



## Planned Events

### January

**Fri 13th - Sun 15th**

(Weekend trip): Dumfries and Galloway

**Sat 28th** (9a.m. to 1p.m.):  
bird ringing trip near York

### February

**Sat 18th** (full day): YWT  
Potteric Carr

### March

**Sat 3rd** (full day): Top Hill  
Low (Yorkshire Water)

**Sat 17th** (9a.m. to 1p.m.):  
Aire Valley Area (tba)

**Tues 27th** (6:30 to 9:00p.m.):  
Harewood (owls and woodcock)

### April

**Sun 1st** (9 a.m. to 1p.m.):  
Harewood circular walk (with  
optional lunch at the  
Harewood Arms)

**Sat 21st** (full day): Clumber  
Park (National Trust)

**Tues 24th** (7p.m. to 9 p.m.):  
Fairburn Ings

### May

**Sat 12th** (9a.m. to 12 noon):  
Middleton Woods, Ilkley

**Tues 15th** (7p.m. to 9 p.m.):  
Timble Ings

**Tues 22nd** (7p.m. to 9 p.m.):  
Lindley Wood area

**Sat 26th** (full day) Upper  
Teesdale

### June

**Fri 8th - Sun 10th**  
(Weekend trip): Scottish and  
Northumberland coast

**Sat 30th** (full day): RSPB  
Bempton Cliffs and Filey

Please book early as numbers  
are limited.

# Start Birding!

## Birdwatching classes and individual tuition



In the process of writing this newsletter I've been looking back over the past year of trips and activities feeling very grateful and privileged to have spent so many hours in the company of such lovely people. We have also seen some fantastic birds on our travels.

Events began in October on the Yorkshire Belle out of Bridlington harbour, when we joined the RSPB volunteers on one of their Shearwater Cruises.



The calm weather kept the target species to a minimum but we did manage to see Manx shearwater as well as Arctic and great skua. This year we sat at the stern, where fish chum was being thrown over the side, and got fanatic views of gannet, gulls, shag and auks.

After the cruise, we ended our day at Filey where we looked for waders, sea duck, divers and finches on the fields.

In the same month we travelled to Teesside to visit the RSPB reserve at Saltholme and the Teesmouth Field Centre.

This exciting day gave us a taste of what was to come over the winter months as we watched wildfowl and waders flocking to the estuary and inland waters. A small flock of snow geese had landed at Saltholme along with a glossy ibis, a first for the reserve. Hundreds of golden plover amassed and circled above us giving out their plaintive and captivating calls. One highlight of the trip was watching a peregrine falcon assessing his territory from the local nuclear power station.



Other trips included Carsington Water near Matlock in Derbyshire; Nosterfield and Staveley in North Yorkshire; Mickletown Ings and a walk around the Eccup area. The only bad weather was at Eccup where we struggled to

see birds due to a thick fog but we still managed to see or hear 42 species in 3 hours.



My regular group of birdwatchers are now in their 6th year and we have just planned another six months of indoor sessions. Since we have already covered many topics relating to birds, we now spend most of the time focusing on individual species or families of birds. However, we did spend some time at the end of 2011 learning how to improve our birdwatching skills.

If you are interested in joining an indoor class then please contact me for more information. Similarly, if you want to book a place on a trip, or book a one-to-one session, then call for further details. You don't need to have binoculars as I can provide them.

Call me on 07778 768719  
or visit my website:

[www.startbirding.co.uk](http://www.startbirding.co.uk)

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