

PUBLIC LECTURES

Wednesday 27th April, 7pm until 9.30pm at Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens

'BRINGING THE WILDLIFE OF THE PAST, TO THE PEOPLE OF TOMORROW'

An Evening with the Birds of Durham Heritage Project

This includes an illustrated presentation (which starts at 7.30pm), displays and a chance to meet the Project partners and to find out more about this exciting Project, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Why not join the Durham Bird Club and the other organisations involved in this fascinating project, which aims not just to bring the wildlife of the past to life, but to take it into the future. Discover more about who was eating extinct Great Auks off the Durham coast, why fisticuffs broke out amongst birdwatchers near Winlaton in 1931 and just who 'Robin of Restharrow' was. All of this and much more can be learnt with the Birds of Durham Heritage Project. There is no charge for this evening event, which is being held in the magnificent Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, a Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums venue.

GUIDED WALKS

All of the Birds of Durham Heritage Project's Guided Walks are **FREE** for members of the public, all timings are approximate.

Saturday 7th May, 10.30am until 12 noon – Swalwell, Gateshead

This is a two kilometre guided walk around the lower stretches of the river Derwent, a chance to see some of the birds of the area and learn more about the brutal discovery of Britain's first ever Great Reed Warbler, as well as some of the other amazing bird heritage stories from this area. The meeting point for this guided walk is at the northern end of the 'B&Q car park' at Swalwell (Grid Reference NZ2091624), off the A1, at the turn-off after that for the MetroCentre (heading north). The walk leader is Birds of Durham Heritage Project Coordinator, Keith Bowey; free car parking is available at the Swalwell 'B&Q car park'.

Saturday 21st May, 10.30am until 12 noon - Sunderland

A gentle 1.5km guided walk looking at the common birds of Mowbray Park in Sunderland, taking time out to celebrate and commemorate the finding of one of Britain's most extraordinary urban bird records; the 1989 Sunderland Baillon's Crake. The meeting point for this guided walk is, outside the entrance of the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens (Grid Reference NZ398568). The walk leader is Durham Bird Club Chairman, Paul Anderson. Car parking is available approximately 400m away, at the Sunderland Civic Centre car park (charges apply). This event is co-hosted by the Tyne & Wear Archive and Museum Service and the City of Sunderland.

Saturday 11th June, 10.30am until 12 noon - Durham City

This scenic, two-kilometre guided walk, will be looking at some of the riverside and woodland bird life to be found downstream of the 'Durham Banks', it also commemorates the first British breeding record of Black Redstart during the mid-nineteenth century. The walk leader is Tony Armstrong (Durham County Ornithological Recorder from 1987 to 2006). The meeting point for this event is outside the Tourist Information Office, Millennium Square, Durham

City. Car parking (charges apply), is available at the Riverside Car Park, adjacent to the old Durham City Ice Rink. Access to this car park is gained by turning down to The Sands, at the traffic lights from Claypath, and then left to the Riverside Car Park.

Saturday 2nd July, 10.30am until 12 noon – Bishop Middleham, County Durham

A two-kilometre countryside ramble through farmland and a flower-rich nature reserve. This walk will give people an excellent chance to see and hear one of the north east's finest remaining farmland bird populations and to hear the tale of one of County Durham's

most astonishing and exotic bird records, Bishop Middleham's famous breeding Bee-eaters. The Meeting Point for this guided walk is at Farnless Farm (Grid Reference NZ335324); the access to Farnless Farm, is on the north side of the road to Bishop Middleham, approximately half a kilometre from the Bishop Middleham turn-off of the A177, between Coxhoe and Sedgfield. The meeting point is at the end of the farm access road. The leader for this walk is John Olley, the Durham Bird Club's Conservation Officer. There is free car parking at Farnless Farm. This event is co-hosted by the Durham Wildlife Trust and Farnless Farm.

Saturday 1st October, 10.30am until 12 noon - Bill Quay, Gateshead

This two-kilometre autumn walk will be looking at the common birds of the riverside habitats in and around Bill Quay and it will recount the history of the finding of Britain's first Pine Grosbeak in this area, in the days even before Queen Victoria took to the throne. The Meeting Point for this guided walk is in the car park of the Bill Quarry Community Farm, at Bill Quay, east Gateshead (Grid Reference NZ296625). The Farm can be found just west of Bill Quay, north of the A185. The walk leader for this event is Birds of Durham Heritage Project Coordinator, Keith Bowey; car parking at the Bill Quay Community Farm is free. This event is co-hosted by the Natural History Society of Northumbria and Gateshead Council.

Saturday 22nd October, 10.30am until 12 noon – South Shields

A two-kilometre guided walk through the open country of the South Shields Leas to and through Trow Quarry, which will recount the tale of why over 3000 people came to this spot in October 2009, to see a long-distance ambassador from Siberia; Britain's first Eastern Crowned Warbler. The Meeting Point for this event is at the South Shield coastal car parks, close to the Water's Edge public house, at Grid Reference NZ382666. Access to the coastal car parks (charges apply) is off the A183, South Shields to Sunderland Coast Road, approximately half a kilometre south of the Gypsies Green sports stadium. The walk leader for this event is Mark Newsome (the Durham County Ornithological Recorder). This event is co-hosted by the National Trust and South Tyneside Council.

Thursday 29th December, 10.30am until 12 noon - Teesside

Walk off the Christmas lunch with this 1.5km guided walk around the Saltholme RSPB reserve that will not only enjoy the reserve's superb birdlife but give people more information about the amazing discovery of Britain's second ever Glaucous-winged Gull. The Meeting Point for this 'festive feast' is at the entrance to the Saltholme Visitor Centre, which is located off the A178, between Saltholme and Port Clarence (Grid Reference NZ504227); it is well signposted from the main roads in the area. Ample car parking is available at RSPB Saltholme, (charges apply). The walk leader for this event is Toby Collett, Assistant Warden of the Saltholme RSPB reserve and the lucky finder of the 'gull'. This event is co-hosted by the RSPB and the Teesmouth Bird Club.

For more details see the 'BDHP pages' at:
www.durhambirdclub.org.uk

Photo Acknowledgements: Short Eared Owl (Ian Forrest), Front cover - Black Grouse (Mark Newsome) and George Temperley (the Natural History Society of Northumbria).

What to Wear and Bring

For all guided walks, please wear outdoor clothes and walking shoes/boots that are appropriate for the season and predicted weather. If you have binoculars, please bring them along. Please be aware that toilets may not be available on or close to the walk meeting points, or along the routes.

Who Should Come?

Everybody is welcome on all of the Birds of Durham Heritage Project events, and all events are aimed at a family audience, though attendees should be aware that in some instances the length of the walks and the ground conditions that may be experienced on some events, may mean that they are unsuitable for those with impaired mobility, or small children in pushchairs. Each walk's 'degree of difficulty' varies from event to event but most have been assessed as 'easy to moderate' as they are largely 'on the flat' and most are over, at least in part, surfaced paths or tracks.

It should be borne in mind that the walks which take place on Saturday 2nd July and Saturday 22nd October are largely over grass surfaces or along country footpaths, which inevitably involve soft or undulating ground and obstacles such as stiles and gates. Consequently, some parts of these walks may not be easily passable to buggies or for attendees who have restricted mobility.

DBC MEMBERSHIP

The Durham Bird Club, an organisation for bird watchers, is responsible for the recording and study of birds in the old vice county of Durham (between the rivers Tyne and Tees) and the production of the county's Annual Ornithological Report. The Club is a registered charity and it has a membership of around 300. It caters for all levels of interest, from the absolute beginner to the dedicated enthusiast, from the family bird watcher to the serious scientist. Our aim is to ensure that everyone gets the maximum enjoyment from their pastime in the county.

Subscription Rates for 1 year:

Ordinary/Family:£20
Concessions:£15
(Unwaged & Senior Citizens)
Junior:£5
(18 years & under)

Name

Address.....

Post Code

Tel. No.

Email

DOB if a junior:/...../.....

I enclose a cheque for : £
(Cheques payable to: "Durham Bird Club")

Signature

Date.....

Please send this form along with payment to:

The Membership Secretary

Derek Lawrence
46 Sackville Road
Sunderland
Tyne Wear
SR3 4DH

If you have any queries please contact:

Derek Lawrence
Tel. 07957541820
Email: derek_suzu@hotmail.co.uk



THE BIRDS OF DURHAM HERITAGE PROJECT



The Birds of Durham Heritage Project (2010-2011) is a multi-faceted project that sets out to 'bring the wildlife of the past to the people of tomorrow'.

With the support of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the project partners have formulated a programme of public events (including lectures and guided walks), are producing bird heritage interpretation panels and creating a suite of on-line resources, all of which tell the tale of County Durham's bird heritage.

In the process of researching the above resources, the contents of a new book about the history of the county's bird life *The Birds of Durham* is being created. This book is to be published in late 2011, in celebration of 60 years since the publication of the last complete overview of the County's birdlife, by the late George Temperley, in 1951.

The Project is being led by the Durham Bird Club, with support from its Partners. The Birds of Durham Heritage Project is a joint initiative between the:

Durham Bird Club - www.durhambirdclub.org

Durham Upland Bird Study Group: is a specialist group set up to study the county's important upland birdlife

Durham Wildlife Trust: the county's wildlife trust, dedicated to the conservation of all of the area's wildlife - www.durhamwt.co.uk

Natural History Society of Northumbria: which has been exploring and studying the natural history of the north-east since 1829 - www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk

Teesmouth Bird Club: the 'old' county of Cleveland's dedicated bird club
www.teesmouthbc.com

If you want to know more about the Birds of Durham Heritage Project then visit the Birds of Durham Heritage Project web-pages at:

www.durhambirdclub.org.uk

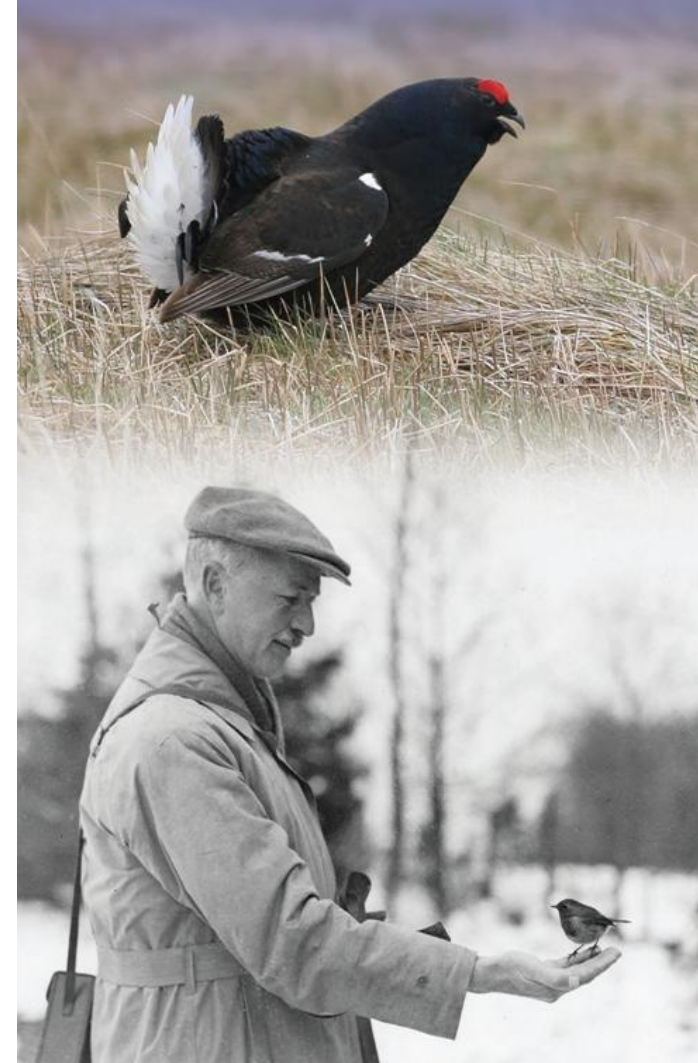


Durham Bird Club (Registered Charity No. 515101)
Studying and conserving the birds of County Durham

THE BIRDS OF DURHAM HERITAGE PROJECT

*'Bringing the wildlife of the past,
to the people of tomorrow'*

Guided Walks and Public Events 2011



THE BIRDS OF DURHAM HERITAGE PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY
THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND