

# DORSET BIRDS

Newsletter of the Dorset Bird Club

ISSUE NO. 86 MARCH 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1148111



**Dorset Bird Club Update**

**Dorset Highlights**

**House Martin Survey**

**BTO Breeding Bird Survey**

# Contents

From the Editor	Marcus Lawson	1-2
Bournemouth Peregrines	Jason Fathers	2
Dorset Highlights	Marcus Lawson	3-9
BTO Breeding Bird Survey	Claire Young	9-10
BTO House Martin Survey	BTO	10-11

**Banner photograph:** Hoopoe - Tim Balmer.

**Cover Photograph:** Pallas's Warbler at Portesham - Brett Spencer

## Inside Photographs:

Peregrine at Bournemouth - Jason Fathers

Scandinavian Herring Gull at Radipole - Brett Spencer

Short-eared Owl on Portland - Brett Spencer

## Back-cover Photographs:

Black Redstart at Chesil Cove - Peter Moore

Black Guillemot off Brownsea Island - Paul Morton

Pallas's Warbler at Portesham - Peter Moore

Grey Phalarope on The Fleet - Brett Spencer

Great Northern Diver in Portland Harbour - Brett Spencer

# Membership Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st of January of each year.

The current rates are:

Ordinary Membership	£15
Joint/Family Membership (Living in one household)	£18
Junior Membership (17 & under)	£10

To join or renew your membership, please send your name and address with the appropriate subscription to the **Membership Secretary**:

Diana Dyer, 3 Osmay Road, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2JQ

Email: [membership@dorsetbirds.org.uk](mailto:membership@dorsetbirds.org.uk) Tel. 01929 421402

# Contacts

**Manager and Newsletter Editor:** [Marcus Lawson](mailto:admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk)

[admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk) Tel: 07768 040742

**Dorset County Recorder:** [Kevin lane](mailto:Kevin.lane@dorsetbirdclub@hotmail.com)

[dorsetbirdclub@hotmail.com](mailto:dorsetbirdclub@hotmail.com) Tel. 07901 614629

**Conservation Officer:** [Jol Mitchell](mailto:Jol.Mitchell@btinternet.com)

[jolmitchell@btinternet.com](mailto:jolmitchell@btinternet.com) Tel: 01929 552924

**Outdoor Meetings Organiser:** [Richard Charman](mailto:Richard.Charman@walks@dorsetbirds.org.uk)

[walks@dorsetbirds.org.uk](mailto:walks@dorsetbirds.org.uk) Tel: 07799 624 062

**Dorset Bird Club website:** [www.dorsetbirds.org.uk](http://www.dorsetbirds.org.uk)

## From the Editor - Marcus Lawson

Well, surely but slowly we are starting to catch up to where I want the Bird Club to be but certain aspects are taking longer than I would have liked. One dilemma which I hadn't foreseen was which *Bird Report* would newly joined up members receive? Standard practice seems to be that they should receive the previous years report when published - i.e., if they joined in 2015 then they would get the report for 2014. I'm hopeful of getting the 2014 report published this summer which would mean that if a member joined in early 2015 then no report would be sent to them for around 18 months after joining. However, in the meantime both the 2012 & 2013 reports have been published and understandably those members may feel a sense of aggrievement that they have paid two years subscriptions and no reports have dropped on their doormat. On the other hand, if the Club sends these members the 2012 & 2013 reports as well as 2014, when published, then the Club loses money. Hopefully we have got the reports out to the members who were due them but if you believe that you haven't received one that you were supposed to then please let me know at [admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk)

One area where I am acutely aware that things have got well behind is the processing of descriptions by the Dorset Records Panel. Please bear in mind though that this work is carried out by volunteers so a fair amount of spare time is needed to be found to commit to these duties. I am able to upload the records onto the shared site whereby each member of the Panel can then vote and add any comments they may have in relation to the record but I am not a voting member. The whole process can be speeded up greatly if the submission is made using the forms which can be found on the website here <http://www.dorsetbirds.org.uk/#/dorset-bird-list/4545548008> Alternatively, you can submit your description via BirdTrack which is automatically forwarded to us. Ideally it would be great if descriptions are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting as this will also help us to catch up and provide the service that our members deserve. If you were lucky enough to find a species requiring a description in 2014 please could you submit it as soon as is possible, a list of species requiring descriptions can be found here <http://www.dorsetbirds.org.uk/#/dorset-bird-list/4545548008> Note that **Bewick's Swan** is now a description species in the county as from January 2016.

2014 saw the number of records the club receives break the 100,000 barrier for the first time and we are grateful to all of you who take the time to submit their records. BirdTrack is still the preferred way in which the club would like to receive your records but if you would prefer to send them directly to us then an Excel spreadsheet is the next best way. It is relatively straightforward for us to upload Excel directly to BirdTrack with little manipulation required. However, Word documents are not so practical and a lot of manual work is required to transfer these into Excel to then upload. For 2014 we were sent just over 1,000 records by paper and once again I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Geoff

Upton who entered these onto an Excel spreadsheet for me to then upload to BirdTrack.

## **BOURNEMOUTH PEREGRINES**

Dorset Bird Club is pleased to announce that it has been able to help part-fund an exciting project to install a live camera to view the Peregrines which nest in Bournemouth. The project is the brain-child of Jason Fathers <http://www.wildlifewindows.co.uk> and has been made possible with the help of Bournemouth College, Bournemouth BC and the Bournemouth Natural Science Society.

Here is an update from Jason (16th March):

“In a nut shell all is looking good. The college has been very supportive in assisting with the camera installation. They had cable installed and have paid for the camera. The camera and bespoke nesting tray were installed in early

February. I was able to connect to the camera on 7<sup>th</sup> March and saw that the gravel in the tray had been disturbed so I knew the birds had accepted it and were looking to use it. I observed nest scraping by the female for next few days so all looking good.



The fly in the ointment is that the female has already laid her first egg (yesterday 15<sup>th</sup>) and the website is not done yet, but will be very soon (next week). It would have been good to get egg laying on the live stream but I am hoping to get this up and running by this time next week.”

The link to view the live web-cam will be added to the Dorset Birds sightings page as soon as everything is up and running — exciting stuff and thank you Jason for all your hard work.

Around a third of the membership now receive this newsletter via email as a pdf file. This saves the club money on printing costs & postage and you benefit by receiving it sooner than by post. The photo quality is far better and are all in colour plus you are able to click on the links rather than type them in manually. If you would like to receive a pdf copy of the newsletter then let me know by email [admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk) Please also specify if you would like to receive it as a 3mb file (higher resolution) or 1mb file (still ok but photos not as sharp).

# Guided Walks Programme

**Sunday 17th April 2016**

**Winspit and St Aldhelm's Head 09:30 – all day.**

Meet in the car park in Worth Matravers (SY 974776) – charges apply.

Further spring and summer dates to be added shortly.

Please check <http://www.dorsetbirds.org.uk/#/our-events/4545535406> for updates.

## DORSET HIGHLIGHTS- NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY INCLUSIVE

The majority of the following records have been taken from the Dorset Bird Club sightings page <http://dorsetbirds.blogspot.co.uk/> and inclusion here does not constitute acceptance by the relevant rarity panel. This is not an exhaustive list & if you notice any errors or omissions please email [admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorsetbirds.org.uk)

Please continue to email sightings to [dorsetbirdclub@hotmail.com](mailto:dorsetbirdclub@hotmail.com) and you can help further by submitting your records to Birdtrack <http://app.bto.org/birdtrack/main/data-home.jsp> - breeding records of ALL species are especially welcomed.

### WILDFOWL

**White-fronted Goose** 2 at Warmwell GPS on 1<sup>st</sup> December represents the only record of the winter period.

**Barnacle Goose** 25 over Studland then 28 over Portland Bill both on 20<sup>th</sup> November with 24 near Rodden Hive on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**Pale-bellied Brent Goose** 6 South Haven on 3<sup>rd</sup> November with 5 remaining until 3<sup>rd</sup> December. 1 at Baiter (Poole) on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 21 at Ferrybridge on 15<sup>th</sup> November was highest count during the period under review.

**Black Brant** 1 Butterstreet Cove on 15<sup>th</sup> November moving to Lynch Cove (The Fleet) on 3<sup>rd</sup> December then again at Butterstreet Cove on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**Egyptian Goose** 6 over Lodmoor on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 18 at Warmwell GPs on 4<sup>th</sup> December when there was also 3 at Longham Lakes and then 8 over Lytchett Bay on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**Green-winged Teal** 1 at Abbotsbury Swannery on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Garganey** an elusive female wandered around The Fleet from 17<sup>th</sup> November until the end of February at least.

**Scaup** 1 at Abbotsbury Swannery from 1<sup>st</sup> November with a maximum of 5 during the period covered. 1 was in Holes Bay on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Eider** 7 off Mudeford Quay on 19<sup>th</sup> November was a good count by recent standards. 3 were in Weymouth Bay on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 4 off Hengistbury Head

on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and singles off Brands Bay on 26<sup>th</sup> December and Portland Bill on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Long-tailed Duck** 1 Abbotsbury Swannery from 1<sup>st</sup> November joined by another later in the month.

**Common Scoter** 26 off Hengistbury Head on 18<sup>th</sup> November with 7 in Studland Bay from late November into early December.

**Velvet Scoter** 2 Hengistbury Head 15<sup>th</sup> November with one remaining until 19<sup>th</sup>. 4 passed Portland Bill on 1<sup>st</sup> January whilst a female-type was in Portland Harbour on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Smew** redhead in Holes Bay until at least 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**Goosander** 4 were on the River Stour near Spetisbury on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. 2 flew over Longham Lakes on the 27<sup>th</sup> February when 1 was also seen at Stanpit.

## **GALLIFORMES to HERONS**

**Red-throated Diver** counts of 10 or more included 14 past Portland Bill on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 16 past there on 5<sup>th</sup> January with 20 on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 15 past Hengistbury Head on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 11 past Durlston CP on 2<sup>nd</sup> January with 12 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-throated Diver** singles at various sites during the period under review including: Portland Bill, Portland Harbour, Hengistbury Head, Weymouth Bay, Studland Bay, Durlston CP.

**Great Northern Diver** the highest counts for Poole Harbour and Portland Harbour were 16 (10<sup>th</sup> January) and 18 (9<sup>th</sup> February) respectively. 4 were in Lulworth Cove on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

A calling bird was in Portland Harbour during January.

**Red-necked Grebe** 1 in Studland Bay from 19<sup>th</sup> November until 2<sup>nd</sup> January. 1 Weymouth Bay on 26<sup>th</sup> November & 28<sup>th</sup> December and Portland Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**Slavonian Grebe** first bird of the winter was in Portland Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup> November. 1 on the Fleet from 29<sup>th</sup> December until end of February, peak counts of 5 in Portland Harbour on 9<sup>th</sup> February and in the Poole Harbour area the peak was 3 off Shell Bay on 12<sup>th</sup> January whilst 1 was in Christchurch Harbour from 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Black-necked Grebe** 9 off Middle Beach Studland 3<sup>rd</sup> November building to a peak of 26 on 26<sup>th</sup> November when 1 was also at Christchurch Harbour. 1 Abbotsbury Swannery 13<sup>th</sup> December & 7<sup>th</sup> January. 22 was the largest count received from Portland Harbour.

**Sooty Shearwater** singles past Portland Bill on 16<sup>th</sup> November & 26<sup>th</sup> December and nearby Chesil Cove on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Gannet** 1000 past Durlston CP on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Bittern** singles seen intermittently through the winter at Radipole, Lodmoor & Arne Moors/Swineham with 1 at West Bexington on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Great White Egret** 1 Littlesea on 7<sup>th</sup> November and then various sites around Poole Harbour until at least end of February. 1 on the River Stour at Spetisbury on 20<sup>th</sup> December and then near Eye Bridge on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Spoonbill** peak winter count of 40 in Poole Harbour 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2 at Lodmoor from 3<sup>rd</sup> February with 4 from 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## **RAPTORS TO COOT**

**Red Kite** a few individuals started to move from early february

**Hen Harrier** minimum of 4 around Poole Harbour over the winter, 1 Milborne St Andrew on 29<sup>th</sup> December. A male was at Wyke Down on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

**Osprey** 1 over Milton Abbas on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1 Christchurch Harbour (probably the first CHOG record for November) & 1 Durlston CP on 8<sup>th</sup> November,

**Merlin** singles during period at Hartland Moor, Middlebere, Worth Matravers, Brands Bay, Brownsea Lagoon, Portland Bill, Ferrybridge, Peveril Point, Hengistbury Head, Lytchett Fields, Durlston CP and 2 at Southwell on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

## **WADERS**

**Crane** 2 over River Allen at Witchampton on 21<sup>st</sup> February then over Horton on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Plover** peak counts of 1500 at Maiden Castle on 27<sup>th</sup> November and 170 on Tarrant Rushton airfield on 20<sup>th</sup> January

**Grey Plover** 182 on Brownsea Lagoon on 10<sup>th</sup> January was a good count.

**Little Stint** one flew through Christchurch Harbour on the unseasonable date of 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**Purple Sandpiper** peak winter counts of 22 Hengistbury Head, 4 Sandbanks, 13 Lyme Regis, 7 Portland Bill and 1 at Peveril Point.

**Ruff** 1 Stanpit Marsh on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 5 on the Avon Causeway on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**Jack Snipe** 1 Stanpit Marsh on 13<sup>th</sup> December with 3 there on 21<sup>st</sup> January. 9 were in the Lower Avon Valley on 23<sup>rd</sup> January with singles at West Bexington on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, Moonfleet 16<sup>th</sup> January, Reap Lane 20<sup>th</sup> January, Portland Bill 16<sup>th</sup> February whilst 3 were on Swineham Point on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**Woodcock** c30 in fields in the SW area of Poole Harbour on 5<sup>th</sup> February during a nighttime visit.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** 97 on Brownsea Lagoon on 10<sup>th</sup> January represents a decent local count.

**Common Sandpiper** 1 Holes Bay on 13<sup>th</sup> December and Brownsea Lagoon on 16<sup>th</sup> December & 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**Green Sandpiper** 3 Lytchett Fields 1<sup>st</sup> November, 5 Holton Lee on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

**Spotted Redshank** 16 Brownsea Lagoon on 22<sup>nd</sup> November was the peak count.

**Greenshank** 9 Brands Bay on 8<sup>th</sup> November and 16 on Brownsea Lagoon 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Grey Phalarope** 1 on Stanpit Marsh from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November with further singles in November past Chesil Cove on 13<sup>th</sup> and west past Hengistbury Head on 17<sup>th</sup>. On 12<sup>th</sup> December birds were seen in Portland Marina and past Hengistbury Head. One took up residence on West Bexington mere from

23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> December with 2 in Worborough Bay on 24<sup>th</sup> December. Additional December records included 1 past Mudeford Quay on 26<sup>th</sup>, Ferrybridge on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> and off Lyme Cobb on the latter date. One was in Cutcleaves Cove (The Fleet) on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> January. Lastly, singles past Ferrybridge on 26<sup>th</sup> January and Hengistbury Head on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

## SKUAS TO TERNS

**Pomarine Skua** singles past Peveril Point on 19<sup>th</sup> November, Hengistbury Head on 28<sup>th</sup> November & 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Portland Bill on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Great Skua** numbers peaked on 2<sup>nd</sup> January with 5 past Portland Bill and 3 past Durlston CP.

**Sabine's Gull** 1 Chesil Cove 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Little Gull** singles were seen at several coastal sites in November and December but the turn of the year saw numbers increase with counts of 5 in Chesil Cove and 3 at Overcombe on 1<sup>st</sup> January then 5 Portland Bill, 3 Ringstead Bay, 2 Bowleaze Cove the following day. The 4<sup>th</sup> January saw 11 Chesil Beach nr Ferrybridge, 3 West Bexington, 2 Bowleaze Cove, 1 Lodmoor, 1 Lytchett Bay.

**Mediterranean Gull** numbers rose to a max of 1200 in the Weymouth Bay roost on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**Scandinavian Herring Gull** (*L. a. argentatus*) 1<sup>st</sup> winter around Radipole in December & January with an adult at Longham Lakes on 10<sup>th</sup> January.



**Scandinavian Herring Gull** (right) with **Herring Gull** (*L. a. argentatus*) - Radipole Lake by **Brett Spencer**

**Yellow-legged Gull** 2 Middlebere 8<sup>th</sup> November & 19<sup>th</sup> January. 1 over Blacknor on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**Iceland Gull** a juvenile in the Brownsea Lagoon roost on 21<sup>st</sup> February.



**Glaucous Gull** 1 Chesil Cove then Barleycrates Lane on 26<sup>th</sup> January.  
**Sandwich Tern** peak winter counts of 8 in the Poole Harbour area, 3 Portland Harbour and 4 Christchurch Harbour.

## AUKS TO WOODPECKERS

**Black Guillemot** lingered off Brownsea from 14<sup>th</sup> December until 18<sup>th</sup> February

**Little Auk** 1 Lulworth Cove 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1 Hengistbury 28<sup>th</sup> November, Studland Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Chesil Cove 23<sup>rd</sup> December,

**Puffin** 1 Portland Bill on 18<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Woodpigeon** moved in great numbers on 22<sup>nd</sup> November when 140,618 flew over Constitution Hill (Poole), 105,300 over Christchurch Harbour, 3800 over Central Portland but just 300 over Portland Bill.

**Short-eared Owl** 1 Longham Lakes 4<sup>th</sup> November, 3 Durlston CP on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 4 Hedbury on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1 Wyke Down on 16<sup>th</sup> November was the only record from this site over the winter. Up to 5 were seen regularly around the Portland Bill area and 3 were on Arne Moors. 1 at Abbotsbury on 20<sup>th</sup> November and Maiden Castle on 27<sup>th</sup> November. 1 was found dead at Lytchett Fields on 1<sup>st</sup> December with a live bird there on 11<sup>th</sup> February. 2 were at Kingston Lacy on 27<sup>th</sup> December whilst two frequented Eye Mead (near Wimborne) from 28<sup>th</sup> December until 16<sup>th</sup> January. Singles at East Burton on 30<sup>th</sup> January and Purse Caundle on 24<sup>th</sup> February.



## LARKS TO WHEATEARS

**Swallow** at Charmouth on 27<sup>th</sup> December and Canford Magna Golf Course on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**House Martin** last of year in Christchurch Harbour on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Richard's Pipit** 1 Hengistbury Head beach huts 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Tree Pipit** 1 Stoborough 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Rock Pipit** peak counts of Scandinavian (*littoralis*) birds were 12 at Stanpit on 14<sup>th</sup> December and 8 at Lytchett Bay on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Water Pipit** 7 Stanpit Marsh on 21<sup>st</sup> November, Lytchett Bay peak count of 13 on 27<sup>th</sup> November. 7 Overcombe Corner (Lodmoor) on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

**Yellow Wagtail** 1 Portland Bill 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Black Redstart** 5 Blacknor Portland 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2 Portland Bill 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Wheatear** 1 on Tarrant Rushton airfield from 17<sup>th</sup> December until 15<sup>th</sup> February.

## THRUSHES TO STARLINGS

**Ring Ouzel** 1 Durlston CP 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1 Durlston CP & 1 Weymouth on 8<sup>th</sup> November and lastly 1 at Durlston CP on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**Reed Warbler** 1 Lodmoor 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Pallas's Warbler** one was found near Portesham on 25<sup>th</sup> February and stayed until the month's end at least.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** 1 Portland Bird Obs & 1 Grangecroft/West Cliff Rd area on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1 Hengistbury Head 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1 Lodmoor 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1 Stoborough 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1 Portland Bird Obs on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1 Durlston CP 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1 Ringstead from 16<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> December

**Siberian Chiffchaff** were recorded from Stour Valley LNR (Ensbury), Christchurch Harbour, Portland Castle (2), Dorchester Water Meadows (2), Radipole, Lodmoor & Abbotsbury Swannery.

**Firecrest** were seen in good numbers on 16<sup>th</sup> January with 10+ at Abbotsbury Gardens, 3-4 around Brownsea Island, 2 at Norden sewage works and 3 on Portland.

**Penduline Tit** 2 at Lytchett Bay then presumed same 2 Longham Lakes on 22<sup>nd</sup> November remaining at the latter site until early morning 24<sup>th</sup> November.

**Great Grey Shrike** 1 Morden Bog on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1 Oak Hill (Wareham Forest) from 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1 Upton Heath on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1 on Avon Heath on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

## SPARROWS TO BUNTINGS

**Tree Sparrow** 1 Hengistbury Head on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Brambling** 468 Durlston CP (record count for site) on 8<sup>th</sup> November. 125 over Hengistbury Head, 20+ Winterborne Stickland on 12<sup>th</sup> November with another 31 over Hengistbury Head on 16<sup>th</sup>. In January around 40 birds were found at Sugar Hill in Wareham Forest.

**Linnet** 2140 over Durlston CP on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Twite** 1 briefly at Radipole on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Lesser Redpoll** a flock of 50 at Longham Lakes on 23<sup>rd</sup> February was a very high count for this site.

**Crossbill** 70 over Durlston CP on 8<sup>th</sup> November and c30 around Bere Heath in early February.

**Hawfinch** 1 Durlston CP 3<sup>rd</sup> November with 2 on 8<sup>th</sup> November and 1 on 25<sup>th</sup> November. 2 over Hengistbury Head on 12<sup>th</sup> November and nearby Stanpit Marsh on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**Lapland Bunting** 1 E over Hengistbury Head 4<sup>th</sup> November

**Snow Bunting** 1 over Durlston CP on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Corn Bunting** 24 at Wyke Down on 22<sup>nd</sup> November with 40 on Tarrant Rushton airfield on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

## **BTO BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS**

The BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common breeding birds. It is a national volunteer project aimed at keeping track of changes in the breeding populations of widespread bird species in the UK. Wild bird populations are an important [indicator](#) of the health of the countryside, and knowing to what extent bird populations are increasing or decreasing is fundamental to bird conservation.

Can you spare just two mornings during April-June to count birds on a local 1-km square for BBS? Information collected by you will help us monitor the changing populations of UK birds and will be widely used for bird research and conservation.

ST4601	<b>Beaminster</b>
ST6211	<b>Lillington, near Sherborne</b>
ST6217	<b>Sherborne</b>
ST6509	<b>Holnest</b>
ST7309	<b>Near Sturminster Newton</b>
ST7602	<b>Melcombe Bingham</b>
ST7922	<b>East Stour, near Shaftesbury</b>
ST8308	<b>Blandford Forest</b>
ST8326	<b>East of Gillingham</b>
ST8528	<b>Sedgehill, near Gillingham</b>
ST8529	<b>Sedgehill, near Gillingham</b>
ST8800	<b>Near Spetisbury</b>
ST8902	<b>Near Charlton Marshall</b>
ST9102	<b>Spetisbury</b>
ST9510	<b>Long Crichel, near Blandford</b>
ST9600	<b>White Mill, Sturminster Marshall</b>
SU0017	<b>Sixpenny Handley, Cranborne Chase</b>
SY3994	<b>Morcombelake, near Charmouth</b>
SY5783	<b>Abbotsbury Swannery</b>
SY6293	<b>Near Dorchester</b>
SY6697	<b>Godmanstone</b>
SY7295	<b>Higher Waterston, near Dorchester</b>
SY7386	<b>Broadmayne, near Dorchester</b>
SY7695	<b>Puddletown, near Dorchester</b>
SY8296	<b>Near Bere Regis</b>

You don't need to be an expert to take part, but you should be able to identify common birds by sight and sound. If required, a CD of bird songs and calls is available FREE to BBS volunteers.

The survey involves two early-morning spring visits to a local 1-km square, to count all the birds you see or hear while walking two 1-km lines across the square. [Read the full instructions here](#)  
If you are able to take on one or more of the available squares listed above then please contact:

**Claire Young**  
**BTO Regional Rep for Dorset**  
Email: [dorsetbto@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetbto@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07740 457992  
Twitter: [@BTO\\_Dorset](https://twitter.com/BTO_Dorset)

## **BTO HOUSE MARTIN NEST STUDY 2016**

**This survey will involve volunteers making regular observations at individual nests to collect information about nesting activity.**

You can select your own study site anywhere where House Martins are nesting. The study will therefore be ideal for observers who have nests on their home or place of work - including those who contributed to [the 2009 - 2013 survey](#).

### **Can I take part in the survey?**

We would value your participation in the survey if you know a site where House Martins are nesting and can answer 'Yes' to the following;

- Can the nests can be viewed safely (from ground level or from a window) *without causing disturbance to the birds?*
- Is the site convenient for me to commit to visiting regularly (e.g. once a week, with an occasional break being acceptable), throughout the breeding season (mid-April to September)?
- Have I obtained the site owner's permission where necessary?

### **What does the survey involve?**

You will need to carry out an initial visit to record some simple information about the site and any existing nests. After this initial visit, you need to be able to observe the nests for just a few minutes at least once a week to record any activity seen.

If you are able to watch the nest more frequently, this will provide us with even more powerful information as we will be able to make more accurate estimates of around timing of breeding and the length of time before young birds fledge. [Detailed survey instructions are available from the Forms and Resources page.](#)

### How to register for the survey

If you took part in the [2015 House Martin survey](#), you will be able to [log-in using your BTO user name and password](#). If you did not take part in 2015, you will need to complete a few simple steps to [register for the 2016 survey](#).



## ***Intrasights***

Established 1993

Binoculars, spotting scopes and small telescopes  
***Repaired & Serviced***

-----  
An extensive selection of quality re conditioned and ex demonstration binoculars for sale. Makes include Bushnell and Bausch & Lomb, from compacts to top-of-the-range 10x42 Elites

-----  
There is a two week turnaround on most jobs and all repairs have a three month warranty

-----  
Proprietor: Harry Truman

Address: *Intrasights*, 2 The Waggon Shed, Flaxdrayton Farm,  
South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5LR

Website: [www.intrasights.co.uk](http://www.intrasights.co.uk) Telephone: (01460) 929291

email: [intrasights@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:intrasights@tiscali.co.uk)

# TwoOwls Birding

2015

**We offer a range of birdwatching experiences with small friendly groups and expert local guides. Covering Dorset, New Forest and the Hampshire Coast and short breaks at birding hot spots in Britain and further afield.**

Please visit our website at [www.twoowlsbirding.co.uk](http://www.twoowlsbirding.co.uk)

or contact Jackie Tel: 01202 620049

Email: [twoowls.birding@btinternet.com](mailto:twoowls.birding@btinternet.com)



Bournemouth  
Natural  
Science Society

39 Christchurch Rd,  
Bournemouth,  
Dorset, BH1 3NS.  
Tel: 01202 553525  
Charity No: 219585

BNSS Welcomes all to lectures, donations in lieu of admission charge.

We have a wide programme of lectures/field trips please see our website for full details.

<http://www.bnss.org.uk>

Charity no: 219585

# South West OPTICS

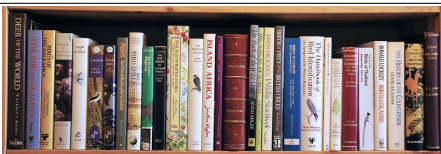
Truro, Cornwall.

The No. 1 destination for  
quality optics in the  
West Country

[www.swoptics.co.uk](http://www.swoptics.co.uk)

01872 263444

LEICA - SWAROVSKI - ZEISS - VORTEX - OPTICRON - NIKON



**CALLUNA BOOKS**  
Specialists in out-of-print  
**NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS**  
Books bought & sold

Log on to the website for our stock list  
or contact us for a copy of our  
latest catalogue

T: 01929 552 560

E: [enquiries@callunabooks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@callunabooks.co.uk)

W: [www.callunabooks.co.uk](http://www.callunabooks.co.uk)

10% discount to DBC members

Looking for a birding break in 2016?

Join Neil on a Birdfinders tour.

**LESVOS**  
8th to 15th May

**SPAIN**  
(Coto Donana/Extremadura)  
18th to 25th May

**SPAIN**  
(Autumn Raptor Migration, Tarifa)  
13th to 19th September

For further information contact Neil  
or check out [www.birdfinders.co.uk](http://www.birdfinders.co.uk)

Visitors welcome by appointment  
Neil Gartshore, Moor Edge, 2 Bere Road  
Wareham, BH20 4DD

