

## Introduction

The increasing numbers of birders visiting Shetland, especially in the spring and autumn has inevitably led to a few problems in recent years. These often occur when large crowds gather at rarities. In some instances problems can arise simply due to other people's perceptions and worries concerning gatherings of birders. Shetland folk are very sociable and are used to everyone talking to each other. If visitors do not say hello or ignore them, this can cause offence.

**Here are a few suggestions to help your birding go smoothly**

## When birding around gardens:

- Never go into a garden without asking permission.
- Avoid giving the impression that you may be looking in windows
- Most importantly, speak to any residents you see and be polite.
- If you are asked to leave an area adjacent to a garden, please do so.

## When birding in the countryside:

- Use gates and stiles when available. Open and close gates if possible, rather than climbing over them
- If there is no alternative other than to cross a fence, step over it. Avoid climbing on fences.
- Walk around crops, not through them. Remember grass when grown for hay or silage is also a crop.
- Avoid disturbing livestock whenever possible, especially when young animals are present.
- Avoid farmsteads and farmyards. These areas can be very sensitive during outbreaks of disease e.g. the blue tongue virus and foot and mouth. Agricultural outbuildings are not toilets!

## When gathering at a "twitch":

- Explain to local people what is happening, they are most likely to be interested.
- When parking a car, avoid obstructing roads and access to property.



## Records

Visitors are especially encouraged to submit their records as soon as possible after their visit. This can be done by email (preferably) to:

[administrator@nature-shetland.co.uk](mailto:administrator@nature-shetland.co.uk)  
or  
[sbrc@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:sbrc@zetnet.co.uk)

You should record:

Species, Number, Age & Sex, Locality, Date, Recorder(s) and Notes.

Descriptions, postal records etc. should be submitted to the County Recorder:

Paul Harvey, Shetland Amenity Trust,  
Garthspool, Lerwick, Shetland  
ZE1 0NY

**Shetland Bird Club**  
was founded in 1973 to  
**promote, study, conserve and record**  
**the bird life of Shetland.**

**The Aims of the Club**

to study and record bird life in Shetland  
to co-operate with local and national  
bodies in ornithological enquiries  
to produce an annual report,  
to be known as the '**Shetland Bird  
Report**'  
to promote and develop interest in  
ornithology in Shetland  
the conservation of Shetland's bird life

**Membership and Subscription**

Membership provides the annual  
Shetland Bird Report, giving details of  
all species seen in the county each year;  
regular newsletters full of news of  
interest to the Shetland birdwatcher,  
details of forthcoming meetings,  
ornithological enquiries and Club  
projects; help, advice and information  
from the officers of the Club; regular  
meetings in Lerwick and illustrated  
talks, films and lectures on birds and  
other wildlife subjects.

Ordinary membership - £10  
Family membership - £12  
Under 16 membership - £5

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary**

Russ Haywood  
Lamnaberg, Wester Quarff,  
Shetland, ZE2 9EZ  
Tel: (01950) 477471  
Email: haywood712@btinternet.com

The Shetland Bird Report  
is available from a variety of  
retail outlets in Shetland.  
For back issues please contact  
martinheubeck@btinternet.com

To find out more about the group  
go to  
[www.nature-shetland.co.uk/birdclub](http://www.nature-shetland.co.uk/birdclub)

Useful websites

[www.nature-shetland.co.uk](http://www.nature-shetland.co.uk)  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)  
[www.visitshetland.com](http://www.visitshetland.com)



Art work by Howard Towll

**For general enquiries contact**

Shetland Bird Club Secretary  
Scholland, Virkie, Shetland, ZE3 9JL  
(01950 460249)  
helenmoncrieff@btinternet.com



**Shetland Bird Club**

**Code for  
Birders in Shetland**



Shetland has traditionally  
had a relaxed attitude towards  
access to the countryside.

Recent changes in legislation have  
now given everyone the right  
of responsible access to the  
countryside in Scotland,  
providing they follow the:

**Scottish Outdoor Access Code  
and the  
Birdwatchers' Code of Conduct**