



**BIRDWATCHING
IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS**

FREE



Front Cover Photo
Dipper - Laurie Campbell

Welcome to Birdwatching in the Scottish Borders

This booklet is a guide to the best birdwatching sites in the Scottish Borders. The booklet has been produced by the Borders Branch of the SOC with help from individuals, local organisations and authorities.

The Borders Branch of the SOC is always looking to receive records of bird sightings from anyone in the region to add to its own information as published in the annual Borders Bird Report. We welcome individual records and bird lists, such as from a day's walk or a fortnight's holiday, and not just of rarities. We particularly wish to receive observations from the maturing forests and indeed any site where you see birds that are not on the 'expected' list. If possible, please include a location, a grid reference and a date for each record.

These should be sent to the Borders Bird Recorder, Ray Murray, by telephone to 01721 730677 or by email to ray.d.murray@ukgateway.net

The Scottish Borders and its habitats for birds

Located in the south-east of the country, the 4600 square kilometres of the Scottish Borders have the warmest and driest summer climate in Scotland. Together with a varied topography extending from the coast to over 800m in the Tweedsmuir Hills, these conditions have produced a diversity of habitats for both breeding and wintering birds. Compared with some other regions the Scottish Borders is not noted for high-profile birdwatching reserves or a large number of hides and other facilities; rather its diversity of birds requires that visits be made to many sites, usually involving short walks. Indeed the region offers some of the best walking in the British Isles and the energetic birdwatcher will reap many benefits on our hills, moors and in our woods.

Willow Warbler - Eric Middleton



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1. Kestrel - Laurie Campbell
2. Stanhope, Tweedsmuir - Keith Robeson

Hills

The three main hill masses of Tweedsmuir, the Moorfoots and the Lammermuirs dominate the west and north of the region, whereas a long chain of hills forms the southern rim of the Tweed basin. In the extreme south is a part of the Liddel catchment running down to the Solway Firth. In the extreme north-west a small part of the Pentland Hills forms the upper catchment of the Lyne Water. Everywhere smooth and rounded slopes characterise the scene, often with extensive flat summits.

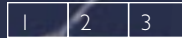
Unimproved grassland, or rough grazing, is the predominant vegetation and is principally of importance for breeding waders. Golden Plover and Curlew prefer the higher ground, while Lapwing and Redshank occur lower down. Among the song-birds Skylark and Meadow Pipit breed at a range of altitudes whereas Wheatear prefer the lower and usually steeper slopes with scree or rock outcrops. Bracken areas are favoured by Whinchat.

Extensive heather moorland occurs especially on the Lammermuirs, Moorfoots and the northern part of the Tweedsmuir Hills. This is the habitat used by Red Grouse and the elusive Ring Ouzel as well as the all-too-rare Hen Harrier and Merlin. Stonechats have been increasing for the last few years, whereas Black Grouse may be decreasing. Buzzards have expanded their range from the west over the last 30 years and are now as common a sight as the Kestrel.

Woodlands

Coniferous woodland, when mature, is the home of seed-eating birds such as Crossbill, Lesser Redpoll and Siskin, accompanied by insectivores including Goldcrest, Coal Tit and, in summer, Willow Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. These woodlands hold large numbers of the generalist species Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Robin, Wren and Chaffinch. Small woods within upland grazing and the edges of large woods are important for breeding Mistle and Song Thrushes. Mature conifers provide the sites for most of our heronries. Our broadleaved and mixed woodlands are often 'over-mature' and have lots of dead or dying trees that provide excellent nesting and feeding opportunities for a range of birds. Characteristic species include Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Treecreeper, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Jackdaw, Redstart and Pied Flycatcher. Wood Warbler, Marsh Tit and Nuthatch are near the edge of their range here, although the last-named is expanding. Species preferring young plantations or natural scrub include Bullfinch, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Sedge and Garden Warblers, Chiffchaff, Dunnock and Linnet. In autumn the berries of hawthorn and rowan attract large numbers of Fieldfare, Redwing and Blackbird migrating in a generally south-westerly direction.

1. Beech Trees - *Keith Robeson*
2. Long Tailed Tit - *Eric Middleton*
3. Birch Woods - *Graham Pyatt*





Rivers and Streams

The Tweed and its main arms, the Ettrick, Yarrow and Teviot are supplied by a myriad of smaller rivers and fast-flowing streams. Dipper and Grey Wagtail characterise the rushing waters, with Grey Heron, Pied Wagtail, Mallard and Goosander being common throughout. Mute Swan favours the main rivers. Breeding waders using gravel banks and riverside vegetation include Oystercatcher, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Lapwing and the occasional Ringed Plover. Sand Martin numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on the availability of sandy cliffs. The insect life above rivers and streams is important to feeding Swallow, House Martin and the more localised Swift. The elusive Kingfisher is widely but thinly distributed. The haughlands of the lower Tweed and Teviot are the last main resort of Yellow Wagtail in Scotland. In winter rivers are used by Little Grebe, Black-headed Gull, Goldeneye and the occasional Cormorant. Riverside trees are very popular with Spotted Flycatcher, Long-tailed and other Tits, Treecreeper and Siskin.



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1. Grey Heron - Ray Murray
2. Manor Valley - Graham Pyatt



Waterbodies and Wetlands

In comparison with the higher-rainfall west of Scotland, the Borders have fewer lochs but they provide some of the most important habitats for birds. Generally the largest lochs and reservoirs, with their deep water and strong wave action are less good for breeding birds but several are used for winter roosting by migratory geese and gulls. Many thousand Pink-footed Geese and smaller numbers of Greylag and Barnacle Geese spend part of the autumn with us. The smaller, shallower lochs with fringing reeds or scrub hold Little Grebe and a few Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck, Coot and Moorhen. Black-necked Grebe is a rare breeder on a few waters. In winter numbers of Coot and Tufted Duck increase and are joined by Teal, Wigeon, Goldeneye and occasional Whooper Swan.

Wetlands varying from rushy pasture through reedbeds to marshy woodland provide a variety of habitats. Snipe, Redshank, Teal and Moorhen are widely distributed in open marshy ground, whereas Reed Bunting and Sedge Warbler prefer scrub or alder trees.

Lowland Farmland

Farms below 200m have much more cultivated ground and more hedges than farms in the uplands. Breeding species include Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer, Linnets, Goldfinch and Tree Sparrow. Winter flocks of Chaffinch, Brambling, Reed Bunting and other seed-eating species are a feature of this area but can be unpredictable depending on the availability of weed seeds in any year.



1. Reed Bunting - Laurie Campbell
2. Yetholm Loch - Keith Robeson
3. Yellowhammer - Laurie Campbell

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The Sea Shore

The coastline of the Scottish Borders is almost wholly rocky and backed by high cliffs, with only a few sandy bays. There are, however, several scrubby or wooded deans penetrating inland, providing sheltered conditions, and attractive to migrants. The prime location for breeding seabirds is St Abb's Head where Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill, Shag, Fulmar, Herring Gull and a few Puffin nest. Sparrowhawk and Kestrel are regularly encountered anywhere along the cliffs, with occasional Peregrine and Raven. A number of open country birds inhabit the coastal fringe including Whinchat, Wheatear, Yellowhammer and Linnet. The deans hold Reed Bunting, Whitethroat and occasional Lesser Whitethroat in the breeding season. The annual survey of the coastline at low tide on one day in mid-winter by the SOC typically records 6000 birds of 50 species, the most abundant of which are Herring Gull, Eider, Shag, Black-headed Gull, Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Curlew and Cormorant. Less widespread species that are seen in most years include Purple Sandpiper, Turnstone, Rock Pipit, Stonechat and Red-throated Diver. St Abb's Head is also known for its falls of large numbers of migrants including many rarities.

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1. Oystercatcher - *Laurie Campbell*
2. Hilton Bay - *Keith Robeson*
3. Shag - *Eric Middleton*

Towns and Villages

Gardens and parks have a higher density of birds than most other habitats, and certainly support more species. While most of these birds are common and widespread in more natural habitats, gardens and parks are often good places to look for rarer species particularly in autumn and winter when peanut and seed feeders supplement the apples, hawthorns, rowans and other fruity foods available. Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Long-tailed Tit, Siskin and Reed Bunting are always worth looking for, as is Waxwing in some years. For suburban dwellers their garden is the most likely place to see a Sparrowhawk. The suburbs are also frequented by Collared Dove, Woodpigeon, Starling and Carrion Crow, while House Sparrow and Swift are more obligatory town birds. One or two churches have a resident pair of Peregrine. Where gardens and parks are near a river, this combination probably provides the richest assemblage of birds within the region.

1. River Tweed, Kelso - *Keith Robeson*
2. Peregrine Falcon - *Ray Murray*
3. Wilton Lodge, Hawick - *Keith Robeson*

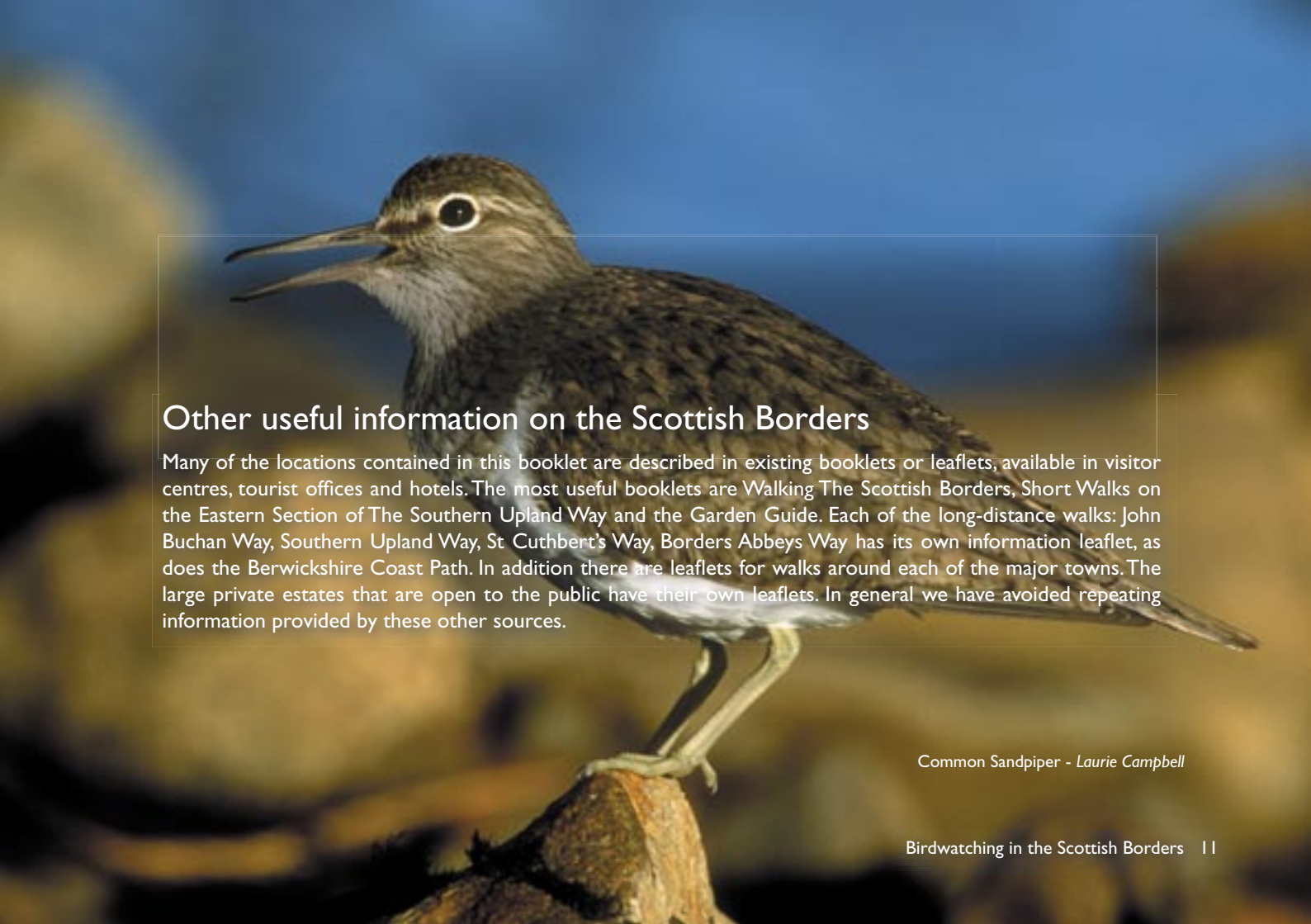




Bird specialities of the Scottish Borders

While the less experienced birdwatchers might visit the Scottish Borders to see as much as possible of the diversity of habitat and associated birds, those with more experience might be looking for species that are not found in their part of the country. Visitors from the south might come to see our nesting seabirds, close views of river birds such as Goosander, Grey Wagtail and Dipper or any views of raptors such as Goshawk, Peregrine and Osprey. They may be impressed by our abundance of breeding waders or the ease of finding Whinchat, Stonechat and Wheatear on our foothills or Siskin in our woods. Black Grouse and Ring Ouzel are less reliable but will be major attractions to some. Some will be amazed by the virtual absence of Magpie! Birdwatchers from the north of Scotland may be surprised by our numbers of Barn Owl, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Song Thrush, Nuthatch, Spotted Flycatcher or come to see the only Scottish population of Yellow Wagtail. However, there is one important caution that must be mentioned: it behoves us all not to cause unnecessary disturbance to the rarer species, especially when they are breeding.

Guillemot - *Laurie Campbell*



Other useful information on the Scottish Borders

Many of the locations contained in this booklet are described in existing booklets or leaflets, available in visitor centres, tourist offices and hotels. The most useful booklets are *Walking The Scottish Borders*, *Short Walks on the Eastern Section of The Southern Upland Way* and the *Garden Guide*. Each of the long-distance walks: *John Buchan Way*, *Southern Upland Way*, *St Cuthbert's Way*, *Borders Abbeys Way* has its own information leaflet, as does the *Berwickshire Coast Path*. In addition there are leaflets for walks around each of the major towns. The large private estates that are open to the public have their own leaflets. In general we have avoided repeating information provided by these other sources.

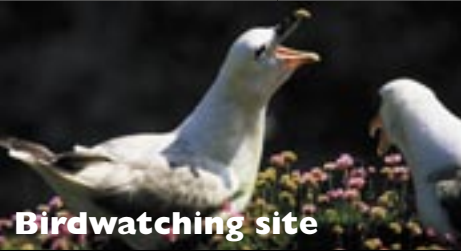
Common Sandpiper - *Laurie Campbell*

Birdwatching in the Scottish Borders

Mapping by Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre



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		Sea cliff	Rocky foreshore	River	Stream	Loch	Pond	Marsh	Peat bog	Swamp woodland/scrub	Scrub woodland	Broadleaved woodland	Mixed woodland	Conifer woodland	Unimproved grassland	Heather moor	Improved pasture	Arable/mixed farmland	Town/village/parkland
		1	West Linton to Cauldstane Slap					x									x	x	x
2	Carlops to Bore Stane					x									x	x	x		
3	West Water Reservoir				x	x										x			
4	Broughton Heights, Broughton to Stobo				x								x		x	x	x		
5	Dawyck Botanic Gardens				x							x	x						x
6	Talla and Fruid Reservoirs					x								x	x	x			
7	Tweedsmuir Hills, Broad Law to Dollar Law								x						x	x			
8	Portmore Loch					x						x			x		x		
9	Cademuir Hill, Peebles														x	x			
10	Hundleshope Valley, Peebles						x	x							x		x		
11	The Tweed Walk at Peebles			x			x				x	x	x				x		x
12	Peebles parks and woods			x	x			x				x	x				x		x
13	Soonhope Valley and Glentress Forest				x							x	x	x					x
14	Glentress Forest, Tower Walk													x		x			
15	Glentress Forest, Ponds Walk						x					x		x					
16	Kailzie Gardens			x			x				x		x		x		x		
17	Cardrona Forest, Wallace's Walk				x							x		x					
18	Tweed from Cardrona to Peebles			x				x			x		x						x

 <p>Birdwatching site</p>	Sea cliff	Rocky foreshore	River	Stream	Loch	Pond	Marsh	Peat bog	Swamp woodland/scrub	Scrub woodland	Broadleaved woodland	Mixed woodland	Conifer woodland	Unimproved grassland	Heather moor	Improved pasture	Arable/mixed farmland	Town/village/parkland
19 St Mary's Loch and Megget Reservoir					x				x				x	x	x			
20 Moorfoot Hills, Broad Law to Innerleithen				x				x					x	x	x			
21 Tweed from Innerleithen to Walkerburn			x			x					x					x		
22 Plora Wood, Innerleithen											x		x					
23 Minchmoor Road												x	x	x	x			
24 Thornylee Forest			x								x		x	x				
25 Etrick Marshes			x	x		x	x		x		x		x	x				
26 Clearburn and Back Lochs					x	x	x	x	x					x				
27 Alemoor Reservoir					x		x						x	x				
28 Craik Forest, Crib Law Walk				x								x	x	x				
29 Stantling Craig Reservoir					x									x				
30 Williamhope, near Clovenfords				x							x			x	x			
31 Bowhill Estate			x	x	x					x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
32 Etrick Water from Selkirk to Yarrow			x							x	x		x					x
33 Lauder Common				x				x		x				x	x			
34 Gala Policies						x					x	x		x				x
35 Langlee Community Woodland										x		x						
36 Abbotsford Woods				x				x		x				x	x			

	Sea cliff	Rocky foreshore	River	Stream	Loch	Pond	Marsh	Peat bog	Swamp woodland/scrub	Scrub woodland	Broadleaved woodland	Mixed woodland	Conifer woodland	Unimproved grassland	Heather moor	Improved pasture	Arable/mixed farmland	Town/village/parkland
	37 Tweedbank			x			x				x		x				x	
38 Tweed from Melrose to Galashiels			x			x					x					x		
39 Cauldshiels Loch					x				x			x				x		
40 Eildon Hills, Melrose						x						x	x	x	x	x		
41 Lindean Loch					x		x			x			x			x		
42 Hawick walk			x		x						x	x					x	x
43 Teviot from Hawick to Denholm			x							x		x				x	x	
44 Newcastleton to Langholm road								x						x	x			
45 Newcastleton Forest, Hanging Tree Walk				x							x		x	x	x			
46 Lammermuir Hills, Lauder to Watch Water				x	x			x					x	x	x			
47 Spottiswoode Loch					x			x	x		x		x					
48 Gordon Moss									x		x							
49 Mellerstain Estate						x						x					x	
50 Whitrig Bog to Westfield						x	x	x						x		x	x	
51 Bemersyde Moss					x		x		x							x	x	
52 Tweed from Newtown St Boswells to Maxton				x								x				x	x	
53 Folly Loch					x												x	
54 Harestanes Countryside VC & Monteviot Estate	x									x	x	x	x			x		

 Birdwatching site	Sea cliff	Rocky foreshore	River	Stream	Loch	Pond	Marsh	Peat bog	Swamp woodland/scrub	Scrub woodland	Broadleaved woodland	Mixed woodland	Conifer woodland	Unimproved grassland	Heather moor	Improved pasture	Arable/mixed farmland	Town/village/parkland
55 Jedburgh walk			x									x				x	x	x
56 Westruther Moor														x	x			
57 Hule Moss, Greenlaw Moor					x	x		x							x			
58 Floors Castle Estate			x								x	x				x	x	
59 Kelso riverside and woods			x								x	x						x
60 Teviot from Kelso to Harestanes			x							x		x				x	x	
61 Teviot Watergardens			x			x						x				x		
62 Bowmont Forest													x					
63 Abbey St Bathans			x								x			x				
64 Duns Castle Estate					x	x						x						
65 Tweed from Kelso to Coldstream			x									x				x	x	
66 The Hirsell Estate					x		x		x			x					x	x
67 Hoselaw Loch and Din Moss					x		x	x			x		x					
68 Yetholm Loch: SWT					x		x		x									
69 Dunglass	x	x									x							
70 Pease Dean, Cockburnspath				x						x	x	x	x					
71 Coast from Fast Castle to Cove Harbour	x	x									x			x				
72 Dowlaw Dam and Coldingham Moor						x		x		x				x			x	

Birdwatching site	Sea cliff	Rocky foreshore	River	Stream	Loch	Pond	Marsh	Peat bog	Swamp woodland/scrub	Scrub woodland	Broadleaved woodland	Mixed woodland	Conifer woodland	Unimproved grassland	Heather moor	Improved pasture	Arable/mixed farmland	Town/village/parkland
73 St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve	x				x					x				x				
74 Coldingham Village				x									x					x
75 Ale Water and North Wood, Eyemouth				x						x	x		x					
76 Coast from Burnmouth to Coldingham Bay	x	x								x				x			x	x
77 Coast from English border to Burnmouth	x	x								x				x			x	x
78 Paxton House Country Park			x								x	x						
79 Tweed from Coldstream to Paxton			x									x				x	x	

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- 1. St Abbs - *Keith Robeson*
- 2. Pink Footed Goose - *Eric Middleton*
- 3. Oystercatchers & Turnstones - *Eric Middleton*





Whinchat - Eric Middleton

Know the Code before you go

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors. Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place providing they act responsibly. These access rights and responsibilities are explained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The key things are:

When you're in the outdoors:

- take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely;
- respect people's privacy and peace of mind;
- help land managers and others to work safely and effectively;
- care for your environment and take your litter home;
- keep your dog under proper control;
- take extra care if you're organising an event or running a business.

If you're managing the outdoors:

- respect access rights;
- act reasonably when asking people to avoid land management operations;
- work with your local authority and other bodies to help integrate access and land management;
- respect rights of way and customary access.

Find out more by visiting www.outdooraccess-scotland.com or phoning your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

Abbreviations

In the site descriptions the following abbreviations are commonly used:

- PT Public Transport,
- DA Disabled Access,
- P park or car park,
- L left or turn left,
- R right or turn right,
- N north,
- S south,
- W west,
- E east,
- SE south-east and similar combinations.

Grid References

These are expressed in the 2 letter 6 figures form as found on Ordnance Survey maps without punctuation. Most of the Scottish Borders lies within the 100 km square NT.

I. West Linton to Cauldstane Slap

General description: An 8 km walk (return trip) along a former Drove Road over the Pentland Hills, with birds of moorland and loch. **Location:** NT118588 Cauldstane Slap, on the watershed. **Car:** Take the unclassified road NW from West Linton towards Baddingsgill Farm. P at small car park by woodland at NT126546 (do not take the car beyond this point). **Bike:** Whole route is possible for mountain bikes. **PT:** Buses to West Linton: infrequent from Peebles, regular from Penicuik, Biggar, and Edinburgh. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Loch, heather moorland, improved pasture, rough grazing. **Walking route:** OS Map Explorer 344 recommended. Continue along road 0.8 km to Baddingsgill Reservoir on right (view from dam or the track). Track continues northwards for 2.5 km then becomes path for last 1 km to highest point NT118588. This route can be joined to that of Site 36 by following the watershed between Cauldstane Slap

and the Bore Stane. From Carlops follow the Old Biggar Road past Hartside and Linton Muir then turn R past Stonypath parallel to the Lyne Water (19 km for the circular route).

Birds: Autumn-winter: at the reservoir look for Teal, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Wigeon, with occasional Goldeneye, Goosander and Whooper Swan. Cormorant (Nov to Feb). Breeding Greylag Goose, Teal and Ringed Plover. May-Aug: Golden Plover breed on tops, with possible Peregrine, Merlin, Short Eared Owl and Raven beyond reservoir.

Links: West Water Reservoir (Site 3), Carlops to Bore Stane (Site 2).

2: Carlops to Bore Stane

General description: A 9 km walk (return trip) in the Pentland Hills regional park with birds of moorland and loch. **Location:** NT143599 Bore Stane. **Car:** P at Carlops NT161559 (usually full Sunday morning). **Bike:** Whole route is possible for mountain bikes. **PT:** Buses to Carlops: infrequent from Peebles, regular from Penicuik, Biggar, and

Edinburgh. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Loch, heather moorland, improved pasture, rough grazing. **Walking route:** Cross A702 (with great care!) to take tarred farm road opposite. OS Map Explorer 344 recommended. A rough farm track runs between improved grazing and rough grazing to reach North Esk Reservoir. Thereafter a hill track continues on the W side of the water to heather moorland with good views north from Bore Stane. Public paths are sign-posted.

Birds: May to Aug: Golden Plover on tops, possible Peregrine, Merlin, Short Eared Owl and Raven beyond reservoir. The reservoir is a focal point with breeding waders, +/- 1,000 pair colony of Black-headed Gull, with a few Common Gull. Teal, Mallard and Tufted Duck breed. Cormorant regularly visits. Nov to Feb (unless 'frozen off') Wigeon regular, with occasional Goldeneye, Goosander and Whooper Swan. Winter flocks of Fieldfare and Redwing along route. **Other:** Walking and cycling leaflets available from Visitor Centres and further information from The Pentland

Hills Ranger Service, tel.0131 445 3383.

Links: West Water Reservoir (Site 3), West Linton to Cauldstane Slap (Site 1).

3: West Water Reservoir

General description: Prime winter roost of Pink-footed Goose and other waterbirds. Approach on foot from downstream and only with great circumspection! Telescope recommended. **Location:** NT1152. A water storage reservoir in the Pentland Hills, near West Linton, owned by Scottish Water. **Car:** Turn south along A701 from West Linton Main Street and after 200m turn R (uphill) at Baddingsgill Road. After 600m turn L at West Linton Golf Club and park on verge before the golf club car park. Walk along the golf course road, passing through gates at cottages after 1200m and then uphill another 700m to the Reservoir. The best vantage-point is at the control building where there are Scottish Water interpretive boards about the goose roost. **Bike:**

Pink Footed Geese - Laurie Campbell

The road is a Right of Way so access by cycle should present no problems. **PT:** None beyond the A701. **DA:** None unless arranged through Scottish Water. **Habitats:** A large reservoir surrounded by a mix of rough pasture and poor quality heather moor. In periods of low water there are several islands and a large stretch of peaty mud in the creeks at the far end of the reservoir. Please avoid disturbance of the goose roost by remaining behind the dam wall. There are no advantages in walking round the reservoir margin when the goose roost is active, the geese are easily seen from the dam.

Birds: In summer there is a Black-headed Gull colony of several hundred pairs, typically on the dam face and on any islands that are available. Common Gull and (in the past) Common Tern have also bred. Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck and Greylag Goose nest as do the common waders. Dunlin also breed in the vicinity of the reservoir. Also breeding are Dipper, Red Grouse, Kestrel and Buzzard. In autumn/winter the main attraction is the Pink-footed

Goose and gull roost. Spectacular numbers of geese appear in late September and early October to roost overnight. There are few there during daytime. In recent years the goose roost has peaked at around 20-25,000 birds, although the record is 55,000. This drops to around 3-5,000 during the winter, rising a little in March and April. Rarer geese have been seen on occasion, including Snow Goose, White-fronted Goose and Brent Goose, but these are rare and require close scrutiny. There is also a considerable gull roost, mainly of Common Gull. Again up to 25,000 have been recorded in spring and autumn, although 5-10,000 is more typical. Black-headed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls are also present. There are also good numbers of Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck, Goosander and Goldeneye present in winter. **Other:** Walking and cycling leaflets available from Visitor Centres and further information from The Pentland Hills Ranger Service, tel. 0131 445 3383. **Links:** West Linton to Cauldstane Slap (Site 1), Carlops to Bore Stane (Site 2).

4: Broughton Heights, Broughton to Stobo

General description: Excellent walking through pleasant quiet hills and pastoral farming. Typical range of upland birds. **Location:** NT140391. Between Broughton and Peebles. **Car:** P in Peebles at Kingsmeadows NT251402, free, except on Saturdays. **Bike:** In parts path may disappear into deep heather or rushes. **PT:** Bus service from Peebles to Broughton (NT111370) enables the walk back eastwards. **DA:** None. **Habitat:** Heather moor and upland grazing, mature mixed woodland in valleys. **Walking route:** 11 km on waymarked footpath The John Buchan Way (leaflet in Peebles Visitor Information Centre but 1:50,000 Landranger map advised). The John Buchan Way extends a further 11 km to Peebles.

Birds: On the hills Raven, Buzzard, Kestrel and Red Grouse are present throughout the year, with Cuckoo, Skylark, Whinchat, Stonechat, Meadow Pipit and

Wheatear in breeding season. Breeding waders include Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Snipe, Curlew, Redshank and Common Sandpiper. In the woods look for Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher. Pied and Grey Wagtails likely along the streams. **Links:** The continuation of the path to Peebles includes Cademuir Hill (Site 10) and passes by Hundleshope Valley (Site 11).

5: Dawyck Botanic Gardens

General description: The Gardens are owned and maintained by the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. There is an entrance charge of £3.50 for adults and £1 for children. **Location:** NT166351. On the S side of the River Tweed between Stobo and Broughton, 13 km SW of Peebles off the B712. **Car:** P in large car park in front of conservatory/tearoom marking entry to the Gardens.

Bike: From Peebles take care following the busy A72 westwards for 7 km and then follow the signs for the Gardens SW along the quieter B712. **PT:** An infrequent (2-3 hr) bus service linking Peebles and Biggar passes the entrance to the Gardens from Monday - Saturday.

DA: Some good surfaced paths suitable for wheel-chairs, although others broken by steps. **Habitats:** Mature mixed woodland and garden, small stream.

Walking route: The conservatory/tearoom at the entrance has a variety of leaflets with maps of the Garden. Information boards are scattered through the grounds. A good network of surfaced paths criss-cross the Garden providing the visitor with a range of routes of varying lengths and gradients.

Birds: The woodland supports a good range of year round residents including

1. Stobohopehead - Keith Robeson
2. Nuthatch - Eric Middleton

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Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard. Nuthatch have recently colonised the Gardens, with breeding recorded in 2002. In the spring these are joined by Redstart, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. In the winter months, Jay and Crossbill are regular sightings. Nuthatch is regularly seen on peanut feeder outside tearoom. **Other:** Dawyck Botanic Garden has a stunning collection of trees and shrubs flanking the Scrape Burn forming one of Britain's finest arboreta. Some of the tallest trees in Britain are found here, alongside the unique Dawyck beech, and the world's first-ever Cryptogamic Reserve for non-flowering plants (*lichens, mosses and fungi*). One of the best times to visit is in spring when the Rhododendrons and Azaleas are in bloom. **Links:** The John Buchan Way over the Broughton Heights linking

Broughton and Peebles (Site 4) can be joined 3 km away at Stobo. About 6 km downstream on the Tweed is Lyne Station from where the Tweed can be followed back to Peebles (Site 9).

6: Talla and Fruid Reservoirs

General description: Two large areas of open water easily viewed from roads but with sparse populations of birds.

Location: Talla is 2 km SE of Tweedsmuir off the A701 road at NT110220 with Fruid Reservoir 4 km from Tweedsmuir on a separate minor road at NT090200.

Bike: The A701 is reasonably quiet for cycling and the round from Peebles via Traquair and Tweedsmuir offers a challenge for the fit cyclist, but note that Fruid is 4 km off this route. **PT:** None.

DA: Both reservoirs can be viewed from a car on the public road, though

a telescope is useful at both. **Habitat:** Loch, rough grazing, conifer woodland.

Birds: In the breeding season Talla has Mallard, Tufted Duck, Grey & Pied Wagtail, with Oystercatcher and Common Sandpiper along the shore. Look out for Raven on surrounding slopes. Fruid Reservoir has Grey Heron, Teal, Mallard with Oystercatcher, Redshank and Common Sandpiper. Curlews breed on the surrounding slopes, along with Wheatear, Stonechat, Whinchat and Meadow Pipit common along the road. Locally breeding Dunlin occasionally feed at the east end. Fishing Osprey is a possibility between April and August. **Links:** St Mary's Loch and Megget Reservoir (Site 19), Tweedsmuir Hills, Broad Law to Dollar Law (Site 7).

7: Tweedsmuir Hills, Broad Law to Dollar Law

General description: The highest hills in the Scottish Borders offering excellent ridge walking at any time of year. A good place to find Golden Plover in the

1. Manor Head - Keith Robeson
2. Snow Bunting - Laurie Campbell



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breeding season. **Location:** **Car:** The southern approach is from Megget Stone (NT150203) on the minor road between St Mary's Loch and Tweedsmuir. The northern approach is from the head of Manor Valley at NT199287.

Bike: See comments for St Mary's Loch (Site 19). The Manor Valley road offers a quiet route, with the possibility for mountain bikes of continuing on the Drove Road to Megget Reservoir.

PT and DA: None. **Habitat:** Rough grazing, heather moorland, peat bog.

Birds: *In the breeding season there is a guarantee of seeing Golden Plover on the tops. This is one of the few places where Dotterel have been seen in April - May while on passage north. Dunlin have bred in the past but are rare. Other likely birds are Kestrel, Buzzard, Red Grouse, Meadow Pipit, Wheatear, Stonechat and Curlew.*

Other: Mountain Hares at any time of year. **Links:** St Mary's Loch and Megget Reservoir (Site 19), Talla and Fruid Reservoirs (Site 6).

8: Portmore Loch

General description: An upland artificial loch where an unusual waterbird is always liable to turn up. **Location:** NT260500. On the north side of the Moorfoot Hills between Leadburn and Gladhouse Reservoir (in Midlothian).

Car: Take the minor road marked 'Gorebridge & Temple' that runs east of the A703 Peebles-Penicuik road 4km south of Leadburn. About 200m before the first farm buildings, park at the gate marked Portmore Fishery. Walk 1 km south to the dam. **Bike:** The road into the hills is a Right of Way and should present no difficulties. **PT:** None beyond the A703. **DA:** Contact the Portmore Fishery. **Habitats:** Loch with birch wood on west side and mix of plantation and rough grazing elsewhere. There is a small patch of marsh on the southern edge of the loch. **Walking route:** Please keep to the public path round the east side of the loch. Avoid disturbance of anglers. The local estate discourages entry to the birch woodland on the west shore.

Birds: *A variety of waterfowl from autumn through to spring. The loch is perhaps too intensively fished in summer to sustain much bird interest. Mallard, Teal, Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Goosander and Little Grebe. There are occasional parties of Mute Swan. Rarer waterfowl such as Smew, Red-breasted Merganser and the occasional grebe or diver have been seen. A former goose roost but birds do over-fly the water en route to Gladhouse Reservoir. A regular winter roost of Common Gull with 3000-5000 birds, typically approaching from the Peebles direction. Occasional visits from Osprey in the breeding season. Links:* Gladhouse Reservoir (5 km NE, in Midlothian and not in this booklet) is always worth a visit and can be viewed from the car.

9: The Tweed Walk at Peebles

General description: 'The Tweed Walk' is 9 km on waymarked paths, in part along old rail-track and passes the historic landmarks of Neidpath Castle and Barns Tower. **Location:** NT230395 (Manor Bridge). **Car:** P in Peebles (free

except on Saturday), either at Greenside (junction of Eddleston Water and Tweed), or at Kingsmeadows on S side of Tweed Bridge or near cemetery on A72. Limited parking at Lyne Station near Tweed footbridge. **Bike:** Beware busy main roads from N, E and W, this walk is close to cycle route westwards from Peebles. **PT:** Frequent buses from N (*Edinburgh*) and E (*Melrose*). Less frequent from W (*West Linton or Biggar*). **DA:** Access to N side of Peebles Cauld from Greenside P; from cemetery P to paths in Hay Lodge Park with DA link across Fotheringham footbridge to path on S side of river. Possible access via railway line to Viaduct from Manor Bridge (see below). **Habitats:** River Tweed between Peebles and Lyne Station. Scrub between Hay Lodge Park and Neidpath Castle, between Viaduct

and Manor Bridge, and from Edston Farm to Lyne Station. Mature mixed woodland at South Park Wood and near Lyne Station. **Walking route:** See Walking The Scottish Borders booklet for part of the route. Waymarked path on N side of river from Tweed Bridge, Peebles to Lyne Station footbridge, with return on S side via Barns Tower to Manor Bridge. Thence to Peebles either via railway viaduct and South Park Wood or over Manor Sware.

Birds: At Peebles Cauld Dipper and Grey Heron. Black-headed and Common Gulls at most times, in winter Goosander and Little Grebe. The woodland on the S bank here contains tits, finches, pigeons, thrushes and grey squirrels! Bullfinch and Goldfinch in the scrub between Hay Lodge Park and Neidpath Castle. Around Neidpath Castle Grey Wagtail,

Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Spotted Flycatcher, Blackcap and Treecreeper. Between the viaduct and Manor Bridge Garden Warbler and Willow Warbler. In autumn Fieldfare, Redwing, Mistle Thrush and Blackbird. Look out for Buzzard circling. In winter the return route from Lyne Station may offer Brambling among Chaffinch in arable or Fieldfare and Redwing in pasture. On the western section of the Tweed look out for Moorhen, ducks, Mute Swan and wagtails. A Kingfisher is possible at any point on the river. **Links:** Cademuir Hill (Site 10), Hundleshope Valley (Site 11).

10: Cademuir Hill, Peebles

General description: A mainly grassy hill with fine views over Peebles and surrounding hills. Bird interest mainly in springtime. **Location:** Grid ref. NT240385. An 8 km walk, out and back by same route, mainly on a public footpath, **Car:** P in Peebles, either at Greenside (junction of Eddleston Water and Tweed), or at Kingsmeadows on S



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1. Grey Wagtail - Eric Middleton
2. Tweed at Peebles - Graham Pyatt

side of Tweed Bridge or near cemetery on A72. **Bike:** Beware busy main roads from N, E and W. **PT:** Frequent buses from N (Edinburgh) and E (Melrose). Less frequent from W (West Linton or Biggar). **DA:** Paths unsuitable for wheelchair users. **Habitats:** Upland grazing with patches of heather, bracken and scree. **Walking route:** See The John Buchan Way leaflet or Walking The Scottish Borders booklet. Keeping to one of the obvious paths over the hill will avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

Birds: *In the field beside Tintah House look for Linnet and other finches in the gorse. The first section of open hill holds Stonechats and Whinchats during the spring and summer. Kestrel and Buzzard likely around the summit of the hill. The northern footslope is marshy and has breeding Lapwing and Curlew. The steep, scree-covered south side has Wheatear in spring and summer. A small patch of scrub within this scree has held Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer in spring.*

Links: On the south side of Cademuir Hill lies the Hundleshope Valley (*Site 11*), from the west end of which the return can be made by road to Old Manor Brig and Manor Sware.

11: Hundleshope Valley, Peebles

General description: Several small ponds or marshes within view of public road. Telescope useful. **Location:** NT234369. To the south of Peebles, on a minor public road. **Car and DA:** View sites from car parked on verge at strategic points. **Bike:** The minor road is popular with cyclists but A72 not recommended. **PT:** None beyond Peebles. **Habitats:** Below road: 3 ponds/marshes (NT234369, 229367, 223365) among pastures. Above road: rough grazing and scree.

Birds: *Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Woodpigeon in the pastures. Teal, Mallard, Moorhen, Grey Heron, Black-headed Gull, Snipe on the ponds/marshes especially in winter, with Redshank in the breeding season. Wheatear and Stonechat in the rough*

grazing/scree during spring/summer. **Links:** The Valley lies on the south side of Cademuir Hill (*Site 10*).

12: Peebles parks and woods

General description: The main attraction is the riverside, but adjacent parks and woods provide a variety of habitats. **Location:** NT251402. P in Kingsmeadows or Greenside car parks (*free except Saturday*). **Bike:** Cycling not encouraged in parks. **PT:** Bus service from Edinburgh or Melrose passes through Peebles. **DA:** Much of the route is level with good surface but there is no disabled access across Fotheringham Bridge at Hay Lodge Park. **Habitats:** River, stream, mixed woods, parks and gardens. **Walking route:** Many possible routes but the best birding is to be had on the S side of the Tweed between Tweed Bridge and Fotheringham Bridge. Also follow path along Eddleston Water (*The Cuddy*) as far N as it goes through woodland,

Stonechat - Laurie Campbell



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1. Dipper - Laurie Campbell
2. Goldfinch - Laurie Campbell

scrub and marsh, perhaps returning via the Venlaw Woods and the Hydro Hotel.

Birds: In winter the challenge would be to see 25-30 species, including Dipper, Goosander, Little Grebe, Bullfinch, Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush and the common farmland and garden birds. In summer, hope to find 30-35 species, including Swift, hirundines, wagtails and maybe a warbler or two. **Links:** Tweed upstream and downstream (Sites 9 and 18), Cademuir Hill (Site 10).

I3: Soonhope Valley and Glentress Forest

General description: A hilly 6 km walk through a beautiful valley near Peebles, with all stages of conifer forest on the surrounding slopes. Best for birds March to June. **Location:** Soonhope Valley NT270420, on the NE outskirts

of Peebles. **Car:** P in Peebles East Station car park (*free except on Sat.*). **Bike:** Permitted access to push-bikes but NOT part of the Glentress Forest colour-coded routes. **PT:** Peebles is on the bus route from Edinburgh to Melrose. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Rough grazing with gorse, new plantation, mature forest of Sitka Spruce, larch and Scots Pine, with deciduous woodland on Jenny's Brae. **Walking route:** Starts and finishes at the rear entrance of Peebles Hydro Hotel off the A72, at the eastern extremity of the town. Follow the rough road up the Soonhope Valley past the 'Beltane Studios' and the chalets (*some dating pre-war*) through the gate to the edge of the young plantation. Once into mature forest, turn R at each junction, gradually climbing and turning back southwards, with fine views. At the junction called Anderson Road, turn R

onto a path signed as University Walk. Rejoin the forest road and turn R, past a replica Iron Age Roundhouse. Descend via Jenny's Brae to the Hydro Hotel. **An equally good route variation:** At the first junction in the forest, turn L and follow the burn towards Shieldgreen, in front of which is a flower meadow with Common Blue butterflies. Just before Shieldgreen turn L up a footpath through spruce to the forest edge. Now on a forest road, turn L and descend to the Castle Venlaw Hotel, with fine views. (*NB This last stretch is very muddy in winter*). Behind the Hotel, either return to Peebles by following the track down, or turn L through a kissing-gate, horizontally across a small meadow and a mixed wood till you reach a hard road, and turn L uphill behind the Peebles Hydro. Where the forest ends on the right, turn R and follow the path behind the Hydro swimming pool down to the hotel road.

Birds: Grey Heron and Dipper on the burn, Blackbird, thrushes, Meadow

Pipit and if you're lucky, a Redstart near the chalets, Buzzard and Raven circling above. Forest: Coal & Blue Tit, Robin, Wren, possibly Crossbill and Jay on the University Walk. On Jenny's Brae: Great Spotted Woodpecker, Blackcap, Nuthatch and Bullfinch. **Other:** Roe Deer. Butterflies: Common Blue, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral on the paths. **Links:** Peebles parks and woods (Site 12), Tweed from Cardrona to Peebles (Site 18), Kailzie Gardens (Site 16).

I4: Glentress Forest, Tower Walk

General description: Glentress Forest is the jewel in the Tweed Valley Forest Park's crown, with visitor numbers last year reaching over 350 000. There is a series of colour-coded walks, from short loops on level ground to more strenuous hill hikes. The 10 km Tower Walk reaches 600 m, the highest point in the forest. **Location:** NT274432, 3 km E of Peebles, on the A72. **Car:** Turn into Glentress Forest, go straight on at

the mini-roundabout, up to the Buzzard's Nest car park. (But note: walk leaflets are at Red Squirrel car park on way up.) **Bike:** Cyclists please note the A72 is a very busy road, so take care if turning R into Glentress. There are many mountain bike routes within Glentress Forest (for more information, see the appropriate Forestry Commission Scotland leaflet). **PT:** Hourly buses between Peebles and Melrose pass the Glentress entrance. **Habitats:** There is a great variation in age and species of tree on this route, from open ground that has been clearfelled, young trees, maturing crops, thinned stands and alternatives to clearfell (continuous cover forestry) to open moor near Shieldgreen Kipps. **Walking route:** The walk is shown in the Forestry Commission Scotland leaflet A Guide to the Forest Walks in Glentress Forest - available from

the toilet block near the Red Squirrel car park. Follow the orange waymarker posts for the Tower Walk.

Birds: Close to the Buzzard's Nest car park, keep an eye out for Wren, Robin, Coal Tit, Chaffinch, Mistle Thrush, Wood Pigeon, Carrion Crow and other common woodland birds. At Middle Hill, on the open moor in sight of the 24 wind turbines, Woodcock and Red Grouse are often spotted, as well as occasional Roe Deer. At the Shieldgreen Kipps viewpoint Greenfinch can be seen, and on the way down to the Shieldgreen Centre you may see Fieldfare, Blackbird and Wren. Heading back towards the car park, Coal and Blue Tit are common.

Links: Tweed from Cardrona to Peebles (Site 18), Peebles parks and woods (Site 12), Kailzie Gardens (Site 16).

1. Tweeddale - Keith Robeson
2. Jay - Eric Middleton

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1. Willow Warbler - Eric Middleton
2. Redstart - Eric Middleton

15: Glentress Forest, Ponds Walk

General description: Due to its mature structure this forest has a better bird list than the others have. This route is short and easy. **Location:** NT286405, 3 km E of Peebles, on the A72. **Car:** Turn into Glentress Forest, go straight on at the mini-roundabout and park at the Red Squirrel car park on your L. **Bike:** Cyclists please note the A72 is a very fast road, so please take care if turning R into Glentress. **PT:** The entrance to Glentress is on the hourly bus route between Peebles and Innerleithen. **DA:** Disabled access toilets near car park. This route is suitable for wheelchairs and baby buggies. **Habitats:** Mature conifer forest is all around, including to your left, the oldest trees in Glentress, Douglas Firs planted in the 1920s. The ponds were created in the late 1970s and have open

water with some emergent vegetation and a surround of mixed broadleaves. **Walking route:** Follow the Ponds Walk described in the Glentress Forest leaflet, available at the toilet block. It is a gentle stroll with plenty of seating en route. The able-bodied can extend the walk by following signs for the Glen Walk, although this route is shared in part with cyclists (*and vehicles on the Forest Drive*).

Birds: *Ears are as important as eyes to fully appreciate the wildlife on this walk! Listen for the alarm call of Wren or the harsh screech of Jay. At the first pond, look for Mallard and Moorhen. Around the second pond there are Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Great, Blue and Long-tailed Tits, Siskins, Tree creeper, warblers and Blackbird. Sit on a seat to watch and wait: Robin at the picnic tables, Grey Heron at either*

pond, Buzzard mewing overhead, Pheasant and Woodpigeon in the surrounding forest, perhaps a Cuckoo calling in May and June, and a Green Woodpecker cackling.

Other: Frogs in early spring, and later on, frogspawn. Wild flowers, especially the purple orchids in June. Watch for fish jumping. A Fox vixen and her cubs coming down to drink have been sighted by early morning walkers. On the E side of the upper pond a clump of creamy-white raspberries is ready for picking in August, and a crab apple tree provides blossom in May and fruit in September. **Links:** Kailzie Gardens (Site 16), Soonhope Valley (Site 13), Glentress Tower Walk (Site 14).

16: Kailzie Gardens

General description: Kailzie is a private garden open to the public with a charge for access. Many features of birding interest, including live CCTV pictures of breeding Ospreys! Excellent bird list recorded by local expert.

Location: NT278388. 4.5km E of Peebles on the B7062. Open seven days a week throughout the year. **Car:** Ample free parking within the grounds for both cars and buses. Dogs welcome.

Bike: None within the Gardens. **PT:** Nearest bus stop is 3km on the A72 Peebles to Innerleithen road. **DA:** Most paths accessible including to the Osprey information hut. **Walking route:** The 6ha has a "wild garden" with varied short walks, as well as the ornamental and walled garden, greenhouses, herbaceous borders, many unusual shrubs, and a wide variety of mature trees. There is a rough walk down to and along the River Tweed. **Habitats:** River, pond, mixed woodland, scrub woodland, improved and unimproved grassland, gardens. The pond also holds a selection of pinioned ducks.

Birds: *Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Teal, Goldeneye, Goosander, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Moorhen, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Dunlin, Snipe, Woodcock, Curlew, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Common*

Gull, Collared Dove, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl, Long-eared Owl, Swift, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Sand Martin, Grey Wagtail, Waxwing, Dipper, Redstart, Wheatear, Fieldfare, Redwing, Mistle Thrush, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Spotted Flycatcher, Long-tailed Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Brambling, Siskin, Linnet, Lesser Redpoll, Bullfinch, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting. **Other:** *Vending machines available. The oldest surviving European Larch in Scotland dating from 1725 can be viewed within the garden. Nest box scheme commenced 2004; one box with CCTV camera.* **Links:** *Glentress Forest, Ponds Walk (Site 15), Cardrona Forest, Wallace's Walk (Site 17), Tweed from Cardrona to Peebles (Site 18).*

I7: Cardrona Forest, Wallace's Walk

General description: Cardrona Forest covers some 730 ha, and is one

of the seven forests of the Tweed Valley Forest Park. It is predominantly conifer, with some areas of mature broadleaves along the watercourses and the western edge. **Location:** NT293385, 5 km to the E of Peebles, off the B7062. **Car:** P in Forestry Commission car park (with toilets). **Bike:** Cyclists please note B7062 is narrow, so watch out for traffic on sharp bends. **PT:** Courier Bus from Peebles at approximately 10 am. **DA:** Disabled access toilets. Shorter Kirkburn walk loop suitable for wheelchairs and baby buggies. **Habitats:** Mature conifer forest, often well thinned, with bracken or bramble ground flora. Grassy picnic site area at car park, with stream along forest edge. The stream continues alongside wet pasture with upland grazing beyond. **Walking route:** From the car park, follow the track along the stream side. Turn L at the first road junction and climb the hill until you reach the first road off to your L. Take this turn and after about 300 m on the flat, turn R at a red waymarker and continue



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1. Peebles Cauld - Keith Robeson
2. Common Sandpiper - Eric Middleton

18: Tweed from Cardrona to Peebles

General description: A 6 km walk along the banks of the River Tweed largely following a disused railway line. The route is best walked one way, returning to the start by bus. **Location:** Between Peebles (NT250403) and Cardrona Village 5 km to the east. **Car:** P in Peebles, either at Greenside (junction of Eddleston Water and Tweed), or at Kingsmeadows on S side of Tweed Bridge. Alternatively P at Cardrona on the west side of the new road bridge over the Tweed. **Bike:** Beware busy main roads from N, E and W. Cycle access is only possible to half the route between the Cardrona end of the route and Eshiels along the disused railway line. **PT:** Frequent hourly buses from N (Edinburgh) and E (Melrose), less frequent from W (West Linton or Biggar). **DA:** Possible with care along half the route between the Cardrona end of the route and Eshiels along the disused railway

up through open woodland of mature larch and Scots Pine. When you reach the next road in about 10 minutes, turn L and follow this for about 200 m. At the next road junction go straight on (yellow waymarker) for 100 m, before turning R onto a footpath (with red and yellow waymarkers). In 50 m turn R onto a path that takes you up to the site of an old fort (now recycled into sheep pens) to admire the panoramic views. Return to the sign for the fort and turn L down a narrow footpath through larch for 300 m to meet the road. Turn L, with views across to Lee Pen and turn L again in 50 m. Follow this road with views of the Tweed Valley, past the viewpoint seat; the next path to the R will descend quickly to the bridge over the burn and back to the car park.

Birds: Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail and Dipper at the stream side, plus the 4 common tit species, Blackbird, Mistle & Song Thrushes, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, with Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler in springtime. In thicker woodland Siskin, Goldcrest, Crossbill, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Wren and Robin. Watch out for Buzzard soaring on the thermals, as well as the usual traffic of Woodpigeon, Carrion Crow, Rook and Jackdaw. **Other:** Roe and Sika Deer. Butterflies (Small Whites, Peacocks, Red Admirals) can be found feeding on wild flowers at the forest roadside. **Links:** Kailzie Gardens (Site 16), Glentress Forest (Sites 14 and 15).

line. **Habitats:** River, mixed riparian woodland and sewage works. **Walking route:** From Kingsmeadows car park, cross Priorsford suspension bridge and follow River Tweed downstream 2km to Wire Bridge Cottage. Climb steep flight of steps to busy road (A72). Turn right along pavement for 200m before finding path into Eshiels Community Woodland. Descend steeply through woodland to meet sewage works fence. Follow path between fence and river to recently planted woodland (on the former Peebles rubbish tip). Continue, keeping river on right hand side, emerging on to disused railway line. Turn right and follow for 4km to the village of Cardrona. Alternatively follow path in reverse direction from Cardrona to Peebles.

Birds: *The Tweed supports good populations of Goosander, Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Grey Heron, Oystercatcher, Moorhen and Common Sandpiper and occasional Kingfisher. In the winter the sewage works host a large number of*

Pied Wagtail (up to 20 present at a time), particularly during cold spells. The mixed woodland has Blackcap, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Buzzard and Tawny Owl, while the newly planted woodland and scrub on the old rubbish tip at Eshiels often have Lesser Redpoll, Linnet and Goldfinch taking advantage of a rich seed supply. Barn Owls are seen occasionally at dusk near Cardrona. Just north of the route at Horsbrugh Castle a small wetland supports Reed Bunting and Teal. Finally, a real curiosity to look out for are the lampstands on Tweed Bridge in Peebles, each of which has a Starling brood in its base during the spring and early summer! **Links:** The Tweed Walk at Peebles (Site 9).

19: St Mary's Loch and Megget Reservoir

General description: Two large areas of open water easily viewed from roads but with sparse populations of birds.

Location: St Mary's Loch is 17 km S of Peebles on A708 road at NT250230

with Megget Reservoir on minor road to Tweedsmuir at NT200225. The smaller Loch of the Lowes, S of St Mary's has swamp woodland at the S end. **Bike:** The A708 is reasonably quiet for cycling and the round from Peebles via Traquair and Tweedsmuir always offers a challenge for the fit cyclist. **PT:** None. **DA:** Both lochs can be viewed from a car on the public road, though a telescope is useful at both. **Habitat:** Loch, rough grazing, heather moorland, conifer woodland, swamp woodland.

Birds: *In the breeding season St Mary's has Mallard, Teal, Goosander, Grey & Pied Wagtails, with Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Redshank, and Common Sandpiper along the shore. Willow Warbler and Reed Bunting in the scrub at Loch of the Lowes. Megget Reservoir is mainly known for its small breeding colony of Common Gulls. Fishing Ospreys a possibility between April and August.* **Links:** Talla and Fruid Reservoirs (Site 6), Tweedsmuir Hills, Broad Law to Dollar Law (Site 7).

20: Moorfoot Hills, Broad Law to Innerleithen

General description: From the Broad Law roadside (NT349542) to Innerleithen (NT332370) the 17 km stretch of road can provide the car-borne visitor with excellent views of all the bird species typical of upland heather moorland, grassy sheepwalk, crag and scree, wet flushes and burns. Indeed, for viewing some species such as Black Grouse, it is best not to leave your vehicle but to treat it as a hide and use a telescope. **Location:** **Car:** This site is best visited and viewed from the B7007 / B709 road between Edinburgh and Innerleithen. It is possible to park at the roadside at several points along the route, but be considerate to other road users and do not obstruct gates and access to fields and steadings. There are useful unsignposted lay-bys at NT347530, NT351521 (*Windy Slack*), NT357504 (*Garvald Lodge Quarry*), NT347466 (*The Piper's Grave*), several

small ones between Piper's Grave and Blackhopebyre (NT344440), and also a few small ones between Blackhopebyre and Colquhar (NT332415). Finally, there are two good lay-bys for viewing woodland or river birds at Ley Quarry (NT332398) and at the cauld near Innerleithen Golf Course (NT336385). **Bike:** Access as per cars. **PT:** None beyond Innerleithen. **DA:** None beyond car access. **Habitats:** almost exclusively heather moorland (grouse moor) and sheepwalk, with good stretches of easily-viewed open riparian habitats. There are productive patches of birch and rowan in cleuchs on either side of the Dewar straight and near Glentress, occasional small coniferous plantations, and more extensive coniferous woodland nearer Innerleithen.

Birds: *The site is most productive in spring and summer, from late March to late July, and is important regionally for Black Grouse, waders, and Ring*

Ouzel. Several species of raptor can be seen, as well as Raven, Short-eared and occasionally Long-eared Owl often at close range on fence-posts. Black Grouse occur between Broad Law and Colquhar and are best seen and heard in the early hours. Do not leave your car and disturb them, use a telescope! Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Snipe, Curlew, Redshank and Common Sandpiper are easily observed in roadside fields and along burns, where there can also be Grey Heron, Mallard, Goosander, Moorhen, Grey & Pied Wagtails and Dipper. As well as the ubiquitous Skylark and Meadow Pipit, the moorland areas also hold Cuckoo and good numbers of Whinchat, Stonechat and Wheatear; Ring Ouzel can be observed from the laybys at Piper's Grave, Blackhopebyre and Glentress. In addition to the plentiful Willow Warblers and Chaffinches, the woodland areas can produce Cuckoo, Redstart and Wood Warbler. Links: Plora Wood, Innerleithen (Site 22), Tweed from Innerleithen to Walkerburn (Site 21).

Black Grouse - Laurie Campbell

21: Tweed from Innerleithen to Walkerburn

General description: A moderately fast-flowing section of the River Tweed flanked mainly by grassland along the broad valley floor, contained within a steep sided valley mostly planted with coniferous woodland. The Tweed is a Special Area of Conservation.

Location: NT345370. A 3 km section of river between the mill towns of Innerleithen (NT333367) and Walkerburn (NT358370).

Car: P ample in Innerleithen and Walkerburn.

Bike: Tweed Cycleway along quiet road on south side of river. **PT:** Regular bus service from Edinburgh to Peebles and Galashiels. **DA:** Viewing of river limited to road and bridge in Walkerburn.

Habitats: River, pond, grassland, scrub, riverside alder trees. **Walking route:** A path exists along the north side of the river, access to which can be gained from next to the school in Walkerburn and by picking up the disused railway in

Innerleithen. Look out for the pond at half-distance.

Birds: *Resident Dipper, Grey & Pied Wagtails, Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Siskin, Moorhen, Long-tailed Tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Lesser Redpoll.* In summer *Oystercatcher, Sand Martin, Common Sandpiper, Osprey.* **Other:** Frog, Toad.

Links: Tweed from Cardrona to Peebles (*Site 18*), Plora Wood, Innerleithen (*Site 22*), Cardrona Forest (*Site 17*), Kailzie Gardens (*Site 16*), Thornylee Forest (*Site 24*).

22: Plora Wood, Innerleithen

General description: This mature broadleaved wood is a Site of Special Scientific Interest owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. **Location:** NT356367. On steep north-facing slope south of the River Tweed by minor road linking Innerleithen and Walkerburn.

Car: P in small parking area by minor road at the eastern end of the wood.

Bike: Best to avoid busy A72 linking

Peebles with Galashiels. The minor road follows the south side of the Tweed between Peebles and Peel to the south of Clovenfords. **PT:** Hourly buses from W and N (*Peebles and Edinburgh*) and E (*Melrose*). Buses stop in both Walkerburn and Innerleithen. **DA:** Off-road tracks unsuitable for wheel-chairs. **Habitats:** The E end of the wood is mainly mature beech, sessile oak and sycamore with ash, birch and mixed conifers. There is a strip of dense mature conifers in the middle of the wood. The W end of the wood is more varied with areas of young birch/oak and mature oak with beech along the lower boundary. **Walking route:** There is an information board at the car park. From here, a path follows a rough vehicle track initially before continuing along the contour along an unsurfaced path until a block of conifers reached. Here a track can be followed down to the road or you can continue through the woodland to the western boundary before returning to the car park along the road.

Birds: The wood supports a good range of residents including Woodcock, Tawny Owl, Treecreeper, Green & Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Jay. In the spring and summer these are joined by healthy populations of Redstart, Blackcap and Spotted Flycatcher with smaller numbers of Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler. In recent years, a small heronry has become established in the conifer woodland, while Nuthatch has colonised the site as with many other woodlands in the Tweed Valley.

Links: Moorfoot Hills (Site 20), Kailzie Gardens (Site 16).

23: Minchmoor Road

General description: 8km return walk along ancient drove road, with moorland birds and good views.

Location: NT407300 to 380327. Between Traquair and Yarrowford, 7km W of Selkirk. **Car:** Park on A708 opposite Yarrowford NT407299.

Bike: Access for off-road bikes. **PT:** None. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Heather moorland, upland sheep-grazing, mature

conifer plantation, younger plantations.

Walking route: Pass through Yarrowford village to signposted path following the Minchmoor Road. Ascend Hangingshaw Rig to near Hare Law. An 11km circular route can be made by following Southern Upland Way until just E of Broomy Law, then turning S down past Broadmeadows Youth Hostel (see *Short Walks on the Eastern Section of the Southern Upland Way* pp 26-27).

Birds: Typical moorland birds such as Meadow pipit and Skylark with smaller numbers of Stonechat, Whinchat and Pied Wagtail. In winter only Stonechat and Wren are evident. In the woodland: tits, Chaffinch, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker and the recently colonised Nuthatch are resident, with Willow Warbler and Song Thrush in spring and summer. Green Woodpecker will be heard and occasionally seen in the valley. Buzzard is common, with Goshawk, Sparrowhawk and Merlin a possibility. Black grouse are present **Links:** Bowhill Estate (Site 31), Ettrick Water from Selkirk to Yarrow (Site 32).

24: Thornylee Forest

General description: Viewpoint renowned for sightings of Goshawk but worth visiting for a range of woodland and woodland-edge birds. Forest walk available. **Location:**

Thornylee (NT404366) is a viewpoint 200 m off the A72 Galashiels to Peebles road about 6 km W of the village of Clovenfords. It is a Forestry Commission site and signposted from the main road. **Car:** P at picnic site and start of woodland walk. **Bike:** A72 too busy to be recommended for bikes but the 'back road' on S side of Tweed offers quieter route from Peebles to Ashiestiel (near Clovenfords). **PT:** The A72 has hourly buses between Peebles and Melrose. **DA:** Site can be viewed from the carpark/picnic site. **Habitats:**

The picnic area overlooks a narrow part of the upper Tweed valley with conifer woodland on the higher slopes. Immediately below the picnic area has rough grass and scattered trees. A patch

of birch woodland forming part of the Elibank Estate occurs on the opposite slope.

Birds: *The conifer woodland contains most of the common birds associated with this habitat Goldcrest, Wren, Blue tit, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Robin and Dunnock. These appear to be present all year but as spring approaches Song Thrush arrive and nest along the woodland edge, followed by Willow Warbler. Meadow and Tree Pipit frequent the grassy slopes. Great Spotted Woodpecker and Green Woodpecker can be heard in the surrounding woodland along with the cackle of Jays foraging through the deciduous woodland. On the river there are Grey Wagtail, Common Sandpiper, Mallard and Goosander with large gulls passing up and down the valley. Spending time viewing the area through binoculars and/ or telescope can be rewarding. Sightings of passage Ospreys in the spring are common and displays by Buzzard and Goshawks regular. Kestrels hover over the moorland and grassy slope and Sparrowhawk hunt through the woodland and along the edges.*

Other: Butterflies here include the

scarce Nothern Brown Angus. **Links:** Williamhope (Site 30), Plora Wood, Innerleithen (Site 22), Stantling Craig Reservoir (Site 29).

25: Ettrick Marshes

General description: One of the best examples of floodplain forest in the South of Scotland, with a great diversity of birds in spring-summer. Borders Forest Trust floodplain restoration project.

Location: NT283152. Follow the B7009 south-westwards out of Selkirk. After 20 km, at Tushielaw, take the B709 for about 2 km until you reach Tushielaw Inn. The site stretches for 6 km towards Ettrick Village on either side of the Ettrick Water.

Car: P at Honey Cottage NT298162 or Tima NT279132, both near camping and caravan sites. **Bike:** Roads relatively quiet and level. **PT:** School bus from Selkirk to Ettrick morning and afternoon during term time. **DA:** Footpaths unsuitable for wheelchairs. **Habitat:** Native woodland with willow scrub, sedge swamp, fen, hay meadow. Mature conifer plantation and broadleaved woodland. River and stream.

Walking route: Waymarked trails through the forest totalling 9km one way from Honey Cottage to Tima Car Park. Leaflet available with map from Borders Forest Trust and Visitor Information Centres. The whole area is worth exploring, either from the road or alongside the Ettrick Water where accessible, particularly north of Honey Cottage and around Ramseyleuch.

Birds: *Worth a visit any time of the year. Over 90 species have been recorded in the area with 72 breeding including Goosander, Oystercatcher, Common Sandpiper, Sand Martin, Dipper, Spotted Flycatcher, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll. Sedge and Willow Warblers abound, Kingfisher and Grasshopper Warbler occur. A local rarity, the Willow Tit bred in the 1990s and might still be present. The Marshes are also an important stronghold for Reed Bunting. Although Buzzards are*



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1. Goshawk - Ray Murray
2. Wheatear - Eric Middleton

good for Reed Bunting and Sedge Warbler in spring with Moorhen at most times.

Links: Alemoor Reservoir (Site 27).

the most commonly seen raptor, Osprey and Goshawk are regular. Walks at dusk can be productive with Woodcock and Barn Owl a possibility. **Other:** The area is botanically rich. Otter, Fox and Roe Deer are best looked for at dusk. **Links:** Extensive walking available in the surrounding hills e.g. take the Captains Road north-West of Hopehouse to Earls Hill and Loch of the Lowes and return via the Southern Upland Way to just beyond Ettrick Village (about 18 km). Consult the appropriate OS map(s) before setting out; the weather can change quickly in this area so always be prepared for wet weather (and midges in summer!).

26: Clearburn and Back Lochs

General description: Loch and pond in view from public road over lonely moor. **Location:** 15 km W of Hawick

on B711 road to Tushielaw. Clearburn Loch is at NT341155 and the very small Back Loch at NT357157. **Bike:** The B711 offers a quiet but hilly route. **PT:** None. **DA:** Both lochs can be viewed from a car on the public road, though a telescope is useful at Clearburn. **Habitat:** Loch, peat bog, rough grazing at Clearburn; pond, marsh, scrub at Back Loch.

Birds: In the breeding season Clearburn holds Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Mute Swan, Coot, Black-headed and occasional Wigeon, Teal and Mallard. Lesser Black-backed Gulls may visit but not to breed. Carrion Crow, Kestrel, Skylark, Stonechat and Meadow Pipit may be seen on the peat bog or rough grazing around the loch. Waders on the loch shore or on the bog include Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Common Snipe, Curlew and Redshank. Swallows often feed over the loch. Back Loch is

27: Alemoor Reservoir

General description: A medium-sized upland reservoir having a natural appearance and with a good number of water birds. Telescope advisable.

Location: NT400155, 12 km W of Hawick. **Car:** The B711 crosses the reservoir at a causeway and gives views of the larger E part. There is a secluded car park at the water's edge at NT395150 but this is popular with anglers. The more interesting W part of the loch is visible from the road at a layby NT388149. Access to the dam at the NE corner is by the road to Easter Alemoor Farm. **Bike:** An off-road bike is ideal for getting access to other nearby lochs including Kingside (NT342135), Crooked (NT355140) and Hellmoor (NT386170). **PT:** None. **DA:** None but the loch is reasonably visible from the car. **Habitats:** Loch, marsh, conifer

forest. **Walking route:** There are no recognised walking routes in the area other than forest roads.

Birds: *Spring-summer residents include Great Crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Mute Swan, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Moorhen and Coot. In autumn, visitors include Whooper Swan, Goldeneye and the occasional Pochard and Cormorant. The E loch can be a roost for Herring, Black-headed and Great Black-backed Gulls. In the woods Carrion Crow, Blackbird, Song and Mistle Thrushes and Treecreeper occur and Sedge Warbler and Pied Wagtail inhabit the water margin or willow scrub. Look out for the occasional passing Raven. The nearby lochs usually have fewer birds but are more likely to include Little Grebe.*

Links: Clearburn and Back Lochs (Site 26), Hawick walk (Site 42).

28: Craik Forest, Crib Law Walk

General description: The 4000 ha of Craik Forest were planted up with conifers in the 1950s and 1960s and

are now in a rotational cycle of felling and replanting. **Location:** NT348081, 17 km to the SW of Hawick. Signposted off the A7, follow the B711 to Robertson and then turn L onto an unclassified road which takes you into the heart of Craik Forest. **Car:** P at the designated car parks. **Bike:** The minor road on leaving the A7 is used by cyclists as it is an enjoyable and pleasant ride. There are cycle routes within Craik Forest and part of this walk is used for these cycle routes: see the Forestry Commission Scotland leaflet, A Guide to the Walks and Cycle Trails in Craik Forest. **PT:** None beyond Hawick. **DA:** This walk is not suitable for wheelchair users, although there is a short all-ability trail beside the picnic area, with car parking by the stream. An accessible toilet is at the car park at the entrance to Craik. **Habitats:** Coniferous woodland of varying ages, mixed woodland, open areas bordered by woodland; both upland and lowland areas of the walk are adjacent to streams. This provides a wide range of habitats

with potential for a variety of birds to be found. **Walking route:** See the above-mentioned leaflet, available from the toilet block near the forest entrance. The routes are waymarked. However, care needs to be taken on the 11 km Crib Law Walk to make sure that the correct route is followed (*particularly where the track towards Aithouse Burn is left, and the route runs parallel to the track on the return from Crib Law*).

Birds: *In the coniferous areas Goldcrest can be seen - or more usually heard first - particularly in family groups in the tree-tops. In the more mixed woodland areas, and at the woodland edges, members of the tit family (Great, Blue, Coal and Long-tailed), Wren, Song Thrush, Chaffinch, Blackbird, Wood Pigeon and Sparrowhawk can be found. The walk up to and along the top of Crib Law gives excellent views of the landscape and can also provide Bullfinch and Buzzard. The return walk along the Aithouse Burn and the waterfall provide chances to see Grey Heron, Robin and Greenfinch, along with a number of*



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1. Goosander - Laurie Campbell
2. Red Grouse - Eric Middleton

summer migrants. **Other:** Policy Wood Walk is a 1.2 km walk in the valley bottom and offers a similar bird list. **Links:** Alemoor Reservoir (Site 27), Hawick walk (Site 42).

29: Stantling Craig Reservoir

General description: Small, upland water storage reservoir with some vegetated margins and close to moorland. Telescope advised **Location:** NT430395. Off minor roads north of the A72 Peebles-Galashiels road. **Car:** Follow minor road north from A72 at Thornylee (NT413363) turning L at Newhall. Reservoir lies on L of road 2km past this junction. Alternatively, follow minor road heading W from Stow on A7, turning L at Stagehall and continuing for 6km until reservoir is seen on R of road. **Bike:** As above; minor road network in this area is quiet although hilly. **PT:** None.

DA: Recommended viewing is from the public road. **Habitats:** Open reservoir with grazed fields alongside and views to heather moor. **Walking route:** There are no footpaths at this site. It is recommended that the reservoir be viewed using a telescope from the road to the E of the reservoir.

Birds: *In the winter the reservoir holds small numbers of duck, notably Wigeon, Teal and Mallard, with variable numbers of diving duck, Coot and Little Grebe. A roost of Goosanders sometimes builds up here. In early spring waders such as Oystercatcher, Lapwing and Curlew, which breed nearby, gather in flocks along the shores. It is worth scanning the distant moor for Black Grouse and raptors: Buzzards and Kestrels are regular but Hen Harrier and Red Kite have been seen. Ospreys occasionally fish here in the summer.* **Links:** Thornylee Forest (Site 24), Williamhope (Site 30).

30: Williamhope, near Clovenfords

General description: Secluded, partially wooded upland valley with excellent bird list. **Location:** NT439349, 2 km SW of Clovenfords **Car:** P in Forestry Commission car park near Ashiestiel Bridge. Road up valley is private. **Bike:** Ashiestiel Bridge is at the E end of the minor road on the south side of the Tweed from Peebles via Traquair and Walkerburn. The main roads A72 and A707 are too busy to be recommended for cycling. **PT:** Bus service from Peebles to Galashiels. Alight at the new roundabout at NT435352, only 400m from Ashiestiel bridge. **DA:** The tarmac road up the Williamhope valley is smooth but steep in places. **Habitats:** Upland grazing and heather moor; semi-natural alder and birch woods in valley. **Walking route:** From the car park return to the public road and turn L. Turn L again along a path uphill through the woods passing a new housing scheme and the imposing Peel House. On reaching the farm road turn

L again and keep on the road for 2 1/2 km until you reach the Williamhope houses at the top of the valley.

Birds: *The valley is at its best from April to August. On the hills: Buzzard, Kestrel, Raven, Red and Black Grouse, Skylark, Stonechat, Whinchat, Curlew. In the woods: Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, Jay, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, Cuckoo, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler. Along the stream: Dipper, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Snipe. In the autumn the valley can be good for Fieldfares and Redwings.*

Links: Thornielee Forest (Site 24), Gala Policies (Site 34).

31: Bowhill Estate

General description: Bowhill Estate, owned by the Duke of Buccleuch, is centred around Bowhill House and set in the Ancient Ettrick Forest, once hunting grounds of the kings of Scotland. There are four way marked trails within Bowhill Country Park. The wider estate has enjoyed an open access policy for

over 100 years. **Location:** NT426278. 5 km W of Selkirk on the A708 road to Moffat. **Car:** Designated P just N of the House, 400 m from the Visitor Centre. **Bike:** Permitted access for push-bikes. **PT:** None. **DA:** Disabled parking and access possibilities including wheelchair users **Habitats:** Conifer woodland, mixed woodland, scrub, farmland, heather moor, river, loch. **Walking route:** The walks in Bowhill Country Park suit a variety of interests and abilities. The shortest is Bell o' the Woods: through mixed woodland where a symphony of bird song can be enjoyed throughout the breeding season. The Loch's Walk includes two lochs, of which the lower is more secluded and better for birds. The Lady's Walk takes in the Yarrow Water. The longest walk is the Duchess' Drive, which winds its way up onto heather moorland. All walks have an accompanying leaflet including a map and general information. **Other:** Visitor Centre (for leaflets etc). Please see the risk assessments to check for steps

etc, en route. Buccleuch Estates cover some 25 000 hectares in the Scottish Borders.

Birds: *The bird song is superb in the woodlands from March to May. All the common woodland birds are present plus Siskin, Blackcap, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Treecreeper, Tawny Owl, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Goshawk. Elsewhere: Red Grouse, Wheatear, Curlew, Cuckoo, Mute Swan, Grey Heron, Dipper, Pied & Grey Wagtails, Coot and Moorhen. In the summer on the moorland you may see Buzzard or Short-eared Owl teaching their young to hunt.* **Links:** Ettrick Water from Selkirk to Yarrow (Site 32), Minchmoor Road (Site 23).

32: Ettrick Water from Selkirk to confluence with Yarrow Water

General description: Lovely unspoiled riverside with diverse wildlife. 7km walk on pavements in

town and public footpaths, mostly level. **Location:** Victoria Park, Selkirk (NT464288). **Car:** P on tarmac area by riverside in Victoria Park. **Bike:** Not suitable for cyclists. **PT:** Frequent bus service from Selkirk Market Place to main road-bridge where route can be joined. **DA:** Not suitable. **Habitats:** River most of the way, deciduous woodland, scrub, coniferous woodland near Yarrow confluence. **Walking route:** Follow waymarked route (posts with red arrows) starting in Victoria Park by riverside. Leaflets available from Tourist Information Centre. Cross road-bridge then take first left up Ettrickhaugh Road. Opposite main gate into cricket club turn left across footbridge over mill lade, then follow markers.

Birds: Resident on river are Dipper, Mallard, Grey Heron, Goosander. Spring and summer: Common Sandpiper, Oystercatcher, Grey & Pied Wagtails and occasional Kingfisher. Along riverside woodland in spring and summer Willow,

Sedge and Garden Warblers, Blackcap, Spotted Flycatcher and Whitethroat. Best time is spring and early summer when birds are vocal and riverside flora is at its best. Other: Autumn attraction is salmon leaping at Murray's Cauld and otters occasionally seen near dawn and dusk. Route passes Scotland's only working sawmill driven by water wheel. **Links:** Lindean Loch (Site 41).

33: Lauder Common

General description: An extensive area of upland with varied habitats and good access. **Location:** OS Explorer 338, NT503467. South-west of Lauder, extending on either side of B6362 to Stow. **Car:** Views from B6362 (several lay-byes). P at Burnmill, Lauder (NT530472), Lauder Industrial Estate (NT522482) and the "Watering Stane" towards Stow (NT481457). **Bike:** Public roads only. **PT:** Buses to Lauder. **DA:** Path suitable for wheelchairs at Burnmill, which can be extended to 1.5 km with assistance. **Habitats:** Upland

heath / grassland mosaic, wet heath/ bog, unimproved pasture, Scree slopes, gorse scrub, and Lauder Burn haughland (valley bottom). Area of Hawthorn scrub at NT520480 close to industrial estate. **Walking route:** Network of paths and bridleways crossing the Common. Easy access from road and the Burnmill car park. Southern Upland Way passes through a section, including Burnmill.

Birds: Waders, especially in spring, when the Common comes alive with the sound of drumming Snipe. A few Golden Plover and Red Grouse on heath. Abundant Skylark and Meadow Pipit with Stonechat and Wheatear. Yellowhammer, Goldfinch, Linnet along Lauder Burn in scrub woodland and gorse. Occasional Short-eared Owl on heath and Long-eared Owl in stells. Dipper and Grey Wagtail along burn. Hawthorn scrub at the industrial estate good for wintering thrush flocks. The Common used to be a site for Black Grouse. **Links:** Lammermuir Hills, Lauder to Watch Water (Site 46), Westruther Moor (Site 56).

Philphaugh Estate - Keith Robeson

1. Great Spotted Woodpecker - Eric Middleton
2. Peregrine Falcon - Ray Murray

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34: Gala Policies

General description: 'Community woodland' within Galashiels. A good place to learn the commoner woodland birds, especially in winter. **Location:** NT485358. Near to Galashiels town centre off Livingston Place and behind the swimming pool and adjacent to Scott Park. It once formed part of the Laird of Gala Estates. **Car:** Two car parks at swimming pool near the NE entrance (NT489359). **Bike:** Permitted access to main paths but please respect walkers. **PT:** Galashiels is on the Peebles to Melrose bus route. **DA:** Some paths suitable for assisted wheelchair users. **Habitat:** A typical policy woodland with a mixture of native and introduced tree species. A stream runs through the centre of the woods. A small pond and area of wet ground has been created adding to the interest. **Walking route:** An interpretation board at the entrance describes the woodland and shows a map of the paths. The main path is part of the Southern Upland Way.

Birds: There are good numbers of tits, thrushes, Goldcrest, Robins and Dunnock. Great Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper and perhaps Nuthatch breed. Mistle Thrushes and Tawny Owl are regular. The pond attracts Mallard and Pied Wagtail. Flocks of Siskin and Lesser Redpoll appear from time to time. Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler arrive in spring along with Spotted Flycatcher. Winter sees the arrival of Brambling, Redwing and Fieldfare. **Other:** Leaflet available at Visitor Centres. In the past the Policies had Red Squirrels but these have been displaced by Grey Squirrels. It is a good area for butterflies. **Links:** Langlee Community Woodland (Site 35), Abbotsford woods (Site 36), Tweedbank (Site 37).

35:LangleeCommunityWoodland

General description: An extensive area of woodland to the north of the

Langlee housing estate in Galashiels. A good place to look for the commoner woodland birds, especially in winter, and for warblers in spring. **Location:** NT505358. It is accessed from the B6374 Galashiels to Melrose Road by turning into Hawthorn Road. **Car:** P off Hawthorn Road and the woods are accessed by an over bridge. **Bike:** None. **PT:** Galashiels is on the Peebles to Melrose bus route. **DA:** None. **Habitat:** Mixed mature woodland with regeneration and an area covered with Rhododendron. To the east edge there is a large hawthorn thicket. There is a considerable amount of fallen timber and an abundance of tree holes. **Walking route:** A circular walk can be made but the tracks are often muddy in places. From the over bridge take the left hand track and follow this until another track comes in from the R. Turn R and follow this path as it climbs through the

wood and eventually emerges near the hawthorn thicket. Turn L and descend towards the over bridge.

Birds: *This was one of the first woods in Ettrick & Lauderdale to be colonised by Nuthatch during the recent range expansion. The thrush and tit families are well represented including the occasional Marsh Tit. Tawny Owls are resident and in winter the occasional Woodcock is flushed. Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker are present along with Treecreeper, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Siskin, Bullfinch and occasional Brambling in winter. Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Blackcap join in spring. Tree Sparrows have been seen in the fields to the NE of the woodland.* **Other:** Roe Deer are regular in the woods. **Links:** Gala Policies (Site 34), Tweedbank (Site 37), Abbotsford Woods (Site 36).

36: Abbotsford Woods

General description: Mature riverside woods with a literary association! Excellent for woodland

birds, and spring migrants. **Location:** NT505338. Abbotsford Woods are W of Abbotsford House and to the W of the B6360 Tweedbank to Lindean road.

Car: P at Abbotsford House and two roadside parking areas to the W. One lay by has no obvious route into the woods but the other is above one of the circular tracks. **Bike:** Accessible via the B6360 but beware fast moving traffic at times! **PT:** The woods are 1 km off the Melrose to Galashiels bus route. **DA:** None. **Habitat:** Best part is the mature mixed woodland to the NW of the road. The NW boundary is the Tweed so it is possible to record both woodland and riverside birds.

Walking route: A circular walk can be made taking in both the riverside and woods. From the main Abbotsford car park take the farm track opposite the telephone box and follow it to the river; A stile to the L at the bottom of the hill allows access to the riverbank. Follow the river past Abbotsford House to the point where the river narrows.

A gate allows access to the woodland, turn L and follow the low level path back towards the house. Turn R and the path climbs higher in the wood before levelling out behind the lodge. Follow this through the woodland until a lay by at the W end of the wood. Turn L on to the main road and walk back to the main car park. This high level woodland track can be accessed from the B6360 lay-bys.

Birds: *In winter and early spring there is always a roving tit flock with Nuthatch, Goldcrest and Treecreeper following on. Small flocks of Lesser Redpoll and Siskin are often found on the larches and Birch. Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Buzzard and Sparrowhawk regularly use the woods. Stock Dove and Woodpigeon are resident. In the spring the woodland is alive with the sound of summer migrants: Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler, Blackcap and Pied Flycatcher. The riverside walk can produce Dipper, Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Common Sandpiper, Mallard, Goosander, Mute Swan and Little Grebe in*

winter. There is also the chance of putting up a Woodcock. **Other:** Abbotsford House was built by Sir Walter Scott 1812-1824. Open daily March-October. **Links:** Tweedbank (Site 37), Langlee Community Woodland (Site 35), Gala Policies (Site 34).

37: Tweedbank

General description: A 'landscaped' new town near the Tweed with a variety of habitats and a quite exceptional bird list logged by a local enthusiast. **Location:** NT516347. Tweedbank Village is situated on a bend of the Tweed between Galashiels and Melrose, off the A6091 road. The village development started in the early 1970s and is still not complete. **Car:** P beside the loch off Tweedbank Drive, the main service road. **Bike:** Permitted access on paths through town. **PT:** Tweedbank is on the bus route from Melrose to Peebles. **DA:** There is a circular walk around the loch and adjacent park. **Habitats:** The area

of land taken in by the development was part of Lowood Estates farmland. Part of the estate is still in existence with policy woodland, farmland and a small pond. The River Tweed forms a natural boundary to both Tweedbank Village and Lowood Estate, the A6091 bypass, service roads, and woodland strips providing the others. Many of the original hedgerows and trees were retained and augmented by extensive landscaping and planting around and between the houses on the estate. An area of parkland with a small loch was created out of low-lying ground and marshland. Part of the disused Waverley railway runs through the estate providing additional habitat. Two river valleys join the River Tweed at Tweedbank. By being at the junction of four valleys there is a considerable amount of movement of birds through the area at migration times. **Walking route:** From the car park the visitor can explore the whole estate using a good network of paths. Paths cover the hedgerows between

houses, the old railway track and along the riverside.

Birds: The current list for Tweedbank runs to nearly 140 species but many of these are birds that pass through. The river can provide the opportunity to see Grey Heron, Dipper, Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail, Mallard, Goosander and other wetland species. The woodland and hedgerows attract many of the finches and the village has a good population of Bullfinch and the conifer plantations attract Lesser Redpoll, Siskin and Crossbill. Birds of prey hunt through the village and Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, Kestrel, Peregrine and Buzzard are noted most years. Ospreys occur on passage. Song Thrush and Blackbird are resident and the latter are augmented by continental birds in the autumn. Redwing and Fieldfare use the park as a refuelling station in the autumn and feed on the numerous berries. In eruption years Waxwings can generally be somewhere on the estate. Summer migrants are present in good numbers and the proximity to the river and the wood areas provide an abundant supply



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1. River Tweed, Leaderfoot - Keith Robeson
2. Common Sandpiper - Laurie Campbell

of insects. The loch is home to a resident pair of Mute Swans but these are joined by up to 40 others at certain times of the year and on occasions Whooper Swans drop in. Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Mallard, Teal, Shoveler, Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Pochard and Goosander have been recorded on the loch. Gulls are frequent visitors and by careful scrutiny of the flock it may be possible to pick up a rarity such as Glaucous Gull. **Links:** Tweed from Melrose to Galashiels (Site 38), Cauldshiels Loch (Site 39), Gala Policies (Site 34).

38: Tweed from Melrose to Galashiels

General description: A somewhat built-up section of the Tweed through central Borders but good birdwatching

nevertheless. **Location:** OS Explorer 338, NT527347 (Lowood Bridge). Stretch between Gattonside Chain Bridge and Galafoot. **Car:** No direct access other than at Galashiels, but views from B6361. P at Melrose, Tweedbank Industrial Estate by Melrose/Lowood Bridge (NT528347) and past sewage works at Galafoot Bridge (NT509348). **Bike:** Public roads, Tweedbank paths and minor road to Lowood Nursery (mostly away from river). **PT:** Regular buses between Melrose and Galashiels. **DA:** Weir at Melrose and Galafoot - short stretches accessible to assisted wheelchairs. **Walking route:** Footpaths from Gattonside Chain Bridge on both sides of the Tweed make a circular route via Lowood Bridge, and then from Lowood on south of river to Galashiels. Path joins the Southern Upland Way, and crosses river via railway

viaduct, going past Galashiels Sewage Works to Galafoot. Routes described in Walking The Scottish Borders booklet. Paths extend upstream to Boleside and downstream to Leaderfoot. **Habitats:** River, broadleaved woodland, pastures, sewage works with pools at NT514351.

Birds: Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Common Sandpiper, Goosander and Goldeneye (winter). Selection of woodland birds including Nuthatch. Finches and Buntings along planted paths around Tweedbank and at sewage works (also good for Waxwing in winter). **Links:** Tweedbank (Site 37), Galashiels: Langlee Community Woodland (Site 35), Abbotsford Woods (Site 36).

39: Cauldshiels Loch

General description: This medium-sized loch at 235 m elevation is worth a visit at any time of the year as the varied habitats usually provide some good bird watching. **Location:** NT510325.

3 km SW of Borders General Hospital and Darnick. **Car:** Take the Borders General Hospital exit from the A6091 Melrose By-pass and follow the single-track road for 2.5 km. Then turn L up a sign-posted rough track for a further 0.5 km to park 50m from the W end of the loch at NT510325. **Bike:** A quiet public road leads to the loch from Melrose and Abbotsford. **PT:** The hourly bus service from Melrose to Galashiels has a stop at Darnick, 3 km from the loch. **DA:** No wheelchair access to the loch. Unfortunately, loch not in view from car park. **Habitats:** Natural loch with emergent vegetation and willow, birch and rowan scrub at the west end. Mixed woodland along north side, pasture and meadow plants along south side. **Walking route:** Walking around the loch in a clockwise direction is recommended - total distance 1.5km. Some of the path may be under water after heavy rain in the winter. Cauldshiels Hill (329m) to the SE can be incorporated, increasing the distance to

2.5 km. The Selkirk to Melrose section of the Abbays Way walking route passes by the loch.

Birds: *Nuthatch, Jay and Great Spotted Woodpecker can be seen in the mixed woodland at any time of the year and Tawny Owl is resident here. The willow and birch at the W end are good for warblers in the spring and summer. Great Crested Grebe, Moorhen and Coot breed on the loch and Tufted Duck and Mallard are present throughout the year. Autumn and winter are the best time for water birds which include Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Mallard, Wigeon, Goosander, Mute Swan and occasionally Cormorant, Grey Heron and Whooper Swan. Curlew, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe are sometimes seen along the south side of the loch. Skylark and Meadow Pipit breed on Cauldshiels Hill and Raven, Buzzard*

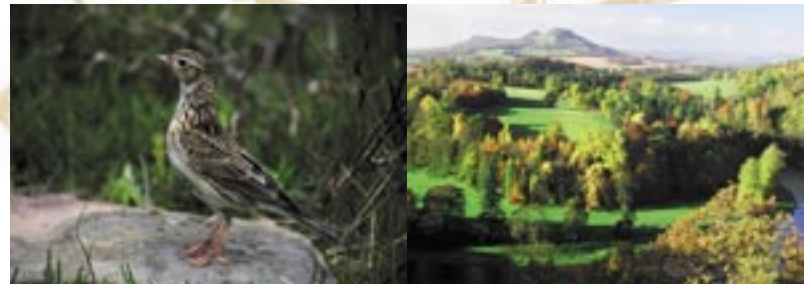
and Kestrel may be seen from this vantage point. **Links:** Eildon Hills (Site 40), Tweedbank (Site 37), Tweed from Melrose to Galashiels (Site 38).

40: Eildon Hills, Melrose

General description: Easily accessible walk of 5-10 km with excellent all-round views of the Central Borders. Varied habitats promote a diversity of birds throughout the year. **Location:** Eildon hill-top viewpoint NT548323. **Car:** P in Melrose e.g. near Abbey. **Bike:** Numerous minor roads and tracks around the hills. **PT:** Nearest bus stop Melrose Square. **DA:** Unsuitable for wheelchair users. **Habitats:** Heather scrub with gorse and rough grazing. South slopes have mixed deciduous woodland spreading from adjacent mature woods round Eildon Hall.

1. Skylark - Eric Middleton
2. Scott's View - Keith Robeson

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Walking route: Either walk from Melrose via Eildon Walk or drive to Bowden Moor Reservoir (NT538317). Walk along access road to south of reservoir and follow obvious paths on to hills.

Birds: Red Grouse and Meadow Pipit predominate on the hill. Cuckoo from mid-May. Kestrel and Buzzard are regular, with Sparrowhawk in wooded areas. Stonechat and Whinchat on gorse and heather, with Linnets and Yellowhammers in field areas. Deciduous woodlands have Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Garden Warbler. Whitethroats are locally common in the hedgerows near the Rhymer's Stone (NT563336). Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart, Treecreeper and Great Spotted Woodpecker are common in Eildon Hall Woods. In summer Mallard nests and broods are common on the hills, the young

being walked to the nearest stream to access the Tweed. Coniferous woods hold Siskin, tits and Crossbill. In autumn and winter abundant crops of haws, elder and rowan attract large flocks of Blackbird, Redwing and Fieldfare. The reservoir at Bowden Moor can have interesting wildfowl in winter and breeding Coot and Little Grebe in summer. **Links:** Tweed walks e.g. Site 38 and 52 Cauldshiels Loch (Site 39).

41: Lindean Loch

General description: Lindean Loch is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, lying in one of many hollows which are characteristic of the area. The loch holds small numbers of breeding wildfowl and the woods and grasslands a variety of songbirds. Bird Hide. **Location:** NT503292. Situated 3 km east of

Selkirk and about 1 km north of the A699 Selkirk to St Boswells road, by the Lindean village road. **Car:** P at roadside at east end of loch. **Bike:** Accessible on minor road from Selkirk. **PT:** Frequent bus service to Selkirk from north (Edinburgh / Peebles) and south (Carlisle / Hawick). **DA:** Access to wooden jetty close to roadside parking. **Habitats:** Open water, fen, pasture, mosaic of scrub (young deciduous woodland) and some mature Scots pine. **Walking route:** A path extends all the way around the loch. Can also be reached from the Borders Abbeys Way (Selkirk to Melrose section) via a bridleway on the north side. The Hide is on the south side of the loch.

Birds: Open water: breeding Tufted Duck, Mallard, Little Grebe, Moorhen, Coot. In winter small numbers of Teal, Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye and Mallard usually present. Grasslands/scrub: breeding Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler, Willow Warbler, Meadow Pipit and occasional Yellowhammer. Lesser Redpoll, Linnets,



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1. Lindean Loch - Keith Robeson
2. Yellow Wagtail - Ray Murray

Goldfinch often present. Skylark generally in fields to south. Kestrel and Barn owl occasionally hunt over site. Woodland: Wren, Great Spotted Woodpecker, occasional Treecreeper. Autumn: Fieldfare and Redwing feed on Rowan berries and on neighbouring pasture. Best times to visit are spring, early summer and autumn. **Other:** The site is good for wild flowers and insects. **Links:** Cauldshiels Loch (Site 39).

42: Hawick Walk

General description: Hawick stands at the junction of the Rivers Teviot and Slitrig. This 10km route samples a wide range of habitats and is full of interest at all seasons. **Location:** Hawick town centre NT503145. **Car:** There is ample free parking around the town, the largest P is the Common Haugh, NT500145, near Wilton Lodge Park. **Bike:** A very similar route can be followed on bike on minor roads and suitable paths. **PT:** Regular bus

services to Edinburgh, Carlisle and the other Border towns. The main bus stops are located at Mart Street, near to the Morrisons supermarket. **DA:** Generally restricted to the town. Wilton Lodge Park is ideal for wheelchair access from disabled parking at the Museum. **Habitats:** River, loch, park, farmland, mixed woodland and some semi-natural woodland. **Walking route:** Start at Common Haugh car park, walk through Wilton Lodge Park to Martin's Bridge. Follow the footpath along the A7 to a track through the woods at Goldilands Tower. Walk up the road to St Leonard's Park, then round to Williestruther Loch. Take the road to Flex Farm, where there is a path to Whitlaw Woods. Follow the path through the woods to the Slitrig. Walk back towards the town and take a path at the end of the Lyle and Scott knitwear factory, over the Slitrig and up to the Motte. From there it's downhill to the start again. Other areas for birdwatching include: along the disused railway, the rivers, Stobs Army Camp



Wilton Lodge, Hawick - Keith Robeson

(abandoned), Grey Heron Hill, Harden Glen, Newmill and around Cavers.

Birds: The usual farmland and woodland species. The river has Grey Heron, Goosander, Mallard, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Common Sandpiper, Grey and Pied Wagtails, Mute Swan, Moorhen and Dipper. At Williestruther, Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Snipe. Also Nuthatch (The Park and Hornshole), Kestrel, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Tawny Owl, Barn Owl, Peregrine (Slitrig valley), Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker (summer around Stobs and Harden Glen), Woodcock, Bullfinch, Long-tailed Tit, Brambling (winter), Blackcap, Yellowhammer, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Lapwing, Treecreeper, Siskin, Goldcrest and Magpie. **Other:** Otter, Badger, Red Squirrel, Salmon, interesting Lepidoptera and plants. A booklet *Walks around Hawick*, price

£1, is available from Tourist Information Centres including that in Drumlanrig's Tower on the High Street. **Links:** Alemoor Reservoir (Site 27), Teviot from Hawick to Denholm (Site 43).

43: Teviot from Hawick to Denholm

General description: The River Teviot flows through mainly arable and grazed farmland with some scrub, wooded and tree lined sections which provide a good variety of both river and woodland species. **Location:** This 11 km stretch can be walked between Hawick (NT485141) and Denholm (NT567187). **Car:** P at various locations in Hawick and at Denholm bridge and in village. **Bike:** Access along minor road on north side of river. **PT:** Regular bus service between Hawick and Denholm. **DA:** Access along riverside through town and especially good through Wilton Park. **Habitats:** River, arable farmland, grazed fields, woodlands and

scrub. **Walking route:** The north bank of the river can be walked following the Borders Abbeys Way along this entire section and through Hawick and Wilton Park.

Birds: Resident: Mallard, Pied & Grey Wagtails, Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Yellowhammer, Siskin, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Jay, Blackcap. Winter: Cormorant, Goosander, Whooper Swan (occasional Bewick's), Greylag & Pink-footed Geese, finches. Summer: Oystercatcher, Common Sandpiper, Yellow Wagtail, Sand Martin. Autumn: Lapwing, Redwing, Fieldfare. **Other:** Otter, Badger Brown Hare, invasive plants, specimen trees of oak, aspen, alder. **Links:** Hawick walk (Site 42).

44: Newcastleton to Langholm Road

General description: 15 km of minor unfenced road giving good opportunities to see moorland birds. Beware sheep

on road. **Location:** NY425873, OS Landranger sheet 79. Car and **Bike:** On a spring and summer morning the route is better from E to W. An excellent 65 km circuit can be made by heading N on the A7 from Langholm and turning E at Fiddleton onto the minor road past the Hermitage Castle and thence back along the B6399 to Newcastleton. **PT:** None. **DA:** Birds can all be seen from the car. **Habitat:** Rough grazing, heather moorland, peat bog. **Walking route:** No recognised walking routes off the road itself. Vantage points are at NY425873, and between Tarras Lodge (NY403870) and Whita Hill (NY384856).

Birds: Recommended in spring and early summer for Meadow Pipit, Skylark, Curlew, Whinchat and Stonechat. You may be fortunate to see Raven, Merlin, Peregrine, Short-eared Owl and Hen Harrier. **Links:** Newcastleton Forest (Site 45).

45: Newcastleton Forest, Hanging Tree Walk

General description: Newcastleton Forest covers some 2730 hectares and is at the southernmost tip of the Scottish Borders. **Location:** NY 505880 (Dragonfly Ponds Car Park). 3 km NE of Newcastleton on minor public and forestry roads. **Car:** P at the Dragonfly Ponds carpark (NB forestry road beyond Dykecroft Farm very rough; if in doubt, park at Dykecroft Visitor Centre (NY 502874) and walk the extra 1 km each way. **Bike:** As for cars. Provision of mountain bike routes within the forest; trails start from the Dykecroft Visitor Centre. **Public transport:** None beyond Newcastleton. **DA:** Hanging Tree Walk not suitable for wheelchairs, but the Ponds Walk (from the same start point) is suitable, with one steep section. **Habitats:** Conifer forestry with a varied age structure. Some open ground (heather moorland) and pockets of mature and newly-planted native

broadleaves along the watercourses and the western edge. **Walking route:** Follow the Hanging Tree Walk described in Forestry Commission Scotland's 'A Guide to the Forest Walks in Newcastleton Forest' leaflet (available at Dykecroft). This route follows the Drove Road Walk for part of the way and then returns through an area of old, well-established broadleaf woodland. The path is clearly defined, although there are some wet or muddy sections.

Birds: *Woodland and moorland birds are a great feature of this walk. Rowan and hawthorn trees planted around the ponds provide a winter bounty for various thrushes. The drove road, through young conifer crops on Priest Hill is an excellent habitat for Great, Blue, Coal and Long-tailed Tit. Along the forest edge, Curlew, Woodcock, Snipe and Barn Owl can be seen or heard particularly in the evening. Wren is a cheeky companion across the new planting and Meadow Pipit provide a parachuting display in the spring. Once into the big trees, look for hunting Tawny*

Owl and Goshawk. Flocks of Crossbill may be seen and Buzzard soaring overhead. **Links:** Newcastleton to Langholm road (Site 44).

46: Lammermuir Hills, Lauder to Watch Water

General description: Range of hills rising to 530 m and extending E of A68 from Lauder to Duns. Foothills rise gently from the Duns to Westruther road with fine views from the northern escarpment over East Lothian to the sea. Good for upland birds. **Location:** OS Explorer 345, NT581617 (*Watch Water*). **Car:** B6456 Westruther to Duns skirts the southern edge. Only two public roads actually cross the Lammermuirs (to the E) the B6355 Duns to Gifford and parallel minor road from Longformacus

Siskin - Eric Middleton





Dye Water; Lammernmuir Hills -
Keith Robeson

to Danskin (not for the faint-hearted). Also minor roads from Carfraemill (P), by the A68 / A697 junction to Tollishill (limited P) and from Longformacus to Watch Water Reservoir (P). **Bike:** Access as per cars. **PT:** Buses to Carfraemill and Lauder along A68, and to Duns. **DA:** None beyond car access. **Walking route:** Southern Upland Way (SUW) crosses hills from Lauder to Longformacus, specifically the stretch from Wanton Walls to Watch Water

via Twin Law cairns. Estate paths/roads from Tollishill and Burncastle (please keep to paths and avoid shooting activity). A circular route from Wanton Walls via Braidshawrig and Dabs Head is described in *Walking The Scottish Borders*. Various 'Herring Roads', ancient market routes between the central Borders and the coast, cross the hills from Lauder to Dunbar and these have been waymarked by Scotways (map available). **Habitats:** Managed grouse moor; with upland pasture, blanket bog and heather / acid grassland mosaics. Upland burns and cleuchs (rocky gullies). Conifer plantations. Watch Water Reservoir:

Birds: *Raptors, especially Merlin and Peregrine, with chance of Hen Harrier. Red Grouse abundant. Black Grouse more likely to E with possibilities around Watch Water. Rich in waders, particularly on southern flanks: Lapwing, Curlew, Redshank and Snipe (good places to see these are B6456 and Southern Upland Way to E of Edgarhope Forest). Golden Plover and some Dunlin on higher ground. Ring Ouzel*

in cleuchs. Stonechat, Whinchat, Wheatear, Skylark and Meadow Pipit. Dipper, Common Sandpiper and Grey Wagtail on burns. Greylag and Pink-footed Geese winter on Watch Water along with Goosander and Goldeneye. Conifer blocks (particularly Edgarhope) contain Crossbill, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll. **Links:** Westruther Moor (Site 56), Spottiswoode (Site 47), Abbey St Bathans (Site 63).

47: Spottiswoode Loch

General description: Private Estate with small loch and plantation woodland. Some scarce birds. **Location:** OS Explorer 339, NT610493. 8 km E of Lauder, off the B6456 Westruther road. **Car:** From Lauder: take B6456 for 1 km then first L onto rough estate road at NT608483. P where track goes off to R at NT606492. **Bike:** Estate paths largely suitable. **PT:** None. **DA:** Main estate paths suitable for assisted wheelchair. **Walking route:** Forest track network. **Habitats:** Small loch. Plantation woodland, mixture of conifer

and broadleaf of various ages and clearfell. Remnant of raised bog with wet woodland at Jordanlaw Moss.

Birds: Warblers, including Grasshopper Warbler, Whinchat, Tree Pipit, Lesser Redpoll and Crossbill. Broadleaved woodland species including Jay, Redstart, Tawny Owl. Possible Nightjar and Goshawk. Mute Swan nests on loch.

Links: Lammermuir Hills, Lauder to Watch Water (Site 46), Westruther Moor (Site 56), Hule Moss (Site 57).

48: Gordon Moss

General description: SSSI and SWT Wildlife Reserve mainly of swampy woodland. Wellington boots essential at all seasons. **Location:** NT636428, 1 km west of Gordon, off the A6105. **Car:** P possible on rough grassy area (limited and becomes overgrown in summer) reached along a rough track. **Bike:** On A6105 from Earlston or

Gordon. No access in Reserve. **PT:** None. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Wet Birch and Willow woodland on peat soil. **Walking route:** Only part of the site is owned by SWT, therefore it is not possible to maintain a path network across the site. Much of the woodland is swampy and paths become overgrown in summer. Care must therefore be taken.

Birds: Species seen include Sedge Warbler, Woodcock, Yellowhammer, Grey and Red-legged Partridges, Sparrowhawk, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Barn Owls, nesting in Greenknowe Tower, regularly hunt the Moss at dusk and dawn. Grasshopper Warbler has also been reported in the past. **Other:** For more information on Scottish Wildlife Trust reserves go to www.swt.org.uk or 'phone 0131 312 4775. **Links:** Mellerstain House (Site 49).

49: Mellerstain House

General description: Grounds of a Georgian House with a variety of walks. Grounds are open 11.30 - 5.30

daily (except Tuesdays and Saturdays), Easter Weekend (four days) and 1st May-30th September. Weekends only in October. There is an admission charge. Call 01573 410225 for more information. **Location:** NT645385. Mellerstain House is on an unclassified road between the B6397 and A6089. **Car:** P in front of the house. **Bike:** The site is accessible by road by bike. **PT:** None. **DA:** Some of the grounds are accessible by wheelchair users. None of the walks are strenuous. **Habitats:** Parkland, ponds and mixed woodland. **Walking route:** Various walks around the grounds. Staff can be asked the best routes to go.

Birds: There is a wide variety of birds to be found in the grounds including Mute Swan, Little Grebe and Coot on the ponds, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Woodcock, Nuthatch, Buzzard, Dipper, Grey and Pied wagtails, Blackcap, Garden Warbler in other parts of the grounds. **Links:** Gordon Moss (Site 48), Whitrig Bog to Westfield (Site 50).

Yellowhammer - Laurie Campbell

50:Whitrig Bog to Westfield

General description: A shallow valley with small pools and boggy farmland often flooded, and best viewed from a car. Telescope useful.

Location: NT625353, 6 km NE of Newtown St Boswells. **Car:** Park by the minor roads from Leaderfoot to Smailholm (*unclassified road linking A68 just N of R.Tweed and B6397*) and Third to Whitrighill. **PT:** None. **DA:** Good



Coot - Ray Murray

lay-by on south side of the Leaderfoot to Smailholm road (NT625355) gives best view. Viewing of Whitrig Bog not so easy but best from bank of road at NT618347 at NE end of crash barrier.

Habitat: Whitrig Bog floods in winter and after rain. The larger expanse of water is more subject to change and is sometimes completely dry. Reedmace and dense grasses surround the smaller more permanent pond and may obscure the view. The Westfield site comprises farmland pasture, both improved and rough, partly flooded in winter. There is often a field of a root crop.

Birds: *Whitrig Bog attracts 200 Wigeon and Mallard in autumn and winter. Passage, winter and spring arrival waders are frequent. Teal, Coot, Little Grebe and Mute Swan are regular all year. The Westfield area can attract >1000 Greylag and Pink-footed Geese with an occasional Barnacle or Bean Goose. Best goose numbers are in October. The rough pasture and flooded fields can hold several thousand Golden Plover and Lapwing in a mild winter. Barn Owl and Buzzard are regular, Peregrine*

occasional. Links: Bemersyde Moss (Site 51) is within 2 km of this site and birds usually move between the two when disturbed. A visit to both sites is best in mid to late afternoon in winter in anticipation of geese (*if not already on site*).

51: Bemersyde Moss

General description: Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve consisting of extensive marsh with open water. Bird Hide. **Location:** NT613340. 4 km north-east of Newtown St Boswells.

Car or Bike: Take B6404 St Boswells to Kelso road. Turn N on to B6356 signed Clintmains and Dryburgh. In Clintmains hamlet Dryburgh road turns left. Drive straight ahead on to unclassified road. Bemersyde Moss is at fourth bend (2 km from Clintmains). Park at roadside opposite short board-walk. **PT:** None. **DA:** Good access to Bird Hide but board-walk can be very slippery! **Habitat:** About 2 km long marsh overgrown with reedmace and some open water. Willow scrub present

within marsh and along S margin. Pasture and arable fields on N bank.

Birds: *Viewing from the hide can be disappointing but it is worth settling down and being patient. In late spring up to 15,000 pairs of Black-headed Gulls arrive to breed but breeding has failed since 2000 with the colony being deserted (predation and disturbance by otters is suspected as they are regularly seen). Regular breeding birds are Coot, Moorhen, Little Grebe, Mallard and Mute Swan. Water Rail may be heard but is seldom seen. Autumn/Winter: roosting Greylag and Pink-footed Geese, may graze the fields opposite the hide. Whooper Swan sometimes roost. Winter wildfowl include Wigeon, Mallard, Goosander, Goldeneye and Teal. The scrub in the mire attracts roosting winter thrushes and Starling. Look out for Barn Owl, Buzzard, Kestrel and the occasional Sparrowhawk and Peregrine.*

Links: Whitrig Bog to Westfield (Site 50) is adjacent to Bemersyde Moss, with wildfowl liable to be present anywhere in the valley.

52: Tweed from Newtown St Boswells to Maxton

General description: One of the finest stretches of the River Tweed as it meanders through the central Borders east of Melrose, flanked by mature mixed woodland for much of the way. The Tweed is an Area of Special Conservation. **Location:** This part of the river lies south east of Melrose and links Newtown St Boswells with St Boswells and Maxton.

Car: P in Newtown St Boswells opposite Scottish Borders Council HQ (NT576316), St Boswells on the Main Street (NT593309), Maxton on Main Street (NT613302) or by church north side of village. Limited parking at east end of Mertoun Bridge (NT610321).

Bike: Four Abbeys Cycleway crosses river at Dryburgh. **PT:** Regular bus service to Newtown St Boswells, very infrequent service to Maxton. **DA:** Path unsuitable for wheelchair users, river can be viewed from Dryburgh

footbridge (NT588321). **Habitats:** Mature deciduous woodland along streamside (*The Glen*) from Newtown St Boswells to riverside at Dryburgh. River Tweed from Dryburgh to Maxton mainly through mature deciduous woodland with some Blackthorn scrub and some arable, grass fields and a golf course. **Walking route:** A fully waymarked route following part of St Cuthbert's Way. See St Cuthbert's Way guidebook and Walking The Scottish Borders booklet.

Birds: *Riverside woodlands contain Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Bullfinch and Blue, Great, Coal and Long-tailed Tits, Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Sparrowhawk. Newtown Glen has Marsh Tit. Buzzard often soar above the woodlands. The Tweed has Mallard, Oystercatcher, Black-headed Gull, Dipper, Grey & Pied Wagtails, Kingfisher, Grey Heron and in winter Goldeneye, Cormorant and Goosander. Swallow, Sand Martin, House Martin, Common Sandpiper and Osprey can be seen in summer along*

with Swifts particularly near St Boswells. Good for bird life at all times of the year.

Links: Bemersyde (Site 51), Whitrig Bog to Westfield (Site 50), Eildon Hills (Site 40).

53: Folly Loch

General description: A medium-sized loch among farmland with exceptional waterbirds and waders especially when the water level is low. Telescope useful.



Beech Trees, Harestanes - Keith Robeson

Location: NT640265, 6 km N of Jedburgh. Leave A68 just N of Ancrum/Harestanes junction onto minor road signposted Fairmington. Loch is on L after 1 1/2 km. **Car:** P on road verge (no formal lay-by). **Bike:** A68 too busy to be recommended but minor roads allow quiet, hilly route from Harestanes. **PT:** Regular bus service Mon-Sat, infrequent Sun, between Jedburgh and Newtown St Boswells. **DA:** None beyond the car. **Habitats:** Loch, arable farmland. **Walking route:** A pleasant circular walk from Harestanes along estate tracks or minor public roads. Not recommended to approach the loch from the adjacent road as birds will flush.

Birds: Residents include Little Grebe, Mute Swan, Mallard, Coot and Moorhen. Autumn visitors include Teal, Wigeon, Tufted Duck and Goldeneye. Large flocks of Lapwing and Golden Plover visit in autumn/winter. Breeding species include Ruddy Duck, Whooper and the occasional Bewick's Swan roost along with Greylag

and Pink-footed Geese. Visiting raptors include Buzzard and occasional Peregrine and Goshawk. **Links:** Harestanes (Site 54), Jedburgh walk (Site 55), Tweed from Newtown to Maxton (Site 52).

54: Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre and Monteviot Estate

General description: Private Estate with wide range of visitor facilities, indoors and outdoors and lots of birds. **Location:** OS Explorer OLI6, NT642244. Harestanes is situated E of the A68 at Ancrum, N of Jedburgh. **Car:** From A68 take B6400 towards Nisbet. P in Visitor Centre. **Bike:** Access to Harestanes via public roads. Minor road to Folly Loch from Monteviot, along side of estate. **PT:** Take Jedburgh bus to Ancrum road end (500m). **DA:** Yellow walk of 1.5 km is suitable for assisted wheelchairs. **Walking route:** Colour-coded paths around the estate

from Visitor Centre including routes to Peniel Heugh, Folly Loch and the River Teviot, part follow St Cuthbert's Way. **Habitats:** Broad-leaved and mixed mature plantation woodland, including stands of Scots Pine and Oak. Farmland, including unimproved grassland at Peniel Heugh. River with cauld.

Birds: *Woodland birds including Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Long-tailed Tit, Spotted Flycatcher and Jay. Breeding Barn Owl and possible Goshawk. Best place in Borders to see Nuthatch. Occasional Pied Flycatcher, Redstart. Bird feeders in wildlife garden attract large numbers of sparrows and tits, with nesting House Martins and Swallows at the Visitor Centre. Tree Pipit in younger plantations towards Folly Loch. Flocks of winter thrushes attracted to yews. Yellowhammer, Linnets etc. on farmland edge. Kingfisher, Goosander, Dipper on Teviot. Links:* Folly Loch (Site 53), Teviot from Kelso to Harestanes (Site 60), Teviot Watergardens (Site 61).

55: Jedburgh Walk

General description: 8 km (2-3 hours) walk through the town, farmland and mature woods. **Location:** Jedburgh town NT651204. **Car:** P in the central car park, near to the Abbey. **PT:** Regular buses link Jedburgh to Melrose and Edinburgh. **Bike:** The route is suitable for off-road bikes. **DA:** Wheelchair access only within the town. **Habitat:** River; pasture and arable farmland, mature mixed woods. **Walking route:** The route is described in the booklet *Walking The Scottish Borders* available from Visitor Information Centres. It is well signposted and includes a section of the Roman Road 'Dere Street', now a track.

Birds: *The usual range of resident and breeding farmland and woodland species occur, including Kestrel, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch. Winter visitors include Fieldfare and Redwing. Along the river Jed look for Mallard, Goosander, Moorhen, Grey*

& Pied Wagtails, Dipper and Kingfisher.

Other: Visitor Information Centre at Jedburgh car park. **Links:** Harestanes (Site 54), Teviot Watergardens (Site 61), Bowmont Forest (Site 62).

56: Westruther Moor

General description: Low elevation heather moor and unimproved grassland viewable from car with short but steep walk at one point. **Location:** NT687517. Westruther Moor; on the B6456 with a walk up Derrington Little Law. **Car:** Park considerably at the side of the road if viewing from car. **Bike:** The B6456 is quite quiet but cars do travel at speed. **PT:** None. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Heather moor and unimproved grassland. **Walking route:** Park at side of road and go over stile next to waymarker on the north side of the road at NT687517 and head up the hill sticking close to the drystone dyke. You can either keep to the dyke or cut across the field once you can

see the Millennium Cross on the top of Durrington Little Law. Return to the road by the same route. The walk is about a 2km round trip but the terrain is quite steep.

Birds: Good variety of birds including Stonechat, Pied Wagtail, Skylark, Curlew, Lapwing and Black Grouse have been seen on the heather moor. Raptors include Buzzard and Merlin with Barn Owls seen regularly. **Other:** Keep an eye out for common lizard and adder if you go up the hill. **Links:** Hule Moss, Greenlaw Moor (Site 57), Gordon Moss (Site 48), Duns Castle Estate (Site 64).

57: Hule Moss, Greenlaw Moor

General description: Hule Moss is a medium-sized loch situated on rather boggy heathland. Its remote quietness and extensive views give it a special

ambience. The birdwatching can be extremely rewarding and is facilitated by the small Bird Hide. A second, reedy, pool lies 1 km east. Geese may be on the water or on the adjacent heathland. **Location:** NT715490 (Hide). Greenlaw Moor; off the A6105 between Greenlaw and Duns. **Car:** P on rough ground (NT721484) 100 m east of bend in road. **Bike:** Tracks across Greenlaw Moor are suitable for off-road bikes, but none passes close to the loch. **PT:** Regular bus service Mon-Sat, infrequent Sun, between Greenlaw and Duns. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Loch, pond, heather moor, peat bog. **Walking route:** Head up past split hawthorn tree until Durrington Hills come into view to NNW. Head slightly left of the western hill. Alternatively, aim about 300 left of the stream which comes from the east end of the loch (and crosses

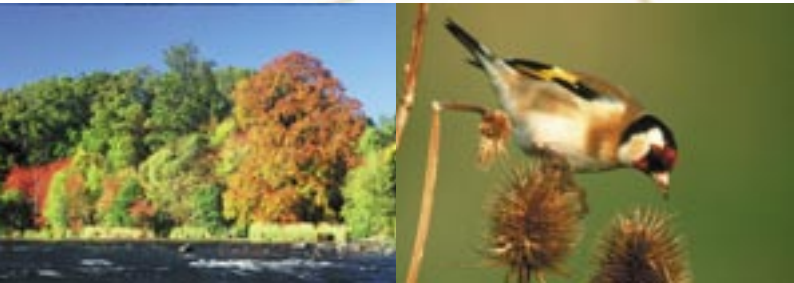
the road near the car park). Possible extended walk: From east pool head north-east to Kyles Hill, then west to isolated woodland at NT708499, then return south-west via Hule Moss

Birds: Autumn visitors include Pink-footed Geese (thousands), Greylag & Barnacle Geese, Whooper and occasional Bewick's Swans, Black-necked Grebe. Wintering ducks include Teal, Mallard, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Goosander and Ruddy Duck. Passage waders may include Greenshank, Green Sandpiper and Ruff. Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Curlew and Snipe breed in the vicinity. Visiting raptors include Buzzard, Merlin, Peregrine and occasional Marsh & Hen Harriers and Goshawk. **Links:** Westruther Moor (Site 56), Gordon Moss (Site 48), Duns Castle Estate (Site 64).

58: Floors Castle Estate

General description: Floors Estate has a good mix of mature woodland and pasture stretching down to the River Tweed, these habitats hold a good

1. River Tweed, Floors Estate - Keith Robeson
2. Goldfinch - Laurie Campbell



1. Treecreeper - *Eric Middleton*
2. Mute Swans, Kelso - *Keith Robeson*

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variety of bird species. Open Easter to end October. Admission charge. **Location:** NT711347. Lying on the north-west outskirts of Kelso it can be accessed by the main entrance leading off the town's Roxburgh Street. **Car:** P at visitor's car park by castle via main entrance. **Bike:** Accessible along main drive from Kelso. Close to Tweed Cycleway and Four Abbeys Cycleway. **PT:** Regular bus service from east and west. **DA:** Toilets at castle and garden centre café. Some tarmac drives suitable for wheelchairs and link castle with garden centre. **Habitats:** Mature mixed policy woodlands with oak, beech and a variety of other types, grass and arable fields, River Tweed. **Walking route:** Two colour-coded short walks taking in the woodlands and a section of river:

Birds: *The woodlands contain resident Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Stock Dove and in summer Redstart, Spotted Flycatcher, Blackcap and*

other warblers. At the river Goosander and Grey Heron are generally present and in summer Osprey are occasionally seen. In winter look out for Wigeon and Goldeneye on the river and in autumn / winter Lapwing, Redwing and Fieldfare on the pastures. Other: Butterflies, especially on herbaceous borders at the garden centre. **Links:** Tweed from Kelso to Coldstream (Site 65), Teviot from Kelso to Harestanes (Site 60).

59: Kelso riverside and woods

General description: Kelso lies at the junction of the Rivers Tweed and Teviot at the heart of prime arable farmland. Estates with mature woodland surround the town and there are also some fine areas of woodland within the town. **Location:** Kelso NT727340. **Car:** There is ample free parking in the

town. **Bike:** There is plenty of scope for cycling within the town but take care on the cobbled streets in the town centre. There is a leaflet of cycle routes starting from Kelso. **PT:** Regular bus service to the other main Border towns. **DA:** Good access within the town centre and along riverside at the Cobby, Junction Pool and Mayfield. **Habitats:** Primarily woodland, river and gardens. **Walking route:** There is a circular Town Trail and booklet. The best areas for birdwatching within the town are along the riverside at the Cobby and at Mayfield and the wooded slope at Abbotseat / Broomlands. The small area of woodland in the Old Parish churchyard is also worth checking (by the abbey).

Birds: *Resident on river: Mallard, Mute Swan, Pied & Grey Wagtails, Kingfisher,*



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1. Kingfisher - Laurie Campbell
2. Roxburgh, Castle - Keith Robeson

Grey Heron. Resident in woodlands: Tawny Owl, Sparrowhawk, Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Collared Dove, Long-tailed Tit, Treecreeper, finches. Winter on river: Tufted Duck, Cormorant, Goosander, Goldeneye. Winter in woodlands: Siskin, Bullfinch. Summer on river: Oystercatcher, Common Sandpiper, Sand & House Martin. Summer in woodlands: Mistle & Song Thrushes. Swifts nest in good numbers in the town centre. **Other:** Otter, Pipistrelle and Noctule Bats, invasive plants. **Links:** Tweed from Kelso to Coldstream (Site 65), Teviot from Kelso to Harestanes (Site 60).

60: Teviot from Kelso to Harestanes

General description: The River Teviot flows through mainly arable farmland and some woodland, thereby providing a variety of river and woodland

birds. **Location:** This 10 km stretch of river can be viewed and walked at a number of places between Harestanes (NT643244) near Jedburgh and Kelso (NT728337). **Car:** P at Junction Pool, Kelso (NT726337), Teviot Bridge 1 km west of Kelso (NT719336), Roxburgh (NT702307), Kalemouth bridge (NT708274), Teviot Water Gardens (NT707273), Nisbet (NT674257), Jedfoot (NT662241) and Harestanes. **Bike:** Four Abbays Cycleway. **PT:** Regular bus service between Kelso, Jedburgh and Hawick. **DA:** The river can be viewed at Nisbet Bridge and the Junction Pool, Kelso. **Habitats:** River, arable farmland, grazed fields, woodlands and scrub. **Walking route:** The river bank can be walked following the Borders Abbays Way from Kelso to Kirkbank Station and from Nisbet to Jedfoot and following St Cuthbert's Way from Jedfoot to Harestanes.

Birds: Resident Mallard, Mute Swan, Pied and Grey Wagtails, Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Yellowhammer, Goldfinch, Grey Partridge, Barn Owl, Reed Bunting, Nuthatch, Marsh Tit, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Tree Sparrow. In winter Cormorant, Goosander, Whooper Swan (occasional Bewick's), Greylag and Pink-footed Geese, finches. In summer Oystercatcher, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Yellow Wagtail, Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler, Sand Martin, Shelduck. In autumn Lapwing, Greenshank, Ruff. **Other:** Otter, Roe Deer, Brown Hare, invasive plants. **Links:** Bowmont Forest (Site 62), Floors Castle (Site 58), Teviot Water Gardens (Site 61).

61: Teviot Watergardens

General description: Teviot Watergardens is a garden centre overlooking the River Teviot with facilities for bird watching. Open daily 10am-5pm, toilets, shop and restaurant. **Location:** At Kalemouth (NT707273),

on the A698 midway between Jedburgh and Kelso. **Car:** P at centre. **Bike:** adjacent to Four Abbeys Cycleway. **PT:** regular bus service between Kelso and Jedburgh. **DA:** Disabled parking. Viewing platform with telescopes next to shop overlooking river. **Habitats:** River, ponds, improved grassland and woodland. **Walking route:** Short walk along riverside with information panels.

Birds: Resident: Pied & Grey Wagtails, Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Moorhen, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker. Summer: Oystercatcher, Common Sandpiper, Sand & House Martins. Winter: Cormorant, Goosander, Long-tailed Tit. **Other:** Otter, frogs, toads, butterflies. **Links:** River Tweed from Kelso to Harestanes (Site 60), Bowmont Forest (Site 62).

62: Bowmont Forest

General description: Bowmont Forest has been a conifer plantation for over 200 years and has a good mix of conifer species of varying ages.

Location: NT733284, picnic site and car park, 5 km south of Kelso. **Car:** P 500 m beyond sawmill at official car park and picnic site. Alternative small P (east side of forest) on Kelso to Morebattle road at NT747290. **Bike:** Accessible from Kelso on quiet roads, waymarked trails around forest generally suitable for off-road bikes. **PT:** Regular bus service Mon-Sat, infrequent Sun, between Kelso and Morebattle gives access to east side of forest. **DA:** Tracks generally quite level but surfaced mostly with rough stone. **Habitats:** A commercial coniferous forest of mixed age and species including Scots Pine, Douglas Fir, Larch, Norway Spruce, Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, Grand Fir, Noble Fir. **Walking route:** Three way-marked paths of varying length, maximum 3 km.

Birds: Resident Crossbill, Siskin, Coal Tit, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goshawk, Yellowhammer, Lesser Redpoll, Goldcrest. In summer Tree Pipit (especially in young planting), Woodcock (generally seen at dusk), Willow Warbler. **Other:** Roe Deer, Badger, Fox, Red Squirrel. **Links:** Teviot



from Kelso to Harestanes (Site 60), Teviot Watergardens (Site 61), Yetholm Loch (Site 68), Hoselaw Loch and Din Moss (Site 67).

63: Abbey St Bathans

General description: Oak woodland next to Whiteadder Water with a walk up to Edin's Hall Broch and hill fort. **Location:** NT762619, Abbey St Bathans village on the B6365. **Car:** P at trout farm. **Bike:** The B6365 is quite quiet but involves several steep

sections. **PT:** Only Post bus and school bus. **DA:** Viewing of river from car park. **Habitats:** River, oak woodland and a variety of others if you walk to the Broch. **Walking route:** From P cross the footbridge then turn L and follow the path through the oak woodland. At next footbridge, either cross over it and head up to the road and turn L to follow it back to carpark or return the way you came. This is a very short walk

Cuckoo - Eric Middleton



but allows good viewing of the river and the woodland. You can walk up to Edin's Hall Broch, which is described in several Borders walks booklets. There are several routes ranging from 4 - 10km.

Birds: *On the river: Goosander, Mallard, Grey Wagtail and Dipper. In the woodland: Green Woodpecker, Spotted Flycatcher as well as a good variety of songbirds. Raptors include Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Merlin.*

Other: Keep an eye out for common lizard, slow worm and adder if you go up to the Broch. On the river you may see otters. **Links:** The Southern Upland Way runs through Abbey St Bathans so you can go for a longer walk through a variety of other habitats.

64: Duns Castle Estate

General description: Private Estate incorporating Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve and with excellent accessibility.

Location: NT775545 at NW edge of Duns. **Car:** P at top of Castle Street,

just off the A6112. Do not take car beyond archway at lodge. For N end of reserve, take A6112 for 3 km then L on to B6365, then 1 km on at bottom of hill is track on L where cars may be parked. **PT:** Regular bus services from Berwick and Galashiels. **DA:** Tarrad road leading from Castle Street to N end of lake is suitable for wheelchairs. **Habitats:** Mixed woodland containing the castle lake (*Hen Poo*) and the much smaller Mill Dam. **Walking routes:** Close to Castle Street car park is steep footpath up to Duns Law, for views of Berwickshire hills. Waymarked walks within estate 3 - 6 km, mainly on level ground.

Birds: *Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Buzzard, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Redstart, Blackcap, Spotted Flycatcher, Nuthatch, Tree Creeper, Reed Bunting and Jay. In winter, small numbers of Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, Goosander on lake, feeding flocks of Siskin, Crossbill and Blue, Coal, Great and Long-tailed Tits.* **Links:** Hule Moss (Site 57).

65: Tweed from Kelso to Coldstream

General description: The River Tweed flows through primarily arable farmland. The river and neighbouring fields can hold good numbers of wildfowl in winter and breeding waders and Yellow Wagtail. The Tweed is a Special Area of Conservation.

Location: Access to this 15 km section of the river can be gained at a number of places between Kelso (NT723344) and Coldstream (NT846400). **Car:** P on the north side of the river at the Cobby in Kelso (NT723343), Birgham Haugh (NT795385), a layby 1 mile east of Birgham (NT794391) and at Coldstream (NT846400). On the south side along the B6350 at Sprouston (NT 755352) and a layby 1 mile west of Cornhill (NT850385). **Bike:** Tweed Cycleway along road on south side of the river. **PT:** regular bus service Mon-Sat, infrequent Sun, from east and west. **DA:** Access along riverside at the Cobby,

Junction Pool and Mayfield in Kelso, and roadside in Coldstream. **Habitats:** River, arable farmland, improved grazing, small areas of mature woodland. **Walking routes:** Riverside in Kelso, Sprouston circular, Birgham circular, the Lees near Coldstream, Nun's walk at Coldstream.

Birds: *Resident: Mute Swan, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Goosander, Pied / Grey Wagtails, Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Moorhen, Linnets, Goldfinch, Grey Partridge, Skylark, Barn Owl. Summer: Oystercatcher, Osprey, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Yellow Wagtail, Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler, Sand Martin, Swift. Autumn: Lapwing, Golden Plover, Greenshank, Ruff, Gulls. Winter: Cormorant, Whooper Swan (occasional Bewick's), Greylag & Pink-footed Geese, Goldeneye. Other: Otter, Noctule Bat, Brown Hare, butterflies, invasive plants.* **Links:** The Hirsell Estate (Site 66).

66: The Hirsell Estate

General description: A good mix of habitats including open water, a small

river, and a variety of mature mixed woodlands, lying close to the river Tweed. An excellent area for bird watching, with some 170 species. Bird Hide. **Location:** NT827403. Situated on the A697, The Hirsell lies on the northern outskirts of Coldstream. **Car:** P at Information Centre (*charge*) or at the Dundock Wood on A697, 2km north-west of Coldstream. **Bike:** Access along drive from Coldstream. Close to Tweed Cycleway and Border Loop Cycleway. **PT:** Regular bus service Mon-Sat, infrequent Sun, from Kelso and Berwick. **DA:** Parking and toilets at information centre, some tarmac drives suitable for wheelchairs, loch can be viewed from grass bank near Information Centre. **Habitats:** Mature mixed policy woodlands with fine oak stands, man-made loch with reed beds, riverside, arable and grass fields, golf course. **Walking route:** A number of colour-coded paths around the estate, leaflet available. Hide on south side of loch.

Birds: Loch has breeding Mute Swan, Mallard, Coot, Moorhen, Little Grebe, Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler; winter roosting Greylag Geese, Mute & Whooper Swans, Goosander, Goldeneye, Gulls; also Tufted Duck, Pochard, Wigeon, Teal, Kingfisher, occasional Pintail, Gadwall. Leet Water has Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail. Woodlands have resident Nuthatch, Marsh Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Tawny Owl, Jay, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Stock Dove, Mistle & Song Thrush. Breeding species include Blackcap, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Swifts around the house using nest boxes. Winter: Brambling, Fieldfare and Redwing. **Other:** Otter, Roe Deer, Noctule & Daubenton's Bats, butterflies around walled garden. Rhododendrons and Azaleas flower early June in Dundock Wood. Museum

exhibit of birdlife on the estate. **Links:** River Tweed from Kelso to Coldstream (Site 79).

67: Hoselaw Loch and Din Moss

General description: SWT Wildlife Reserve of a small loch with associated fen and woods. **Location:** NT810320, 8 km E of Kelso. Leave Kelso on B6352 (Yetholm road), turn L after 7 km onto the minor road to Hoselaw. After 2 km and just past Hoselaw Chapel, Hoselaw Loch is on the R. **Car:** Hoselaw Loch is wholly visible from the public road to the NW (but see Walking route). **Bike:** As for Car. **PT:** None. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** The open water of Hoselaw Loch grades into fen and then the raised bog of Din Moss which has broad-leaved and conifer woodland around the edge. **Walking route:** Access can

be gained down an unmade farm track (at NE end of Loch). There are no other marked formal routes on this site. Din Moss is wet and uneven and difficult to walk on.

Birds: Hoselaw Loch was an important winter roost for Goosander and Greylag Goose, but these species have declined since the late 1980s. Other species recorded here include Whooper and Mute Swan, Snipe, Water Rail, Tufted Duck, Pochard and Grey Heron. Din Moss holds good numbers of Willow Warbler and Meadow Pipit. **Other:** For more information on SWT Reserves go to www.swt.org.uk or phone 0131 312 4775. **Links:** Yetholm Loch (Site 68).

68: Yetholm Loch

General description: Yetholm Loch is a SWT Wildlife Reserve managed by agreement with the owners. A medium-sized loch and fen with a good range of water birds. **Location:** NT802280. 9.5 km SE of Kelso, 1 km W of Yetholm

1. Dundock Woods, Hirsell Estate - Keith Robeson
2. Common Buzzard - Laurie Campbell



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1. Kittiwakes - Keith Robeson
2. Yetholm Loch - Keith Robeson

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and to the S of the B6352. **Car:** P in lay-by on minor road to Lochside. **Bike:** On B6352 from Kelso. **PT:** The nearest bus service links Kelso, Morebattle and Yetholm along the B 6401. **DA:** Path from lay-by to bird hide on edge of loch unsuitable for wheelchair users.

Habitats: Lowland, shallow body of open water with associated swamp, fen and carr woodland habitats. **Walking route:** It is 10 minutes walk from the lay-by to the bird hide on SW edge of loch. From the hide another path heads W and comes out on the minor road to the W of Lochside, a short walk along this road (*take care of traffic*) returns to the lay-by.

Birds: From the hide: Mute Swan, Whooper Swan, Water Rail, Goldeneye, Pochard, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Shelduck, Sedge Warbler, Reed Bunting, Moorhen, Coot, Greylag Goose, Kingfisher (occasionally), Barn Owl (*dusk in summer*) and Sand Martin. **Other:** Otter are also seen regularly from the hide. For additional information go to www.swt.org.uk

swt.org.uk or phone 0131 312 4775. **Links:** Hoselaw Loch (*Site 67*), Teviot Watergardens (*Site 61*).

69: Dunglass

General description: Deep wooded ravine with fast-flowing burn opening out onto rocky shore backed by grassy cliffs. Good sea-viewing. **Location:** NT770720. On the Berwickshire coast, NW of Cockburnspath. **Car:** Proceed W on A1 from Cockburnspath and park on left in lay-by after bridge. **Bike:** Cyclists are advised to follow minor roads from the Cockburnspath roundabout on the A1. Access the dean from any of the bridges here. **PT:** Not available. **DA:** Very difficult beyond the car parks, although the laid path allows access to part of the dean. **Habitats:** Broadleaved woodland, stream, rocky foreshore, grassy sea-cliff. **Walking**

route: Follow laid path from A1 lay-by car park to the dean and walk down to the beach. Other paths and minor roads can be explored as well.

Birds: The woods contain the usual mix of common woodland species but include Nuthatch. Dipper and wagtails occur along the stream. In spring and autumn, migrant birds can also be seen but this area is under-watched. Off shore, the mouth of the Dunglass Burn provides a focus for wintering ducks, geese and waders. There is a regular wintering flock of Wigeon and this is a regular site for Red-throated Diver. The beach here provides a good vantage for passing seabirds. **Links:** The coastal path continues N into East Lothian where it becomes the John Muir Way. This site is contiguous with the Fast Castle stretch of the Berwickshire coast (*Site 71*).

70: Pease Dean, Cockburnspath

General description: Steep-sided valley woodland close to coast. Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) Reserve. The Southern Upland Way runs through it, as does the Edinburgh to London railway! **Location:** NT792700. 13 km south-east of Dunbar; 1.5 km east of Cockburnspath, east of the A1 and just inland from Pease Bay. **Car:** P adjacent to Pease Bay Caravan Park on the other side of the road from the reserve. **Bike:** From the A1 take the minor road from the round-about signposted to Pease Bay. **PT:** Perryman's Buses service 253 runs between Berwick-upon-Tweed and Edinburgh and stops at Cockburnspath, phone: 01289 308719 for timetable information. **DA:** The woodland paths are unsuitable for wheelchairs. **Habitats:** Mixed Woodland including semi-natural ancient woodland, broadleaved plantation and conifer plantation; also more open areas that include Gorse and recently planted

broadleaved trees; stream. **Walking route:** A network of paths covers most of the reserve east of the railway line.

Birds: Woodland birds include Blue, Great, Coal, Long-tailed and Marsh Tits, Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Great-Spotted Woodpecker, Woodcock and Tawny Owl. Summer visitors include Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat. Dipper and Grey Wagtail found along Pease Burn and Tower Burn. Raptors include Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard. Ravens also seen. **Additional Information:** For more information on this and other SWT reserves go to www.swt.org.uk or phone 0131 312 4775. A Pease Dean Reserve leaflet is available from SWT. **Links:** Dowlaw Dam (Site 72), Coast from Fast Castle to Cove Harbour (Site 71).

71: Coast from Fast Castle to Cove Harbour

General description: Mainly rocky or steep grassy cliffs but with sandy beach and sheltered woodland at Pease Bay. **Location:** NT820707. On the Berwickshire coast, E of Cockburnspath. **Car:** Fast Castle - from the A1 follow the A1107 signposted as the 'Berwickshire Coastal Trail'. Turn L along a minor road signposted to Dowlaw and park at the end of this road by a conifer plantation NT855702. Cove Harbour - from the Cockburnspath roundabout on the A1 follow signs to Cove and park in designated car park in village. Car parking also available at Pease Bay caravan park NT794707, signposted from A1107. **Bike:** All above sites accessible by bike from the A1107. **PT:** Not available. **DA:** Very difficult beyond the car parks. **Habitats:** High cliffs and coastal grasslands. Rocky shore with limited access. Sandy beach at Pease Bay and small harbour at Cove. Pease Dean

1. Eider Duck - Ray Murray
2. Cove Harbour - Keith Robeson

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Wildlife Reserve, a sheltered woodland with footpaths owned by Scottish Wildlife Trust, can be reached from Pease Bay. **Walking route:** Follow the coastline from any of the suggested access points but be prepared for some rough walking at times. For Pease Dean, follow waymarkers inland from the caravan park.

Birds: Seabirds along the cliffs include Guillemot, Razorbill, Kittiwake and Fulmar. Cormorants nest at Green Stane NT847707, their only regular site on the Berwickshire coast. Peregrine and Raven are also likely. Breeding birds in Pease Dean include Marsh Tit and Lesser Whitethroat. In spring and autumn, migrant birds such as Whinchat, Wheatear, Ring Ouzel and Snow Bunting could be found anywhere along this stretch. Cove Bay is a likely spot for sea duck, divers and grebes; also look for Purple Sandpipers on the beach.

Links: It is possible to continue on the coast path N into East Lothian where it becomes the John Muir Way or S to St Abb's Head (Site 73).

72: Dowlaw Dam and Coldingham Moor

General description: Pond/wetland surrounded by boggy unimproved grassland and gorse-covered hills.

Location: NT852698. 3.5 km north-west of Coldingham, 0.75 km inland from the Berwickshire Coast. View from the minor road signed Dowlaw off the A1107; drive 2.5 km down this road (across the moor) towards Dowlaw Farm and the wetland formed by the Dam is on the right. **Car:** P off the road opposite the wetland or in the car park just before the farm and walk back. **Bike:** A quiet public level road that leads to the farm and cottages only. **PT:** None. **DA:** Viewing from car.

Habitat: Pond, peat bog, unimproved grassland, scrub. **Walking route:** No official routes, but can be included as

part of a general exploration of the coast. The moor is best viewed from the road. A right of way leads from Dowlaw to Lumsdaine (*and beyond*) that passes the steeply wooded Dowlaw Dean. A couple of times each year Rangers lead walks along the coast from Pease Bay to St. Abb's which take in Dowlaw. To the south is Coldingham Common and Lumsdaine Moor, a mixture of rush-covered wetland and conifer plantation; to the north a steep heather and grassed area ends in a sheer drop to the rocky coastline.

Birds: The area is primarily of interest for a variety of duck and migrants (records include Crane, Ruff, Greenshank, Jack Snipe). Several hundred Greylag winter and Pink-footed Geese regularly stop off. The surrounding arable fields hold large numbers of finches in winter. Snow Bunting occur on passage, together with



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1. St Abbs Head - Keith Robeson
2. Oystercatcher - Laurie Campbell

the occasional Lapland and Corn Buntings. Good numbers of Skylark breed; Reed Bunting and Stonechat can be found amongst the bushes along the road. Rarities at Dowlaw Dean include Woodchat and Red-backed Shrikes, Yellow-browed and Pallas's Warblers together with Whinchat, Ring Ouzel, Spotted and Pied Flycatchers. Harriers and Short-eared Owl are often seen in winter, Buzzard at any time. **Links:** From the car park near the farm, a track leads down to the coast at Fast Castle (Site 71).

73: St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve

General description: St Abb's Head is a prominent rocky headland composed of solid lavas with high cliffs and offshore stacks. There is a freshwater loch sheltered by trees and

bushes. **Location:** NT915685. On the Berwickshire coast, 8 km north of Eyemouth. **Car:** From the A1 follow the A1107 signposted as the 'Berwickshire Coastal Trail'. At Coldingham, take the minor road (B6438) signposted to St Abb's then follow signs for the Nature Reserve. Car park at Northfield Farm (NT914675). **Bike:** Cycle route from Coldingham to the lighthouse but be prepared for steep hills. **PT:** Nearest rail station is Berwick-upon-Tweed. An hourly bus service runs from Berwick to St Abb's via Eyemouth. **DA:** An all-ability path leads from St Abb's to a viewpoint on the cliff top at Starnie Bay (NT917677). Less able visitors may drive along the single-track lighthouse road to obtain good views though the cliff top walk is unsuitable because of the uneven terrain. **Habitats:** High cliffs, unimproved grasslands, loch and

scrub. The loch-side scrub is known for harbouring migrants. **Walking route:** From the car park, follow waymarked trail to coastal footpath leading to the lighthouse.

Birds: In spring and early summer, thousands of Guillemot, Razorbill and Kittiwake nest on the sheer cliffs together with Fulmar, Shag and a few Puffin. Other breeding birds include Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler and Yellowhammer. Migrant birds such as Redstart, Pied Flycatcher and Lesser Whitethroat occur in spring or autumn and may include rarities such as Bluethroat, Red-backed Shrike, Wryneck and Yellow-browed Warbler. Late summer seawatching in onshore winds should produce shearwaters and skuas. **Other:** The hilly, cliff-top grasslands are rich in flowers and butterflies. **Links:** To the south, a public footpath follows the coastline to Burnmouth and Berwick. To the north, it is possible to walk to Fast Castle and beyond (Site 71) though the going can be tough at times. **Facilities:** A National Trust for Scotland Ranger

Service operates on the site all year round. A Nature Centre (*open daily from April to October*), coffee shop (*not NTS*) and toilets are located beside the car park.

74: Coldingham Village

General description: A small village on the Berwickshire Coast, 4.5 km from St. Abbs. A good centre for exploring East Berwickshire. **Location:** NT905660, 4 km NW of Eyemouth. **Car:** P in the village car park, next to the Priory. **PT:** Regular buses link Coldingham to Berwick and Edinburgh. **Bike:** On a cycle route, some undulating roads which can be busy at times (*especially peak holiday periods*). **DA:** Wheelchair access difficult due to either busy roads or steep lanes near the burn. **Habitat:** Suburban 'woodland' with some mature trees, gardens; a small burn runs behind the main street. **Walking route:** Walk 6 in the booklet *Walks around East Berwickshire* available from Visitor Information Centres describes a route

which starts in the car park and continues East along the burn to 'the Bogan' via Scoutscroft caravan park. From here the route carries on through a small area of woodland alongside the A1107 to Crosslaw caravan park, behind which is another 'Woodland Walkway' (*winner of a conservation award*) and returns to the village. The village Community Council has also produced a booklet giving 14 walks around Coldingham.

Birds: *The usual range of resident and breeding woodland species occur, with the possibility of migrants due to its proximity to the coast.* **Links:** St. Abb's Head (*Site 73*), Coast from Burnmouth to Coldingham Bay (*Site 76*), Ale Water and North Wood (*Site 75*).

75: Ale Water and North Wood, Eyemouth

General description: A prime site for warblers and woodland birds.

Location: NT910635 and NT938626. Best explored as two sites although

the Ale Water forms a tree-lined corridor from North Wood, south of Coldingham, through to Millbank, south of Eyemouth. **Car:** Approach North Wood on the B6438 from Coldingham. Turn sharp L at NT893640 along a single-track road marked 'cycle route'. Continue on this unclassified road for about 1.5 km to Entrance for the path along the Ale Water. At Millbank the path starts by the bridge at NT939626, off the B6355. There is a blind bend in the road at this point so park where safe further along the road and walk back. **Bike:** On a marked cycle route. **PT:** None for North Wood. Buses travelling between Eyemouth and Ayton pass Millbank. **DA:** Level roads and tracks by North Wood; the path by Ale Water at Millbank is undulating and can be muddy so unsuitable for wheelchairs. **Habitat:** A mosaic of farmland, young conifer plantations with invasive birch and willow, mature Scots pine and broadleaved trees, especially near Millbank adjacent to a stream. **Walking route:** Explore



Puffin - Laurie Campbell

along the lanes or forestry tracks. Access for the river at Millbank is along a well walked path adjacent to the Ale Water. Walk 4 in the Walks Around East Berwickshire Booklet, available from Visitor Information Centres, starts from Ayton and goes via the old Post Road through Alemill (*and North Wood*) to finish in Eyemouth (11 km one way).

Birds: Grasshopper and Sedge Warbler, Lesser and Common Whitethroat, Grey Wagtail, Green Woodpecker, Buzzard,

feral Mandarin Ducks occasionally seen.

Other: Roe Deer and Red Squirrel figure amongst the mammals; a good showing of butterflies in spring. **Links:** Coldingham (Site 74), Coast from Burnmouth to Coldingham Bay (Site 76), St Abb's Head (Site 73).

76: Coast from Burnmouth to Coldingham Bay

General description: Mainly high cliffs with a rocky foreshore. Good birdwatching at any time of year. **Location:** NT950646. On the Berwickshire coast, centred on Eyemouth. **Car:** Burnmouth - from the A1 follow the A1107 signposted as the 'Berwickshire Coastal Trail'. Turn down the minor road signposted to Burnmouth Harbour and park by the harbour NT958609. Coldingham Bay - from the A1107 at Coldingham, take the B6438 signposted to St Abb's. By Scoutscroft Caravan Park, take the minor road signposted to Coldingham Sands

and park in public car park at the end of this road NT915665. Car parking also available at Eyemouth, signposted from A1107. **Bike:** All above sites accessible by bike from the A1107. **PT:** An hourly bus service runs from Berwick to St Abb's via Burnmouth and Coldingham.

DA: At Burnmouth the village road runs alongside the beach. Reasonable access to the beach at Coldingham Sands but very difficult beyond the car parks elsewhere. **Habitats:** High cliffs and coastal grasslands bordered inland by cultivated fields. Rocky shore with some access at Burnmouth and Eyemouth. Sandy beach at Coldingham Sands and small harbour at Burnmouth. The dean above Burnmouth harbour has a sheltered area of trees and scrub.

Walking route: A waymarked trail follows the coastline from any of the suggested access points. For Burnmouth Dean, follow track from the harbour road.

Birds: Seabirds along the cliffs include Guillemot, Razorbill, Kittiwake and Fulmar.

Puffins can sometimes be seen near Hawks Ness NT954629. Peregrine and Raven are also likely there. In spring and autumn, migrant chats, warblers and flycatchers could be found anywhere along this stretch and seawatching in onshore winds should produce shearwaters and skuas. Rarities such as Greenish Warbler and Isabelline Shrike have been recorded in Burnmouth Dean. Indeed the Dean deserves more attention from birdwatchers during migration. **Links:** Coastal path continues N to St Abb's Head (Site 73) or S to the English Border (Site 77) and Berwick upon Tweed.

77: Coast from English Border to Burnmouth

General description: Undulating cliff-top path with fine views. **Location:** NT965600. On the Berwickshire coast, 4 miles north of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Leave A1 near the Border at NT977564 (New East Farm). **Car:** P in Burnmouth, near the A1 or limited space at the

bottom of the hill near the harbour. No parking or car access to Marshall Meadows farm near the Border. **Bike:** Coast path unsuitable for bikes. **PT:** Nearest rail station is Berwick-upon-Tweed. An hourly bus service runs from Berwick to St Abb's via Burnmouth. **DA:** None. **Habitats:** Mainly high cliffs with a rocky foreshore and offshore stacks at low tide. Steep grassy slopes in places are rich in flowers and butterflies and have a few patches of low scrub. **Walking route:** From the A1 follow minor road to Marshall Meadows Bay and turn left along cliff-top path. The path is waymarked but minor variations keeping closer to the edge of the cliff are possible with care. This is especially worthwhile northwards of NT966597 where there is an extensive farmed shelf. At the beginning of the Burnmouth

housing (Ross/Cowdrait) follow the path down the steep grassy slope and between the houses on to the road along the shore.

Birds: In spring and early summer Guillemot, Razorbill and Kittiwake nest on the cliffs together with Fulmar and Shag. In winter Cormorant, Shag, Eider, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed and Herring Gull are the predominant birds, with the occasional Fulmar, Goldeneye, Peregrine and Great Black-backed Gull. Look out for a Red-throated Diver. In the Burnmouth area Turnstone and Rock Pipit, Stonechat and a number of common passerines can be expected. **Links:** To the north, the public footpath follows the coastline via Eyemouth to Coldingham Bay (Site 76), St Abb's (Site 73) and beyond.

1. Shag - Eric Middleton
2. Stonechat - Laurie Campbell

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78: Paxton House Country Park

General description: Paxton House stands within 35 ha of gardens, parkland and woodland on the banks of the River Tweed. **Location:** NT932520, 8 km W of Berwick upon Tweed. **Car:** Paxton House is signposted 5 km from the A1 Berwick upon Tweed bypass on the B6461 and from the A697 junction with the B6461. Designated car park adjacent to the House. **Bike:** No riding pushbikes on pathways. **DA:** Disabled parking and access to some parts of woodland including Bird/Red Squirrel Hide. **PT:** Bus service from Berwick upon Tweed, daily except Sundays, Easter to end of October. **Habitats:** Broadleaved and mixed woodland, riverbank. **Admission:** The walks at Paxton House are open all year, but between Easter and the end of

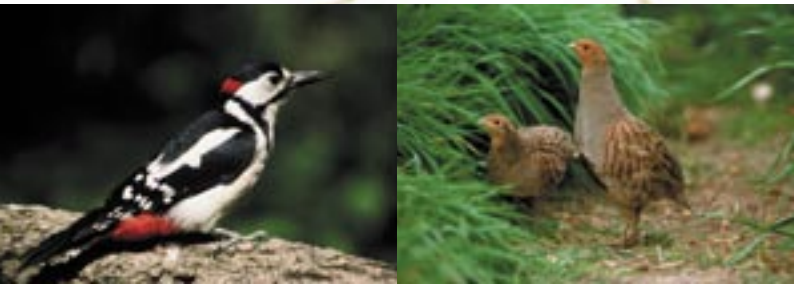
October entry is by grounds admission ticket, purchased at reception where you will receive a leaflet with a map of the grounds. **Walking route:** The walks consist of one circular walk plus two shorter walks. The circular walk passes through the garden where a large herbaceous border provides good habitat for butterflies. Down through the wood to the riverside hide where otters and grey seals are frequently seen along with many riverside birds. Continue along the riverbank and back into the woods to the red squirrel and bird hide which provides close viewing of Great Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch.

Birds: *Over 70 species of bird on the estate including all the common woodland species plus Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Jay, Siskin, Blackcap, Treecreeper,*

Kingfisher, Swallow, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Goldfinch. By the riverside are Cormorant, Grey Heron, Mallard, Goosander, Little Grebe, Goldeneye and more. **Other:** Paxton House holds a special Bird Day every year in late April or early May with dawn chorus walks and further woodland walks throughout the day. **Links:** Tweed from Coldstream to Paxton (Site 79).

79: Tweed from Coldstream to Paxton

General description: This lower section of the River Tweed meanders through arable farmland and some good wooded parts, providing a variety of river and woodland birds. The Tweed is a Special Area of Conservation. **Location:** Access to this 17 km section of the river can be gained at a number of places between Coldstream (NT846400) and Paxton House (NT938523). The river forms the national boundary, so only the north side is in the Scottish Borders.



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1. Great Spotted Woodpecker - Eric Middleton
2. Grey Partridge - Laurie Campbell

Car: P at Coldstream, Norham bridge (NT889473), Norham, Horncliffe, Union Bridge (NT934512) and east of Paxton House (NT946522). **Bike:** Tweed Cycleway on road along north side of river. **PT:** Regular bus service Mon - Sat, infrequent Sun from Kelso and Berwick. **DA:** The river can be viewed from the roadside in Coldstream and the Union Bridge. **Habitats:** River and islands, arable farmland, improved grazing, mature mixed woodlands. **Walking route:** North side of river: 1 mile walk from Coldstream to Lennel and 3 mile walk from roadside at Milne Graden (NT873437) to Norham bridge. The English (south) side of river can be walked from Norham bridge all the way to Berwick.

Birds: Resident: Mallard, Mute Swan, Tufted Duck, Pied / Grey Wagtails, Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Linnet, Goldfinch, Grey Partridge, Skylark, Barn Owl, Bullfinch, Nuthatch, Marsh Tit, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker,

Goldcrest, Tree Sparrow. **Summer:** Oystercatcher, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Yellow Wagtail, Reed Bunting, Sedge Warbler, Sand Martin, Swift, warblers. **Autumn:** Lapwing, Greenshank, Ruff. **Winter:** Cormorant (roost on Drepper Island), Goosander, Whooper Swan (occasional Bewick's), Greylag & Pink-footed Goose, Goldeneye, Redwing, Fieldfare, Brambling. **Other:** Otter, Roe Deer, Brown Hare, butterflies, Common Darter Dragonfly, invasive plants, specimen trees. **Links:** Paxton House Country Park (Site 78).



1. Coldstream - Keith Robeson
2. Kingfisher - Laurie Campbell

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The SOC Scotland's Bird Club

The objects of the club are:

- (a) To promote the study and documentation of Scotland's birdlife.
- (b) To promote interest in wild birds.
- (c) To support conservation of birds and their habitats in Scotland.
- (d) To provide a focus for anyone with an interest in, and for information relating to, the study of birds in Scotland.

Membership of the SOC is open to everyone with an interest in the birds of Scotland. Members receive the club's publications and are able to attend indoor and field meetings. The club now has 2200 members and 14 branches around Scotland of which the Borders Branch is one. In June 2005 the club moved to its new purpose-built birdwatching resource centre at Aberlady.

The address is

**SOC,
Scottish Birdwatching Resource Centre,
Waterston House,
ABERLADY,
East Lothian,
EH32 0PY.
Tel: 01875 871330.**

The Centre was formally opened in October 2005 by Magnus Magnusson. The club maintains a regularly-updated website that not only contains much information about the club but is also a key source of information about birds and birdwatching in Scotland.

www.the-soc.org.uk



