

# The Birds Of South Gloucestershire

PIED WHEATEAR - *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Thornbury Yacht Club, Oldbury-on-Severn, S. Gloucestershire: October 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2011



Pied Wheatear at Oldbury-on-Severn - Darryl Spittle.

A 1st winter female Pied Wheatear was present at Thornbury Yacht Club, Oldbury-on-Severn from at least 15:50 on Tuesday 25th October until at least 18:00 on Friday 28th October. It represents the 62<sup>nd</sup> British record. It presumably departed overnight on October 28th and was not seen subsequently.

Despite resembling Black-eared Wheatear in overall structure and plumage tones, the prominent scaling on the mantle and scapulars is typical of Pied Wheatear. On Migration and in winter, Pied Wheatears actively seek out rocky areas and buildings.

Pied Wheatear is a small insectivorous passerine that was formerly classed as a member of the Thrush family but is now generally considered to be one of the Old World flycatchers. It is a migrant from central Asia where it occurs from the extreme south east of Europe to China and is known to winter in India and north east Africa.

They are a widespread summer visitor to much of south Eastern Europe, which accounts for less than a quarter of its global breeding range. Its European breeding population is relatively small at less than 300,000 individuals, but was relatively stable between 1970 and 1990. The species remained fairly constant between 1990 and 2000, with all populations across the European range either stable or increasing.

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Mark Coller



Gary Thoburn

## The Birds Of South Gloucestershire



Geoff Dicker



Vic Savery

## The Birds Of South Gloucestershire



Len Ingram



Andy Jordan

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Don Smith

An enormous number of photos were taken of this superb bird and some of the very best received are shown above. Special thanks to the finder Darryl Spittle and the kind generosity of all the photographers.

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