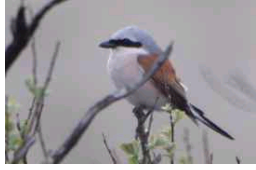


Red-backed shrike at Fylingdales

Rare visitor to North York Moors



Notable sightings of birds of prey over Fylingdales Moor in 2008 include osprey, marsh harrier, red kite and hen harrier. There was also great excitement at a very rare visitor, a magnificent male red-backed shrike, which is now extinct as a breeding bird in Britain. Other welcome sightings included quail, black redstart, ring ouzel, and sand martin.

The annual bird survey of the moor this year covered more than 20 one-km squares. New species observed for the first time during this annual survey were chiffchaff, spotted flycatcher, green woodpecker, buzzard, peregrine falcon, common gull, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, tree sparrow, garden warbler, grey partridge, moorhen, collared dove and rock dove.

They bring to 82 the tally of species recorded since the Hawk and Owl Trust began its conservation management of this vast area of the North York Moors in 2005.