

# NORTH YORKSHIRE

## SPRING BIRDS OF MOORS

## AND THE YORKSHIRE COAST

Red Grouse (Barry Lancaster)



**Saturday May 29th – Monday May 31st**

**Leader: Chris Bradshaw**

**Group Size: 8**

**Birds: 90-120**

North Yorkshire has a wide diversity of habitats supporting some important populations of breeding birds and, at the end of May, there is a good chance of some late spring migrants. On this Birdwatching Breaks Weekender we visit a wide range of habitats in search of bird life characteristic of this beautiful part of northern England. Our itinerary includes visits to the picturesque Lower Derwent Valley, the wild landscape and wooded valleys of the North York Moors, and the impressive cliffs of the Yorkshire coast.

**Day 1:** We meet in York in the early afternoon and visit the Lower Derwent Valley. Here we explore Wheldrake Ings, with breeding Northern Lapwing, Curlew, Common Snipe and a variety of ducks, including Common Teal, Northern Shoveler and, hopefully, Garganey. Marsh Harriers are sometimes seen here and riverside scrub is a regular haunt of breeding Garden Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Bullfinch and Kingfisher. Nearby we visit an area of open woodland and scrub in search of Woodlarks which have recently spread northwards to colonise parts of Yorkshire. Other species we might find here include Tree Pipit, Lesser Redpoll, Willow Warbler, Common Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Two night stay in Scarborough.

**Day 2:** We begin the day in the heather-clad landscape of the North York Moors National Park. The area is home to impressive populations of breeding waders such as Golden Plover, Curlew and Northern Lapwing. Red Grouse are easily located, whilst other targets include Ring Ouzel and along faster flowing streams Dipper and Grey Wagtail. A visit

to wooded areas may produce Nuthatch, Common Redstart, Tree Pipit and perhaps Pied Flycatcher or Wood Warbler, both species that have declined in recent years. Later, we visit the raptor viewpoint at Wykeham which affords magnificent views to the north. Here we have a good chance of Common Buzzard, but of greater interest are Northern Goshawk and Honey Buzzard, both of which breed in the area and are regularly observed. The forests are also home to breeding Common Crossbills and we have a chance of seeing this popular bird. In the afternoon we proceed to the coast, where we will visit the famous seabird colonies at Bempton. Here we can get up close and personal with thousands of seabirds that include Northern Gannets, Northern Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Common Guillemots, Razorbills and Atlantic Puffins. The cliff-top is good for Rock Pipits, whilst Tree Sparrows can be reliably found around the reserve visitor centre. In the evening there will be an optional excursion in search of Nightjar and Woodcock at a regular breeding site.

**Day 3:** Today we explore the coast in search of late migrants. Flamborough Head and Filey are prime locations for arrivals of migrants, particularly if the winds are from an easterly quarter. Flamborough Head is home to one or two pairs of breeding Corn Buntings, Linnets and other common farmland species, but if the weather conditions are favourable we might encounter scarcer species such as Marsh and Icterine Warblers, or Common Rosefinch. Nearby Filey also attracts migrants, whilst the Brigg may have a few lingering waders. The Brigg is also a good observation point to look for terns, including Common and Sandwich, and perhaps small numbers of Manx Shearwaters. A few Common Eider are usually present and seabirds from nearby Bempton Cliffs can be seen feeding offshore. If there are interesting arrivals along the coast, we may go in search of these or, if we missed Honey Buzzard and Northern Goshawk the previous day, we can make another attempt to locate these sometimes elusive species. We return to York in the late afternoon for departures home

**Tour Price: £495**

**Single room: £50**

**Deposit: £100**

This holiday is fully inclusive of guidance, accommodation, breakfast, packed lunch, evening meals and transport to and from the birding areas.

**Not included:** Travel to York, drinks, tips, insurance and items of a personal nature.

Clients should arrive in York by early afternoon of May 29th. There are excellent rail services to York.