



# Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club

Registered Charity No. 1098296

## NEWSLETTER 2017

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
President's Jottings	2
From the Record	3
IT Matters	4
Patch Outings	5
Indoor Meetings	7
Indoor meetings programme	8
An introduction to your speakers 2016/17	9
Book reviews	13
Circulation of AGM documents	18
Notice of AGM	19
Subscription form	20

## PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS

The Club, now in its fifty-first year, has continued to fulfil its original objectives and has excelled in the areas which it performs best - educating the people of Huddersfield by the publication of an annual bird report and running an informative lecture programme. The lecture programme, organised by Alf King, continues to cover a wide array of interesting topics. During the last lecture programme we were entertained and educated by talks which introduced us to foreign areas as diverse as Costa Rica, Fuerteventura, Peru, Ecuador, Galapagos, Falkland Islands, Ascension Island, America's North-west and Tanzania. It was not all foreign climes, however, and we were enthralled by talks on the Unique Structures of Feathers, Visible Migration in the South Pennines, Wakefield Peregrines, Feeding, Foraging and Fighting, Sounds of British Wildlife and Huddersfield's 2016 Birding Year.

Due to increasing petrol prices etc., it is not always easy to stay within the allocated budget for speakers. Alf, however, has shown this to be possible, although he would want me to add that talks given by members, all free of charge, do keep costs to a minimum. If you would like to present the Club with a talk please have a word with Alf who will be delighted to allocate you a date. The report writing teams have, over the years, supplied a continuous stream of readable and informative reports. These reports form the backbone of our knowledge about bird distribution in the Huddersfield area and, in years to come, will allow ornithologists to better understand the fluctuations of bird populations. However, I would like to use this opportunity to request that more members send in more records of bird sightings – perhaps not the statement that our recorder, David Butterfield, would like to hear! It has become very apparent over the last few years that a high proportion of the records supplied by members solely relate to birds in their own gardens. This may be for a number of reasons, the most likely being that they are not getting out into the field as often as they did or that they are simply not reporting the species they see. By reading previous Annual Reports (*Birds in Huddersfield*) it will become obvious that a number of relatively common species fall into the under-recorded category – even from the well-watched localities. Can I ask that if you visit any locality in the Club recording area, that you supply records of all the species you encounter. It is only by so-doing that the fluctuating fortunes of each species can be judged. One of the things I had instilled into me from an early age was to always carry a notebook, write down my sightings, and report them. This was well over 50 years ago, and I still carry one – do birdwatchers these days still carry notebooks to record their observations?

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death of one of our long-standing and well respected members, Donald Haigh. Donald, although not a founder-member, joined the Club shortly after its inception and had served the Club exceedingly well in a number of official capacities. Donald was Field Meeting Organiser between 1976 and 1979 and, not wanting to retire from officialdom, took on the role of Honorary Treasurer the following year, a position he maintained until 1989. In the years 1990 through to 1993 Donald took a well-earned rest from Club duties but, in 1994 he took on the role of President, a position he commanded with total ease for the next two years. For his dedication to the Club, Donald was honoured with Life Membership shortly after his retirement from official duties. Donald was always a stabilising presence if a committee meeting looked like getting out of hand and he made many valuable contributions at several annual general meetings when not an official. His presence at Club meeting will be sorely missed.

I am delighted to announce that the Club's fiftieth year anniversary publication *A Natural History of Blackmoorfoot Reservoir* has sold exceedingly well and, although printing expenses ruled out the possibility of it ever making a profit, the Club has obviously gained prestige by continuing its run of publications (see separate article by Mike Wainman).

Mike Denton

## FROM THE RECORDER

Or, perhaps, better described as the HBWC Database Manager

**I've got a couple of years, maybe**, left in me yet in this role – hopefully, a good few more than that in others – but perhaps now is the time for it to be 'put out there' that a replacement is to be looked for in the interim!

The database is maintained electronically on the WILDLIFE RECORDER programme maintained and continually updated by Jack Levine. It is Wildlife Recorder version: Professional Standard.

See: [www.wildlifecomputing.com](http://www.wildlifecomputing.com)

It is not an easy programme to get one's head around but it is the best I've found to do the job and, as they say, if required, training will be given along with a complete help file and tutorials included with the programme. **If this appeal appeals to anyone, contact details are below.**

Having got that out of the way, here's the other bit ...

I have frequently been asked over the years that I have been Recorder "What is required in a record? What is it that you want/need?" and my answer has invariably been "Whatever it is that you have to submit"

To expand on this, at the very least for a record to be of use, it must have DATE, LOCATION and SPECIES. Value is added if information can be provided covering NUMBER, SEX and AGE. These are desirable but not essential. It is helpful if data can be provided giving details of MOVEMENT, TIME (important in this context) and DIRECTION OF TRAVEL of passage migrants in spring and autumn (especially so with the case of geese and gulls). Information could also be given covering any aspects of the bird's behaviour that you consider to be of interest or unusual. If it is of interest to you, then it will more than likely be of interest to others! Don't omit something because you may think that "Nobody is going to be interested in that!"

Below is an example of a spreadsheet that I use to collate data from members, others' blogs, websites and such. Obviously, information isn't forthcoming for all species under all of these headings, nor must it be.

First date	Last date	Time	Location	Grid Ref	Species	No.	Sex	Age	Notes	Observer
							M / F	Juv/Imm/Ad		

A word about sensitive species – here I am thinking particularly of breeding season records of raptors, owls, but it equally applies to any breeding species that is rare or unusual in our area. Rest assured that data can be shared with the Recorder safe in the knowledge that it will go no further without consent. Such data is published in the annual report in only the most general of terms that would in no way enable outside interests to locate those species.

If you haven't in the past submitted records please consider doing so. It needn't be rare, it needn't be special. It is my view that anything, and everything, is important if we are to continue to keep tabs on the rises and falls, gains and losses amongst our local bird populations.

David Butterfield, HBWC Recorder and database manager

[hbwcrecorder@gmail.com](mailto:hbwcrecorder@gmail.com)

## IT MATTERS

Yes IT does! The world of birding nowadays makes extensive use of IT in ways that we might not have imagined in the “good old days”, and the club has tried to embrace, well at least hold hands with, the opportunities presented. Our involvement with IT is quite limited on the surface and also in reality but we do try to keep reasonably in touch with current developments. The website rumbles along in its own sweet way, providing a reasonable amount of information for those who want it. The forum is still used a fair bit by those who care to post nowadays, although activity does seem to be much reduced in the last couple of years. As I have said before this isn't just an issue with our club but one that applies to many other clubs and societies, not just birdwatching. Whilst we are providing a service that members feel is useful then we will continue to do so.

We also have a fairly active Twitter account and those that make use of this would confirm, I hope, that it is a useful aid to their hobby. We have 329 followers, which is a healthy number considering the narrowness of our subject, yet I believe that only about 12 are actual club members. If you are on Twitter do follow us. If you want to get on to Twitter but don't know how to start then let me know and I can offer some guidance.

The greatest use that we do make of IT is in our recording and database management functions, and

these will go largely unnoticed by the majority, yet it has enabled us to be much quicker in recording and compiling data in a secure way, as well as allowing the annual bird report to be produced effectively. For the management of this database and the many hours of tapping at a keyboard we have David Butterfield to thank.

One change that has had an impact upon most of our lives is the adoption of smartphones and tablets as our interface with the wonders on the internet. This is really one area in which we, actually I, have been a bit slow to respond. Neither the website nor the forum has been optimised for viewing on tablets, whether Apple, Android or Windows and I don't know if this is an issue with our members. Have you had problems in viewing things on tablets or smartphones? Do you think we should be doing something to improve this? Is there anything special that you would like to see? If so, do tell me – sooner rather than later.

Alf King.

## 2017 PATCH OUTINGS

### HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY

When birdwatching I always make excuses to myself why I haven't seen as much as I hoped. For example, too wet (the birds are sheltering), too foggy (I can't see them), too late in the day (I've slept in), too hot (they are sitting in the shade) and many others well practiced and refined over the years. The Outings I did this year were no exception.



**Blackcap**

I led a small group from Huddersfield University around Longley Wood on 21st May, where, because of the warm April the trees were in full leaf, my excuses for not seeing a lot of birds were ready made. Nevertheless we had an interesting day, listening for birds. We started with chipping from a hole, obviously Great Spotted Woodpecker young, but the undergrowth was so thick we couldn't get access to check. There were at least 4 male Blackcaps singing and we were rewarded with a view of a pair, giving me the opportunity to explain the difference between the sexes. The highlight was, after picking up a Nuthatch call, watching the bird moving to and fro, carrying food into a holly bush

where presumably a nest was hidden somewhere close by.

When I led the Patch Outing to Langsett on 11th June, 3 of those who were at Longley Wood came along to join John Palliser, Stephen Cook and Stephen and Heather Chippendale. Within a few minutes of setting off my excuse presented itself. It was very windy, keeping the birds down and making picking up songs very difficult.

Despite Langsett Banks being quieter than normal, Stephen Chippendale picked up a faint song.

After much searching we eventually found the Wood Warbler, singing from an unexpected place near the reservoir. We then had the pleasure of watching it moving around between the reservoir bank and conifers, singing from various spots. From the wood we watched at least 3 Common Sandpipers on the reservoir shore.



Wood Warbler

On the way along the Little Don Valley, Stephen Cook and I heard a call neither of us was familiar with. The wonders of modern technology came to our assistance, the app on my phone strongly suggested Crossbill which Steve later confirmed when he checked at home using superior technology.

Unfortunately there were no views of raptors as we walked along the valley, the wind of course, and when we reached our end point we were disappointed again. No raptors, Cuckoo, or Ring Ouzel where I would normally expect to see them. More disappointing for those with me was

that there was no Redstart in an area which had held a singing bird on earlier visits this year. Indeed there was a male singing there when I was carrying out my survey a week later.

Nevertheless we had an enjoyable day, 35 species being a respectable return. Perhaps next year will be better with no excuses!

Chris Abell 22/7/16

## Blackmoorfoot Patch Outing 23<sup>rd</sup> May



Great Crested Grebe

On what was a beautiful evening weather wise – warm, clear and sunny with a light westerly breeze – four members, including the leader, assembled near the inflow channel on the south bank of the reservoir. Apart from the resident pair of Great Crested Grebes (which cannot breed this year due to the low water level), the only other birds seen were eight Mallard, a Kestrel, 16 Swift, four House Martin, three Sand Martin, half a dozen Swallow and, much to the delight of the leader, a first-summer Common Gull.

As there had been two displaying Little Ringed Plover along the west bank for the past week, it was decided to visit the hide. Before we arrived at the hide, however, the noise from a hole in a dead tree alerted us to an unbeknown Great Spotted Woodpecker nest (a pair are also nesting in Orange Wood). For some unknown reason the young of this species become very vocal just before fledging which, one would imagine, is likely to be detrimental as it is likely to attract predators. When we arrived at the hide the Little Ringed Plover pair performed to perfection, and revealed the presence of a third individual. The only other birds noted along the west bank were two singing Willow Warblers, a Dunnock, and a Blackbird.

We then motored up to Potato Lane in the hope of relocating the nine Golden Plovers and three Oystercatchers which had been present earlier in the day. We were not disappointed, and two Grey Partridges and a Curlew also put in a welcome appearance. Grey Partridge at Blackmoorfoot, although present throughout the year, are seen very sporadically but, as at least one pair usually breeds, it is obvious that they are far more secretive than we tend to appreciate.

After a couple of hours birdwatching (I never have liked the word ‘birding’) the four members returned to their respective homes. The only disappointment was that nobody wished to partake in a pint at the nearby Will’s O’ Nat’s public house!

Mike Denton

## **INDOOR MEETINGS 2017-18**

Indoor meetings are the main social activity of the club and create a focus for information and dissemination of club news as well as providing the opportunity to listen to talks presented by a host of experts. The 2016-17 season saw healthy attendances particularly in the “dark months” with an average of around 30 members at each. Topics covered included the delights of Visible Migration watching; a further visit to Costa Rica; fun in Fuerteventura; the Confessions of a Bird Guide; the fascinating structures in Bird Feathers; Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos; Falkland and Ascension Islands; the Peregrines of Wakefield Cathedral; the Art of Bird Misidentification; Feeding, Foraging and Fighting in Wildlife; America’s Southwest; Birds of Tanzania; and the Sights and Sounds of British Wildlife. The lecture year culminated once again with a review of our own Huddersfield birding year in 2016. The lectures seemed to be well received and the attendances are encouraging but, as always, only you the members can tell us whether we are doing the right thing: feedback of all types is welcomed.

A pleasing feature is the willingness now of some of our own members to make presentations and these have proved to be very popular; I can confidently say that they compared well with the “professionals” who also visit, and this is a theme that we have continued to pursue in the forthcoming year. We have another varied set of lectures to tempt you with and do hope that something amongst the 14 on offer will be of interest to every one. I know that some members find it quite difficult to attend through personal commitments, geography, timing etc. but would encourage every one to make that extra effort. You really would find it to be worthwhile.

## Lecture schedule 2017-18

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
2017		
Sept 5th	Laurence Rose	The Long Spring
Sept 19th	Jeff Clarke	Fieldcraft and the Photographer
Oct 3rd	Reg Senior	Botswana
Oct 17th	David Sill	AGM & "A View From a Pennine Garden"
Nov 7th	Paul Rogers	Webbed Feet and Water
Nov 28th	Gary Prescott (The Biking Birder)	Green Birding
Dec 12th	Mark Pearson	Can Bird Observatories Thrive in the Modern Era?
2018		
Jan 9th	Julian Sykes	Winter Wildlife in S/E Spain
Jan 30th	Steve Cook	Southern Africa
Feb 13th	Ian Robinson	Indonesian Wildlife - Bali to Komodo and Beyond
Mar 6th	John Walker	America's Northwest
Mar 20th	Jim Almond	North Norfolk Here I Come
April 3rd	Ray Brown	The South Florida Birding Trail
May 8th	Mike Denton	2017 - A Huddersfield Birding Year

## OUR SPEAKERS THIS YEAR ARE:

**Laurence Rose** – Laurence has worked for the RSPB, from which he has recently retired, for over 30 years in a variety of roles including Regional Director Northern England Region and, most recently, Strategic Project Manager based in Denby Dale. He is also a composer and writer, a Director of CoMA - Contemporary Music for All, a former Director of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and a business adviser to arts and conservation organisations.

He edits the web site The Natural Light <http://www.naturemusicpoetry.com/> which explores the connectivity between the arts and nature, on which he wrote: "Between February and June 2016 I will be tracking the arrival of spring in Europe, from the Mediterranean to the Arctic. Starting on the North African coast, and visiting some of the most interesting wild places in Spain, France, the UK, Sweden, Finland and Norway, I will report back on what I find, at [www.thelongspring.com](http://www.thelongspring.com)." "I'll be describing wildlife, places, traditions, culture and issues as I look for signs of the coming of spring. I will be finding out how spring is marked by people in the areas I visit, investigating people's connection to their natural environment and seeing how this is changing. This will be the subject of his talk that launches our season "The Long Spring".

**Jeff Clarke** – Jeff has presented to the club on previous occasions and his return is sure to be popular. He has a passion for the natural world and loves sharing that enthusiasm with as many people as possible. As an environmental educator with 26 years of experience he brings innovation, inspiration and fun to lessons. He is an Associate Tutor for the FSC and leads wildlife holiday tours both independently and in partnership with other organisations.

In "Fieldcraft and the Photographer" he takes an amusing look at the trials and tribulations of wildlife photography. It is packed with handy tips for would-be snappers and a cautionary tale or two about the pitfalls and pratfalls that can catch out the unwary.

<http://www.jeffclarkeecology.co.uk/>

**Reg Senior** – Reg is a true lover of open country and in particular our moorlands. Having discovered the boundless opportunity that digital photography presents to the naturalist he is also now a very enthusiastic photographer as those who monitor the forum will testify. In addition, in recent years he has developed a fascination with some of the more exotic locations of the world and the photographic opportunities that they present. This will be Reg's third presentation to the club and, as members will have learned to expect, a series of excellent photographs and anecdotes will accompany the tale of a recent visit to the wonderful country of "Botswana".

**David Sill** –



David is one of the club's more experienced birdwatchers and in particular loves the high grounds with their ever-changing patterns of bird movements. As an indulgence of that love he lives with Hazel "On t' Tops" above Marsden where he gains an almost unique perspective of birding in the club area. He will share some sights and anecdotes of birding from his Pennine garden with us in his talk "A View From a Pennine Garden".

**Paul Rogers** - Paul is a most popular presenter to the club having delighted us on many occasions before with a diversity of topics. He has had a life-long interest in natural history, which is underlined by his qualifications in Ecology and Animal Behaviour gained at London University and he is a principal leader for Ornitholidays, having led over 210 tours. For some time now he has had the pleasure and privilege of living at Shorelands on Anglesey, the former home of wildlife artist Charles Tunnicliffe. He is widely travelled in Europe, North America and Africa and lectures on ornithology, ecology and all aspects of natural history.

On this visit Paul will be delighting and educating us in equal measure with his description of the unique qualities of the Anatidae, or ducks, swans and geese to the rest of us, in "Webbed Feet and Water".

<http://www.ornitholidays.co.uk/>

**Gary Prescott** – Gary goes by the name of “The Biking Birder” and refers to himself as “A UK Green birder, birdwatcher, twitcher and environmentalist”. He is a retired special needs teacher who now devotes himself to a wealth of environmental and birding projects, often through the medium of long-distant bike rides, of which he is also passionate.

In this, his first visit to the club, he will introduce us to the delights of “Green Birding” when he achieved a UK year list of 318 species by cycling 6900 miles and using a couple of ferries to get to the islands. A fascinating tale will unfold.

<http://bikingbirder2016.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Mark Pearson** - Mark is a writer, public speaker and sometime radio and TV personality where he gets the opportunity to convey his passion for wildlife in general and birds in particular. On TV and radio he has featured at various times in such as Springwatch, Autumnwatch and Natural World, whilst his writing has featured in Birdwatch, Bird Guides and Birdwatching. He has presented at many clubs and societies and this year will once again feature at the Spurn Migration Festival and The British Bird Fair.

Last year Mark was a welcome visitor to the club when he opened up the birding opportunities and accessibility of Fuerteventura. This year he will present a more challenging topic, questioning the role and future of bird observatories in “Can Bird Observatories Thrive in the Modern Era?”

<http://northernrustic.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Julian Sykes** – Julian Hails from Yorkshire but now lives in Spain where he heads up the tour company Oliva Rama based in Valencia. He has been interested in nature and the natural world all of his life and says that he has had the good fortune to be able to combine his love of wildlife & experience as a guide to develop and lead a wide range of holidays. He started operating in Spain as a professional wildlife guide several years ago & since then has developed an excellent reputation for 'value for money' holidays and short breaks always conducted with a high level of professionalism and good humour. He also acts as a main guide for Speyside Wildlife. He will share some of the delights of the Spanish country delights with us in “Winter Wildlife in SE Spain”.

<http://www.juliansykeswildlife.com/index.html>

[http://www.speysidewildlife.co.uk/The\\_team.aspx](http://www.speysidewildlife.co.uk/The_team.aspx)

**Steve Cook** – Steve is well known to all club members and has spoken at a number of club evenings before demonstrating that a large and expensive camera is not the key requirement when preparing interesting and entertaining talks about birding overseas. Following on from talks about Panama, Australia and the Falklands, Steve will this time entertain us with a talk embracing the birding interest of “Southern Africa”, with an emphasis on South Africa itself.

**Ian Robinson** – Ian returns to the club with another of his fascinating and immensely popular talks. He is an intrepid and enthusiastic traveller, birder and photographer who has visited more countries

than any of the rest of us might imagine, yet he doesn't keep a life list. Ian lives in Filey and is one of the founder members and a continuing stalwart of the Filey Bird Observatory and Group.



Ian has spread his wings even further this time to present a talk to us titled “Indonesian Wildlife – Bali to Komodo and Beyond”.

<http://www.fbog.co.uk/>

**John Walker** - For many years John served as the organiser of the club's indoor meetings. As an about turn John can now relish the opportunity to feature as a presenter of one of his own talks. He has a wealth of

knowledge of birdlife in the USA having travelled there on very many occasions and this talk will feature “America's Northwest” a talk that was postponed from last year. This is a part of the USA which is less frequently visited by British birders but offers a wealth of opportunity if you know where to look.

**Jim Almond** - Jim hails from Shropshire and is well known to the club having delivered many of his very popular and unfailingly entertaining talks to the club over recent years. He spends much of his free time birding and tries to capture 'moments' that were memorable for him and of course, good birds! As an expert and well-travelled photographer, this presentation will feature many of his excellent photographs of the “North Norfolk Coast”, a particular favourite place for many of our club members.

<http://shropshirebirder.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Ray Brown** - Ray is an amateur photographer yet produces very professional looking images from around the world. Since retiring he has been able to concentrate more on his photography as well as indulge in more travel to bird-rich places the combination of which has produced some fascinating images and talks. Ray hails from Kirkheaton and will be familiar to those members who are also attendees at local RSPB group meetings. His presentation on “The South Florida Birding Trail” will be of interest to member with experience of the state, with aspirations to visit or simply those with an interesting in sub-tropical birding.

<http://raybrownwildlifephotography.com/>

**Mike Denton** – our own President Mike Denton should need no introduction; to say that he is a bedrock of the club would be an understatement. Once again Mike will be rounding off the presentation year with a review of the key sightings from 2017 coupled with photographs of birds in the club area taken by members and other local birders, in “2017 – A Huddersfield Birding Year”.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Best birdwatching Sites Yorkshire

One of the perks (??) of being Secretary for the club is being inundated by emails marketing books, holidays, trips, begging for money etc. Most are ignored, but occasionally something of importance in the conservation field comes my way. Unusually, though, a few months ago I had an offer I couldn't refuse. I was sent copy of a book, *Best Birdwatching Sites in Yorkshire* (Authors Neil Glenn and John Miles, published by Buckingham Press) on the condition I prepared a review for club members.

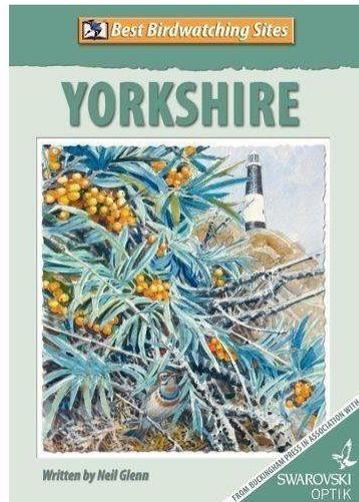
Members may be aware that I have lead birdwatching holidays in the UK for HF Holidays over the past 15 years or so. The Publishers would not know that I have used one of their books in preparation of a holiday in Wales nor would they be aware that I have more frequently used the *Where to Watch Birds* series. Indeed from the latter I used the Yorkshire publication written by John Mather for detailed research when leading from Malham and from Whitby. So in this review I will refer to the books as Glenn or Mather.

The Glenn book was published in 2017 and is more up to date than Mather, last revised in 2008. Glenn refers to Mather but points out that since its publication, reserves and birding sites change, footpaths close, and new visitor centers open. Both Authors acknowledge contributions from local experts, for example Mather thanked John Dale while Glenn refers to the comments made by Russ Boland on a Barnsley Site.

The Glenn book is well laid out with a standard format for each site, meaning that use is very straightforward. Each site has Key Points, Target Birds by season with a percentage likelihood of seeing them, a list of other possible species. Both access

maps and detailed maps of the sites are provided with directions on how to get there with GPS coordinates and Grid References. I have found a few minor errors and I would recommend to anyone using the book to consult a road map or local OS map. For example the route to Deer Hill starting from the M62 into Huddersfield forgets to mention that it is necessary to take A62 towards Oldham off the ring road. There is also a good descriptive section for each site, detailing the route and pointing out where to look for certain species. The percentage chance of seeing target species is a risky move but when I examined them in detail, I think they are fair, even understated. For example Pied Flycatcher at Bolton Abbey is assessed at 75% during the breeding season. My experience is that you would be very unlikely not to see one; every time I have been there I have had good views, even without binoculars when leading a walking party whose only objective was to get to the pub at the end of a long walk!

It is inevitable in a book covering an area as large as Yorkshire that choices have to be made over which sites to include. Glenn is based in Nottingham and therefore does not have the advantages that Mather has. Our club area is badly served, with only Deer Hill, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (Bretton to you and me) and Langsett being featured sites. Blackmoorfoot does get a mention as a



sub set of Deer Hill. Langsett features solely as a walk round the reservoir although YSP gets a thorough treatment. Stoneycliffe Wood near Netherton, Wakefield gets a full billing. This apparently is in our area. I don't recall seeing many references to it in our Annual Reports. Perhaps it is a site members do not visit or it is one the author favours. In any event there doesn't seem anything out of the ordinary there. There is a notable omission, Ingbirchworth merited a full entry in Mather but does not get a mention in Glenn.

One major drawback with Glenn is that sites are listed in alphabetical order. I looked for Bretton in the early pages and it took a while by reference to the back cover with all sites to guess which number it was. Mather subdivides Yorkshire in to separate areas eg South Pennines with a map of the area with sites marked with reference numbers. Together with the contents page quick reference is easy.

Despite these drawbacks if you are visiting an area for the first time and want to do some serious birdwatching I would recommend either series, selecting the most up to date.

Chris Abell 23/6/17

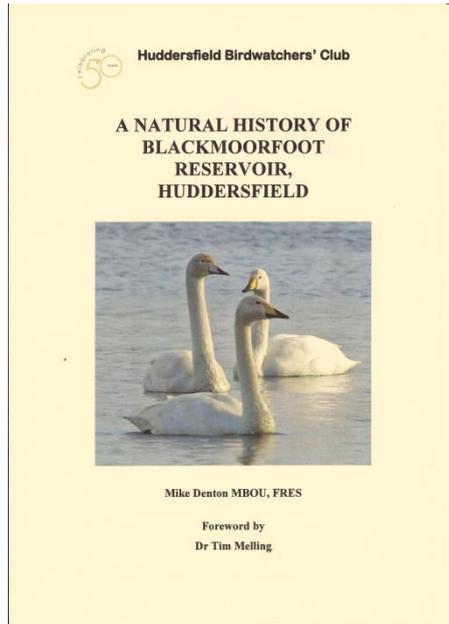


**Pied Flycatcher**

# A NATURAL HISTORY OF BLACKMOORFOOT RESERVOIR, HUDDERSFIELD

**By Mike Denton**

Mike Denton's major new book was launched at our meeting in January, when Tim Melling, who wrote the Foreword, was our guest speaker. The book was published to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Club. Also present were Jill Lucas, who helped write the section on flowering plants, and local photographer Colin Rew, who contributed some magnificent insect photos. Members David Pennington and Nick Mallinson contributed the bird photos, all taken at Blackmoorfoot, and Mike Pinder many of his excellent illustrations.

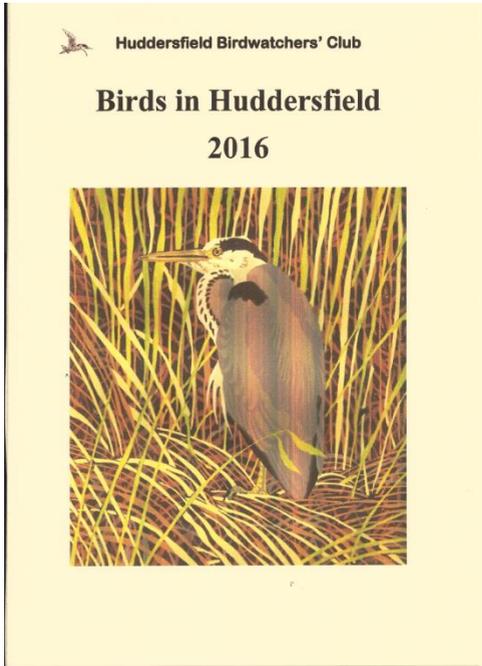


I am pleased to report that sales of the limited edition hardback have gone exceptionally well, helped by some good publicity in the Examiner arranged by Reg Senior. Mike has become even more of a celebrity at the Foot, selling to locals and walkers. At the time of writing there are only three left, so if you have not got your copy contact Mike now.

Available from Mike Denton, 528 pp hardback, £25, plus £5 p&p.

Mike Wainman

## BIRDS IN HUDDERSFIELD 2016



Work on our 2016 report is progressing, thanks to the sterling efforts of our Recorder David Butterfield, our 'Editor-in-Chief' Mike Denton and our team of writers. Chris Abell, Stephen Cook, Roger Mitchell and David Pennington stepped down from the team this time and we are deeply grateful for their massive contributions in the years since we reorganised to a team approach. Mike Denton and Hugh Quarterman have covered by writing extra sections, together with regulars Heather and Steve Chippendale and David Sill.

We shall however be seeking to recruit new members to the team for next year, so if you feel you might be able to help, please speak to Mike Denton.

The move to a 'perfect bound' format and a more professional finish has received a good response and will be continued, but is inevitably more expensive.

Stuart Brocklehurst's stunning Heron graces the cover of the report, which should again be published in the autumn. Stuart has again generously donated the artwork for both 2015 and 2016 reports and these will be raffled when the report comes out.

Mike Wainman



**Little Egret**



**Common Buzzard**

Species on the increase in our area.

## Process for circulating AGM documents

The current process for issuing documents for the AGM involves using a lot of paper and photocopying costs. As a Conservation organisation we should not be using natural resources where the process could be done smarter and reaching more members.

After consultation with members attending the 2016 AGM, the Committee has decided to change the process as set out below

1. The notice of the AGM will be published in the Newsletter (as has been the custom). In addition it will be posted on the Club Website and Forum.
2. Members will be reminded of the process at Indoor meetings prior to the AGM
3. The Agenda, together with any other documents for discussion, will be posted on the Website and Forum at least a week before the AGM.
4. Minutes of the AGM will be posted on the Website and Forum shortly after the AGM. Minutes of the 2016 AGM are already there.
5. Members without access to the Website may request paper documents from the Secretary.



# in focus

*The Binocular and Telescope Specialists*

Our Yorkshire branch is situated in the heart of Denby Dale - the famous 'pie village'. The showroom is situated on the first floor of Westleigh House and boasts extensive views across the dale. We stock a wide range of optical equipment ranging from hand lenses and magnifying glasses to binoculars and telescopes, including a full range of both compact and full sized binoculars from a variety of the best known optical manufacturers. Denby Dale lies on the A636 between Wakefield and Huddersfield with convenient access from the M1 at junctions 38 and 39. There is plenty of free off-road parking. Trains run from Huddersfield and Sheffield (we're next door to the station) and there's an hourly bus link from Wakefield station.

**in focus DENBY DALE** is open 10.00 - 5.00 Monday to Friday  
and 9.00 - 5.00 on Saturday but **CLOSED ON SUNDAY**  
Telephone: 01484 864729

**Other in focus shops**

- Hertfordshire London Colney 01727 827799
- Norfolk Titchwell 01485 210101
- Rutland Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre 01572 770656
- Gloucestershire WWT Slimbridge 01453 890978
- Lancashire WWT Martin Mere 01704 897020
- West London The London Wetland Centre 020 8409 4433

*All the latest information at*  
**[www.infocusoptics.co.uk](http://www.infocusoptics.co.uk)**



## **Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club**

Chris Abell, Secretary, 57 Butterley Lane, New Mill, Holmfirth HD9 7EZ

Tel 01484 681499; email [cdabell@gmail.com](mailto:cdabell@gmail.com)

Alf King June 2017

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 51st Annual General Meeting is to be held in Huddersfield Town Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th October 2017.

A full agenda will be published on the Club Website before the meeting.

The following posts are due for election to serve for 2 years;

- President
- Treasurer
- Indoor meetings
- 3 Committee Members

Nominations for these posts should be sent to the Secretary, in writing or by email, 14 days before the meeting (i.e. to be received no later than 3rd October)

C D Abell 22/6/17

# 2017/2018 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE!

Please send your subs now either:

- To our Membership Secretary Hazel Sill by cheque using the slip below or:
- By bank transfer (BACS) directly to the club account which is:  
Huddersfield Birdwatchers' Club, HSBC, sort code 40-25-10, account no 40462195

(Please remember to put your name in the reference box and email Hazel to confirm that you have paid)

The Club receives substantial amounts in **Gift Aid**. Most members have already signed a Gift Aid form and it will still be valid. However, if you are a taxpayer and have not provided a signed form, please help by asking Hazel for one. It costs you nothing and the Club can reclaim a tax rebate from the government. **Address and email update** Please also fill in your postal address, telephone number and email address (whether or not they have changed) so that we can check that club records are fully up to date. Don't forget to email or let Hazel know if you are paying by BACS.

Hazel Sill's contact details: Address – see slip below

Email [hazel.sill@btinternet.com](mailto:hazel.sill@btinternet.com)

Tel. no 07854 739646

You will notice we have had to make an increase in the subscription rate to cover the clubs costs. Thank you for your support.



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**HUDDERSFIELD BIRD WATCHERS'**

**SUBSCRIPTION RETURN 2017/2018**

NAME
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE NO.
EMAIL ADDRESS
Subscription (please tick) Single £19 <input type="checkbox"/> or Joint £30 <input type="checkbox"/>
Cheques only please (no cash by post) made out to <b>Huddersfield Bird Watchers' Club</b>
Post to: Mrs. H. Sill, Membership Secretary. Wards End Farm, Marsden, Huddersfield, W. Yorks. HD7 6NJ