



# DURSLEY BIRDWATCHING AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY OCTOBER 2025



## CHIT CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

In last month's (Sept.) bulletin you should have noticed that all the indoor and field events for the rest of 2025/2026 season are listed. That list will appear in future bulletins for your information.

I'd like to thank Rebecca and Simon for putting together what looks to be an interesting program and I look forward to attending as many events as possible.

Our website is up and running again, thanks to Simon, so you should be able to book a place on any event you wish to take part in. You will also be able to see sightings for past field trips. Since putting together this chat Rebecca has unfortunately had to resign from the committee due to other commitments. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work and commitment she gave to the society during her time with us. We are sorry to be losing her but wish her all the best and hope to see her and Ollie of course out with us sometime in the future.

This means we have a vacancy for an indoor events organizer which involves arranging a few speakers for the winter period 2026/2027. If you feel you could fill this role or would like more information please speak to me or any other member of the committee. Rebecca is happy to do a handover so that whoever takes over would not be starting from scratch.

**Bird of the Month** is - the swan - so for me it has to be the Bewick's swan - *Cygnus columbianus*. Sadly numbers are still dropping and we know last year was a disastrous breeding season. Lets hope they have been more successful this year and we have some cygnets returning to our shores.

Dot



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## FORTHCOMING TRIPS

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Frampton in Autumn**

**Leader: Nick Goatman**

Meet in the small car park, Watery Lane GL2 7DZ at 8:30 am. The walk should last for approximately 3 hours. Nick visits the site almost daily and will usually be able to spot new arrivals. We should see the remnants of our summer visitors, passage migrants and the arrival of overwintering birds.

Frampton is a flat area with a mixture of good paths and grassy fields making for easy walking.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October: Autumn visit to Slimbridge**

**Leader: Dot Jones**

Dot will meet everyone in the main WWT car park at 9:30. The organised walk will last approximately 3-4 hours, but of course you might like to stay longer. Migration should be well under way, so birds such as Golden Plover and White-fronted Geese might start to come in as well as wintering ducks such as Pintail and Wigeon, and there's always the possibility of spotting a rare vagrant or two.

Please remember to bring your WWT Membership card if you have one.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November Chew Valley Lakes** - further details to follow

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Cotswold Water Park** - further details to follow

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December Severn Beach/Aust** - further details to follow

**NB** Do keep an eye on the new website for further details of trips, and we will keep updating this list in our regular Bulletins. Trips can now be booked through the website, but you may need to contact Simon for a new password. [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com)

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**NB:** If any trip is in doubt or cancelled because of bad weather or unexpected circumstances, we will try and contact everyone by email or through the WhatsApp group. It is important therefore that we have your contact details. We will also put a notice on the website.

To be added to the WhatsApp Group, please contact Caroline Sandrey (Membership Secretary) [caroline.sandrey@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.sandrey@gmail.com) or Simon Ashley (DBWPS Secretary) [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com).

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## VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

If you are able to lead a walk around your favourite birding 'patch' or you know someone who might be a good leader for a walk either locally or further afield please do let Simon know. We're always in need of extra leaders. Email: [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com)

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## INDOOR MEETING DATES 2025/2026

Indoor meetings take place at Dursley Community Centre, Rednock Drive, GL11 4BX

**27<sup>th</sup> October ~ 1.45pm**

**Speaker: Roberta Goodall**

A talk about birding trips to Hungary along with some fantastic photographs from Roberta. Roberta is kindly donating her fee to Wader Quest, a charity close to her heart.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November ~ 7.30pm**

**Speaker: Tom Mabett**

Tom is the Operations Manager and Tour Leader for Naturetrek. He will be talking about his favourite places in Europe to go birding. The destinations range from Camargue, Extremadura, Hortobagy to the uplands of Sweden. A great range of birds will be covered.

**08<sup>th</sup> December ~ 7.30pm**

**Christmas Quiz and Puddings Night**

Simon Ashley will be testing our brains with his specially created bird and wildlife quiz. Members are requested to bring a pudding or sweet treat to share. The committee will supply teas, coffee and mince pies.

**26<sup>th</sup> January ~7.30 pm**

**Speaker: Dr. Mark O`Connell**

Dr O'Connell will be talking to us about the work of the Stroud Valleys Dipper Project. The five valleys hold an important and unusual population of the European Dipper. A species that is on the Amber list and has declined by 39 percent since 1995.

**23<sup>rd</sup> February ~ 1.45pm**

**Speaker: Andrew Bluett**

Andrew is a well known speaker to our club on a variety of birds, wildlife and other topics. He has a new and exciting talk for us in 2026. Further details will follow.

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 7.30pm ~ AGM**

Annual AGM with updates on grant projects.

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## GLOUCESTERSHIRE BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

You can refer to the Gloster Birder web site for up to date bird sightings in the county. Please enter your sightings at <https://theglosterbirder.co.uk>  
Do let us know of anything rare or unusual you see.

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## DURSLEY PET SHOP

Remember, if you show your membership card in the Dursley Pet Shop you will be entitled to a 10% discount on a wide range of gardening items sold.

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## TRIP REPORTS

### Chipping Sodbury Common

Report from: **Colin Crew**

Sunday 31st August

Seventeen (yes, seventeen! I had to do a couple of recounts...!) DBWPS members arrived on Chipping Sodbury Common at 0830 for a morning-only mooch in search of migrants. Although we stayed dry throughout, the wind was pretty much continuous, and it made the birding quite challenging. Unsurprisingly, Sparrowhawk was the only raptor seen.



One of our 'target' species was Redstart, so it was pleasing when we picked up one calling repeatedly and all members subsequently had good views of two birds. We also did wonderfully well with warblers, as both Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat were seen clearly and Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff also located.

A small number of hirundines were seen overhead and the odd gull flapped casually by, along with a collection of corvids and numerous Woodpigeon. A Green Woodpecker was heard 'yaffling' in the trees a couple of times. As we turned square to head along the hedgerow back towards the road, we were pleased to eventually spot two Whinchats with one particularly well-marked bird perching obligingly on the edge of a low bush for us, giving excellent views. This was very atypical of small passerines on the day...!

A couple of Meadow Pipits took off from the grass as we made our way back to our cars and two Ravens were tumbling above the trees in the distance. Unfortunately, no flycatchers or Yellow Wagtail were seen, the cattle remaining amongst the long grass throughout not helping with the latter.

Thanks to Mike for leading, and for timing the trip so perfectly that it concluded about 5 minutes before the rain arrived...!

Photography by Colin Greenfield

Bird List (taxonomic, including heard only): Sparrowhawk, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Woodpigeon, Green Woodpecker (H), Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Raven, Great Tit (H), Blue Tit, Swallow, House Martin, Long-tailed Tit, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler (H), Blackcap (H), Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Wren, Starling, Blackbird (H), Robin, Redstart, Whinchat, Meadow Pipit, Linnet, Greenfinch, Goldfinch (30 species).

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## MEETING REPORTS

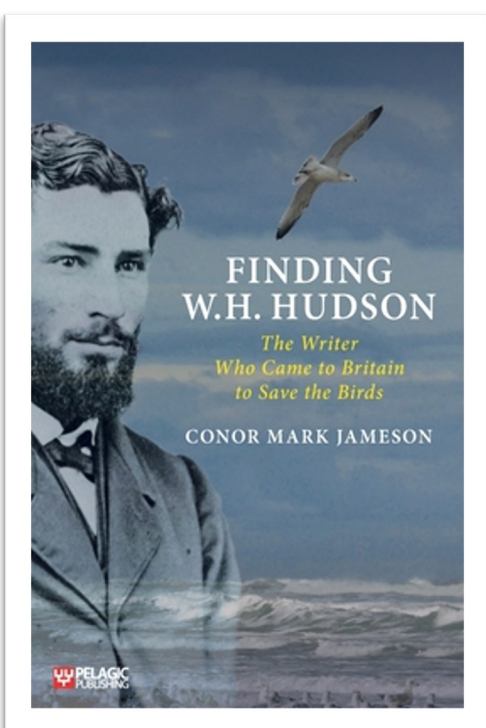
### Finding William Hudson

Report by: Ken Cservenka

Speaker: Conor Jameson

On Monday 22nd September our first meeting of this season was well attended with a total of 21 members and visitors together. We were delighted to find some improvements at the hall made a simple job of plugging in the computer and our speaker Conor, was able to use the new large screen and speaker system for his talk.

Conor gave us a lively and interesting talk on his research leading to his book on the almost forgotten conservationist, naturalist and author William Hudson.



W. H. Hudson was born on August 4th 1841 near Buenos Aires, Argentina. His parents, originally from New England, set up as sheep farmers on the Argentinean Pampas and the young William led an idyllic childhood. This was recalled later in his book "Far away and Long ago" published in 1918. In his youth he learnt to ride bareback on his horse, observing plant and bird life along the way and living very much a Gaucho life style. Having never attending a school he became more studious after a life affecting illness at age 15. He was very much influenced by Charles Darwin, "Origin of species" and the writings of Gilbert White. He became a prolific writer, a trait that followed him throughout the rest of his life. In 1874 he left Buenos Aires and a month later arrived in Southampton, he then travelled by train to London where he met Philip Slater of the Zoological Society.

Hudson became very involved in conservation issues, managing to secure a ban on the plumage trade, a move that helped save Egrets and other species. Other achievements include saving Kew Gardens from development and a pamphlet on Barn Owls to help ban the use of pole traps. He also campaigned to stop the sale of stuffed birds and eggs robbed from nests.

Times were hard and for a while he slept rough in Hyde Park. He eventually met and married a woman older than himself in 1876 and they made a living from two boarding houses. She then inherited a house in Bayswater where they lived for the rest of their lives. He wrote several romance novels all based in South America and had a sense of nature's power.

He became friends with Eliza Phillips of the "Bird Society" and also Catherine Hall and Emily Wilson who created the "Society for the Protection of Birds" later to become the RSPB.

Several books all with an England flavour were published, "Birds in a Cookham Garden", "Lost British Birds". Yorkshire and the Farne Islands" and "Nature in Downland" based in Sussex".

During his later life he managed to dodge the Spanish Flu epidemic and he achieved hero status when he saved three girls from being swept out to sea. All in all a full life well lived.

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## SPOTTED ON 'SOCIAL'



This beautiful Sabine's Gull was rescued and released in North Wales.

She was found dazed and unable to fly, after high winds had most likely blown her ashore. After resting for a while in the box, she became quite agitated and was released, taking to the skies straight away.



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A Grey Plover was spotted at Slimbridge. Sabine's Gull, Grey Plover, Manx Shearwater and Storm Petrel have been seen at Severn Beach along with other rarities. Red backed Shrike spotted at Portbury Wharf - Thank you to members for sharing their finds on the DBWPS WhatsApp chat.





## GIFT AID REMINDER

The Society has not claimed Gift Aid for many years, and our records will now be out of date. If you are a UK Tax payer, and would like the Society to claim Gift Aid **please** complete the attached form and return to the Membership Secretary (see address below) OR scan and return via email: [caroline.sandrey@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.sandrey@gmail.com). OR send an email including your full name and address giving us permission to claim Gift Aid on your membership.

**Claims can be backdated to 2021 so if you have been a member since then please enter that year. If you are a newer member, we can claim from your joining date.**

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## THANK YOU

Thanks must go to Dot Jones, Colin Crew, Colin Greenfield and Ken Cservenka for their contributions this month. Also our thanks to Rebecca for planning our winter programme, and to those members who share their birding adventures and photographs on our WhatsApp chat.

**Please** think about sharing any items of news you have, or birds you have seen - Send any articles or photographs for the next bulletin **by 15th of the month** to me by email.

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## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee members, please note the next committee meeting will be held at 2 Hanover Lodge, Hunters Way, Stroud GL5 4UH on Tues 11th November at 1900 hrs.**

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### Dursley Birdwatching and Preservation Society - Officers & Committee 2025-2026

<i>Chair</i>	Dot Jones	<a href="mailto:dorothy.jones3@me.com">dorothy.jones3@me.com</a>	<b>07478 662363</b>
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<i>IT &amp; Communications</i>			
<i>Indoor Programme</i>			
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**Secretary:** [simonashley65@gmail.com](mailto:simonashley65@gmail.com)



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# DURSLEY BIRD WATCHING AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## GIFT AID DECLARATION



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I wish Dursley Birdwatching and Preservation Society to treat all donations / subscriptions I make from the \_\_\_\_\_, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

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- If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or Capital Gains tax equal to the tax the charity claims, you **must** cancel your declaration in writing.
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