

BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

Newsletter No. 100

August 2026



Editorial

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Welcome to the 100th edition of the BOC Newsletter.

This time, we start with an exciting opportunity for everyone: the new Bird Atlas for Berkshire will be an 'all-hands-on-deck' effort. We hope everyone will consider volunteering some time for this worthwhile project. On the subject of volunteering, Jane Campbell invites you to consider joining the BOC committee, or taking over her role as secretary. This is followed by details of a special event for new members in September and news of a new wetland reserve taking shape in Hungerford. Our BTO correspondents give an update on current projects, including further opportunities to get involved with fieldwork. Neil Bucknell reports on the status of Padworth Lane Gravel Pit, and Chris Ezard describes a group visit to Thatcham Marsh. Ray Reedman has dipped into his rich knowledge of bird names to discuss some trans-Atlantic controversies. We have a taster for next season's outdoor programme, two poems from our poet-in-residence, John Froy, and a surprising press cutting from sixty-four years ago. Andy Tomczynski's gallery of photos records some of the notable birds that have visited Berkshire in recent months, and we end with the solution to last-time's 'five-minute' crossword.

As your stand-in editor, I am very keen to hear from anyone interested in becoming newsletter editor. It is not onerous and would connect you with other members of the BOC community in a unique way.

Once you've read the newsletter I would be grateful for any feedback. What is good and what needs improving? Are there features you would like to see that we are missing? Please contact me with your feedback and any ideas, articles, photos or other relevant input for future editions.

The deadline for submissions for Newsletter No 101 is Sunday October 18th.

A Third Bird Atlas Survey for Berkshire 2027-2031

Neil Bucknell

How time flies! It is nearly 40 years since the first Berkshire Atlas project began and 20 since the second one started in 2007.

As reported in the December 2025 newsletter, the BTO is launching its fourth national bird atlas, with fieldwork for the winter surveys due to start next year, in November 2027, and breeding season surveys the following April. Last time around, BTO opened up access to its IT systems to local groups to use them to collate survey results and process them and to monitor progress in completing their local projects. This enabled many areas to produce atlases at a finer scale than the national atlas, namely tetrads (squares 2km x 2km) rather than 10k x 10km squares, without each local project group having to acquire bespoke software and enter and process a considerable amount of data themselves. Here in Berkshire, we took advantage of this to run our second atlas project, which expanded the scope from the first one 20 years earlier, which just covered the breeding season, to include the winter as well. BTO has announced that it is going to do this again.

This gives us the opportunity of repeating our previous surveys, so we can gain a comprehensive overview of the changes in distribution and abundance of all our breeding, resident and regular

wintering birds. To do so we need once again to mobilise a taskforce of volunteers. Your atlas needs you!

There are three levels of volunteering.

1 – Organising committee members

There will be a steering group, responsible for the overall project. This will include fund-raising, making decisions on how the results will be published and organising this, co-ordinating the efforts of the 10km organisers, validating records where there may be doubt as to their accuracy, liaising with BTO and adjoining counties carrying out simultaneous atlas projects, and monitoring overall coverage and progress. Members can expect to be given specific tasks or take responsibility for specific aspects of the project. You can expect meetings to be quarterly once work gets underway, but with online video meetings this should prove less time consuming than in the previous projects.

2 – 10km Organisers

To monitor progress at a more local level, we will need volunteers to help organise the survey in each Ordnance Survey 10km square. There will be 25 tetrads in each 10km square (with special arrangements for the areas around the edges of the county where these overlap adjoining counties). The role will entail helping to find local volunteers, checking to see that they carry out the surveys for which they have volunteered, and contacting them to help out and give guidance as appropriate. Familiarity with the area and local birders will be very useful.

3 – Surveyors

We have 394 tetrads in Berkshire. For the core of the survey, the timed tetrad visits, each will require two winter visits (between 1 November and 28 February, i.e. an early one before 1 January and a second one on or after that) and two breeding season visits (between 1 April and 31 July, again an early one before 1 June and a second one on or after that date). Ideally each visit should be of two hours duration, during which the surveyor should try to walk the area of the tetrad covering as many of the habitats in that area as possible, recording all birds encountered. Last time around, we had 138 volunteers for the breeding season and 146 for winter who together gave us 100% coverage. From these numbers, you will see that volunteers tended to come back for more, with each covering an average of nearly three tetrads. Gaps in the information from the timed surveys are filled by casual records that anyone can submit, and from the records submitted to Berks Birds, Bird Track and other continuing recording systems.

We will be working with Sean Murphy, the local BTO Representative, who has already volunteered to organise the national 10km survey, which will also involve carrying out timed tetrad visits in 8 out of the 25 tetrads in each 10km square, so overlapping the scope of the local atlas survey.

I do hope you can help. It might look daunting from the summary above, but it can be very rewarding and fulfilling to know that you are contributing towards monitoring changes in bird populations in our changing world, helping to inform researchers and those planning local nature conservation policies and actions, as with the recent Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

In particular, it would be really heartening for some younger members to step forward to help. There seems to be an increase in birding activity among younger people recently. Here is a once-in-every 20 years opportunity to make it count, locally and nationally.

If you can, please contact me on the Club email address conservation@berksoc.org.uk. Please let me know at what level you would like to help. I look forward to hearing from you!

Can you help our committee?

Jane Campbell

Every year in November we appoint new committee members at our AGM. The committee meets four times a year to oversee all aspects of administering and developing the Club.

This year we also have a vacancy for a Secretary as I will be standing down after five years in the post.

It's fun being part of the committee, and as secretary you would be responsible for:

- arranging the committee meetings (four per year)
- arranging the AGM
- taking minutes for all the above
- being the point of contact for any queries
- taking responsibility for distributing the annual report.

Additionally, we are always looking for new committee members to join us.

If you would like more info about the secretary or general committee roles please contact me, Jane Campbell, on 07980076128 or secretary@berksoc.org.uk

Special Event for New Members - Sunday 20th September

Peter Driver

BOC's membership now exceeds 300, which is quite a milestone for a small club. It is good to welcome our new members at our indoor events and on field trips. Last year we held our first ever 'new members morning' and we've decided to repeat the event this autumn.

There is no qualifying date for 'new members' so if you are new to the Club, or still *fee*/like a new member, then you will be welcome to join the new members' morning on Sunday 20th September. We will meet at 09.00 at the Fox and Hounds car park, Deans Copse Road, Sulhamstead, RG7 4BE. We'll start with a birding walk around Hosehill Lake followed by a chat over a cuppa. New members will meet our Chair Robin Dryden and one or two committee members. Reserve your place by sending an email to BerksOCPublicity@gmail.com.

A New Wetland Reserve for Hungerford

Peter Driver

Earlier in the year BOC officers visited the proposed site of the Kennet Wetland Reserve, which is being created on land owned by the Town and Manor of Hungerford. The forty-acre site on the floodplain of the River Kennet is earmarked for a nature restoration project led by the Town and Manor, with support from Action for the River Kennet (ARK).

West Berkshire Council has given full planning consent for the works, which will eventually include public access, boardwalks and an education centre. The project is now at the fundraising stage, with a target of £800,000 to complete the first phase of works.

Our colleagues at Newbury District Ornithological Club have been involved in baseline surveying and monitoring of the site. We are very pleased to see this initiative taking shape. You can find out more about the project on their website <https://townandmanor.co.uk/wetland-reserve/>



BOC officers and committee members on the site visit in Hungerford.

L-R: Robin Dryden (Chair), Ken Moore (committee member), Edwin Bruce-Gardner (Treasurer), Peter Driver (committee member), Neil Bucknell (Chair of Conservation sub-committee), Debby Reynolds (President)

News from BTO

Sean T Murphy and Alice Trchalik

Great News from the Heathland Bird Survey!

As many will remember, this survey ran in the Spring and Summer of last year. Just as a brief recap, this was a national partnership project between the BTO, RSPB and Natural England, and the main aim was to assess the population incidence and distribution of the Dartford Warbler, Woodlark and Nightjar in habitats where they had previously been recorded but also to assess if there has been any range expansion into new habitats. Of special interest was to assess their status in protected habitats and thus to be able to evaluate the value of these areas.

In Berkshire, where heathland is a very important part of the landscape, we had a high number of monitoring sites set up across the county for all three species. As with other BTO national species-specific surveys, there was a tremendous response from volunteers from across the county to participate so, as mentioned in previous newsletters, a big thank you to those who took part.

During the winter, the national organisers have been analysing the data for the whole national survey, and the news is really good! In summary, a recent BTO news release ([Heathland birds continue to bounce back | BTO](#)) reports that the number of Dartford Warbler territories recorded have increased by 27% since 2006, and likewise the number of Woodlark territories have increased by 29% over the same period. For the Nightjar, the territories have increased by 20% since 2004. In addition, the Woodlark and Nightjar have both extended their ranges. For all three species, territory records have been particularly good for protected areas and thus showing the value of these areas. BTO are planning an

article on the survey and the results in the autumn edition of BTO News. When county level data becomes available, Sean will report further on what was found in Berkshire.

BTO Annual Surveys

Thank you to all volunteers who participated in the annual BTO bird surveys, the Breeding and Waterways Breeding Bird, Wetland Bird, Heronries, and Woodcock.

BTO have recently highlighted that if you participate in the annual Woodcock Survey and have not recorded any for two consecutive years at your square, then do cease to do further surveys as it's unlikely birds will be using that square during the current years. If this is the case, please let Sean know as we will need to 'hide' the square from the main map of available squares on the BTO website.

For volunteers for all the surveys, if possible, please enter your data by the end of August. However, if you need more time after this, please let us know.

More generally for the Breeding Bird Survey, we have many survey squares across the county but quite a few are not being monitored, particularly in the west of the county. We also have some squares that fall in BBOWT nature reserves that need to be covered. So, if you are keen on bird watching and recording, please consider combining your interest with this important survey as your records will make a real and valuable contribution to bird conservation objectives, locally and nationally. You can learn more about the survey either at www.bto.org/bbs or by contacting Sean.

For the Wetland Bird Survey, the BTO are currently running a pilot of single visit WeBS counts in seven regions across the UK from June to August in acknowledgement of issues facing counters. These include sites in remote areas or in areas with lower human population density such that the pool of people available to conduct the survey is smaller, or sites with less bird variety which can make it difficult to find someone to visit them regularly. One-off counts at these sites are better than no counts and can provide very useful data for WeBS, filling in gaps in site coverage and providing data for avian influenza work, population estimates, species distribution and future projects. After the pilot the BTO plans to launch the survey across all regions in the autumn so, if you interested, watch this space for potential involvement in the Berkshire region as we will need your help.

If you would like to get involved in some coastal bird surveys (so not in Berkshire!) the BTO are running a Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS) this coming winter (January 2027). The aim is to monitor the population size and distribution of waders and other waterbirds along the non-estuarine coastal habitats of the UK and Ireland. Although the Wetland Bird Survey covers all these species, WeBS counts are mostly carried out on estuaries and inland waterbodies, with only a limited amount of non-estuarine coast regularly surveyed. This means that important populations of species like Purple Sandpiper and Turnstone, which favour non-estuarine habitats, are underrepresented in WeBS counts. NEWS provides an alternative survey to gather accurate information about these populations. NEWS will be a one-off count any day between 1st December 2026 and 31st January 2027, but ideally undertaken as close as possible to the International Waterbird Census weekend of 16th and 17th January 2027. For more information visit [Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey \(NEWS\) | BTO](#).

To take part in NEWS, you will need to find a vacant site and register your interest. You will be able to browse available sites once the Vacant Sites map is published later this summer. To receive NEWS updates, including information about the Vacant Sites map visit [NEWS mailing list form](#).

BTO Annual Conference 2027

As an early heads-up, the next BTO Annual Conference will be held in Sheffield and run over two days, Friday 5th to Saturday 6th March, 2027. Current booking is only open to BTO members but will be open

to all later in the year. On the Friday there will be a major talk followed by a dinner and then the full conference follows on the Saturday. The venue is the Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria Hotel.

Padworth Lane Gravel Pit - an update

Neil Bucknell

Long-standing members may recall that the Club has been hoping to secure the designation of this site, which has produced many good records, as a nature reserve and its future management. The site is owned by the Canal and River Trust (CRT), but the gravel extraction was completed by Harleyford (a private minerals company) who acquired the right to do so from RMC.

The extraction was carried out under the terms of a planning permission granted many years ago, and varied in the intervening period. This required the operator to produce a plan for restoring the site as a nature reserve and its subsequent management. The Club (and in particular Ken Moore and the late Renton Righelato) have spent a considerable amount of time in liaising with Harleyford's consultants in putting forward proposals for the restoration and management plan, with the support of CRT. In recent years however we have become increasingly frustrated at the lack of engagement by Harleyford, and lack of action by the council in enforcing their planning obligations.

Under planning law, there are provisions whereby a council loses the right to enforce planning conditions if it can be established that a breach has occurred and no enforcement has occurred within 10 years thereafter. The defaulting party can apply for a certificate that this has occurred. This is what Harleyford did earlier this year.

As a Club we objected vigorously to this application. We did not consider that the facts as known to us established that a 10-year period had passed for one of the key conditions. After considerable delay, the council nonetheless granted Harleyford the certificate on 21 May.



Padworth Lane Gravel Pit [photo: Peter Driver]

What does this mean for our long-term plans for the site?

It was envisaged that there would have been some reprofiling of the lake bed, new planting, paths and visitor facilities. The site has security issues, and secure fencing and security gates were to be provided. All this was likely to involve expenditure of several £100,000s. A considerable part of the funds held in our conservation fund (currently standing at about £34,000) has been informally earmarked to go towards the cost of managing the site, but this comes nowhere near the cost of laying it out ready for handover as originally envisaged and discussed with Harleyford's consultants for many years.

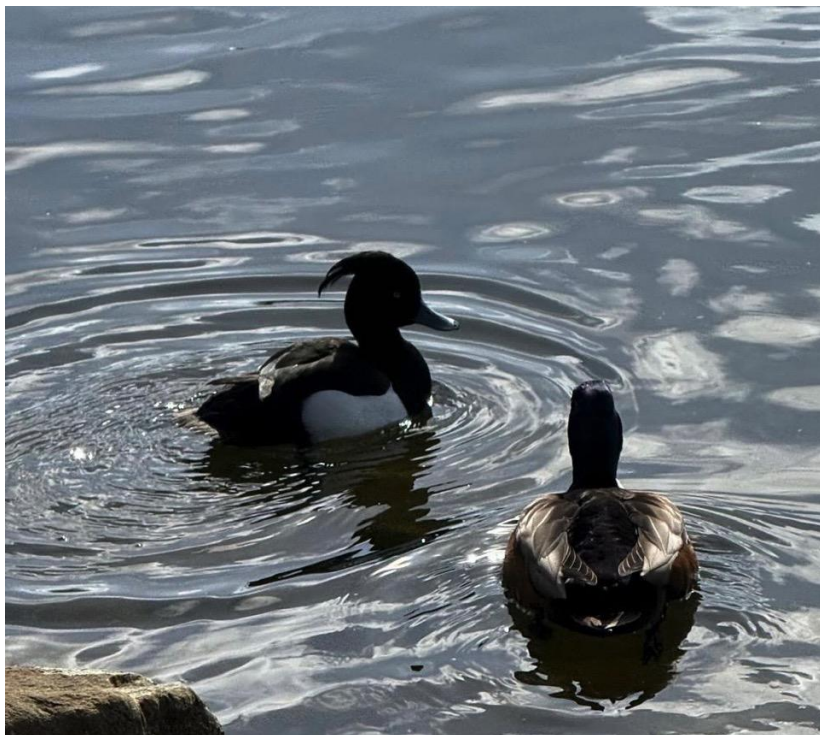
CRT are still in contact with us as they would like to see a solution to the longer-term management of the site, and they have allowed us to arrange some limited work to improve the site. Ken Moore in particular keeps an eye on it, and reports problems to them. We do not know what the commercial terms of Harleyford's agreement with them are, but they are consulting with us about the fencing and security works that they indicate they believe they can require Harleyford to undertake.

We will continue our dialogue with CRT. It does though now appear that our hopes of having a newly laid-out reserve with visitor facilities available at no initial cost will not be borne out. The committee and Conservation Sub-committee will continue to monitor the position and keep members informed.

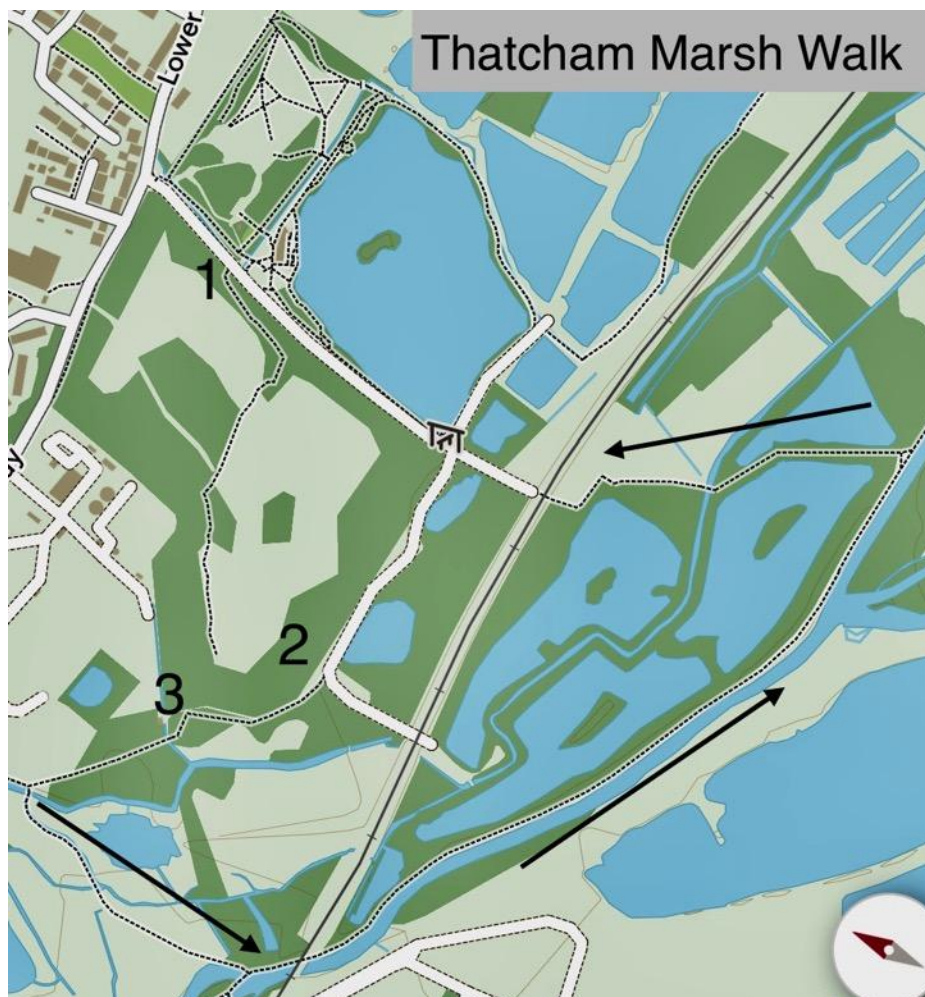
Trip Report: Thatcham Marsh, 18th April 2026

Chris Ezard

We gathered at Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre car park at 9:30am ready to visit lake, scrub, reedbed and canal habitats. The weather was fine, and our small group consisted of Chris, Edwin, Duncan, Amanda, Adele and Nesli. First stop was a good look over Thatcham Lake from the Discovery Centre, with Greylag Goose, Egyptian Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull amongst others. Nesli's picture of Tufted Ducks did justice to the BOC emblem with a very visible tuft on display. We walked along the lakeside and then turned right past tall hedgerow (sometimes frequented by Bullfinch) on one side and a small lake on the other, where we found Little Grebe and Pochard, and heard Cetti's Warbler and Reed Warbler.



Tufted Ducks [photo: Nesli Guven]



This site has a large area of scrub bordered by open woodland that can be entered from three points, which are easily missed (1, 2 and 3 on the map). We used point 2 out and back.

There were many hawthorns in full bloom as we walked around. We found Whitethroat there, and stopped to listen to and watch them from a vantage point looking down on a large area of brambles. Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were singing consistently.

The bird of the day was a Sparrowhawk, first spotted by Adele, which we saw three times. Seen directly above us with the sun behind it, you could see the rear edges of the wings were translucent. Later we saw it shepherding a Red Kite out of its air space above the reed beds.

Walking along the reedbed path, which can flood heavily during the winter, we heard the strange, deliberate song of Reed Warbler contrasting with the faster more continuous song of Sedge Warbler, and a Reed Bunting calling. We reached the Kennet and Avon Canal at Bull's Lock and turned left to walk down towards Widmead Lock. More Reed Warblers and Sedge Warblers were singing along the canal path, but we did not encounter Cuckoo, which has been regular here for years. Edwin suggested they might be absent because each pair of Cuckoos preys on one target species. I have noticed that the number of Reed Warblers by the canal is declining, so that could explain it.

We turned left onto a muddy path that heads between two lakes, past more reedbeds and crosses the GWR railway line, finally arriving back at Thatcham Lake. Walking round the three sides of the lake we hadn't done before, we got back to our starting point. The sound of Robins and Wrens followed us round the whole walk, added to by Blackbirds and Song Thrushes. We finished the walk at 12:40pm and four of us gathered at the Discovery Centre for a chat before going home. Edwin, Amanda and Adele, who visit this site, now know about the scrub area, and Nesli was recognising bird songs by the end of the walk. We saw or heard 41 species, including 6 warblers.

A bird by any other name

Ray Reedman

In Florida we used to see what were then known in the American handbooks as Common Moorhens and I must confess that I didn't take a lot of notice of them at first because there were too many more exotic birds to enjoy. There was something about them that was a little odd, and I eventually realised that the frontal shield was a little different in shape. When I checked more closely I realised that they were classed as a different subspecies and I kept a note of that in my records.

In fact, the more I travelled, the more I found it useful to keep a note of such details. Eventually this habit proved to be useful when American Herring Gull, Hudsonian Whimbrel and Northern Harrier were all split (though I am still in limbo about the Great White Heron - a subspecies of Great Blue - and about the two forms of Willet).

The scientific Latin *Gallinula* means 'a little hen'. Until 2011, the American forms were listed as subspecies of *Gallinula chloropus*. When the authorities eventually decided to split the American Moorhen from the European one, the South American subspecies became the nominate form as *Gallinula galeata galeata* and the North American form became the subspecies *Gallinula galeata cachinnans*. That was not too complicated. After a trip to Trinidad I now had both forms on my own lists.

However, it was not the scientific names that proved to be controversial, but rather the vernacular English form. It was fairly typical of the Eighteenth Century Welsh ornithologist, Thomas Pennant, to 'gentrify' British bird names. Like many of his generation he was classically-educated and tended to disdain older Anglo-Saxon names. In 1768, he introduced the Latinate name *Gallinule*, presumably because Moorhen seemed a bit rustic, but that name was not widely adopted in Britain: Moorhen prevailed formally thanks to Yarrell. For some time the Americans tended to prefer the Latinate form, though the formal International English name was Moorhen. The word *moor* has perhaps changed its value in British eyes over the years. I suspect that the fame of the novel *Wuthering Heights* has a lot to do with that shift, since many people now equate the word only with bleak uplands. Its true roots, however, are more marsh than mountain. We have plenty of evidence of that in local reserve names, like Moor Green, Otmoor and Farmoor. Somerset's Sedgemoor too. These are all lowland sites that would typically hold the Moorhen.

However that lowland usage seems to have long been unfamiliar in American English and its usage was unpopular. The website *10,000 Birds* quoted a tongue-in-cheek comment made during the consultation period by ornithologist, Van Remsen: '*Those who don't care about the taxonomy think that the name Moorhen itself is totally absurd. The species has nothing to do with moors, per se, and even if it did, we don't have any gosh-darned moors in this hemisphere.*' Whenever did facts ever get in the way of a good rant?

As so often, we are divided by the same language. The name is emphatically not absurd in a historical sense. Just to complicate matters, there was a period when the word Moor-hen might have referred to the female of the Moor-fowl (aka Red Grouse), though I suspect that was a term used by few people. It is there in the OED, though Thomas Coward places 'Moor-fowl' in inverted commas, thus implying that it was an oddity even a hundred years ago.

Van Remsen's second point does give some justification for the decision. If the word *moor* does not appear on American maps, that point is irrefutable. We, after all, would find it odd to be asked to change Great Bustard to Prairie Bustard. Do you remember how off-key it felt to use the name Winter Wren?

The story does illustrate on the one hand how a taxonomical decision can rock the cultural boat and, on the other, that our two forms of English are evolving just as subtly as are the birds.

Members may be interested to know that the updated, paperback version of *The Vanishing Mew Gull: a guide to the bird names of the Western Palaearctic* launches in July. It is available from Pelagic Publishing (and other sources) at a much more affordable price of £24.99.

N.B. I will be able to offer it directly to BOC members for £20, from which any profits will be donated to the Conservation Fund. Contact me via email at meander2@hotmail.com.

We've reached the end of another season of field trips. While we take a short summer breather before resuming in September, it is good to look back at all the experiences we've shared.

The 2025-26 programme comprised thirty-four organised trips, all led by BOC volunteers. Some members try to attend as many field trips as physically possible, while others might aim to get to one or two. In a way the fact that trips are always well-attended suggests we don't need to advertise them more widely but even so, you will always be welcome to join in, whether you're a beginner or a seasoned birder.



Intro to Berks Birding visit to Combe Gibbet, 21st March 2026

Chris Ezard's trip report for the April visit to Thatcham Marsh appears elsewhere on this newsletter. We have generally fallen out of the habit of writing trip reports, which is something I plan to change for the next season. I'm also planning to keep a species-totaliser to see how many species we can clock up between us on all the field trips combined, aiming to exceed the 'gold standard' 200 species over the 2026-27 season.



Sanderling flock on the beach at Titchfield Haven, 15th March, 2026 [photo Peter Driver]

The new outdoor programme is now on the website and has been sent to members by email. It will provide over thirty opportunities to enjoy birding with other members, both locally and further afield. If you have never been on a BOC field trip, perhaps this can be the year to dip your toe in the water.

Birding as part of a group is not for everyone but having more pairs of eyes available can lead to seeing birds you might have missed alone. It can also be helpful to have other people to confer with over ID questions and to share insights.



Intro to Berks Birding visit to Fobney Meadow, 9th May 2026 [photo Anne Viner]

Two poems

John Froy

Wellspring

Not where you are looking
or rarely in the looked-for, more
like the bird that appeared
while your back was turned –
a Honey Buzzard from Europe
came swirling over the South Downs,
whistling, wing-clapping in display,
revelling in its return from exile
for our wasps and long days of May.
At such moments a poem might soar
from deep within your heart.

Blackwits

I had a Dipper,
you a Spotted Fly.
I had a Chough,
you made a face.

I rued your flycatcher
viewed daily from the decking
of your Cornish holiday let,

while I searched every Berkshire yew.

But my dipper, eye to eye
on the fast-flowing Teign,
was a prayer answered after years.
Thus we catch up in the street

and move to the late summer coast,
where we both found distant
shearwaters skimming low,
when a sea mist rolled in,

and laugh, no expert was on hand
to pin Cory, Sooty, even a Great.
We called them all Manx and gnashed our teeth,
bound by the tyranny of lists.

But look! Those specks high over the town
look like godwits to me, likely Black-tailed,
could be Bar-tailed on their great migration ...
we run in for our bins.

Old News: The Great Shag Invasion of 1962

Peter Driver

Emily Gillmor, daughter of BOC's former President, the late Robert Gillmor MBE, has forwarded an old newspaper article she found while sorting through Robert's records. She thought members might be interested to see it. Some readers may remember the phenomenal invasion of over thirty shags, almost all immature, that roosted on Reading's Kennetmouth gasometers during the spring and summer of 1962.

The Reading Standard article reads as follows:

"Great interest has been aroused among local bird watchers and people living or working along the Thames by the appearance of a flock of shags, maritime birds which are very rarely seen inland, writes Mr. Robert Gillmor, secretary of the Reading Ornithological Club. The shag, which is closely related to the cormorant, breeds from Northumberland northwards on the east coast, and around the west and south-west coasts of England and Wales.

"The Reading flock, which has risen in number from 20 on March 11, to nearly 40 a week later, is evidently part of an unprecedented "crash" of shags across south-east England, the having been blown inland by high winds at the beginning of March.

The only other record of a shag in Reading is of a bird which sat on the spire of St. Giles in 1927!

"The present birds are most usually to be found along the stretch of river between Reading Bridge and Sonning Lock. Each evening between 5 and 6pm they fly in formation to the top of the two largest gasometers to roost and it is a remarkable and bizarre sight to see the flock circling high over the gasometers and planing in with their broad, webbed feet sticking out at right angles to make an untidy landing, some even perching on the guard rail.



"Having alighted they take a while to settle down and their loud, harsh cries can be clearly heard from the towpath. Nearly all the birds and juveniles, and have not yet attained the upstanding crest so typical of breeding adults. Shags do not breed until three years old.

"It is anybody's guess how long they will stay. Being young birds they are not concerned with breeding, and the gasometers evidently satisfy their desire for cliffs! While they are with is they are well worth a visit, and their roosting flight to the gasometers could become a great attraction."

Robert's field notes go on to record that the shags' numbers dwindled during the summer, the last record being a single bird observed at Blake's Lock on 30 September 1962.

Gallery of Birds in Berkshire

Andy Tomczynski



Kittiwake, Queen Mother Reservoir, 6th April 2026



Hoopoe, Wokingham, 30th April 2026



Scaup, Theale Main Pit, 26th April 2026



Sanderling, Queen Mother Reservoir, 19th May 2026



Whiskered Tern, Woolhampton Gravel Pit, 22nd May 2026



Cattle Egret, Borough Marsh, Wargrave, 14th May 2026

Solution to last time's five-minute crossword

Peter Driver

No new crossword this time but look out for another challenge in the next edition.

1 N	I	2 G	H	3 T	I	4 N	G	5 A	L	6 E
I		R		I		E		L		I
7 G	R	E	A	T	T	A	I	L	E	D
H		B		I		T		S		E
8 T	R	E	E	C	R	E	E	P	E	R
H				A		R		I		
9 E	T	10 H	I	C	S		11 S	C	A	12 T
R		O		A		13 D	O	E		E
14 O	U	S	E		15 T		U		16 B	R
N		T			W		T			E
17 S	P	A	R	R	O	W	H	A	W	K

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