



Upper Clun Community Wildlife Group Bird Group Programme 2011



Thanks to our large and growing membership, the Bird Group has achieved a great deal in four years. We've got people into birdwatching for the first time, organized surveys and nestbox schemes, collected valuable data for local and national conservation bodies, published advice leaflets on land management for wildlife, and supported farmers in applications to join Environmental Stewardship schemes.

New members are welcome, whether beginners or experienced.
Come and join in any of our events!

Return of the Red Kite A Slide Presentation by Leo Smith

Joint meeting with Clun & Bishop's Castle SWT Branch (SWT members £2, others £3)

Wednesday 19th January at 7.30pm at Hightown Community Room, Church Road, Clun

The return of the Red Kite after more than 130 years is the most inspiring Shropshire bird story for a long time, and living proof that conservation works. Come and hear it told by Leo, the man at the heart of it. *There were four Red Kite nests in the Upper Clun in 2010 – can you help us find even more in 2011?*

Make Your Birding Count

An introduction to simple ways of making your observations work for conservation

Indoor Meeting on Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm at Newcastle Community Centre

- Feed your garden birds, and list what you see for Garden BirdWatch
- Put up nest boxes, and send the results to Nestbox Challenge
- Adopt a "local patch" to visit from time to time, and make simple lists for BirdTrack
- Help find our target birds, which are becoming more scarce and in need of conservation help
- Improve your identification skills for any of these activities using easily available resources

Bird Walks

Beginners and experienced birdwatchers welcome – help & advice available

Sunday 17th April at 10.00am starting from Clun Memorial Hall car park (signposted from the A488)

A Local Patch: a gentle walk through Clun & along the river. Our route will take us past hedgerows, scrub, gardens, farmland, trees & river, so we should see a good variety of species. We'll make a simple bird list, and show how easy it is to turn it into an important contribution to conservation.

Saturday 14th May at 10.30am (Joint Meeting with Bridgnorth Naturalists Group)

Black Mountain and Badger Moor Plantation: an introduction to the birds of this very special part of the Upper Clun. We should see a range of charismatic upland & wetland species including Reed Bunting & Stonechat, Meadow Pipit & Skylark, maybe Kestrel & Red Kite, and if we're very lucky, Curlew.

Meet at the west entrance to Badger Moor Plantation (SO188835). Follow the B4368 Clun-Anchor road to the Weal Farm (sign for Rhos Fiddle on the right), turn left & go straight up the hill bearing right at the fork.

NB Please ring Michelle if you're coming on a Bird Walk so that we have a contact number in case of bad weather

Some walks cover rough terrain in remote areas: please wear stout footwear & bring warm, waterproof clothing

*All Welcome ▪ Further information from
Leo Smith 01588 638577 or Michelle Frater 01588 640909*

About The Bird Group

The Bird Group is run by a small Committee, Michelle Frater (Recorder), Cath Landles, Rob Rowe (Publicity Officer), Leo Smith, and John Swift. The Committee manages and develops the programme, organizes the Surveys and Projects, and helps people to increase their skills, knowledge and enjoyment. It also promotes Conservation Action to increase the populations and habitats of the target species.

**New Committee members are very welcome.
Please let us know if you'd like to get involved.**

Surveys involving members

Our main Target Species are Lapwing and Curlew, the Project Species (Barn Owl, Kestrel and Dipper), and Red Kite. If you see any of these, please let us know immediately.

The other Target Species, which mainly inhabit the wetlands, and which have to be taken into account by farmers applying to join Natural England's Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme, are Snipe, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Linnet, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Cuckoo & Stonechat.

More surveyors are needed.

A Fieldwork Training Session will be held in March if new participants want one.

Special Projects

Barn Owls (and **Kestrels**, which use the same habitat): report sightings to Michelle Frater*

Dippers (Co-ordinator - John Swift)

Woodland and Garden Birds (nest boxes available, free to members: contact Michelle)

Publicity & Promotion

- Newsletter twice a year
- Events promoted through Clun Chronicle, Posters, Clun & BC SWT Branch and Land, Life & Livelihoods mailings
- Publicity display at Clun & BC SWT Branch meetings and other events in the area

Conservation Action for Priority Target Species

- Finding Lapwings, and encouraging farmers to provide suitable habitat
- Promoting the leaflet "Conserve Our Curlews"
- Promoting the leaflet "Help Hedgerow Birds", based on the Group's own survey work
- Promoting the leaflet "Managing Wetlands for Wildlife" on the conservation of important wetlands

- Influencing Parish Plans and the AONB Management Plan

Work With Farmers & Landowners

- Meeting with farmers in Curlew hotspots (around Rhos Fiddle, Black Mountain & Dowke Hill)
- Encouraging farmers with the best habitats to add to their ESA Agreements, or join the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme

County and National Bird Surveys

Encouraging members to take part in other important county and national bird surveys

- The National and Shropshire Bird Atlases
- Garden BirdWatch
- BTO Nestbox Challenge
- BTO BirdTrack

*Michelle Frater ▪ UCCWG Bird Recorder ▪ tel 01588 640909 ▪ email
michellefrater@kwwk.co.uk