

Birders' Bulletin #8 - from Croydon RSPB Group

- *special noughty issue - see page 2!* Prepared by john parish in December 2009.

Bulgaria visit in 2010:-

There are still a few places remaining on the trip to Bulgaria being run in June/July 2010 for supporters (past and present) of the Croydon Group's field outings. We'll be going to the hitherto neglected (by us) mountain ranges in the southwestern corner of that country and the focus there will be on finding butterflies (and other insects), reptiles and amphibians, and plants (although we'll doubtless come across many interesting birds too - including Wallcreeper in the famous Trigrad Gorge). Bulgaria is renowned for the wide range of butterflies that occur there and Allie and I managed to see more than a hundred different species in this same region last July during a slightly shorter visit than the 12 day trip now proposed! The countryside in this part of Bulgaria is unspoiled, traditional farming methods are used, and a profusion of butterflies is found more or less anywhere you care to stop. There is easy access to mountain meadows with lots of Alpine flowers. Three main centres only 2 or 3 hours apart have been chosen so that we can spend most of our time out in the glorious countryside rather than riding in a bus for long periods.

I'm not much of a foodie, but I do recall the meals on previous tours to Bulgaria being varied and wholesome if not very fancy - speak to Allie if this aspect is vital to you! Beer is good and it's cheap; local wine is also good, but I don't know much about its price.

As on our group's two previous birding tours to Bulgaria, this trip is being arranged through the Britain-Bulgaria Friendship Society where our contact is Annie Kay, author of the Bradt guide to Bulgaria (well worth consulting), while arrangements on the ground will again be in the capable hands of Julia Stoyanova of Balkania Travel. To guide us in the field, we've managed to secure the services of an excellent local leader, Dr Mario Langourov who, though a professional entomologist, is also very knowledgeable on all other aspects of his country's natural history. (He's an excellent communicator, too!). Further details are:-

Dates: 27 June to 8 July, 2010. (ie 12 days/11 nights).

Itinerary: 4 nights based near Devin, 3 nights at Dobarsko, 3 nights at Gotse Delchev and 1 night in Sofia. (The three main sites are in mountain areas in the southwest of Bulgaria. Daily excursions will be made from each base).

Flights: Scheduled flights, Heathrow - Sofia with British Airways or Bulgaria Air. (Details to be confirmed later).

Cost: (Based on a party size of ten). £1165, sharing a room. Single room supplement £140. This includes the guidance from Mario, half-board *en suite* accommodation in comfortable hotels, flights and our own bus with driver. (Note: we expect to make up our own packed lunches - the cost of ingredients is unlikely to reach £5 per day).

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in joining this tour (or would like further information) as we will have to limit the number of participants to 10 or 12.

John Parish (e-mail: john@jparish4.wanadoo.co.uk)

Birders' Bulletin Noughty Lists

It's unlikely to have escaped anyone's notice that the first decade of the 21st Century (and 3rd Millennium) is about to close. Newspapers have contained all kinds of noughties lists recently and, not wishing to be left out, I have compiled some lists for our group - these appear below.

Amazingly, the list of birds recorded during the group's field trips over the period 2000 to 2009 contains no less than 239 species, while the mammals seen during this noughties decade total 22, also rather surprising! We've done well, too, in reaching a butterfly total of 32 given that our excursions, in the summer at least, have mainly been confined to the south-east of the country. (Note that the lists of records include sightings from our 'official' Dorset 2000 and Norfolk 2004 winter weekends away, as well as those from the regular weekend and mid-week day-trips. Anything extra seen on group visits abroad has been omitted).

As we enter the next decade, I'm sure we'll manage to add new species to these lists. Although it won't be that easy to find new birds, mammals or butterflies, there is lots of scope elsewhere, eg to identify new moths and 'other insects' (all of those bumble-bees, for instance). With so much to look out for (and not forgetting that some people are studying plants, too), we'll have to take care that the pace of our excursions doesn't reduce to a crawl! Details of any additional records for the lists will be posted in future Bulletins. So come along and see what you can find - fame beckons at last!

I am hoping the combined list of records given below might become the basis of a field checklist for future outings. Ideally, for it to be user-friendly in the field, it needs to be formatted and printed so that the pages can be folded and stapled into a small booklet. What we really need is a computer-adept origamist to come up with a prototype! Any offers?

Best wishes for happy and successful birding (etc) in the New Year - and on throughout the teenies!

JP

[N.B. The combined list given below becomes much more compact and manageable if it is presented in three columns at A4 size, but unfortunately any pre-formatting will be lost when the document is copied to you. I suggest you copy everything below this paragraph into your own word processing programme, then format it in three columns - JP]

Croydon RSPB Group Outings 2000 - 2009

Birds Recorded

- Red-throated Diver
- Black-throated Diver
- Great Northern Diver

- White-billed Diver
- Little Grebe
- Great Crested Grebe
- Slavonian Grebe
- Black-necked Grebe
- Fulmar
- Gannet
- Cormorant
- Shag
- Bittern
- Black-crowned Night Heron
- Cattle Egret
- Little Egret
- Great White Egret
- Grey Heron
- Spoonbill
- Mute Swan
- Bewick's Swan
- Whooper Swan
- Taiga Bean Goose
- Pink-footed Goose
- White-fronted Goose
- Greylag Goose
- Snow Goose
- Canada Goose
- Barnacle Goose
- Brent Goose
- Egyptian Goose
- Ruddy Shelduck
- Shelduck
- Mandarin Duck
- Wigeon
- Gadwall
- Teal
- Mallard
- Pintail
- Garganey
- Shoveler
- Red-crested Pochard
- Pochard
- Tufted Duck
- Scaup
- Common Eider
- Common Scoter
- Velvet Scoter
- Goldeneye
- Smew
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Goosander
- Ruddy Duck
- Honey Buzzard
- Red Kite

- Marsh Harrier
- Hen Harrier
- Montagu's Harrier
- Goshawk
- Sparrowhawk
- Common Buzzard
- Rough-legged Buzzard
- Osprey
- Kestrel
- Merlin
- Hobby
- Peregrine Falcon
- Red-legged Partridge
- Grey Partridge
- Pheasant
- Golden Pheasant
- Water Rail
- Spotted Crake
- Moorhen
- Coot
- Oystercatcher
- Black-winged Stilt
- Avocet
- Stone Curlew
- Collared Pratincole
- Black-winged Pratincole
- Little Ringed Plover
- Ringed Plover
- Golden Plover
- Grey Plover
- Lapwing
- Knot
- Sanderling
- Little Stint
- Temminck's Stint
- Pectoral Sandpiper
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Purple Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Ruff
- Jack Snipe
- Common Snipe
- Woodcock
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Whimbrel
- Curlew
- Spotted Redshank
- Redshank
- Greenshank
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Green Sandpiper

- Wood Sandpiper
- Common Sandpiper
- Turnstone
- Grey Phalarope
- Pomarine Skua
- Arctic Skua
- Mediterranean Gull
- Little Gull
- Black-headed Gull
- Common Gull
- Lesser B-b Gull
- Herring Gull
- Iceland Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Great b-b Gull
- Kittiwake
- Sandwich Tern
- Roseate Tern
- Common Tern
- Arctic Tern
- Little Tern
- Black Tern
- White-winged Tern
- Guillemot
- Razorbill
- Little Auk
- Puffin
- Feral Rock Dove
- Stock Dove
- Woodpigeon
- Collared Dove
- Turtle Dove
- Rose-ringed Parakeet
- Cuckoo
- Barn Owl
- Little Owl
- Tawny Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- European Nightjar
- Common Swift
- Kingfisher
- Hoopoe
- Wryneck
- Green Woodpecker
- Great Spotted Woodpecker
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
- Woodlark
- Skylark
- Shorelark
- Sand Martin
- Swallow

- House Martin
- Tree Pipit
- Meadow Pipit
- Rock Pipit
- Water Pipit
- Yellow Wagtail
- Grey Wagtail
- Pied Wagtail
- Waxwing
- Wren
- Dunnock
- Robin
- Nightingale
- Red-flanked Bluetail
- Black Redstart
- Common Redstart
- Whinchat
- Stonechat
- Northern Wheatear
- Ring Ouzel
- Blackbird
- Fieldfare
- Song Thrush
- Redwing
- Mistle Thrush
- Cetti's Warbler
- Grasshopper Warbler
- Sedge Warbler
- Reed Warbler
- Icterine Warbler
- Dartford Warbler
- Lesser Whitethroat
- Common Whitethroat
- Garden Warbler
- Blackcap
- Radde's Warbler
- Wood Warbler
- Chiffchaff
- Willow Warbler
- Goldcrest
- Firecrest
- Spotted Flycatcher
- Red-breasted Flycatcher
- Pied Flycatcher
- Bearded Tit
- Long-tailed Tit
- Marsh Tit
- Coal Tit
- Blue Tit
- Great Tit
- Nuthatch
- Treecreeper

- Golden Oriole
- Red-backed Shrike
- Northern Grey Shrike
- Woodchat Shrike
- Jay
- Magpie
- Jackdaw
- Rook
- Carrion Crow
- Raven
- Starling
- House Sparrow
- Tree Sparrow
- Chaffinch
- Brambling
- Greenfinch
- Goldfinch
- Linnet
- Lesser Redpoll
- Arctic Redpoll
- Common Crossbill
- Bullfinch
- Hawfinch
- Lapland Bunting
- Snow Bunting
- Yellowhammer
- Reed Bunting
- Corn Bunting

Mammals Recorded

- Common Shrew
- Pygmy Shrew
- Pipistrelle
- Rabbit
- Brown Hare
- Short-tailed Vole
- Water Vole
- Yellow-necked Field Mouse
- Brown Rat
- Red Squirrel
- Grey Squirrel
- Fox
- Mink
- Stoat
- Weasel
- Grey Seal
- Common Seal
- Muntjac

- Fallow Deer
- Red Deer
- Roe Deer
- Harbour Porpoise

Amphibians Recorded

- Great Crested Newt
- Common Toad
- Common Frog
- Marsh Frog

Reptiles Recorded

- Viviparous Lizard
- Slow Worm
- Grass Snake
- Adder

Fishes Recorded

- Common Bream
- Rudd
- European Eel
- Three-spined Stickleback
- Grey Mullet
- Flounder

Butterflies Recorded

- Large White
- Small White
- Green-veined White
- Orange Tip
- Clouded Yellow
- Brimstone
- Purple Hairstreak
- Green Hairstreak
- Small Copper

- Holly Blue
- Silver-studded Blue
- Brown Argus
- Chalkhill Blue
- Common Blue
- Purple Emperor
- White Admiral
- Peacock
- Red Admiral
- Painted Lady
- Comma
- Small Tortoiseshell
- Silver-washed Fritillary
- Marbled White
- Meadow Brown
- Gatekeeper
- Ringlet
- Small Heath
- Speckled Wood
- Wall
- Small Skipper
- Essex Skipper
- Large Skipper

[Moths Recorded](#)

- Cameraria ohridella*
(leaf-miner on Horse Chestnut)
- Nemophora degeerella*
(a 'long-horn' moth)
- Small Magpie
- Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet
- 6-spot Burnet
- Emperor Moth
- Common Heath
- Grass Wave
- Speckled Yellow
- Pine Hawkmoth
- Hummingbird Hawkmoth
- Clouded Buff
- Cinnabar
- Silver-Y
- Mother Shipton
- Burnet Companion
- Straw Dot

[Dragonflies Recorded](#)

- Banded Demoiselle
- Emerald Damselfly
- Large Red Damselfly
- Small Red Damselfly
- Azure Damselfly
- Common Blue Damselfly
- Blue-tailed Damselfly
- Hairy Dragonfly
- Migrant Hawker
- Southern Hawker
- Brown Hawker
- Emperor Dragonfly
- Four-spotted Chaser
- Broad-bodied Chaser
- Black-tailed Skimmer
- Keeled Skimmer
- Common Darter
- Ruddy Darter

Cricket & Grasshoppers Recorded

- Roesel's Bush-cricket
- Dark Bush-cricket
- Long-winged Conehead
- Meadow Grasshopper
- Common Green Grasshopper
- Field Grasshopper
- Lesser Marsh Grasshopper

Other Insects Recorded

- Hawthorn Shield Bug
- Common Pond Skater
- Common Froghopper
- Rose Aphid
- St Mark's Fly
- Bluebottle
- Yellow Dung-fly
- Black Garden Ant
- Yellow Meadow Ant
- Wood Ant
- Common Wasp
- Hornet
- Honey Bee
- Devil's Coach-horse
- Stag Beetle

- Garden Chafer
- Rose Chafer
- 7-spot Ladybird
- 22-spot Ladybird
- Harlequin Ladybird
- Oedemera nobilis*
(a false oil beetle)

Spiders and other Arachnids Recorded

- Wasp Spider
- Sheep Tick

Lists prepared on December 29th, 2009.

John Parish