really hot good chips.

(answer: Bird In The Hand Is Worth Two In The Bush-obvious when you see it ! )

**Angus Gosman**

## Friday 11th January Nosterfield



High rainfall meant all four lakes at Nosterfield were joined up and the islands had disappeared. 12 met at this popular site on Friday 11th January and we were welcomed by Jill Warwick. The weather remained pleasant. We were treated to swirling flocks of lapwing and golden plover undercut by a pursuing peregrine. Then we had news of a female red breasted merganser on one of the pools and got good views when it took to the water.

A very pleasant, social outing at an outstanding reserve.

**Ros Wade**

## Saturday 26th January Rodley Nature Reserve

It was just me and Neera, so we were invited to join a group of small children looking for Pied and Grey Wagtails and Pipits in the muck heap. These Canada Geese and Wigeon, like sensible club members, should have stayed at home. Then across the snowy trackless wastes to the frozen reed bed where we found these stoical herons. Above the scarce open water bad tempered gulls squawked and dived above assorted ducks happily pairing off for the spring. The friendly visitors' centre has a global map of migration routes painted on the ceiling. Well worth another visit in a warmer season, especially for the warblers and immaculate dragonfly enclosure

**Lesley Knight**



## CLUB NEWS

### SHEILA NASH

We always knew Sheila Nash was outstanding but now we have the proof! Sheila received the accolade of outstanding at the recent Observation, Teaching and Learning assessment of her WEA classes in Birdwatching. It is the highest grade awarded to adult learning tutors and not many tutors get it. Sheila, characteristically, says 'we got the outstanding grade' meaning all those who take such an active part in the classes. Well done Sheila and to all those who benefit from Sheila's knowledge and enthusiasm.

### Programme of Events for 2013

You should have received your programme for 2013. Thanks to Ann Crouch, Chris Seaman, Linda Pridmore and Sheila Nash for all their hard work in organising this, and to Alwin for producing the brochure. We have a really exciting calendar of events, so do come along.

### BIRD QUIZ at PATELEY SHOW

The winner of a £15 Smith's Token for the Bird Quiz at the Pateley Show was M. Waterson of Kettlesing. Fourteen people gave all correct answers which were placed in a bag and drawn by Ann Crouch's neighbour.

**LIBRARY WINDOW in PATELEY BRIDGE** Nidderdale Birdwatcher will have a display from 22nd April to 6th May. Come along and have a look.

## CONSERVATION REPORT from Tony Knowles

Conservation work has mainly been the cleaning out of nest boxes, and repairing and replacing squirrel damaged boxes in Old Spring Wood. The wood has now been mapped and the boxes identified by GPS readings to allow us to find the boxes more easily. Coppicing in Bryan's Wood is done on a two yearly cycle so this year we won't be working in the snow as we did last year, but the fencing round the coppicing area has been strengthened and new stock proof fencing erected in the northeast section of the boundary. Work was carried out by the Nidderdale Conservation Volunteers which includes some club members.

There is a bit of movement on the sand martin wall project and we're hoping to get formal design plans drawn up in the near future. We are still hoping to get the wall built in the autumn of 2013.

In a joint project by members of Nidderdale Birdwatchers and Nidderdale Conservation Volunteers the older pupils of Kettlesing Felliscliffe Community Primary School were introduced to the art of making nest boxes. A

Power Point presentation prepared by Linda Pridmore and Ros Evans kicked off the morning event designed to involve children in the decision making process of why boxes are needed, what makes a good box and which birds might use them. Four groups of pupils then made two boxes each showing a very skilled use of both hand and power tools.

After this the children worked outside with the aid of compasses and garden plans to decide where boxes should be sited. By this time the morning was almost over so Ros took the children back indoors for instructions on recording box usage whilst Jan, who had cut all the wood for the boxes in advance, Angus and Tony attached the boxes to trees. Everyone involved – pupils, teachers and volunteers, enjoyed the work. We intend to go back to talk to the younger children about birds and involve them in making bird feeders.



## BERWICK BIRDING ON A BUDGET

Members of Nidderdale Birdwatchers are already well aware of the wonders of birding in Northumberland. An excellent way to experience this is on one of Sheila's trips; however, if you are not able to manage one of these, a budget alternative is to stay in Berwick at the wonderful Youth Hostel.

The hostel is housed in a restored 240 year old former granary. There is a café/bistro on the ground floor, art gallery on the first floor, two floors of accommodation, and self-catering kitchen, dining room and lounge on the top floor. The hostel is on the Elizabethan walls and right by the Tweed. You could bird watch from inside the hostel!

We stayed in November at a cost of £25 per night for a twin en suite room. Breakfast was an additional £4.95 but we chose to self-cater after able to eat out in the evening if we self-catering kitchen and supermarkets  
It is a short drive (or bus ride)



the first morning. Even in November we were chose to. For eating in there is a well-equipped close by.

from Berwick to Lindisfarne and there is also good birding available walking from the hostel along the Tweed, in the harbour, or up the

coast. Our highlight was spending a whole afternoon watching short eared owls on Lindisfarne and also seeing the roosting Redshank on Berwick Old Bridge.

We enjoyed it so much that we have booked to go again in June and will also be staying at Kielder Youth Hostel to see the Ospreys and for a possible visit to a falconry centre with an interesting collection of owls.

YHA Berwick, Dewars Lane Granary, Dewars Lane, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, TD15 1HJ Tel: 0845 371 9676 <http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/berwick>

Hilary Cunningham-Atkins, Lesley Knight



## BOOK REVIEW from ANGUS GOSMAN BIRDS IN A CAGE by Derek Niemann

Soon after his arrival at Warburg POW camp in 1941, British army officer John Buxton found an unexpected means of escape from the horrors of internment. Passing his days watching birds, he was unaware that he, too, was being watched. Peter Conder, also a passionate ornithologist, had noticed Buxton gazing skywards. He approached him and before long they came across two other like-minded prisoners. They decided to establish a bird watching society.

In this highly unusual and uplifting book, Derek Niemann draws on original diaries, letters and drawings, to show how Buxton, Conder, John Barrett and George Waterston were forged by their wartime experience into giants of postwar wildlife conservation.

### Reviews:

Tim Dee, BBC Wildlife Magazine : "Immensely moving...a beautiful and gripping story "

Simon Barnes " A wonderfully crafted hymn to the life-giving qualities of birds "

Amazon reviews- all 5 \*

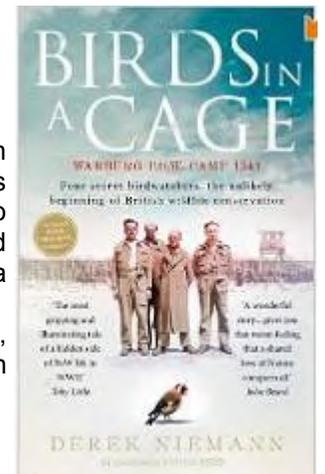
Amazon price Hardback £6 Kindle £5.70

Just in case someone would like a really good thriller I can recommend John Grisham " The Partner ".

### Good reading

#### From the Editor

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter. Please forgive me if I have left out your contribution (it was not intentional, and do keep sending things in). Virtually all the pictures were taken by us. It is difficult to attribute every picture, but many thanks to all, including Tony Knowles, Alex Penn, Angus Gosman, Hilary Cunningham Atkins, Lesley Knight, (and me).



# RAPTOR PERSECUTION IN THE DALE

## Text of Letter to MP

Nidderdale  
Birdwatchers 

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Julian Smith MP  
Skipton and Ripon  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

16 January 2013

Dear Mr Smith

**RE: Hen Harrier persecution**

It is against the law to persecute birds of prey, yet in your constituency recently a female Hen Harrier was found shot dead on a grouse moor. Sadly, Nidderdale is notorious as a hotspot for persecution of all birds of prey, especially Hen Harriers.

We recognise that Nidderdale has some of the best grouse moors in England and they are vital to the rural economy. This however does not allow some individuals to break the law. The legal removal of predators is normal practice on grouse moors. The continuing persecution and killing of birds of prey is illegal.

We ask for your continued support for the work of the Wildlife Crime Coordinator. This department needs more resources to be able to police the area effectively.

Compensation Scheme Option?

Compensation schemes have been used on Mull to help the reintroduction of White Tailed Eagles. A compensation or stewardship scheme should be considered for grouse moors to help the struggling and virtually extinct Hen Harrier. Of course, there are always tensions and difficulties with any scheme. Goodwill and leadership from all parties would be required along with real penalties for continued law breaking. These could include tougher laws on vicarious liability and withdrawal of shooting rights.

Who are Nidderdale Birdwatchers?

- Members of Nidderdale Birdwatchers have been and continue to be, active in supporting farmers and landowners throughout the AONB. For example, we, along with other local volunteers, support the Higher Stewardship applications by counting breeding waders.
- Last year, Nidderdale Birdwatchers won an award for conservation work in a private wood.
- Members make nest boxes and give talks to local schools.
- We are a fully independent organisation. Our aim is to promote interest in and knowledge of birds and to work for their welfare, particularly in Nidderdale.

I enclose a leaflet which describes Nidderdale Birdwatchers in more detail.

Next Steps

Action must be taken to help save the Hen Harrier as a breeding bird in this area and in the rest of England. We urge penalties with real bite and incentives for responsible grouse moor owners. Committee members would be very happy to discuss options which may help our local raptors and answer any questions you may have. Please let us know when would be convenient to meet with you.

Yours sincerely

Ros Wade  
Chairman  
Nidderdale Birdwatchers

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## Pete's Corner

### News of our local area from our bird recorder

Now that the dark days before Christmas are behind us and the daylight hours are lengthening we may be looking forward to getting the first glimpses of our summer breeders and birds passing through the area en route to their breeding grounds in the North. We may not know the results of last years breeding yet but the wet times may have affected many breeders especially the ground nesters. Let us hope it is not as gloomy as many have predicted. Many breeding birds have enough problems without the poor weather.

The last weeks of 2012 gave very few good days for local birding and our December trip to Gouthwaite reservoir had to be cancelled as many of us could not get across the black ice to our cars. This was a pity because on a "reccy" trip a few days before had provided us with good views of lots of wintering wildfowl including some beautiful male Goldeneye. Unusually the day only gave one raptor, a Common Buzzard struggling in the wind above Scar road.

Our local birds of prey even hit the national news headlines with the tragic death of "Bowland Betty". She was a Hen Harrier who had been fitted with a radio tagged in the Forest of Bowland and after wandering North into Scotland ended up in our area. Unfortunately her body was found with shotgun pellets on the moors between the upper part of Nidderdale and the wilder moors of Colsterdale. In such a remote area it is doubtful if she would have been found without the radio tag. The police and RSPB may never get enough proof for a prosecution even with the £1000 reward on offer but we can but hope, I feel sure they will be doing their best. As a group we can maybe help put pressure on the government to strengthen the laws on crimes against our raptor population, Hen Harriers may be extinct as a breeding bird in England in a very few years, not a thing to be proud of when it is happening on our patch. Our presence out there on the moors watching and counting birds can help convince people that we do care about what happens to "our" birds.

On a happier note the pre Christmas influx of Waxwings reached as far as the Dale with a flock of about 13 birds seen around the village of Glasshouses. There has been a large influx of these fantastic Scandinavian visitors and unusually they have spread right into the South West of the country instead of keeping mainly to the North and Midlands, maybe because there is a shortage of berry crops here as well. Although these birds visit these shores most winters in varying numbers, it is the first time they have been reported in our recording area in the short time the club has kept records although there has been plenty in surrounding area mainly on housing estates and supermarket car parks. Chris and myself were lucky enough to spot one in the car park at Nosterfield Nature Reserve while taking our grandson for a walk to see the ducks. Our other regular winter visitors, the Winter Thrushes, have been spread out well throughout our region and on a recent trip up the Dale there were at least 50 Fieldfare feeding in a field between Ramsgill and Lofthouse. It was on this same outing that we found a flock of about 20 Siskins feeding in the plantation below the dam at Scar House reservoir, a spot always worth looking at for finches. An early January visit to Gouthwaite brought good views of a Long Tailed Duck from the main view point as well as several Goldeneyes with the males going through their head shaking display routine.

So in the next few months we will be hoping to see our moorland breeders such as Ring Ouzel, Northern Wheatear, Meadow Pipit and hopefully some raptors such the little Merlin. The Swallows, Swifts and Martins should soon be showing up in the lower areas so there is plenty to look forward to in the coming months. **Pete Seaman**



#### The Committee for 2012/2013 are

Ros Wade – Chairman  
Sue Hickson – Secretary  
Ann Crouch – Treasurer  
Lynda Fussell    Angus Gosman  
Sheila Nash – Adrian Roberts

**Nidderdale Birdwatchers** is a voluntary organisation which exists to promote interest in and understanding and knowledge of birds, their environment and conservation, and in particular to promote the study and welfare of the birds within Nidderdale. Membership is open to all interested individuals; for details contact the Membership Secretary, **Angus Gosman** on **01423 755276** or visit our website **www.niddbirds.org.uk**