



From the Chairman

Bon Voyage Cuckoos! Thanks for the memories. I was lucky enough to get good views of a male and a female right on my 'patch', Silver Hill. I heard a strange call, which Sue Harrison also heard, as the male Cuckoo pursued the female. Sue described it as something between a Raven and a Duck! Thanks for your memories too. A great response to Pete Seaman's request for your Cuckoo records. More information on that and the birds of Nidderdale in Pete's Corner later in the newsletter. The Cuckoos may be gone but plenty else is coming in, going out and passing through our corner of the world. Migration is a complex and almost constant phenomenon. We reflect that in trips out to three superb RSPB venues this autumn: Saltholme, Fairburn Ings and Blacktoft Sands. These are great places to begin to get to grips with migration and the changes in the birds themselves. Sheila's WEA classes start in September (see the pin up on page 4) and are a great boost to those of you who want to improve identification skills and to deepen knowledge of birds. But first there's that little matter of the summer. Fingers crossed for August. Happy birdwatching.

Ros Wade

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Chirps

At silver hill pine copse, Cuckoo calling from 5th May for over a month. Close views of feeding, interacting with female, and harassment from Meadow Pipits who seemed to recognise that this bird spelt danger!

Sue Harrison

My House Martins arrived early May and joy of joy, went back to the nest on our house. Some egg shell and other droppings -not many- suggested at least one egg had hatched. Then they deserted the nest and haven't been back. I don't know if any fledged or not. So disappointing. but I have got a Dunnock's nest and five eggs were laid. To date, three have hatched and adults are still flitting in & out of the bush. I hope they are more successful than the Martins

Ann Crouch

18th July pleasant, warm and sunny, perhaps St. Swithin had a point! I visited the viewing place on Gouthwaite near Ramsgill and then walked up to Bouthwaite and along the track on the other side, a glimpse of a fast moving raptor, probably a Kestrel, flotillas of Canada and Greylag geese, at least fifty of each, a pair of Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Ducks, Oyster Catchers flying over, and a solitary Heron.. Nothing very spectacular but what a lovely and peaceful place.

Frankie Catliff

Yesterday-11th July- I had - to me - a rare visitor to come and feed in my garden- a red poll and I had the thought to note down how many different species visited me on that day.

Here goes: Wren, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Siskin, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Redpoll, Robin, Dunnock, Blackbird, Thrush, Moorhen, Jackdaw, Feral Pigeon, Wood Pigeon, Collared Dove, GS Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Mallard, Pheasant. The only down side is I reckon I spend more on bird food than food for myself !!

Angus Gosman

Don't let Angus have the last word! Send in your chirps and also your garden lists. We want the Newsletter to reflect everyone's birding experiences whether ordinary, exciting, or just plain strange, so please keep your thoughts coming.



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. 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 10th August Otley Wetlands

The Otley Wetland Nature Reserve, which provides a home to everything from Song Thrushes to Otters, was built on the site of the old Hanson sand and gravel works at Bridge End. This 13.7 hectare site has a conservation lake, native woodland, scrub, hedge-rows, reedbeds and grassland.

Heading in to Otley from Nidderdale by either Newall Carr Road or Farnley Lane, Otley Wetlands is the turning on the right, just before the bridge over the Wharfe, past what used to be the Otley Cattle Market (now demolished) - the road that leads down to the sailing club. There is a locked gate a short way down the road and Hilary will meet members there at 09:30. People might want to meet at Pateley at 8.30am, but Hilary will meet at Otley. She needs to know who is coming as she will lock the gate behind us when we go in. Anyone turning up unexpectedly after we have gone in would need to park in Otley, climb the gate and walk down a long road to the wetland. This is a half day outing. There are no facilities at Otley Wetlands and no shelter if it is wet. Paths are generally good and fairly level.

Please leave a contact number for the night before/morning of trip in case of extreme weather.



Monday 20th August Bird Watch Challenge

712132 Meet at Royal Oak, Dacre Banks 7.30pm. Ros will direct operations when people arrive. The aim is to see how many birds you or your team can spot from the vicinity of the pub in 1 hour. Not competitive, but Bird Recorders will be pleased to have the results.

Friday 14th September RSPB Saltholme Reserve near Middlesbrough

This is the new RSPB wetland reserve which has won lots of praise. Autumn offers the chance to see migrant waders such as Black-tailed Godwits, Ruffs and Green Sandpipers, and with the possibility of rarities such as Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints on one of their migration stop-overs. And of course there are the flocks of Golden Plover and Lapwing which arrive to spend winter on the reserve, plus the returning winter wildfowl. There is a state-of-the-art visitor centre with café and shop and three hides including the striking Wildlife Watchpoint which overlooks one of the busiest pools. Entrance is free for RSPB members or £6 per car for non-members.

For car-sharers meet at the Pateley Bridge rendezvous at 8.30 am or if going direct meet at the Reserve at 10 am. Saltholme is 10 minutes from the A19; turn east off the A19 north of Stockton along the A689. After half a mile, take the A1185; in 4 miles join the A178 at a mini roundabout and take the third exit. The reserve entrance is about 300 yards on the right-hand side.



Monday 24th September Nidderdale Show



We will have a stand, so come and support us. We would welcome any offers of help to man the stand, so contact a member of the Committee if you have some time to give.

Sunday 30th September Washburn Valley



North of Otley between Wharfedale and Nidderdale, the Washburn Valley encompasses a number of habitats. There's a good but sometimes muddy path from Fewston to Thruscross reservoirs following the river for most of the way past Low Dam. The route offers a mix of woodland, open pasture, a large mill pond and scrapes designed for dragonflies and amphibians. We should see a mix of woodland birds and waterfowl and there's also a chance of a slow worm if we're lucky. For those interested in plants there's a wide range of wild flowers.

The full route will take about three to four hours and is four miles long but can be shortened in the event of bad weather. Meet at PB car park at 8.30 or at the Fewston car park on the A59 at the Blubberhouses junction, GR168553 at 9am. (Please note – not the car park between Fewston and Swinsty reservoirs).

Friday 12th October RSPB Fairburn Ings

A full day's trip to one of the RSPB's flagship Yorkshire sites near Ferrybridge. The three main trails take you through a variety of habitats allowing stunning views of birds such as Willow Tits and Tree Sparrows in the woodland, and Lapwings, Snipe and Redshanks in the wet grassland. In winter Fairburn hosts an array of Swans, Ducks and Geese on the main lake, so there is something to see whatever the season. There is a visitor centre selling hot drinks and a wide range of RSPB products. Meet at Pateley at usual time or at Fairburn visitors centre at 9.30am.



Monday 15th October 10 slides in 10 minutes.



An evening (7.30pm) event at the Royal Oak, Dacre Banks. The annual show by members of their slides, paintings, textiles, poems or art. Please bring along any bird related material which you think will interest club members.

Saturday 27th October RSPB Blacktoft Sands

A full day's trip to see spectacular wildlife at the start of the Humber estuary. The reed bed, at 122 hectares, is the second largest tidal reed bed in the UK. It is home to breeding birds such as Marsh Harriers, Bearded Tits and Bitterns. Other important wildlife includes Water Voles and the rare Brown-Veined Wainscot Moth. The brackish lagoons inside the reed bed are used by breeding waders, including up to 40 pairs of Avocets, as well as waders and wildfowl on passage. Meet at usual time/place at Pateley or, if going direct, at 10.30am at the reserve visitor's centre.



Friday 9th November Wheldrake Ings NNR Lower Derwent Valley



This National Nature Reserve near York consists of a series of flood meadows, pastures and woodlands. We hope to see large numbers of wildfowl and waders which flock here in the flooded meadows in autumn and winter. There are usually opportunities to see birds like Buzzards and Barn owls, as well as a good selection of smaller birds.

There is a viewing platform at the car park and 6 viewing hides though some need quite a walk to reach them. Wheldrake Ings is managed as part of the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve and in the afternoon we can visit the 2 hides at Lower Duffield at the southern end of the Derwent Valley. There are no café facilities on site so those who intend to make a day of it need to bring sandwiches. The nearest toilets are at Deighton, some three miles away on the A19.

Usual meet in Pateley or at the site at 10 am. The reserve is approached from Wheldrake village about three miles east of the A19 York-Selby road. Leaving Wheldrake towards Thorganby the road takes a sharp right turn and the meeting place is a turn-in a few hundred yards beyond this on the left beyond the allotments (Bank Island car park which has a height restriction of 2.1m).

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



An evening talk (7.30pm) at The Royal Oak by Bob, who is Unit Manager of the Hansen's Quarry on Greenhow. Bob has always been interested in the wildlife of his quarry and he has been instrumental in promoting conservation work, particularly the Newt Project. He has worked with local groups to promote the well-being of the indigenous birds and to encourage the breeding of a number of species.

Sunday 25th November Eccup Reservoir

Near Leeds, The reservoir and the surrounding woodlands are a Site of Special Scientific Interest and are nationally important for birds. In recent years, the area has become home to a growing population of Red Kite, This walk is an easy going walk around Eccup reservoir. The main birds are Red kites, a good chance of Goosanders, Brent, White Fronted and Pink Footed geese. Normally there is a good selection of Gulls including Mediterranean Gull. Other residents in the area are Green Woodpeckers, Grey Partridge and possible Crossbills.

This is a half day trip. Please bring food and drink as appropriate and good footwear.

Meet at 8.30 at Pateley Bridge carpark as usual, or 9.15am -9.30am at Alwoodley lane, grid ref SE296 408 OS landranger 104 Postcode LS17 7RW

Friday 14th December Gouthwaite and How Stean

Local birding in Nidderdale. A half day trip, meet usual time and place. We will have refreshments at How Stean Gorge.

Monday 17th December Christmas Social at The Royal Oak



Come along and meet up, share experiences of birding throughout the year and there may even be some food and entertainment laid on!

Book Revue by Angus Gosman

BIRD SENSE-What It's Like To Be A Bird Or—How Birds Perceive The World

by *Tim Birkhead*

This is a bird book that comes at birds from an interesting and different direction.

The author has split the book into 7 headings: Seeing/Hearing/Touch/Taste/Smell/Magnetic Sense and Emotions. To give you a taste I've set out below some snippets from the first 2 chapters.

"Seeing"

An American kestrel can detect a 2 millimetre long insect at a distance of 18 meters compared with 4 metres for humans. European Kestrels can track their vole prey from UV reflecting off the vole's urine trail. The fact that birds use their right and left eyes for different tasks is one of the most extraordinary ornithological discoveries of recent times. It's been proven that day old chicks use one eye to look for food and the other for predators. Some birds are apparently able to sleep while still looking at the world through one eye. Ducks "head under wing" is just such an activity. Swifts sleep and fly using this method.

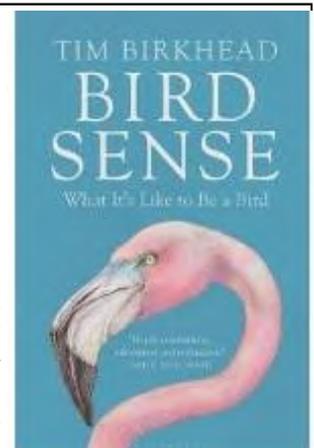
"Hearing "

Humans tell sound direction by the difference between sound reaching each ear-maximum difference 1/1000 th of a second! Birds with much smaller heads detect a difference of 1/1000000 of a second !!!!

To test how Owls hunt an owl was placed in a darkened room with dried leaves on the floor- the owl swooped onto the mouse going through the leaves- leaves removed and leaf tied to mouse's tail- owl swooped on the leaf ! Sound not sight. Owls stay most of their lives in a restricted area as have to learn the area to know where everything is as so dependent on sound not sight. Owl's wing beat very low frequency-around 1 kilohertz-mice only hear above 6 kilohertz so don't hear the owl coming.

This is a book packed with really interesting aspects of bird behavior that I am sure you will find it fascinating.

Amazon Hardback £11.09 Kindle £9.98 paperback due out early 2013



A NEW PIN-UP FOR YOUR KITCHEN NOTICE BOARD

to remind you of what's on offer this autumn



Month	Date	Venue and Type of Event
August	Friday 10th	Otley Wetlands <i>Full or half day depending on preference</i>
	Monday 20th	Bird Watch Challenge <i>Evening birdwatch</i>
September	Friday 14th	Salthome <i>Full day trip</i>
	Monday 24th	Nidderdale Show <i>We will have a stand</i>
	Sunday 30th	Washburn Valley <i>Full or half day trip depending on preference</i>
October	Friday 12th	RSPB Fairburn Ings <i>Full day trip</i>
	Monday 15 th	10 slides in 10 minutes <i>Evening event at the Royal Oak</i>
	Saturday 27th	RSPB Blacktoft Sands <i>Full day trip</i>
November	Friday 9th	Derwent Valley <i>A full day's trip</i>
	Monday 19th	Managing a quarry for wildlife <i>An evening talk at the Royal Oak by Bob Orange</i>
	Sunday 25th	Eccup Reservoir <i>A half day trip</i>
December	Friday 14th	Gouthwaite and How Stean Gorge <i>A half day's trip</i>
	Monday 17th	Christmas Social event <i>At the Royal Oak</i>

WEA Birdwatching courses

What is that Bird? starts: Wednesday 19th September
 Bird Migration starts: Thursday 20 September
 (see page 8)

CLUB EVENTS

Reports by members on past outings

Friday 11th May Forest of Bowland

Five go birding in Bowland.... Looking for the elusive Hen Harrier
The weather was far from promising when we set off but luckily the rain was not too heavy. We started the walk seeing the usual garden birds around the water authority buildings and ponds. The path follows the stream up into the hills, the walking is easy with a gentle incline. On the bottom half of the walk we saw Common sandpipers, Grey and Pied wagtails, stonechat and reed buntings. Further up stream we moved more into the territory of moorland birds. We had a good view of a Merlin being mobbed by Ravens, also accompanied by a Kestrel and Buzzard. We saw Dippers on the stream and the common sandpipers seemed to follow us as did the Wheatears.

Just before lunch we spotted a Ring Ouzel, a first for Me and Julie. After lunch we crossed the stream and walked up the left hand valley. We saw two Merlin's making an aerial pass. The Ravens and kestrel where still around, and also a couple of Curlews calling. On the way back we followed the Ring Ouzel back down stream and it showed us how big its territory is. There were a few Red Grouse on the moorland, a cuckoo and the Dippers were active on the stream.

We took a day off work to do this one and were not disappointed. The Ring Ouzel made up for not seeing the Hen Harrier. The total count for the day was twenty three birds.
Thanks to Shelia for leading the walk.



Adrian Roberts.

Saturday 19th May Haverah Park and Scargill Reservoir



Six brave (or foolish) members met in the forest car park on Stainburn Moor between Beckwithshaw and Norwood on a cold overcast morning in the hope of finding some spring moorland birds. Before leaving the car park we had sightings of Curlew and Mallard flying over and a mystery Pipit which we hoped was a Tree Pipit but nobody was happy to decide yes or no so that one remains another LBJ mystery. Walking towards the reservoir road we had close views of Lapwing, Kestrel, Meadow Pipit and a Common Snipe posing nicely on the fence. Heading down the access road gave us views of Wheatear more Meadow Pipits, singing Sky Larks and two more Common Snipe including one "drumming". The gorse bushes near the reservoir held a number of Linnets and Willow Warbler while on the water were a couple of family groups of Canada Geese along with Mallard and a pair of Tufted Duck with more geese, mainly Greylag on the moor edge. A surprise for us here was four

Barnacle Geese flying low over and we wondered if these were feral birds or genuine wild birds that were late heading north.

In the trees below the dam there were at least two Spotted Flycatchers, a Tree creeper several Blue, Great and Coal Tits at the bottom of the outfall we could hear a number of Gold crests calling along with Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler as well as a Tawny Owl calling. On the return walk there was Common Sandpiper on the reservoir wall, Oystercatchers on the waters edge and Redshank over the moor.

Despite the low temperature and moderate Northerly wind it was a very enjoyable mornings birding and we ended up with a total of 48 species.

Pete Seaman

Monday 21st May Flying by Night at Timble

Sixteen turned out on the first lovely early summer evening of May. Still conditions and plenty of midges near the conifers. We walked from the parking place through the plantation and out for a view of the moors. A kestrel and several grouse were still active as the sun set big and red. Nearing dusk now as we walked behind a small copse and immediately heard and saw woodcock, croaking and squeaking with fluttering wings on a display flight known as 'roding'. We saw two at once several times. Some of our party got good pictures. We heard several Tawny Owl and a cuckoo. Early on a singing redpoll gave very good views from the top of a silver birch. No night-jars or long-eared owls but everyone now knows the spots to come back to. A very atmospheric and beautiful area.

Ros Wade

The trip to Brimham Rocks on Friday 8th June was cancelled due to bad weather. What a Summer!!

Monday 18th June Flying By Night in the Nidd Gorge

On Monday 18 June, 14 members met up at the Woodlands Trust car park for a walk around Nidd Gorge. It was a beautiful evening, and such a relief after the weather we have been experiencing. Needless to say the ground was pretty muddy in places but birdwatchers are a hardy lot and despite having worked out some alternative routes, the majority vote was for onwards and upwards!, which ultimately meant sliding down later on....

There were a number of 'funny' moments with loads of laughter and comments, and I gained a few more grey hairs as the 'responsible one'. We saw, or heard, 14 species including a tawny owl. On the top, back out in the sunshine, we were beautifully serenaded by a very happy song thrush enjoying the warmer drier weather. There were loads of insects about providing good pickings for the swallows and swifts buzzing over the trees.

On the way back our circular route took in a 'minor diversion' as the group spread out and some intrepid explorers set off downstream. No harm done, we all made it safely back to the car park before night fall, agreeing that it had been an adventure and great to be out, in such a lovely place, on such a splendid evening.

Lynda Fussell

Sunday 24th June Coach and Boat trip to the Farne Islands



On Saturday evening the 23rd June I rang Billy Shiels about the boat trip on the Sunday morning. I was told that it was very very doubtful due to the weather forecast. If it went ahead we would only land on Inner Farne and not Staple and it may not go ahead at all. Quick ring round everybody and we decided to go to Saltholme and start the trip much later, so we picked up in Pateley at 0830 instead of 0545. Then on to Ripon for the other people and then away up the A19. The journey took about an hour and we arrived just after the reserve opened. We saw very little in the sky on the way North.

We decided that we would split up and regroup at the bus at about 12.30. The weather looked very changeable and before we got back for lunch we had sun, wind and very heavy rain. Some people managed to be in hides but others got a soaking as they were between hides.

The birds were very good. We had about 48 species here, which included Yellow Wagtail and lots of Common Tern. Some people got good views of Bittern but I missed that but did get super views of Female Gargany. The Sand Martins are busy excavating the wall and this gives you really up close views of these long distance travellers. We had lunch in the mini bus and then decided to have another two hours as people still had some areas to look at.

At about 1515 we moved along the road to Greatham Creek but had to wait to leave the van as there was another downpour which lasted about 20 minutes and then it cleared as we went up to the hide. Got views of Seals out on the banks and swimming up and down the creek. Some people walked to another hide whilst others watched Avocets with very small chicks as well as Common terns with older chicks.

I would like to thank all who supported this event for their cooperation for this change and the fact that we only had a very quick talk to everybody and nobody complained.

We saw according to my list 54 species of bird, approx 18 seals and some super views of Hares chasing each other.

Brian Robertshaw

Friday 13th July Staveley Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve

After a very wet few weeks and wet weather earlier in the week, we were fortunate that Friday morning dawned a bit grey and cloudy but was at least dry. Fourteen members attended and Carl Watts the Warden had arranged for us to be taken round by Bob Evison who is a wonderful naturalist and has an immense knowledge of the Reserve. He told us about the extension to the Reserve including a visit to the almost completed large new hide, ideal for badger watching and gave us an insight into future planned development and maintenance, it is intended to make a wildflower meadow, and extra small ponds have been dug out as the reserve is especially important for dragonflies, Bob gave us a very good view of a Common Blue Damselfly.

We had quite a low bird count of 22 species, but a highlight was the Common Tern family of 2 adults and 2 large chicks which were able to fly, but were still being fed by the adults. It is a first for the Reserve to have Common Tern chicks fledge.

There is a large variety of plant species found on the Reserve, and amongst others, Bob showed us 6 different species of orchid including the rare Fragrant Orchid and we saw lots of wonderful Common Spotted-Orchids as we walked round. But my highlight of the day was the striking white, yellow and black caterpillar of the Mullein Moth which was feeding on Water Figwort, a member of the Mullein plant family.

We had an enjoyable morning out which developed our knowledge of plants as well as birds. My thanks to all who came, and special thanks to Bob Evison of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Linda Pridmore

Friday 13th July Staveley Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve (continued!)

A good turnout of birders and how nice to see them all. We met at the new car park on the edge of the much extended reserve and were taken round by one of the regular volunteers (he has been associated with Staveley since the seventies), very knowledgeable and enthusiastic, I didn't catch his name. Lots of birdsong Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Wrens, Reed Bunting and Reed Warblers, but not a lot of birds to be seen apart from a few distant Swans, Mallard, Coots and Gulls on the lakes.

Our guide showed us many varieties of wild flowers, grasses, reeds and sedges and four different orchids, I felt, and am, very ignorant. A large and very impressive hide is in process of construction and various native breeds of cattle and sheep will be used to graze the meadows. We saw a small herd of Dexter cattle already doing their stuff. There are Owl and Kestrel boxes on poles, and a Barn Owl (not seen today) has raised a brood this year. I look forward to visiting this excellent reserve on a regular basis

Frankie Catliff

Monday 16th July GARDEN VISIT at Sue Harrison's

Considering the ominous presence of dark skies and continuous showers throughout the day a surprising number of brave souls turned up for an evening of garden watching. We were able to sit outside quite comfortably and watch the clouds - as they seemed to be the only things moving! The awning, which had taken an hour or two to erect, was never actually needed, although we did stand under it for a while for the sake of form. The main excitement of the evening came from scanning the fields behind the garden where a little owl was spotted flying into a hole in the wall. Some of us walked round the fields braving the mud and the cows (and bull) and got an even better view of the little owl on the way back. A flock of long tailed tits



was heard in the trees in the copse in the road side trees. We also had the excitement of Spot the dog pursuing Taylor the cat. Fortunately (since we then came across John, the cat's owner, Spot was unsuccessful. Sharp eyed Sheila saw what she thought was probably a spotted flycatcher distinguishing itself from the chiff chaffs and willow warblers also there by its upright and watchful appearance (as demonstrated by Sheila in a very entertaining fashion). This is good news as they didn't nest in my garden this year. As for the afore mentioned warblers, since their legs and primaries were not clearly viewed, Audrey invented the term 'willie-chiff' as a cover-all description.

Back in the garden we had to settle for a few distant fly pasts (swift, curlew, jay, magpie, black headed gull), Anne had worked hard bringing examples of plants that are good for wildlife and also starting lists about the likes and dislikes of garden birds. It seems that my garden birds like to go to bed at 7 pm and they are not particularly keen on a hoard of noisy birdwatchers gathering on their territory.

As it got later we did get a bat flying by, and, when everyone except Anne and Eddie had left, the tawnies decided it was safe to come out!

Sue Harrison

Picture of a Sparrowhawk from the garden by Alan Harrison

Julie Roberts has got several books on gardening to attract birds, which she is happy to loan to members. If you are interested, see Julie or Adrian at a meeting.

WEA Birdwatching courses

What is that Bird? starts: Wednesday 19th September for 4 weeks.

Bird Migration starts: Thursday 20 September. 6 sessions.

Full details from Sheila Nash: 01423 711176 or sheila.nash3@btinternet.com



Pete's Corner

News of our local area from our bird recorder

Back in early May we put a request in the Yahoo site and in the "Flying Times" for reports of sightings of Cuckoos in our area. This got a good response with birds as early as the last week in April out near Brimham and naturally a number from around Pateley Bridge. It is interesting to note that by the time you read this most will be back in their wintering quarters in fact the Cuckoos tagged by the BTO headed back South in late June so we only have a short window to see and hear them. The summer visitors started to move into the dale with birds like Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler singing from the top of the Dale at Scar House Reservoir down to the Washburn Valley. Meadow Pipit and Wheatear moved back to the uplands joining the calling Curlew and displaying Lapwing on their breeding grounds. Late April and early May in our area is time to visit Scar House area to look for the returning Ring Ouzel and at least three birds were seen near the car park and near Scar House. One of the last of our summer migrants to arrive is usually the Spotted Flycatcher and these were seen in the area by mid May.

A visit to the head of the Dale in mid June saw Lapwing Oystercatcher and Common Sandpiper all showing agitated behavior, usually a good sign they have a nest or young and Meadow Pipits were carrying food and Wheatear were seen feeding young. Also by mid June most of the House Martin nests on the Tower at Scar House reservoir were empty and judging by the number of birds flying around they had probably fledged leaving time maybe for another brood.

An evening visit to Timble in the South of our recording area gave two members a sighting of fifteen Woodcock "roding" along the woodland drives but no reports of Nightjar although the hungry midges there can put birders off spending a lot of time looking for these elusive birds.

During this period we have had few reports of raptors but hopefully they are busy breeding in the quieter areas of the Dale. There have been reports of a Harrier in the upper Dale area but it may only have been passing through to other areas.

On the Western edge of our recording area the woods along the Wharfe at Bolton Abbey have come up with the usual good selection of warblers despite some unseasonable weather recently. It would be hard to find such a good birding woodland so close to our area, on a recent visit we had views of Blackcap and Garden Warbler as well as both Pied and Spotted Flycatchers feeding young. There was even a quick glimpse of a Wood Warbler as well as a short burst of song from this elusive warbler we can only hope it breeds successfully in the wood.

Pete Seaman

Sadly we have to report the death of **Angela Wood**. Angela was frail for sometime, but for some years was a keen member of Sheila's classes and went on a number of her trips and holidays and we are sure that several members will remember her well and join with us in sending our condolences to her family.

Dorothy Parkin has left a number of birding books to the group. These are being catalogued and will soon be available for members to borrow.

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**