

WWW

Migration continued early in the week with bird numbers in the valley between Shipley Bridge and the dam varying on a daily basis. There are times when birds move out and aren't replaced overnight by incoming migrants, at other times the area presents a fresh picture as birds move in to replace what had been there. On the 15th there was some variety to be had with **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Blackcap** and **Whitethroat** adding to the mix. Overnight **Stonechat** numbers had risen and there was still a **Whinchat** below the dam. Elsewhere a **Sedge Warbler** showed well at Dockwell Hole and what is presumed to be a long staying **Redstart** was still present between Yalland and Dockwell.

On the 16th the valley between Shipley Bridge and the dam was almost deserted with only a small number of **Chiffchaffs** being seen. Two **Black-headed Gulls** were seen, one flying down the valley late morning and a little while later another circling near the dam for some minutes. Three **Kestrels** sporting in the updraught in front of the dam wall might have represented a family group, one was an adult male.

The lack of migrants continued during the rest of the week with the winds coming from an easterly direction. One explanation might be that the majority of our migrants seen here are coming from Wales and Ireland. The winds in sea areas Lundy, Fastnet and Irish Sea have been east or south east force 5 to 6 which has effectively blocked migration from that direction during the period the Brent area was experiencing easterly winds.

The weather then deteriorated further with a deep low pressure from the Atlantic that produced rain and gales to end the week.

Bird records included are as submitted; this does not necessarily mean that they have been accepted.