

January 2019

Owls were the most prominent species seen during January, particularly Barn Owls which were recorded right across the area, from Fly Flatts in the south to Thruscross in the north. The species was well-watched at Stockbridge, Denton Moor, Kex Gill, Glovershaw, Snaygill, Barden Moor, Middleton Moor, Beamsley, Timble and most amazingly one was seen hunting over Burley-in-Wharfedale roundabout (22nd),

Short-eared Owls were also seen on some of our moorland, with members recording the species on Keighley Moor, at Timble Ings and at Fly Flatts and Bradup, where two birds were often seen.

A ring-tailed Hen Harrier toured Hazlewood Moor on the first day of the year and a Peregrine was seen from the train on a Shipley chimney (28th).

A movement of Pink-footed Geese was noted on the 18th, with most of the action over the Warley Moor Reservoir (Fly Flatts) and Ogden area where skeins of 98 and another of 49 passed over. On the same day a third skein was watched from the Wibsey area of Bradford. A week later (26th) a skein of 100 flew west down the Aire Valley and on the same day, in South Bradford, watchers saw a massive 250 fly over.

A Black-headed Gull at Harold Park had been ringed at Stavanger, Norway on 16 June 2013 and another, which was picked out from the flock at Yeadon Tarn, bore a ring which had been attached in Finland.

Up to 60 Wigeon were often seen at Knotford Nook and five Pochard were present on Yeadon Tarn (19th), whilst a pair of Gadwall remained on Tong Park Reservoir (2nd), and two other pairs were reported at Apperley Bridge. Elsewhere, Silsden Reservoir held 47 Tufted Ducks and nine Goldeneye.

Little Egret continues to proliferate with sightings in the north at Lindley Wood Reservoir, Barden Bridge, Otley Wetland and Menston. Once more there were records of single birds seen at Bingley Bog North, Denso Marston and at Stockbridge Reserve where it was seen on three occasions during the month. As expected, Water Rails were in residence at Otley Wetland and Stockbridge Reserve.

Big congregations of birds included 950 Lapwing and 300 Golden Plovers on Middleton Moor (1st) and a roost of 19 Grey Herons at the bottom of Shipley Glen (20th).

Up to 15 Tree Sparrows could be seen around Dobrudden Farm on Baildon Moor and the patient birder was rewarded with a flock of 10 Crossbills at Fewston and another larger flock one of more than 20 at Timble Ings. A Waxwing flew south over Middleton Moor (1st) and the only other record involved a bird calling from a hawthorn bush in Thackley (15th).