



The Birds Of South Gloucestershire
2010 annual report including news, reviews
and unusual birding events

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Front cover:

Hoopoe (Joy Irwin) Grasshopper Warbler, Purple Sandpiper, Wryneck, Little Auk (Paul Bowerman) Greenshank, Waxwing (Andy Jordon) Spotted Flycatcher (Darren Pearce) Black Redstart (Mark Coller).

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Introduction.

The Birds Of South Gloucestershire celebrated its fifth anniversary this year 2010 and it is only now after five years of modification, alteration, re-structuring and research beginning to look something like the original concept first considered way back in 2005.

The original idea was hatched after seeing several Common Crane in the Tortworth area in February 2003 and wondering just how many previous records had occurred in S. Glos. It was then that I realised just how difficult it was to access 'easily' the information I was looking for. I could see no easy way around the problem, information needed to be collated and laid out in a resource that anyone could use...

So, after eighteen months of research the plan finally came to fruition with the launch of TBOSG. Research involved a tremendous amount of time trawling through a number of publications which included Avon Bird Reports, the Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists Society, the extensive and meticulous notes of Howard H Davis a local naturalist and ornithologist (who incidentally was the founder member of Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, president of the Bristol Naturalists Society and farmed at Little Stoke in South Gloucestershire until 1957), several books, weeks of contacting local birders and endless hours of sifting through information on the inter- web!

The 2010 S. Glos report is packed with information and fantastic photographs kindly donated by an ever increasing number of local birders, so it's a huge thanks to them for their generosity and most welcome support.

Martyn Hayes – S. Gloucestershire 2010

S. Glos Diary 2010 (Abridged)**JANUARY**

1st Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth, Short-eared Owl over Aust Warth.

2nd Two Goosander on the R. Avon at Hanham.

3rd Jack Snipe in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area.

4th Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.

5th Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.

8th Two Shorelark on the salt marsh near Lagoon I at Oldbury Power Station also two Ruddy Shelduck.

11th Red Kite over Shepperdine.

16th Jack Snipe at Oldbury Power Station, male Goosander at the Yacht Club.

17th Hen Harrier in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area. Ten Tree Sparrows from the Dyrham area.

18th Mandarin at Kingsgate Park Lake, Yate.

23rd Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.

24th Adult Mediterranean Gull at Oldbury Power Station, Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.

25th Twenty-five Barnacle Geese past Severn Beach and Northwick Warth. Two Short-eared Owls at Aust Warth.

26th The twenty-five Barnacle Geese in the New Passage area, two Short-eared Owls at Aust Warth.

27th Green-winged Teal at Oldbury Power Station on Lagoon I, also 25 Barnacle Geese, Jack Snipe at Westerleigh Common Pool.

28th Short-eared Owl at Severn Beach.

29th Jack Snipe at Shepperdine.

30th Jack Snipe at Shepperdine. Water Pipit on the salt marsh at Severn Beach, Short-eared Owl, two Goosander on R. Avon at Keynsham.

31st Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.

30th Nine Hawfinch at St Anne's Churchyard, Firecrest at Orchard Pools.

31st 115 Brent Geese at Severn Beach plus adult Mediterranean Gull and Water Pipit. Four Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth at Grebe Pond. Nine Hawfinch in Longwell Green at St. Anne's Churchyard.

FEBRUARY

1st Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.

2nd Short-eared Owl was at Aust Warth.

3rd Short-eared Owl on Aust Warth.

5th Two Short-eared Owls at Aust Warth.

6th Water Pipit at Severn Beach. 12 White-fronted Geese over Aust Warth.

11th Five Common Crossbill at Oldbury Power Station.

12th Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth.

15th Red Kite over the M5 north of the Almondsbury interchange.

16th Mandarin on Cooper's Factory Lake, Yate.

18th Seven Greylag Geese on Northwick Warth.

19th Seven Greylag Geese on Northwick Warth plus Jack Snipe.

20th Two Water Pipit on the salt marsh below Severn Beach, seven Greylag Geese at New Passage.

21st Two Jack Snipe and seven Greylag Geese on Northwick Warth.

25th Jack Snipe and six Greylag Geese on Northwick Warth.

26th Six Greylag Geese in the Northwick Warth area.

27th Spotted Redshank at Shepperdine, six Greylag Geese at New Passage.

MARCH

2nd Common Crane north over Aust Warth. Also two Short-eared Owls over the salt marsh and six Greylag Geese.

4th Common Crossbill at Warmley.

5th Short-eared Owl over the salt marsh at Aust Warth.

6th Water Pipit on Whale Warth. Red Kite in Shirehill Valley at Marshfield.

7th Scandinavian Rock Pipit and Water Pipit on the salt marsh at Severn Beach, Jack Snipe at Oldbury Power Station.

8th Jack Snipe at West Littleton pond.

15th Red Kite over New Passage.

16th Red Kite over the M4 from Woodlands Golf Club, Bradley Stoke.

18th Black Kite over the salt marsh at Severn Beach. Ring Ouzel at Aust STW on Sandy Lane.

21st Pale-bellied Brent Goose at Severn Beach plus Jack Snipe.

23rd Three Avocet in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area, Black Redstart at Severn View Services.

24th Black Redstart at Severn View Services.

25th Female Black Redstart at Oldbury Power Station, Water Pipit on the salt marsh below Severn Beach.

27th Female Black Redstart at OPS, two Common Crossbill at Thornbury.

28th Two Red Kite over Overscourt Wood & Plantation, Hoopoe at Thornbury.

30th Arctic Skua and three Common Scoter at Severn Beach.

31st Red Kite over Pilning.

APRIL

2nd Grasshopper Warbler at Severn Beach.

4th Grey Partridge at Marshfield

10th Red Kite at Orchard Pools, four over Overscourt Plantation.

11th Little Ringed Plover on Northwick Warth two more at Oldbury Power Station. Red Kite over Yate, 2nd summer male Marsh Harrier Severn Beach.

12th Two Barnacle Geese past Northwick Warth plus Little Ringed Plover. Two more Little Ringed Plover at OPS.

13th Two Goshawk at Yate.

14th Cetti's Warbler at Orchard Pools.

15th Ruddy Shelduck at Swineford.

16th Marsh Harrier at Severn Beach. Mandarin at Marshfield on Broadmead Brook.

17th Grasshopper Warbler at Oldbury Power Station on Lagoon II. Cetti's Warbler at Orchard Pools.

18th Grasshopper Warbler on Shirehill Lane at Marshfield. Grasshopper Warbler at Severn Beach.

21st Female Goshawk at undisclosed site. Grasshopper Warblers at Cribbs Causeway and Northwick Warth. 1st summer male Black Redstart at Oldbury Power Station.

22nd Nightingale on Northwick Warth.

23rd Two Grasshopper Warblers on Northwick Warth, one at Aztec West, five at Lower Knole Farm near Almondsbury, two at Oldbury Power Station on Lagoon II. Osprey over Orchard Pools near Severn Beach.

MAY

1st Two Grasshopper Warblers on Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station.

2nd Red Kite in Shire Valley by Gunning's Wood, Grey Partridge on Northfield Lane. Black Redstart at Oldbury Power Station.

3rd Grasshopper Warbler at Oldbury Power Station.

4th Marsh Harrier at Severn Beach, Grasshopper Warbler at Oldbury Power Station.

8th Male Wood Warbler at Savage's Wood, Bradley Stoke, Grasshopper Warbler at Three Brooks LNR.

15th Grasshopper Warbler at Littleton Warth, another at Oldbury Power Station on Lagoon II, two Arctic Skua's upriver there. Greenland Wheatear on Northwick Warth.

22nd Ring-necked Parakeet in Leap Valley at Downend.

23rd Red Kite at Yate, Ring-necked Parakeet over Kingswood.

24th Grasshopper Warbler at Oldbury Power Station.

25th Red Kite over the M5 at Almondsbury.

26th Three Red Kite one at Severn Beach, Westerleigh Common and Doynton.

JUNE

2nd Quail at Marshfield north of Middledown Road.

9th Red Kite in Shire Valley and over Westerleigh Common. Quail near West Littleton.

10th Grasshopper Warbler near Wickwar at Lower Woods.

16th Red Kite at Aust, Grasshopper Warbler at Lower Woods, Nightingale at Horton Farm.

18th Grey Partridge on Shirehill Lane.

19th Male White-spotted Bluethroat at Staple Hill, Bristol.

23rd Quail from Down Track at Marshfield.

24th Three Quail at Marshfield. Grasshopper Warbler at Lower Woods.

27th Three Quail from Down Track, Marshfield.

29th Four male Common Scoter on Monkswood Reservoir.

30th Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.

JULY

3rd Three Quail off Down Road at Downtorns Farm.

7th Juvenile Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.

8th Juvenile Mediterranean Gull and juvenile Yellow-legged Gull at New Passage.

9th Two Quail from Down Road at Marshfield.

10th Adult Mediterranean Gull at Oldbury Power Station on Lagoon III.

11th Two Quail from Down Road near Downtorns Farm.

13th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	8th	Two Grasshopper Warblers at Lower Knole Farm, Almondsbury, two adult Mediterranean Gulls at Oldbury Power Station.
14th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	9th	Red Kite in Shire Valley, Marshfield.
15th	Juvenile Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	13th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.
16th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage, four Quail from Down Road at Marshfield.	14th	Adult Mediterranean Gull on Northwick Warth.
17th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at Littleton-on-Severn and New Passage.	15th	2nd summer male Marsh Harrier over Thornbury Yacht Club, adult Mediterranean Gull on Northwick Warth.
18th	Four adult Mediterranean Gulls at New Passage, at least 10 Quail at Marshfield.	16th	Adult Mediterranean Gull in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth with recently three juvenile Mediterranean Gulls at New Passage. Quail from Down Road, Marshfield.
19th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	17th	Adult Mediterranean Gull from Littleton Warth.
20th	Red Kite at Thornbury, adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage, Hoopoe near Yate.	22nd	Quail flushed from Down Track.
21st	Three Grey Partridge on Orchid Lane at Marshfield.	26th	Juvenile Wood Sandpiper on Northwick Warth.
24th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at Oldbury Power Station.	27th	Juvenile Wood Sandpiper on Northwick Warth plus 1st winter Mediterranean Gull.
27th	Juvenile Mediterranean Gull at Oldbury Power Station.	28th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.
28th	Juvenile Mediterranean Gull at Oldbury Power Station.	29th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.
29th	Mediterranean Gulls at Oldbury Power Station and New Passage.	30th	Wryneck and Grasshopper Warbler on Northwick Warth, Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.
31st	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	31st	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.
AUGUST			
1st	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.		
3rd	Quail at Rushmead Lane/ Orchid Lane, Marshfield.		
5th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.		

SEPTEMBER

1st	Adult Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	4th	Two Quail flushed near Down Track at Marshfield, 50+ Raven in Shirehill Valley.
2nd	Wryneck on Northwick Warth.	6th	Male Mandarin at Kingsgate Park, Yate.
3rd	Wryneck on Northwick Warth, Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	7th	Short-eared Owl flushed from Northwick Warth two more there later.
4th	Mediterranean Gull at New Passage.	8th	Short-eared Owl on Northwick Warth.
5th	Spotted Redshank at New Passage, two Spotted Redshanks at Severn Beach.	9th	Short-eared Owl and adult Mediterranean Gull at Aust Warth.
7th	Red Kite over Gaunt's Earthcott.	9th	Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.
12th	Two White Stork over Northwick Warth. Cetti's Warbler at Severn Beach. Juvenile Little Tern at Oldbury Power Station.	10th	Ring Ouzel in the New Passage area. Male Mandarin on Coopers Lake at Yate.
14th	An unidentified Skua (possibly Long-tailed) at Severn Beach.	11th	Four Crossbill and Hawfinch at New Passage, 1st winter Ring Ouzel at Aust Cliffs. Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.
18th	Juvenile Garganey at Oldbury Power Station.	12th	Hawfinch and Crossbill at New Passage. Marsh Harrier at Aust Warth.
19th	Juvenile Garganey at OPS on Lagoon III.	13th	Drake Mandarin on Kingsgate Park, Yate. Lapland Bunting at Cake Pill at Aust Warth plus Short-eared Owl. Ring-tailed Hen Harrier on Northwick Warth mobbed by Short-eared Owl. Jack Snipe flushed from Northwick Warth.
20th	Juvenile Garganey at OPS.		Four Lapland Buntings Oldbury Power Station. Jack Snipe on the salt marsh above The Windbound.
21st	Red Kite over Marshfield village and Rushmead Lane. Ring-necked Parakeet at Cribbs Causeway.	14th	Lapland Bunting over New Passage, Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth.
25th	Drake Common Scoter off Severn Beach.	15th	Mediterranean Gull at New Passage, Woodlark on Northwick Warth.
30th	Spotted Redshank on Northwick Warth. Richard's Pipit over Thornbury Yacht Club.	16th	Two Whooper Swans past Oldbury Power Station at 09:55. Also at OPS Lapland Bunting heard distantly. The Whooper Swans subsequently at New Passage.

OCTOBER

2nd	Spotted Redshank on Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station, juvenile Garganey flushed from Lagoon III. Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth.	17th	Two Greenland White-fronted Geese, over Littleton-on-Severn. Male
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	Mandarin on Kingsgate Park at Yate.		Passage, Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth.
	Ringtail Hen Harrier in the Shirehill area.	13th	Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.
18th	Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth, Cetti's Warbler near The Glen at New Passage. An unconfirmed report of Goshawk at Aust Warth. Three Quail at Marshfield near Shirehill Lane.	14th	Ringtail Hen Harrier east of Rushmead Lane. Ring necked Parakeet over Lagoon III at OPS. five female type Goosanders past Severn Beach, two Short-eared Owl on Aust Warth.
20th	Lapland Bunting at Aust Warth, male Mandarin on Kingsgate Park at Yate. Short-eared Owl over Aust Warth.	15th	Ringtail Hen Harrier east of Rushmead Lane.
21st	Ten Mandarin at Heneage Court Pools, Falfield.	17th	Fifteen Greylag Geese at New Passage.
22nd	Cetti's Warbler and Jack Snipe in the New Passage area.	18th	Fifteen Greylag at New Passage.
23rd	Two Cetti's Warbler at The Glen at New Passage and Northwick Warth.	19th	Black Redstart at New Passage.
24th	Male Mandarin east of the Lock Keeper near Keynsham. Jack Snipe at Aust Warth.	24th	Ring-necked Parakeet at Thornbury. Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth.
30th	Common Crossbill over Northwick Warth, Water Pipit at Severn Beach.	26th	Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth with one on Littleton Warth. Two Waxwing on Cecil Road, Kingswood.
31st	Cetti's Warbler at New Passage, two Jack Snipe at Aust Warth.	27th	Two Waxwings at Kingswood, 6 over Wesley Avenue, Hanham. Black Redstart at Shepperdine.
		28th	Three Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth, Smew off New Passage, Mediterranean Gull at Severn Beach.
		30th	Red Kite over the M48 near Aust.

NOVEMBER

4th	Leach's Petrel from Severn Beach.
5th	Little Auk from Severn Beach.
7th	Ten White-fronted Geese past Northwick Warth.
11th	Great Skua, immature Arctic Skua off Severn Beach also two female Common Scoter.
12th	Great Skua at Oldbury Power Station. Little Auk, two Great Skua's, Great Northern Diver off Severn Beach, 1st winter Mediterranean Gull at New

DECEMBER

1st	Male Marsh Harrier near Shepperdine.
2nd	1st winter Spoonbill over Thornbury Yacht Club. Drake Scaup off New Passage. Nineteen Goosander at Oldbury Power Station.
3rd	Lapland Bunting over Northwick Warth.
4th	Long-eared Owl near Acton Turville.
5th	Jack Snipe on Broadmead Brook, Marshfield.

7th	Waxwing at Oldbury Power Station, 80 Barnacle Geese there. Water Pipit at Shepperdine.	22nd	Three Waxwing in Kingswood. Two Short-eared Owls at Aust Warth.
10th	Black Redstart at Oldbury Power Station, Hen Harrier on Northwick Warth.	23rd	25 Waxwing on Braydon Avenue, Little Stoke.
11th	Black Redstart at Oldbury Power Station, eighteen Waxwing Moreton Way, Thornbury. Three Waxwings at Emerson's Green, four on Mariston Way, Warmley.	24th	Immature Hen Harrier over Aust Warth. 13 Waxwing at Brimsham Park, Yate.
12th	Male Black Redstart at OPS, three Waxwings on St Johns Way, 20 on Mariston Way.	25th	Waxwing on Riverside Park, Severn Beach, 12 at Brimsham Park, Red Kite north of Thornbury Castle.
13th	Purple Sandpiper south of Severn Beach.	26th	Four Short-eared Owls and five Bewick's Swans at Aust Warth, ringtail Hen Harrier mid-channel at New Passage. 19 Waxwing at Brimsham Park.
14th	Ten Waxwings Patchway, ringtail Hen Harrier Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station, 10 Waxwing Millfield Drive, Warmley. Waxwing at Thornbury. Black Redstart at Severn Beach, two Short-eared Owls over Aust Warth.	27th	Seven White-fronted Geese over Aust Warth, Black Redstart at Severn Beach. 39 Waxwings at Bradley Stoke on Wheatfield Drive, 5 on Rodway Road Mangotsfield, 2 at Hawkins Crescent, Bradley Stoke.
15th	13 Waxwings Millfield Drive, 11 on Cadbury Heath Road. Black Redstart at Severn Beach, Short-eared Owl over Aust Warth, eight Waxwings at Abbey Wood, Filton.	28th	Male Black Redstart at Severn Beach, c.30 Waxwings on Wheatfield Drive, c.40 Bradley Stoke Community Centre plus c.20 at Tesco Car Park.
17th	Adult Mediterranean Gull at Shortwood Landfill.	29th	Three Waxwing near the District Centre at Bradley Stoke, 4 at Tesco Car Park, 14 at Yate on St Andrews, 6 on Gypsy Patch Lane/ Orpheus Avenue, Patchway. Black Redstart at Severn Beach.
18th	Two Short-eared Owls at Aust Warth. 22 Waxwing Leap Valley, Downend.	30th	Mandarin and Goosander at Swineford. Nine Goosander at Oldbury Power Station. Two Short-eared Owls on Aust Warth.
19th	Two Waxwings at Mangotsfield 3 at Emerson's Way, Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth.	31st	Three Short-eared Owls on Northwick Warth, two Short-eared Owls over Aust Warth.
21st	Short-eared Owl at Aust Warth. Jack Snipe on Broadmead Brook, Shire Valley.		

SYSTEMATIC LIST

There were two new additions to the S. Glos list in 2010 in chronological order they were;

White Spotted Bluethroat May at Staple Hill, Bristol
Greenland White-fronted Goose October past Littleton-on-Severn

SPECIES ACCOUNTS (Occurrences) Total this year

DIVERS

Great Northern Diver - *Gavia immer* (10) 1

One was seen flying south-west past Severn Beach on November 12th.

SEABIRDS

Leach's Petrel - *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (460) 1

One was reported on the estuary from Severn Beach at 16:00 on November 4th.

HERONS

Little Egret - *Egretta garzetta* (Scarce)

Little Egret bird days in S. Glos for 2010: NB: Severnside represents Severn Beach, New Passage and Northwick, Aust & Littleton Warth's. OPS represents Oldbury Power Station, Shepperdine and surrounding areas.

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
OPS	3	14	5	8	6	0	3	7	11	11	18	1	87
Severnside	2	2	6	10	4	13	22	45	64	65	34	3	270
Totals	5	16	11	18	10	13	25	52	75	76	52	4	357



The first record of Little Egret for the Marshfield patch. February 2010. Martyn Hayes.

Other Sightings:

The first record for the Marshfield patch was seen on February 27th when it was inadvertently flushed from 'Big Pond' to trees in Gunning's Wood along Broadmead Brook in the Shire Valley. Two were seen at Heneage Court Pools, Falfield on November 6th and single birds were seen in the Shire Valley on Broadmead Brook on December 5th and on the Streamside Walk at Thornbury on December 26th.

White Stork - *Ciconia ciconia* (2) 2

Two were seen in flight heading south over Northwick Warth on September 12th. Not only does this occurrence constitute the highest count for S. Glos it also represents the first record for the Severnside patch.



White Storks over Northwick Warth. September 2010. Brian Lancaster.

Spoonbill - *Platalea leucorodia* (8) 1

A 1st winter was seen in flight over Thornbury Yacht Club in the morning on December 2nd. This is the latest date for this species in S. Glos by around three months.

SWANS

Whooper Swan - *Cygnus cygnus* (14) 2

Two, an adult and a probable juvenile were seen in flight down river past Oldbury Power Station at 09:55 on October 16th and were subsequently seen past New Passage just five minutes later at 10:00.

GEESE

Greenland White-fronted Goose - *Anser albifrons flavirostris* (0) 2

Two were watched in flight south-west past Littleton-on-Severn at 09:17 on October 17th. A short account of this occurrence is set out in the articles.

Barnacle Goose - *Branta leucopsis* (32) 107

A party of twenty-five flew up river past Severn Beach at 13:30 on January 25th and were subsequently seen grazing on Northwick Warth. All 25 were still present on January 26th and were noted flying past Oldbury Power Station on the 27th. Two were seen in flight heading north-east past Northwick Warth in the morning on April 12th but on December 7th the highest count for S. Glos, a magnificent 80, were seen in flight upriver past Oldbury Power Station.



Part of a flock of twenty-five Barnacle Geese on Severnside. January 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose - *Branta bernicla hrota* (21) 1

Just one was seen with fifty-four Dark-bellied Brent Geese at Severn Beach on March 21st.



Pale-bellied Brent Goose at Severn Beach. March 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Ruddy Shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea* (12) 3

Two were seen in flight up river past Oldbury Power Station on January 8th. An adult male was present just inside the S. Glos boundary at ST: 691 691 near the public house at Swineford around 10:00 on April 15th.



Ruddy Shelduck at Swineford. April 2010. Geoff Harris.

DUCKS

Mandarin - *Aix galericulata* (255) c.16

A drake was seen on Kingsgate Park Lake, Yate at lunchtime on January 18th and probably the same bird was present at lunchtime on February 16th at Yate on Cooper's Factory Lake. A male was seen at Chipping Sodbury on March 28th. A female was flushed from Broadmead Brook in the Shire Valley on April 16th. It was seen to fly into Gunning's Wood where it presumable 'landed' in trees there. This occurrence represents the first report of this species for the Marshfield patch. A male was present early morning on Kingsgate Park at Yate in October on and off from the 6th to the 20th with a brief excursion to nearby Coopers Lake on October 10th. On October 21st at least ten were present on Heneage Court Pools including seven males and three females. A male was seen east of the Lock Keeper near Keynsham (opposite boatyard) on the Avon at 16:00 on October 24th and presumably the same male was noted on the R. Avon at Swineford on December 30th.



Mandarin at Yate. October 2010. Darren Pearce.

Green-winged Teal - *Anus carolinensis* (1) 1

A male was seen on January 27th on Lagoon I at Oldbury Power Station before being flushed onto the tidal reservoir later to return to Lagoon I at high tide. Both records come from Oldbury Power Station but this one represents the latest date for this species in S. Gos.



Drake Green-winged Teal at Oldbury Power Station. January 2010. Darryl Spittle.

Garganey - *Anus querquedula* (74) 1

One, a juvenile, was seen on the estuary at Oldbury Power Station between September 18th - 20th where it frequented Lagoon III and the lake. It or another was also seen at the same site on October 2nd.



Juvenile Garganey at Oldbury Power Station. September 2010. Pete Hazelwood.

Scaup - *Aythya marila* (c.40) 1

A drake was noted off New Passage in the afternoon on December 2nd.

Smew - *Mergellus albellus* (10) 1

A 'redhead' was present off New Passage between 13:15 and mid-afternoon on November 28th.



Smew off New Passage. November 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Red-breasted Merganser - *Mergus serrator* (c.60) 1

A female was seen off Severn Beach on November 12th.

Goosander - *Mergus merganser* (c.60) 37

A male and female were present on the River Avon at Hanham opposite the 'Chocolate Factory' on January 2nd and on January 30th were noted near the Lock Keeper at Keynsham. A male was seen in flight down river at Shepperdine on January 16th. Five 'brown heads' flew upriver past Severn Beach in the morning on November 14th and continued north over the Second Severn Crossing. Nineteen were seen heading north across the river near Oldbury Power Station on December 2nd. A female was seen on the R. Avon near Swineford and a further nine flew high down river past Oldbury Power Station on December 30th.

The record of 19 from Oldbury Power Station on December 2nd represents the highest count for this species in S. Glos.

RAPTORS

Red Kite - *Milvus milvus* (c.60) c.25

The best year ever for Red Kite in S. Glos thus far with over twenty-five birds noted and nearly thirty bird days achieved. 2010 was also notable for both the latest date for this species and the highest count! The latest was on December 25th near Thornbury Castle and the highest count at Overscourt Plantation, Siston on April 10th when a very impressive four were present.

Individuals were seen in both January and February at Shepperdine and Almondsbury. March, April and May all scored six of the best with numbers generally around one or two monthly for the rest of the year with the exception of a blank in October.

Red Kite bird days in S. Glos in 2010

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	1	6	6	6	2	1	1	2	0	1	1	28

Black Kite - *Milvus migrans* (1) 1

The second S. Glos record was seen on the salt marsh at Severn Beach around 09:55 on March 18th. It was watched by two lucky observers and was seen to leave the salt marsh being mobbed by corvids and Buzzard drifting east over the station and Orchard Pools. This occurrence represents the earliest date for this species in S. Glos.

Marsh Harrier - *Circus aeruginosus* (23) 6

A 2nd summer male was seen at Severn Beach on April 11th in the evening. A second bird was seen just five days later flying north over the Second Severn Crossing at Severn Beach early morning on April 16th and a cream crowned bird flew east from Severn Beach at 12:35 after initially being watched flying up the estuary from the south-west on May 4th. In autumn a 2nd summer male was seen over Oldbury Yacht Club towards Littleton-upon-Severn at 09:10 on August 15th and a female was seen at Aust Warth on October 12th at 16:40. One winter bird, an adult male, was seen a little way inland at Shepperdine on December 1st.



1st summer male Marsh Harrier at Severn Beach. April 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Hen Harrier - *Circus cyaneus* (24) c.6

In the first winter period a bird was seen on January 17th at 16:00 over Northwick Warth. In autumn a ringtail was watched on Northwick Warth, New Passage late afternoon on October 13th. Another ringtail was seen from midday until dusk on October 18th in the Shirehill area near Plough Farm where it occasionally drifted into S. Glos and probably the same bird was present in fields at the eastern end of Rushmead Lane on November 14th & 15th. In the second winter period an adult male was seen over Northwick Warth, a ringtail was seen in flight over Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station and then towards Thornbury Yacht Club at 13:20 on December 14th and an immature bird was present at Aust Warth on December 24th at 13:40 and appeared to go to roost there. On December 26th the same or another was noted mid-channel off New Passage at 12:15 and represents the latest date for this species.



Hen Harrier at Aust Warth. December 2010. Paul Bowerman.



These superb field notes were detailed by Phil Baber. October 2010.

Goshawk - *Accipiter gentiles* (c.15) 5

A male and female returned to the breeding site in S. Glos and were noted in the first week of March. Unfortunately they failed to establish and sadly breeding was unsuccessful. Two, a male and female were seen over Yate and Westerleigh Common at 11:45 on April 13th then south-west towards Coalpit Heath. An unconfirmed report was received of one flying across the estuary from Gwent towards Aust Warth at 13:00 where it was seen by three observers circling before departing north on October 18th.

Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus* (21) 1

A spring migrant was seen flying in off the estuary at Chittening Warth later to be seen over Orchard Pools near Severn Beach mid afternoon on April 23rd.

GAME**Quail - *Coturnix coturnix* (Scarce) c.17**

The first bird of the year was heard calling at around 20:30 on June 2nd in the Marshfield area, north of the Middledown Road about 400m east of the A46 at ST: 750 746. June peaked at seven bird days throughout the month. July was a little more productive with sixteen bird days and the highest count for the year, ten birds on the 18th. Numbers started to fall away through the autumn but a late flurry saw three near Shirehill Lane on October 18th.

Quail bird days for S. Glos in 2010

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
0	0	0	0	0	7	16	4	0	5	0	0	32

CRANE**Common Crane - *Grus grus* (8) 1**

A total of nine birds have been recorded since the first in 2000. This years welcome addition was seen in flight heading north over Aust Warth around 09:30 on March 2nd.

WADERS

Avocet - *Recurvirostra avosetta* (c.80) 3

Three were seen in the Northwick Warth/ New Passage area at 08:10 on March 23rd.



This sequence of shots of Avocet on Severnside were captured by Don Smith. March 2010.

Purple Sandpiper - *Calidris maritima* (c.250) 1

It was nearly the end of the year before the only bird of the year was seen mixing with Turnstone near the 'pipes' south of Severn Beach on December 13th. Becoming even scarcer this is the first record in S. Glos for four years!



Purple Sandpiper at Severn Beach. December 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Jack Snipe - *Lymnocryptes minimus* (c. 250) c.17

The first winter period brought birds from Northwick Warth, Shepperdine and Westerleigh Common with a maximum of two birds on Northwick Warth in February. Birds continued to be seen into March with individuals at Oldbury Power Station, West Littleton and Severn Beach. Absent then until October they returned to the salt marsh on Northwick Warth where up to three were present throughout the month. Others were recorded in one's and two's at Hill Flats above the Windbound near Oldbury Power Station and on Aust and Littleton Warth's. The only non coastal report came from Broadmead Brook near Ebbdown Farm at Marshfield in December.



Jack Snipe on Northwick Warth. February 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Spotted Redshank - *Tringa erythropus* (c.80) 6

Six Spotted Redshank were called this year with the earliest ever record seen near the Windbound at Shepperdine on February 27th. All other reports are from the autumn with birds at New Passage, Severn Beach and Northwick Warth in September. The last of the year was watched as it flew from the yacht club to Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station on October 2nd.

Wood Sandpiper - *Tringa glareola* (20) 1

Just one this year, a juvenile present on Northwick Warth at New Passage for two days in August on the 26th - 27th.



Wood Sandpiper on Northwick Warth. August 2010. Tony Scott.

SKUAS**Pomarine Skua - *Stercorarius pomarinus* (c.145) 2**

Two pale morph birds with full 'spoons' were seen from Severn Beach at 07:55 on April 30th and were seen to drift high south-west.

Arctic Skua - *Stercorarius parasiticus* (c.650) 11

A dark morph was seen off Severn Beach on March 30th, two dark morph's were seen there on April 28th with five, two pale, two dark and one intermediate present there on April 30th. Two were noted upriver past Oldbury Power Station at 07:15 on May 15th and a juvenile flew past Severn Beach late afternoon on November 11th.



Arctic Skua at Severn Beach. April 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Skua Spp - *Stercorarius spp* (c.20) 1

One unidentified bird but probably a Long-tailed Skua was seen off Severn Beach on September 14th.

GULLS

Mediterranean Gull - *Larus melanocephalus* (c.350) c.22

In the first winter period just one bird was seen at Oldbury Power Station in fields to the south-west of Lagoon III on January 24th. No reports were received until a summer adult was seen off New Passage on June 30th. A glut of birds were noted in both July and August ranging from juveniles to full summer adults with counts of twenty-one and eighteen respectively. The lion's share was on Severnside mostly in the New Passage area but birds were seen at Oldbury Power Station, Littleton-on-Severn, Littleton and Aust Warth's. Numbers dropped dramatically from September onwards with the last, an adult from Shortwood Landfill on December 17th.

Mediterranean Gull bird days for S. Glos in 2010

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Severnside	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	17	3	2	2	-	39
OPS	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	8
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Totals	1	-	-	-	-	1	21	18	3	2	2	1	49



Mediterranean Gull at New Passage. November 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Yellow-legged Gull - *Larus michahellis* (c.200) c.5

A 3rd summer was seen in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area on April 24th and a juvenile was present also at New Passage on July 8th. The Shortwood Landfill provided several winter records with a 1st winter present on November 30th, an adult December 8th and two adults on December 21st - 22nd.

TERNs**Little Tern - *Sterna albifrons* (c.210) 1**

A juvenile was seen on the Tidal Reservoir at Oldbury Power Station for 10 minutes on September 12th. The highest count for Little Tern in S. Glos was logged in 1990 when a flock of thirty-four on May 1st were seen off Severn Beach. A total of seventy-four birds were noted up to the 9th in a remarkable passage of birds all moving upstream!

AUKS**Little Auk - *Alle alle* (c.27) 2**

Just two individuals this year the first was seen flying upriver close to the sea wall off Severn Beach at 16:25 on November 5th. It did a sharp 'U' turn as it approached the Severn Crossing before crash landing onto the river in 'Burger Bar Bay'. The second was also seen off Severn Beach at Shaft Beach on November 12th.



Little Auk off Severn Beach. November 2010. Paul Bowerman.

PARAKEETS

Ring-necked Parakeet - *Psittacula krameri* (6) c.5

The first of the year was noted at Leap Valley, Downend on May 22nd the next was seen and heard over Bellevue Road in Kingswood heading north around 20:15 on May 23rd. Another was seen near the Harvester Pub at Cribbs Causeway on September 22nd. Finally one was reported from Oldbury Power Station on November 14th for fifteen minutes. It flew over Lagoon III at 15:35. Calling loudly circled a number of times until 15:50 over shore and, at one point over to mid-river. It was always at quite a height and eventually flew off towards Oldbury village. The same or another was noted over Thornbury at 07:30 on November 24th.

OWLS

Long-eared Owl - *Asio otus* (c.40) 1

One was seen in a hedge on the north side of the B4040 just west of Acton Turville at around 19:00 on December 4th ST: 799 809.

Short-eared Owl - *Asio flammeus* (Scarce) c.7

Short-eared Owl bird days in S. Glos in 2010

Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Sevenside	12	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	18	49

There were nearly 50 Short-eared Owl bird days in S. Glos in 2010 with birds recorded on both the first and last days of the year. Birds were notably seen at their stronghold on Aust Warth in the first three months of the year. Absent from April through September they reappeared in October and were with us until the years end. Present generally in one's and two's the highest count came in December when four were seen on Aust Warth on the 26th.



Short-eared Owl at Aust. January 2010. Paul Bowerman.

HOOPOE

Hoopoe - *Upupa epops* (18) 2

Two of these exotic crackers were reported this year the first was a one day bird seen in a private garden on Kington Lane at Thornbury on March 28th (see Joy's narrative below, interestingly this report represents the earliest record of this species in S. Glos). The second was on a private estate at Iron Acton between July 20th - 29th unfortunately in an area with no public access.



Hoopoe at Kington Lane near Oldbury-on-Severn. March 2010. Joy Irwin.

Joy writes; It was an amazing experience seeing the Hoopoe in our garden at Kington not far from Oldbury-on-Severn. Our cottage is in a rural area adjoining open farmland. The Hoopoe was sitting very still on a small lawned area just outside our kitchen window. We watched it for a few minutes and managed to take this photo. The flash from the camera made the bird jump and it flew on to the top of the hedge and then flew off over the fields. It was such a privileged to have seen such a fantastic bird.

Joy Irwin - March 2010. S. Gloucestershire.

WOODPECKERS

Wryneck - *Jynx torquilla* (16) 1

One was trapped, ringed and released on Northwick Warth, New Passage on August 30th and was seen subsequently on September 2nd & 3rd on the landward side of Northwick Warth.



Wryneck on Northwick Warth. August 2010. Paul Bowerman.

LARKS

Woodlark - *Lullula arborea* (11) 1

One was heard calling as it flew north over Northwick Warth, New Passage in the morning on October 15th.

Shorelark - *Eremophila alpestris* (6) 2

Two were seen feeding on the salt marsh near Lagoon I at Oldbury Power Station at ST: 607 954 around 11:30 on January 8th. They flew up river and dropped into the salt marsh just before high tide.

PIPITS

Richard's Pipit - *Anthus richardi* (5) 1

On September 30th site bird surveyors reported one flying over Thornbury yacht club with a group of Skylark early in the afternoon.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit - *Anthus petrosus littoralis* (8) 1

One was present on the Salt Marsh south of Severn Beach on March 7th.

Water Pipit - *Anthus spinoletta* (c.60) 6

One was seen on the saltings south of Severn Beach on January 2nd & 6th. Three were seen north of Oldbury Power Station on January 17th & 25th up-river of the Windbound on the edge of the salt marsh. They were noted near the fence immediately up-river of the white house. (ST: 619 967). At least two were still present on January 18th, 23rd, 30th and 31st (an adult & 1st winter), and February 10th. Two were noted on the salt marsh below Severn Beach on January 26th with one on January 29th and February 12th - 13th. One was seen at Littleton-upon-Severn on January 30th and one was seen on Littleton Warth on March 2nd.



One of three Water Pipits seen at OPS. January 2011. Darryl Spittle.

WAXWING

Waxwing - *Bombycilla garrulous* (Irruptive) c.260



One of at least ten Waxwings in Warmley. December 2010. Martyn Hayes.

The 2010 extravaganza kicked off on November 26th when two were seen in trees in the car park on Cecil Road, Kingswood opposite the Royal Mail Sorting Office at 10:50. They were seen about half a kilometre east the following day with another six from Hanham on the same date. Reports in December came from Oldbury Power Station, Thornbury, Blackhorse Lane, Mangotsfield, St Johns Way at Chipping Sodbury, Mariston Way at Warmley, the MOD site at Abbey Wood, Filton, from Leap Valley and Sandown Close at Downend, Kingswood, Braydon Avenue at Little Stoke, Brimsham Park in Yate, Patchway and Pipits Court on Riverside Park at Severn Beach. The highest counts came from the Bradley Stoke area with thirty-nine at Wheatfield Drive on December 27th and c.40 at the Community Centre, Bradley Stoke. The last birds were seen at Patchway on December 29th.



Waxwings at Emerson's Green. December 2010. Andrew Jordon.

CHATS & THRUSHES

Nightingale - *Luscinia megarhynchos* (Scarce) 3

One, a male was heard singing in the morning on April 22nd in the hedge near the 'flash' on Northwick Warth. At least one was heard on Inglestone Common on May 8th and another was heard at Lower Woods near Horton Farm on June 16th.

White-spotted Bluethroat - *Luscinia svecica cyanecula* (o) 1

An adult male was seen and heard singing on June 19th in a private garden at Staple Hill in Bristol. It was present between 10:00 and 11:30 and was photographed before its departure. This occurrence constitutes the first report of this form for S. Gloucestershire.



Male White-spotted Bluethroat. June 2010. Janet Farley.

Importantly and in support of this superb male at Staple Hill another summer male was present at Welney Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust throughout the summer. Read a full account of this occurrence in the articles.

Black Redstart - *Pheonicurus ochruros* (c.90) 6

One was seen around mid-day at Severn View Services on the M4 near Aust on March 23rd & 24th. A female was noted at Oldbury Power Station near the Water Works on March 25th & 27th. A 1st summer male was present on April 21st at Oldbury Power Station and was heard singing on the south-west side of the main buildings. It was possibly seen and heard briefly again on May 2nd. A female/ immature was noted on the sea wall at New Passage on November 19th. One was seen on the Shepperdine side of Oldbury Power Station at 14:30 on November 27th and again on the cooling tower at Oldbury Power Station on December 10th - 12th. At Severn Beach a male was present on the steps opposite Downs Bakery on December 14th - 29th.



Black Redstart at New Passage. November 2010. Steve Hale.



Fresh autumn male Black Redstart near Oldbury Power Station. November 2010. Wilf King.

Greenland Wheatear - *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa* (Very scarce) 2

One was seen on Littleton Warth and a male was noted in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area both on May 15th.

Ring Ouzel - *Turdus torquatus* (c.35) c.3

A male was seen at Aust STW, Sandy Lane just north of the Old Severn Crossing on March 18th. Another was present in the New Passage area on October 10th with the same or another 1st winter at Aust Warth and cliffs on October 11th.

WARBLERS

Cetti's Warbler - *Cettia cetti* (c.23) c.4

All presumed males were heard at Orchard Pools, near Severn Beach on April 14th and again on the 17th, from brambles along the railway line at Severn Beach on September 12th, at The Glen at New Passage on October 18th - 31st with an additional bird on Northwick Warth on October 23rd.

Grasshopper Warbler - *Locustella naevia* (Scarce) c.36

An incredible 35 plus birds were seen this year amounting to nearly fifty bird days and the one seen on April 2nd represents the earliest record for S. Glos.

The first of the year pitched up at Severn Beach on April 2nd which kicked off an average of one a day for the rest of the month. Birds were reported from Oldbury Power Station, Marshfield, Severn Beach, Cribbs Causeway and Northwick Warth. Others were noted at Lower Knole Farm at Almondsbury, Overscourt Plantation near Siston and Three Brooks LNR at Bradley Stoke. One was heard at near Wickwar around Lower Woods and the final bird was trapped on Northwick Warth, New Passage on August 30th.

Grasshopper Warbler bird days in S. Glos in 2010

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
-	-	-	31	11	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	48



Grasshopper Warbler at Severn Beach. April 2010. Paul Bowerman.

Wood Warbler - *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (Scarce) 1

A male was noted singing from Savage's Wood near Bradley Stoke on May 8th at around 07:00.

FINCHES & BUNTINGS

Tree Sparrow - *Passer montanus* (Scarce) 10

A party of ten were reported in the Dryham area in the first week of January.

Common Crossbill - *Loxia curvirostra* (c.55) 14

Five were seen heading north-east over the river at Oldbury Power Station on February 11th. One was seen and heard over Deanery Close, Warmley at 10:15 on March 4th. At Thornbury at least one, probably two were seen and heard at around 11:40 over a private garden on March 27th. Four were reported from New Passage on October 11th with a further individual there on October 12th. One was noted south over Northwick Warth on October 30th.

Hawfinch - *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (c.70) 2

After the glut in recent years just two were reported this. The first from New Passage on October 11th with a further individual also at New Passage on October 12th.

Lapland Bunting - *Calcarius lapponicus* (c.10) c.10

Only the best year ever for this species in S. Glos an incredible ten birds were reported including a highest count of at least four birds at Oldbury Power Station on October 13th.

All winter birds from the second period of the year the first birds were all noted on the same day one on the gravel track at Cake Pill, Aust Warth, four at Oldbury Power Station, two on the salt marsh and a further two over on October 13th. The following day one was noted over New Passage and another two days later over Oldbury Power Station. One was seen at Aust Warth at 07:50 on October 20th and the ultimate bird was seen flying south-west over Northwick Warth towards New Passage at 12:30 on December 3rd.

NOTABLE BIRDING EVENTS IN S. GLOS IN 2010

Barnacle Goose: The highest count of 80 for this species on December 7th at Oldbury Power Station. (B@OPS)

Black Kite: The earliest date for this species on March 18th at Severn Beach. (Kevin Bainbridge, Steve Hale)

Brambling: At least 100 in the Downtorns Farm area on Down Road at Marshfield on December 24th. (John Barnett)

Goosander: The highest count of nineteen for this species at Oldbury Power Station on December 2nd. (B@OPS)

Grasshopper Warbler: The earliest date for this species on April 2nd at Severn Beach. (Sevenside Birds)

Greenland White-fronted Goose: The first report of this form with two at Littleton-on-Severn on October 17th. (Matt Plenty)

Green-winged Teal: The latest date for this species on January 27th at Oldbury Power Station. (B@OPS)

Hen Harrier: The latest date for this species on December 26th at New Passage. (Sevenside Birds)

Hoopoe: The earliest date for this species on March 28th near Thornbury. (Joy Irwin.)

Lapland Bunting: The highest count of four for this species on October 13th at Oldbury Power Station. (B@OPS)

Little Egret: The first record for the Marshfield patch on February 27th. (John Barnett) The highest count of eight for this species was noted at Oldbury Power Station on November 12th. (B@OPS)

Mandarin: The earliest date for this species on January 18th at Yate. (Darren Pearce) The first record for the Marshfield Patch on April 16th. (John Barnett) The latest date for this species on December 30th on the R. Avon at Swineford. (Chris Mott)

Raven: The highest count of at least 50 for this species on October 4th at Shire Valley, Marshfield. (John Barnett)

Red Kite: The highest count of four for this species on April 10th at Overscourt Plantation, Siston. (Ben Olfield) The latest date by 72 days on December 25th near Thornbury Castle (Previous date October 14th 2008). (M Leighton)

Ring-necked Parakeet: The latest date for this species on November 24th. (Matt Plenty)

Ring Ouzel: The earliest date for this species on March 18th at Aust STW. (Stephen Emery)

Ruddy Shelduck: The earliest date for this species on January 8th at Oldbury Power Station. (B@OPS)

Skylark: The highest count of c.2000 for this species was noted at Marshfield in the Down Road, Down Track area on December 19th. (John Barnett)

Smew: The earliest date for this species on November 28th by forty-five days. (Sevenside Birds)

Spoonbill: The latest date for this species on December 2nd at Thornbury Yacht Club. (Matt Plenty)

Spotted Redshank: The earliest date for this species on February 27th at Shepperdine. (B@OPS)

Waxwing: Around 270 birds were noted between November 27th and December 31st. (TBOSG)

White-spotted Bluethroat: The first report of this form on June 19th at Staple Hill. (Janet Farley)

White Stork: The highest count for this species of two on September 12th at Northwick Warth and first Sevenside patch record. (Brian Lancaster)

Whooper Swan: The earliest date for this species on October 16th at Oldbury Power Station. (B@OPS)

ARTICLES

White-spotted Bluethroat – Janet Farley

Male White-spotted Bluethroat. June 2010. Janet Farley.

On June 19th 2010 at around 10:00 whilst watering hanging baskets in a small communal garden at Staple Hill in Bristol, pensioner Janet Farley (aged 75) was distracted by birdsong she did not recognise. Turning from her watering she was confronted, about five metres away, by a small Robin sized bird with a bright blue breast, she said ...'I could even see the white on it'.... She watched the bird for a couple of minutes in full song and bright sunshine on the stems of a mature Pampas in a shrubby boarder. The Bluethroat moved to a nearby bird table where it fed on suet then to a bird bath where it washed and drank, returning to the Pampas where it moved to the back of the plant and resumed singing. Janet mentioned ...'It was a little more difficult too see then but I could still hear it'...

At this point Janet slowly retreated from the scene to fetch her compact camera. She said... 'Whilst I was getting my camera I was hoping it would still be there when I got back'... Fortune has it that the bird was still at the back of the Pampas and still singing on Janet's return. Camera in hand she managed to capture this single photo, she went on to say...'I

zoomed in a little too far so the bird looks bigger than it actually was, but it wasn't frightened when the flash went off'... Having managed that single shot she watched the bird around the garden until around 11:15 when it departed and was not seen subsequently.

This remarkably freaky occurrence came to light after a bizarre set of events; She showed the photo on her camera to someone who recognised it as a Bluethroat, that friend took his dog for a walk and bumped into Allan Chard. On hearing the tale, Allan raced back to see Janet, saw the photo, borrowed the SD card and dashed round to the local film developing shop and had two copies made! The information with a digital copy of the photo was emailed to both the BOC and Birding South Glos and news was released on June 25th 2010.

I eventually caught up with Janet at her home in Staple Hill on June 30th 2010 where she very kindly showed me the photo on her camera and took me on a tour of the communal garden pointing out the Pampas, bird table and bird bath where she watched this amazing bird!

Martyn Hayes, S. Gloucestershire - June 2010.

Greenland White-fronted Goose – Matt Plenty

Two were watched in flight south-west past Littleton-on-Severn at 09:17 on October 17th. They then flew down to the Severn Bridge turned and came back north-east past Littleton-on-Severn where they were seen in excellent light and at one point less than 100 metres. They continued upriver towards Oldbury Power Station and were noted to be adult birds, 'bulky' with dark and heavily barred bellies and orange bills.

M Plenty, S. Gloucestershire – October 2010

The rarest birds ever to have occurred in S. Gloucestershire

Species/ Form	Occurrences	Date
White-tailed Eagle	1	December 1871
Red-breasted Goose	1	November 1909
Sooty Shearwater	1	September 1974
Red-footed Falcon	1	September 1974
Aquatic Warbler	1	August 1976
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	October 1977
Terek Sandpiper	1	September 1986
Taiga Bean Goose	1	March 1988
Balearic Shearwater	1	September 1988
White-winged Black Tern	1	May 1990
Icterine Warbler	1	May 1992
Cattle Egret	1	April 1993
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	1	December 1993
Kumlien's Gull	1	June 1996
Red-spotted Bluethroat	1	May 1998
Black Guillemot	1	October 1998
Continental Cormorant	1	January 2001
Red-necked Phalarope	1	October 2001
American Golden Plover	1	January 2002
Subalpine Warbler	1	May 2004
European Bee-eater	1	May 2007
Channel Wagtail	1	May 2009
Black-headed Bunting	1	June 2009
Grey-headed Wagtail	1	September 2009
Glossy Ibis	1	October 2009
Fregetta Storm Petrel	1	November 2009
Pacific Diver	1	November 2009
White-spotted Bluethroat	1	June 2010

Breeding Birds in S. Glos 2010

Introduction

This report is the result of the work of many members of the above organisations, their names are at the end of this report and we are very grateful for their efforts. This survey started in 1994 and has now covered 17 breeding seasons.

Method

The method used is that of the British Trust for Ornithology's Breeding Bird Survey. The surveyors are birdwatchers who are able to recognise all the species by sight and song. They walk 2km within a square kilometre, early in the morning when bird activity is at its greatest. Two recording visits are made, one between April 1st and May 15th and a second at least four weeks later and before the end of June.

Results

The surveyors spent over 140 hours counting 14,865 birds of 78 species to establish the numbers and distribution of breeding bird species of South Gloucestershire. They visited 46 square kilometres that is 9.3% of the area.

Table 1

Summarises the total counts and percentage distribution of each species. The method of this survey does not accurately count the number of pairs breeding. However, if they are in the area in reasonable numbers during the spring, then they are likely to breed. This method avoids the need to disturb the birds by inspecting the nests.

Table 1

Species	total	%dist	Species	total	%dist
Cormorant**	1	2	Blackbird	1106	100
Grey Heron	27	35	Song Thrush	230	87
Mute Swan	2	2	Mistle Thrush	27	24
Canada Goose	20	9	Sedge Warbler	12	4
Mallard	147	50	Reed Warbler	1	2
Shelduck	7	4	Lesser Whitethroat	24	26
Sparrowhawk	7	13	Whitethroat	132	70
Buzzard	58	61	Garden Warbler	7	13
Red Kite**	1	2	Blackcap	287	78
Kestrel	18	22	Grasshopper Warbler*	1	2
Peregrine	1	2	Chiffchaff	340	93
Quail*	2	4	Willow Warbler	42	43
Red-legged Partridge	49	20	Goldcrest	22	26
Grey Partridge	3	4	Spotted Flycatcher	1	2
Pheasant	222	76	Long-tailed Tit	95	48
Moorhen	30	17	Marsh Tit	4	7
Coot	6	7	Coal Tit	25	30
Lapwing*	2	2	Blue Tit	709	100
Black-headed Gull**	1	2	Great Tit	450	96
Common Gull**	1	2	Nuthatch	15	17
Lesser Black-backed Gull	222	57	Treecreeper	10	9
Herring Gull	187	54	Jay	45	48
Feral Pigeon	181	26	Magpie	326	89
Stock Dove	72	39	Jackdaw	1122	89
Woodpigeon	1699	98	Rook	674	59
Collared Dove	194	70	Carrion Crow	1307	98
Little Owl	3	7	Raven	12	17
Tawny Owl	1	2	Starling	456	65
Swift	115	39	House Sparrow	449	65
Kingfisher	2	4	Chaffinch	513	100
Green Woodpecker	73	54	Greenfinch	195	80
Great Spotted Woodpecker	54	52	Goldfinch	222	67
Skylark	275	50	Linnet	110	39
Swallow	470	96	Lesser Redpoll**		
House Martin	104	39	Bullfinch	29	30
Meadow Pipit	27	4	Yellowhammer	120	50
Grey Wagtail	5	7	Corn Bunting	29	13
Pied Wagtail	45	33			
Wren	624	98	TOTAL		
Dunnock	247	85	Time [minuets]	14865	
Robin	505	100	Birds per hour	8430	
Wheatear**	6	7		106	

Table 1 contains three types of birds – definite breeders with no mark, possible breeders with a * and non-breeders with **. The method of survey does not count shy, nocturnal or rare species that are known to nest or possibly nest within the South Gloucestershire boundary. Species which need to be added to the definite breeders in 2010 are Mandarin Duck, Tufted Duck, Oystercatcher, Barn Owl and Yellow Wagtail. Possible nesters not recorded in the survey were Little Grebe, Sand Martin, Dipper, Nightingale, Stonechat, Cetti's Warbler and Reed Bunting. The total of 76 breeding species and 10 possibles is a measure of the biodiversity in South Gloucestershire in 2010.

Table 2 -Highest counts SG

		Percentage distribution			
1	Woodpigeon [1]	1699	1=	Blackbird [100%]	100%
2	Carrion Crow [5]	1370	1=	Blue Tit [98%]	100%
3	Jackdaw [2]	1122	1=	Chaffinch [98%]	100%
4	Blackbird [4]	1106	1=	Robin [100%]	100%
5	Blue Tit [10]	709	5=	Carrion Crow [100%]	98%
6	Rook [3]	674	5=	Carrion Crow [100%]	98%
7	Wren [7]	624	5=	Wren [95%]	98%
8	Chaffinch [11]	513	8=	Great Tit [95%]	96%
9	Robin [6]	505	8=	Swallow [93%]	96%
10	Swallow [12]	470	10=	Chiffchaff [93%]	93%
11	Starling [8]	456	11=	Jackdaw [86%]	89%
12	Great Tit [14]	450	11=	Magpie [88%]	89%
13	House Sparrow [9]	449	13	Song Thrush [88%]	87%
14	Chiffchaff [16]	340	14	Dunnock [86%]	85%
15	Magpie [13]	326	15	Greenfinch [86%]	80%
16	Blackcap [20]	287	16	Blackcap [86%]	78%
17	Skylark [18]	275	17	Pheasant [62%]	76%
18	Dunnock [19]	247	18=	Collared Dove [71%]	70%
19	Song Thrush [-]	230	18=	Whitethroat [62%]	70%
20	Lesser Black-backed Gull [-]	222	20	Goldfinch [71%]	67%
20	Pheasant [-]	222			
20	Goldfinch [-]	222			

2009 positions and distributions in brackets.

Percentage changes last year and since 2000, for the most numerous species

Species change	09/10	00/10		09/10	00/10
Woodpigeon	-8	-12	Chiffchaff	11	-16
Collared Dove	14	60	Blue Tit	23	2
Swift	29	26	Great Tit	28	26
Skylark	-16	-2	Magpie	-13	-23
Swallow	0	74	Jackdaw	-6	-4
House Martin	-51	-60	Rook	-49	-67
Wren	-8	-29	Carrion Crow	26	12
Dunnock	-2	-5	Starling	-10	-51
Robin	-27	13	House Sparrow	-18	-34
Blackbird	-2	-4	Chaffinch	-11	-18
Song Thrush	-6	-11	Greenfinch	-36	-64
Blackcap	28	35	Goldfinch	-1	-7

The percentage changes of the most numerous species are based on 42 squares that were covered in 2009 and 2010 by the same observer. In the last year, 8 of the species increased while 15 decreased.

South Gloucestershire breeding populations in 2010

Blue Tit	16000	Starling	2600
Wren	14000	Goldfinch	2500
Blackbird	11800	Skylark	2400
Great Tit	11000	Greenfinch	2300
Robin	10000	Song Thrush	2100
House Sparrow	7500	Whitethroat	1500
Woodpigeon	6700	Linnet	1300
Dunnock	6400	House Martin	1000
Blackcap	4000	Magpie	1000
Carrion Crow	4000	Yellowhammer	1000
Chaffinch	4000	Collared Dove	900
Chiffchaff	3600	Swift	500
Swallow	3600	Mallard	400
Jackdaw	3400		
Rook	3000	Total	128500

The table gives our breeding estimates for the most numerous species, which together with all the other species brings the total breeding population of South Gloucestershire to about 131,000 pairs of birds.

Richard Bland & John Tully - Avon BTO, August 2010

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THE S. GLOS LIST 2010	Ruddy Shelduck	Pheasant	Curlew
Red-throated Diver	Shelduck	Ring-necked Pheasant	Spotted Redshank
Black-throated Diver	Mandarin	Water Rail	Redshank
Great Northern Diver	Wigeon	Spotted Crake	Icelandic Redshank
Pacific Diver	Gadwall	Corncrake	Greenshank
Little Grebe	Teal	Moorhen	Green Sandpiper
Great Crested Grebe	Green-winged Teal	Coot	Wood Sandpiper
Slavonian Grebe	Mallard	Common Crane	Terek Sandpiper
Black-necked Grebe	Pintail	Oystercatcher	Common Sandpiper
Fulmar	Garganey	Black-winged Stilt	Turnstone
Cory's Shearwater	Shoveler	Avocet	Red-necked Phalarope
Sooty Shearwater	Red-crested Pochard	Stone Curlew	Grey Phalarope
Manx Shearwater	Pochard	Little Ringed Plover	Pomarine Skua
Balearic Shearwater	Ring-necked Duck	Ringed Plover	Arctic Skua
Storm Petrel	Tufted Duck	Tundra Ringed Plover	Long-tailed Skua
Leach's Petrel	Scaup	Kentish Plover	Great Skua
Fregetta Storm Petrel	Eider	Dotterel	Mediterranean Gull
Gannet	Long-tailed Duck	Golden Plover	Franklin's Gull
Cormorant	Common Scoter	American Golden Plover	Little Gull
Continental Cormorant	Velvet Scoter	Grey Plover	Sabine's Gull
Shag	Goldeneye	Lapwing	Black-headed Gull
Bittern	Smew	Knot	Ring-billed Gull
Night Heron	Red-breasted Merganser	Sanderling	Common Gull
Cattle Egret	Goosander	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Lesser Bl-back Gull
Little Egret	Ruddy Duck	Little Stint	Baltic Gull
Grey Heron	Honey Buzzard	Temminck's Stint	Cont Lesser Bl-back Gull
White Stork	Red Kite	White-rumped Sandpiper	Yellow-legged Gull
Glossy Ibis	Black Kite	Pectoral Sandpiper	Herring Gull
Spoonbill	White-tailed Eagle	Curlew Sandpiper	Scan Herring Gull
Mute Swan	Marsh Harrier	Purple Sandpiper	Caspian Gull
Bewick's Swan	Hen Harrier	Northern Dunlin	Iceland Gull
Whooper Swan	Montagu's Harrier	Dunlin	Kumlien's Gull
Taiga Bean Goose	Goshawk	Greenland Dunlin	Glaucous Gull
Pink-footed Goose	Sparrowhawk	Broad-billed Sandpiper	Great Black-backed Gull
White-fronted Goose	Buzzard	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Kittiwake
Greenland WF Goose	Osprey	Ruff	Sandwich Tern
Greylag Goose	Kestrel	Jack Snipe	Roseate Tern
Canada Goose	Red-footed Falcon	Snipe	Common Tern
Barnacle Goose	Merlin	Long-billed Dowitcher	Arctic Tern
Dk-bellied Brent Goose	Hobby	Woodcock	Little Tern
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	Peregrine	Black-tailed Godwit	Black Tern
Red-breasted Goose	Red-legged Partridge	Icelandic Bl-tail Godwit	White-winged Tern
Egyptian Goose	Grey Partridge	Bar-tailed Godwit	Guillemot
	Quail	Whimbrel	Razorbill

Black Guillemot	Pied Wagtail	Firecrest	Reed Bunting
Little Auk	White Wagtail	Spotted Flycatcher	Black-headed Bunting
Puffin	Waxwing	Pied Flycatcher	Corn Bunting
Pallas's Sandgrouse	Dipper	Bearded Tit	
Rock Dove	Wren	Long-tailed Tit	
Stock Dove	Duncock	Marsh Tit	
Woodpigeon	Robin	Willow Tit	
Collared Dove	Nightingale	Coal Tit	
Turtle Dove	Red-spotted Bluethroat	Blue Tit	
Ring-necked Parakeet	White-spotted Bluethroat	Great Tit	
Cuckoo	Black Redstart	Nuthatch	
Barn Owl	Redstart	Treecreeper	
Little Owl	Whinchat	Golden Oriole	
Tawny Owl	Stonechat	Red-backed Shrike	
Long-eared Owl	Northern Wheatear	Great Grey Shrike	
Short-eared Owl	Greenland Wheatear	Woodchat Shrike	
Nightjar	Ring Ouzel	Jay	
Swift	Blackbird	Magpie	
Alpine Swift	Fieldfare	Jackdaw	
Kingfisher	Song Thrush	Nordic Jackdaw	
European Bee-eater	Continental Song Thrush	Rook	
Hoopoe	Redwing	Carrion Crow	
Wryneck	Icelandic Redwing	Hooded Crow	
Green Woodpecker	Mistle Thrush	Raven	
G Spotted Woodpecker	Cetti's Warbler	Starling	
L Spotted Woodpecker	Grasshopper Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling	
Woodlark	Aquatic Warbler	House Sparrow	
Skylark	Sedge Warbler	Tree Sparrow	
Shorelark	Marsh Warbler	Chaffinch	
Sand Martin	Reed Warbler	Continental Chaffinch	
Swallow	Icterine Warbler	Brambling	
Red-rumped Swallow	Dartford Warbler	Greenfinch	
House Martin	Subalpine Warbler	Goldfinch	
Richard's Pipit	Lesser Whitethroat	Siskin	
Tree Pipit	Common Whitethroat	Linnet	
Meadow Pipit	Garden Warbler	Twite	
Rock Pipit	Blackcap	Lesser Redpoll	
Scandinavian Rock Pipit	Yellow-browed Warbler	Mealy Redpoll	
Water Pipit	Wood Warbler	Common Crossbill	
Yellow Wagtail	Chiffchaff	Bullfinch	
Channel Wagtail	Scandinavian Chiffchaff	Hawfinch	
Blue-headed Wagtail	Siberian Chiffchaff	Lapland Bunting	
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	Willow Warbler	Snow Bunting	
Grey-headed Wagtail	North Willow Warbler	Yellowhammer	
Grey Wagtail	Goldcrest	Girl Bunting	