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nature  
a home

## RSPB YORK LOCAL GROUP

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076,  
Scotland no.SCO37654

**Group Leader: Barry Bishop**

### AUTUMN 2015 NEWSLETTER

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#### **SECURE, DRY STORAGE AREA REQUIRED**

York Local Group has a gazebo and tables that it uses when it attends events in local parks. The rest of the time they "live" with members of the committee.

Has anyone got a safe, dry and secure area that we could use to store these items?

If you have could you please contact Barry to discuss the group using them.

#### **HARROGATE AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW Fri 18th - Sunday 20th September**

Not an appeal for help this time, but just a mention that the group is being given a free stand at this year's show, on the theme of 'Harvest & Hedgerows'.

Not a 'garden' as last autumn but bales of straw and hay, a 'hedge', a teapot, nests, information and who-knows-what-else that your organising sub-group may think of?!

So if you are there, please come along and see us - we're in the 'Gardening Hall' this time.

#### **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

The Committee and myself hope you enjoy this latest newsletter, which we hope you find interesting and informative, and maybe even slightly amusing in places. You will see on page 3 and 4 that our website address and arrangements have also changed, but the newsletter can, as usual, be read there in colour. Back versions are also now available. The new website address is

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/york>

Have a visit – there are lots of other items there as well. As usual, the editor thanks all contributors of this edition for their articles, photographs and other items submitted. In fact, due to some excellent articles and submitted photographs in this edition, a couple of items have been held over December's edition. However further suggestions, comments, ideas or birding articles (however small) are always welcome!

Peter Reed  
peter.pj.reed@talk21.com

## Peregrines at York Minster

A pair of peregrine falcons has been frequenting York Minster since last November. Several local people have been observing the birds and have recorded their sightings on a twitter account, [twitter.com/yorkperegrines](https://twitter.com/yorkperegrines)

In April it was thought that the birds were nest building due to their behaviour. Despite this behaviour continuing for a while, at the time of writing it is thought unlikely that they have any young, and that they are just “holding territory”.

Perhaps if they remain throughout the coming winter then next spring, who knows...?



Female Peregrine at York Minster. *Copyright Jack Ashton-Booth*

On Sunday 19th July and Saturday 8th August, members of RSPB staff had a stall in Deans Park, informing visitors about the RSPB. Members of the local group were on hand with their telescopes to show visitors the peregrines. Prior to the July event, I was invited to do an interview on Radio York with Jonathan Cowap.

Barry Bishop

## Membership Renewal

Your membership of the York RSPB Local Group is due for renewal on **1<sup>st</sup> November** 2015. We have managed to keep the renewal fee at £4 per household.

- If you pay by standing order the £4 will be taken from your account at the beginning of November.

Could you please check if your bank pays this at the beginning of November – most do but a few are paid at odd times during the year and this makes it difficult to know if you wish to continue your membership.

- If you pay by cheque please send it to Lynne Borthwick our new membership secretary, made payable to “RSPB York Local Group”, with the renewal form sent with this newsletter.
- You can also hand it in, or pay by cash, at the next Indoor Meeting
- If you wish to join the 75% of our members who pay by Standing Order, please complete the relevant section of the renewal form or see me at an Indoor Meeting. It would be helpful if you would do this in good time (early October) to give the bank time to set this up

**For those who renew their membership on November 1<sup>st</sup>** next year’s programme and the newsletter will be sent out in December with **new membership cards**.

**If membership has not been renewed** a complimentary programme and newsletter will be sent with a reminder about renewal. If you haven’t renewed your membership and wish to do so, you will need to send the payment with a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card, or collect it at the next Indoor Meeting.

Muriel Cruchley

## From the RSPB York Group leaders

### Retiring Leader's Comments



As many of you will know, Barry takes over as group leader from 1st September 2015.

Let us all wish Barry best wishes for the future and hope he enjoys as much satisfaction from his role as group leader as I have. I will be staying on committee.

Just a final few words from me to say that I have enjoyed leading the York Local Group over the past 14 years, and must extend a big thank you to Michael for helping me through the past three years. I would also like to thank the many of you, the committee members, and especially my Anne for all the support over the years.

One parting shot: I wrote 14 years ago that “on a recent holiday in Hampshire there were far more little egrets than grey herons, how long before they become a regular sight in Yorkshire” – we saw 12 at Kilnsea Wetlands on this day of writing!

Best wishes **Chris**

### Leader's Comments

Thank you very much for the support that you gave to me at our recent annual general meeting. I am very much looking forward to leading the local group, and look forward to seeing you at some of the new events we plan to hold from September.

However before I mention them I would like to say a huge thank you to Michael and Chris, who have jointly lead the group over the past three years. Michael has devoted a lot of time and energy not only into the leadership role, but also in his role as events co-ordinator. There have been some weeks when he and Muriel have spent more time at Harlow Carr than they spent at home. Michael is leaving the committee, but will continue to “chair” some indoor meetings, and I am sure that I will be seeking his help and words of wisdom in the coming months.

Chris was, of course, group leader for several years on his own, with help from Anne, and for many years their diary had the same entry for most of the year: RSPB. There have been times when their house has been full of RSPB stock and equipment, and I am sure that they are looking forward to having the space back. Chris is going to remain on committee, where I am sure his experience will be more than welcomed.

I am pleased to be able to announce that we have a new membership secretary, Lynne Borthwick who has kindly volunteered to take over this role from Muriel Cruchley. Muriel has looked after our membership records as well as being our “bird pin minder”, and I would like to thank Muriel for all her hard work.

Our new website is up and running and you will be able to access it by logging onto <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/york> Robin Ball is looking after this for us, and Robin will be updating the website on a regular basis with local news and reports. You will also be able to read the newsletter there in “full colour”.

During 2016 we will be organising some new activities for our group so keep watching the website for details or talk to us at an indoor meeting. Some of the events we would like to try are “Birding for Beginners”; “Birding by Bus” and “Birding by Bike”. In order for these groups to work well, we will be looking for about 6 people to join each group, so that we can go at a leisurely pace and everyone has the chance to see the birds. No special equipment will be needed and the only cost will be your bus fare.

I look forward to meeting you at some of our events in the near future.

Best wishes **Barry**

## York Local Group Webpages

The new webpages for the York Local Group “went live” at the end of July. You can find the pages at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/york> and is part of the national RSPB website. This is how the site looks at the moment:

The RSPB is encouraging Local Groups to set up these webpages to give the work and activities of the Groups more prominence. It is hoped that visitors to York will use the pages as a source of local knowledge and encourage York residents to attend events and join the Local Group.

The new arrangements mean that it is quicker and simpler for us to post new material to the web, so we hope to give more detail about forthcoming events and more timely news. The pages are designed to be easier to browse on phones and tablets.

All the forthcoming indoor meetings, car trips and walks for the rest of the year are posted on the site along with recent newsletters, but there is still lots of space to fill! In particular, if you have News, Events or local, “Places to see birds”, you want to share please email [robinball@ntlworld.com](mailto:robinball@ntlworld.com)

The original York Local Group website will be wound up soon so this is a good opportunity to thank Ian Traynor for all his work over many years hosting the site.

Barry Bishop and Robin Ball, Site Editors

## Local group activities

Just a couple of pictures of recent Local Group activities:



Left – Muriel, Michael and Peter at Harrogate Flower Show April 2015  
(Image: Sally Hawkswell)



Right – ‘Bob’ the Squirrel and RSPB ‘minder’ at Member’s Weekend York, April 2015  
(Image: Chris Lloyd)



## Spring Birding on Speyside 15 – 19 May 2015

### *David Atkins reports on the Group holiday to Speyside*

The Scottish Highlands, particularly Speyside and the Cairngorms, have long been a favourite birding destination for Group members. On this holiday, ideally timed for late spring, 23 of us made our way to the charming small town of Grantown-on-Spey, via a variety of routes from York (and elsewhere). Some added on extra days before and/or after the main Group holiday.

We were based in the Grant Arms Hotel, a classic Highland hotel in the centre of Grantown. For some of us, this was the latest of several stays here, but for others it was a first visit to the hotel and the area. The hotel is not only a relaxing place to stay, but embedded within it is the Bird Watching and Wildlife Club (BWWC), available to all guests. The club provides comprehensive information about where to go and what to look for, along with latest sightings, etc. It even produces its own 'newspaper', The Daily Chirp, which appears on the breakfast table each morning.

The weather forecast for the weekend was not great. However, we duly gathered in the hotel lounge on the Friday evening for meeting and greeting, and an introductory word from our leader Chris Lloyd. This was followed by a convivial dinner in the dining room, in high anticipation of the three days of birding ahead of us.

**Saturday 16 May.** Today, we stayed within the Cairngorms National Park itself. In the morning, we explored Loch Garten, starting off at the world-famous RSPB Osprey Centre. We were soon rewarded with our first osprey of the weekend, flying overhead and around the ancient nest atop an even more ancient Scots pine. The feeding station next to the visitor centre gave us great views of siskin, coal tit, great spotted woodpecker and red squirrel, among other species. We had good views of two treecreepers by the path. But no crested tit!



Red Squirrel *Image: Chris Lloyd*

We then moved on to a second car park alongside Loch Garten, quickly finding common sandpiper and goldeneye. Everyone managed to see a fine male redstart as it burst regularly into song. We then split into two groups for the 2-mile circular walk to Loch Mallachie. Here there were more goldeneye, along with tufted duck, grey heron, and various woodland birds such as coal tit and goldcrest. But still no crested tit! It was warm enough to sit outside the cars for our picnic lunch.

We spent the afternoon at Loch Morlich, including a productive walk along the southern edge of the loch. Another redstart and a spotted flycatcher were seen, but the highlight here was a splendid red-throated diver gliding majestically to and fro on the loch, in good light and quite close to where we were standing. We were lucky with the weather today, but the forecast for the next day was not at all promising!

**Sunday 17 May.** The weather forecast was correct! It was decidedly chilly, and we spent the first half of the day trying to dodge squally showers. We ventured further afield today, heading up beautiful Strathdearn, otherwise known as the Findhorn Valley, west off the A9 on the way to Inverness. This is a bit of a birding Mecca in the area, renowned for its birds of prey and other mountain species. At our first stop along the 12-mile single-track road we looked down on the river below us. There were curlew and golden plover in a field, and sand martins, house martins and swallows wheeled all about us. There were common sandpipers along the river's edge, and another spotted flycatcher was... well... spotted! By the time we reached the car park at the end of the road, we had added kestrel, buzzard, wheatear, ring ouzel, dipper, goosander and common tern to the list.

We thoroughly scanned the ridge tops, finding more buzzards, a couple of raven, and a herd of red deer. One large raptor, flying away, provoked lively debate, but there was not enough consensus to allow it to be recorded as an eagle sighting. Lunch at the car park had to be taken indoors today! After lunch, we set off on foot to walk further up the valley. Just as we tried to locate a calling ring ouzel, the rain hit us hard and we had to scamper quickly back to the shelter of our cars.



Mike Langman (rspb-images.com)

By the time we reached our next stop, the RSPB reserve at Loch Ruthven, the weather had improved, and we walked along the lochside path to the bird hide. Loch Ruthven has long been known for its breeding Slavonian grebes (above), although numbers have fallen steadily in recent years. We counted three birds, albeit at a distance on the other side of the loch. On much closer view was a splendid little grebe, and we also added some warblers to the group list - willow warbler, chiffchaff and whitethroat. Some of us were lucky enough to see an osprey (below) drop out of the sky, pluck a fish from the loch and fly off with it, presumably to a hungry family nearby. We also saw a distant red kite and a very obliging whinchat by the car park.



Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com)

Considering the weather, it was a good day's birding.

Our final stop of the day was back down the A9 and along a minor road to the tiny community of Ruthven (no relation to Loch Ruthven!). The layby overlooking the River Findhorn, well downstream from this morning, gave great 360 degree coverage. On the river itself were common gull, goosander, redshank, ringed plover and common sandpiper. We watched as, across the river, a stoat was being harassed by some of the gulls.

**Monday 18 May.** We began our final full day's birding with a gentle stroll in Anagach Wood, on the edge of Grantown. Plenty of coal tits, blue tits and great tits were on the feeding station, but again no crested tit! The wood was fairly quiet, although we did find another spotted flycatcher, and heard overflying bullfinches. We then headed north to the Moray Firth, starting off with a grand view across Findhorn Bay, next to the now-closed RAF Kinloss airbase. On view were goosanders, red-breasted

mergansers, mute swans and shelduck. Linnets and goldfinches flew overhead, yellowhammers sang from nearby bushes, and common terns fished in the bay.

We then moved on to the dunes and shoreline of Burghead Bay, just beyond Findhorn village. We picnicked on the foreshore, from where we had good leisurely birding. A fulmar was soon spotted, and we were able to compare and contrast cormorants and shags. An unexpected great northern diver drifted slowly past where we were having lunch, affording good views for everyone. Moving on to the town of Burghead itself, the rocks around the headland provided superb close views of a variety of waders - ringed plover, dunlin, redshank, turnstone and oystercatcher. On the sea were eider, red-breasted merganser, velvet scoter and a distant gannet. Just below us on the rocks, a couple of rock pipits flitted around. Before leaving this interesting little town, several of us enjoyed a cup of tea in The Bothy café, its outside tastefully painted in duck-egg blue!

On the way back to Grantown, we called into the remote Lochindorb. But the squally rain found us again! One or two people saw a hen harrier flying away, another osprey flew overhead, and a few folk managed to see the resident black-throated diver before it disappeared behind the ruined castle on an island in the loch. At this point, we gave up on birding for the day! Back at our hotel, before another convivial dinner, we had the final call-over. The Group total for the weekend was 95 species, so Ken Searstone collected the prize for guessing the correct number.

**Tuesday 19 May.** On the final morning of the holiday, people set off in all directions - north, west and south into other parts of Scotland, or heading straight back to York. A few of us went to Cairngorm mountain. At the main car park, a male ring ouzel showed well, and ravens flew overhead. It felt distinctly cold, and a snowy Cairngorm summit was hidden by cloud. Never mind the weather, we took the funicular railway to the upper Ptarmigan station anyway! It was bitterly cold out on the viewing platform and it actually started to snow. Appropriately, we briefly heard a ptarmigan call, but we couldn't see the bird... tantalising!

In spite of one or two periods of challenging weather, the weekend was a great success. There were plenty of good birds around for us to enjoy, although we did miss out on some of the local specialities such as crested tit (right), Scottish crossbill and capercaillie. We must try harder next time! On the plus side, we saw osprey, spotted flycatcher and common sandpiper every day, and all three diver species. We stayed in a very nice place, and there was good camaraderie within the group all weekend. Holidays like this don't just happen by magic. A lot of hard work goes into the planning, and the management of events on the ground.



*Mike Langman (rspb-images.com)*

So a big thank-you to Chris and Anne Lloyd, who bore the brunt of the planning and leading. They were ably assisted by Ken and Helen Searstone, so thanks to them too. I'm sure another venture north of the border cannot be ruled out at some point in the future...

**David Atkins**



## Local Walk and Day trip reports April 2015 – July 2015

### 14th April Hagg Wood and Hassacarr Reserve Dunnington.

This Tuesday morning walk attracted a bumper turnout of 24 people on a fine day.

We were met by Mick Clark, one of our members and also one of the “Friends of Hagg Wood.”

After a brief introduction to the history of the wood we soon heard blackcap and willow warbler as we entered. These migrants were later seen to add to our list of mainly common woodland birds.

As we walked round the edge of the wood (right) we saw buzzard, sparrow hawk and kestrel in the sky above. We also encountered Paul (Paz) Fletcher, another of our members who had escaped from house decorating duties for some fresh air.

From Hagg Wood we moved on to Hassacarr Nature Reserve to be met by Terry Weston, who showed us around. Terry has been the Leading Player in its development for a considerable time. We spent a while by some small ponds (below) searching for great crested newt, known to be resident on this reserve.

At the end of a fine tour we sat by the reserve’s exhibition cabin to view hirundines overhead and bullfinch with linnets in a nearby bush.



Image: Peter Reed



Image: Peter Reed

Our thanks go to Terry and Mick for a most enjoyable visit.

### 26th April Potteric Carr

There were nine people on the trip when we left York on a nice sunny morning. After booking in and looking round the shop we set off round the reserve. During the morning the birds we saw included, amongst others, reed warbler, chiffchaff, gadwall, little grebe, willow warbler, snipe, sedge warbler, little egret, marsh harrier, blackcap and garden warbler.

After lunch we were joined by Chris and Anne when we saw buzzard, sand martin, swallow, kingfisher, avocet, ruff in summer plumage and black-necked grebe; we also heard bittern calling. In total we had over 50 species and finished off at the very good cafe.

### 9th May Hawnby.

On a bright and breezy day 8 members met at the church in Hawnby, which is situated by the river away from the village. Pheasants were strutting (right) as we started our climb of Hawnby Hill, first along the road towards the village and then up through some fields. A few farmland birds were seen but the expected redstarts proved to be illusive.

After a mile or so we turned left down more fields, where curlews were calling towards the River Rye. Before reaching the river a path through oak woodland led us to pied flycatcher near a nesting box



Image: Peter Reed and



then a singing male redstart captured our attention. Returning to our original path we descended to the river where male and female Mandarin ducks (left) were observed from the bridge.

Moving upwards we then saw dipper and goosander from our path before we continued down the road and back to our cars. Our total was 19 species for the day.

Mandarin ducks at Hawnby Copyright: Ian Brookes



### 14th June Staveley YWT Reserve.

Usually popular, only 8 people came for this Tuesday morning walk. One was a new member and another a visitor from the Leeds RSPB Group.

From the car park we had plenty to hear and see as we walked towards the East Lagoon. Hirundines were overhead, the sand martins were using the artificial bank created for them and reed bunting, sedge and reed warblers were noted on our way around the lagoon.

On the nesting raft provided for them common tern (right) and oyster catcher chicks could be seen. Spotted common orchids were showing in the grass around a wooded area.

We made our way along the River Tutt but didn't manage to spot a kingfisher today.



Common tern at Staveley. Copyright: Mark Coates

The new "Eco" hide overlooking the East Lagoon provided opportunities to see redshank, little ringed plover along with various ducks and geese.

Returning to our cars we came across a bee orchid, rather exposed in the middle of a public footpath. The reserve is noted for their presence along with marsh helleborine. It also has breeding otters but they were not seen today.

The bird count for the day came to 44 species.

### 19th July Wharram Percy

It was raining as we travelled to our venue and we wondered if the weather forecast of an early cessation of rain would be correct. Our group of 8 were relieved when the rain stopped at 10.05.

Yellowhammer and whitethroat were vocal and visible as swallows appeared in the sky.

Descending the hillside towards the ruins of a deserted medieval village wildflowers were abundant with numerous ringlet butterflies.



Image: Tom Marshall (rspb-images.com)

Other flowers found during the walk were field scabious, ragwort, self-heal, meadow cranesbill, great willowherb, rosebay willowherb, hedge woundwort, meadowsweet, spear thistle, creeping thistle, sand leek, hairy St. John's wort, tufted vetch, meadow vetchling, great burnet and common knapweed.

From the quarry we progressed up the road to Wharram le Street where a solitary linnets was seen on the telegraph wire. In the hedge beneath a comma butterfly attracted a photo shoot\*.

Along the side of a farm field back towards our cars a healthy crop of potatoes drew comment in the rocky limestone soil of the Yorkshire Wolds.

The bird list for the walk amounted to 25 species seen and just a couple heard but not seen.

All reports from Ken Searstone except for Potteric Carr by Colin Rafton

**\*Photos for trip reports:** If you take any interesting photos while on any of the Local Group walks or trips and would be willing to let the editor use them to illustrate Ken's trip reports, please let me know on [peter.pj.reed@talk21.com](mailto:peter.pj.reed@talk21.com). Full credit is given and the copyright remains with the photographer.

## **DAY TRIP VENUES September to December 2015**

As noted in last newsletter please book these trips directly with Colin either by telephone (01904 413941), email ([rafton29@talktalk.net](mailto:rafton29@talktalk.net)) or in person at meetings, mentioning if you would like a lift or are able to provide one. Strong shoes or boots will be required on all the trips as well as a packed lunch. Please tell Colin as early as possible and note we will never pass on your contact details to anyone else.

### **Saturday 19th September 2015 Teesside – by car 9am**

We will go to RSPB Saltholme Reserve in the morning. There should be lots of waders and wildfowl around. After lunch we will go to Seal Sands and the other pools in the area depending on what is around. This is a good time for migrants so anything could be seen.

### **Sunday 18th October 2015 Gouthwaite reservoir – by car 9am**

A Yorkshire Water Reservoir in Nidderdale near Pateley Bridge. There should be plenty of wildfowl and waders. In the past we have seen green woodpecker, buzzard, plus a variety of passerines.

### **Sunday 22nd November 2015 East Coast – by car 9am**

We will go to Filey in the morning where we should see a good variety of gulls, waders and smaller birds in the bushes and on the cliff top fields. After lunch, depending on what other birds are around, we will decide where to go. Last year on this trip we had curlew sandpiper and snow bunting at Flamborough plus a rough-legged buzzard at Grindale.

### **Still time for an autumn seabird cruise!**

A few RSPB seabird cruises from Bridlington are still available this autumn on the following days:

Saturday 12 September at 3.00pm

Sunday 20 September at 8.30am

Sunday 4 October at 9.00am

These three and a half hour trips specialise in looking for terns, skuas, auks, gulls and Manx and sooty shearwaters moving on migration, so wrap up warm and bring your sea legs!

Details by telephone: 01262 422211, or E-mail: [bempton.cruises@rspb.org.uk](mailto:bempton.cruises@rspb.org.uk) or see on website: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/events/>

## **Comedy Corner**

*The Editor couldn't resist the following from the Wakefield RSPB Local Group newsletter:*

Two men are walking in the woods and come face-to-face with a grizzly bear. One of them kneels down to tie his shoelace and gets ready to run. The 2nd man asks him, "What are you doing? You know that you can't outrun a grizzly bear!" The 1st man replies, "I don't have to outrun the grizzly bear, I just have to outrun you!"

At the auditions for a Britain's got Talent, Simon Cowell asked one candidate, "What can you do?" "Imitate birds," says the auditioner. "Are you joking?" sneers Simon Cowell. "People like that are ten a penny!" "Well, I guess that's that, then," said the man and he spread his arms and flew out of the window.

## Autumn programme of events – September to December 2015

### SEPTEMBER

**Thur 10th 7.30pm** INDOOR MEETING – Paul Hobson -The Wood

A look into bird and animal life that inhabits all types of woodland in the UK including both broad leaved and coniferous.

**Sat 12th 10.00am** MORNING WALK @ Stamford Bridge. Meet car park on right over bridge.  
OS Ref 711555                      N53.990661                      W-0.91706853

### OCTOBER

**Tues 13th 7.30pm** INDOOR MEETING – Geoff Trinder - Trinidad and Tobago

*Note this meeting is now being held at De Grey Lecture Theatre (DG/017) rather than Temple Hall*

Geoff is a nature photographer based in Belton, South Yorkshire. Trinidad and Tobago are the most ecologically diverse of the Caribbean islands and is a popular destination for visiting birders due to the variety of species found there, tanagers and humming birds along with a good number of birds of prey, herons and egrets and the unique fruit eating oilbird. Frogs and reptiles are amongst the other attractions.

**Wed 14th 10.00am** MORNING WALK @ Adel Dam (YWT) and Breary NR. Meet at Golden Acre car park. OS Ref 274419                      N53.872587                      W-1.5847626

**Tues 27th 2.30pm** DAYTIME INDOOR MEETING – Barry Bishop – Mainly Mull. Tea and/or coffee included. *Note different time and venue:* St. Olave's Hall, Marygate Lane, York.

To start off our introduction of daytime talks, our new leader Barry Bishop will talk of the birds and wildlife of the Isle of Mull in Scotland. Tea and coffee included, the meeting will be about 2 hours.

### NOVEMBER

**Sun 15th 10.00am** MORNING WALK @ Heslington. Meet car park by playing field. OS Ref 628499                      N53.941411                      W-1.0447909

**Wed 18th 7.30pm** INDOOR MEETING – Ian Newton - Ecuador – Birding Heaven

Ian is an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society based in York. He has given many illustrated presentations on wildlife, mainly birds but includes other natural history subjects. He last spoke to the York group in 2012 on the Resplendent Quetzal in Central America.

He will be speaking about a trip to North-east Ecuador, an area he describes as a “humming bird fest” with over 50 species seen and most photographed too.

### DECEMBER

**Wed 9th 7.30pm** INDOOR MEETING – Tom Lawson - Deserts of India

Tom needs no introduction to the York group, a knowledgeable and well-travelled birder, an accomplished photographer and speaker.



## 2015 A TRIP AROUND THE BRITISH ISLES QUIZ



Thank you to everyone who took part in our quiz, and thank you to all who sent in the extra £1 entry fees.

You raised over £180, which has been donated to the work of the RSPB.

There were 37 entries received, of which 23 were correct.

The winner picked from the hat was from Knaresborough, and receives £25 worth of Garden Gift Vouchers; and the second out of the hat was from Doncaster and receives £10 worth of Garden Gift Vouchers.

We shall have to dream up another quiz for 2016.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. A monstrous place! (4,4).                                   | LOCH NESS               |
| 2. Is robin hiding here? (8,6).                                | SHERWOOD FOREST         |
| 3. Does it watch over the capital? (3,6,3).                    | THE LONDON EYE          |
| 4. The Chair is one of the stumbling blocks here! (7).         | AINTREE                 |
| 5. Head weight to baffle you! (6,5).                           | BOSTON STUMP            |
| 6. Breezy lake! (10).  | WINDERMERE              |
| 7. Wintry weather kept going! (7).                             | SNOWDON                 |
| 8. Area at the top? (3,4,8).                                   | THE PEAK DISTRICT       |
| 9. Newly pickled in London? (3,7).                             | THE GHERKIN             |
| 10. Summer visitor trips up! (7,5).                            | SWALLOW FALLS           |
| 11. Morning card game on radio? (8).                           | AMBRIDGE                |
| 12. Titans paved road! (3,6,8).                                | THE GIANTS CAUSEWAY     |
| 13. Stand in line to see flowers? (3,7).                       | KEW GARDENS             |
| 14. Pig out on cheese! (7,5).                                  | CHEDDAR GORGE           |
| 15. The most ancient citizen of the Orkneys? (3,3,3,2,3).      | THE OLD MAN OF HOY      |
| 16. Tenders for ditch? (5,4).                                  | OFFAS DYKE              |
| 17. A white fur coat walking from London to York! (6,6).       | ERMINE STREET           |
| 18. Traditionally done on a Monday! (3,4).                     | THE WASH                |
| 19. Frisky stag disembark to get a drink! (7,5).               | RUTLAND WATER           |
| 20. Accomplished it, boss, at the most northerly point! (6,4). | DUNNET HEAD             |
| 21. Chaps on main road in lines! (5,7).                        | MENAI STRAITS           |
| 22. Think deeply of family radial, for example! (4,2,7).       | MULL OF KINTYRE         |
| 23. Nearly a round for cricket? (3,4).                         | THE OVAL                |
| 24. Treat argument with contempt? (5,5).                       | SPURN POINT             |
| 25. Gets one hen! (10).  | STONEHENGE              |
| 26. Where they speak indistinctly! (3,7).                      | THE MUMBLES             |
| 27. Useful for knitters? (3,7).                                | THE NEEDLES             |
| 28. The heights of regret? (3,9,2,6).                          | THE MOUNTAINS OF MOURNE |
| 29. How much to gossip in this mansion? (10,5).                | CHATSWORTH HOUSE        |
| 30. Arrives at the final point! (5,3).                         | LANDS END               |

**The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.**