

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 styles 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
or
msc.1@btinternet.com

You should record:

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

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

Mark Chapman
55 Leaside, Firth, Mossbank, Shetland
ZE2 9TF Tel: (01806) 242401
e-mail: msc.1@btinternet.com

For more information about recording, checklists and so on visit:
www.nature-shetland.co.uk/birdclub

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
Rory Tallack
North Garden, Bixter, Shetland
ZE2 9NA
e-mail: r_tallack@hotmail.com

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

To find out more about
the club go to
www.nature-shetland.co.uk/birdclub

Useful websites

www.nature-shetland.co.uk
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com
www.visitshetland.com



Art work by Howard Towll

For general enquiries contact

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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**