



Barn Owl © Steve Race

## Winter Birdwatching and Wildlife Photography

Based at Highfield Farm, Drifffield East Yorkshire

2.5 days:  
10/02/2022 – 12/02/2022



<b>First Day</b> <b>Approximate times:</b> <b>Arrival 1300</b>  <b>1930-2130</b>	<p>Arrival at the hotel. YCN guide will meet you. A get to know your guide session, a brief talk about the itinerary discuss any changes and opportunities due to weather, birds etc. with Coffee and biscuits. This is followed by the first excursion to Top Hill Low Nature Reserve approx. 20 mins drive away. Top Hill Low is a great place for wildfowl, kingfishers and occasionally otters with many bird hides</p> <p>Evening meal approximately 6.30pm</p> <p>Evening talk by YCN. On the birdlife of the Yorkshire Coast, Wolds and North York Moors National Park</p>
<b>Second Day</b> <b>0830 – 1700</b>  <b>1230-1300</b>	<p>Full day birding tour, see destinations below for places we can visit and potential species. Sites will be chosen based on weather; birds present the day before and clients preferences.</p> <p>Evening meal approximately 6.30pm</p> <p>Approximate lunch break time each day; a packed lunch and drink will be provided. There will also be opportunities for café and toilet stops during the day as required.</p>
<b>Third Day</b> <b>0830 – 1700</b>	<p>Full day birding tour, see destinations below for places we can visit and potential species. Sites will be chosen based on weather; birds present the day before and clients preferences.</p>
<b>Destinations can include:</b>  <b>Flamborough Bird Observatory</b>  <b>Filey Bird Observatory</b>  <b>The Lower Derwent Valley, Wheldrake, North Duffield Carrs, Bubwith Ings.</b>  <b>Top Hill Low</b>  <b>Scarborough Harbour</b>  <b>Hornsea Mere</b>	<p>Based at Highfield Farm, this 2.5-day tour focuses on the wonderful diversity of bird species in East and North Yorkshire.</p> <p>Winter in East and North Yorkshire is a great time for many species wintering in our area. Highfield Farm is ideally placed as a base to explore great winter sites such as Top Hill Low, The Lower Derwent Valley and Hornsea Mere which is Yorkshires largest freshwater lake and is one of the best places in our county for winter wildfowl from <b>Slavonian Grebe</b> to <b>Goldeneye</b>. White-winged Gulls are also often seen on the coast with <b>Iceland Gull</b> and <b>Glaucous Gull</b> regularly found.</p> <p>On the northern coasts there are great sites for <b>Purple Sandpiper</b> and <b>Mediterranean Gull</b>. Nearby in Scarborough Harbour waterbirds such as <b>Red-throated Diver</b>, <b>Great Northern Diver</b>, <b>Black-throated Diver</b> and Little Auks often shelter from the rough sea. This is also a great area for <b>Kingfishers</b> in the winter. Surprises often turn up; in 2015 up to 6 <b>Black-necked Grebes</b> were found and at Scalby Mills an <b>American Wigeon</b>. We will also be seeking out any <b>Waxwings</b> in the area during the time of the tour; these birds can provide fantastic photographic opportunities.</p>

### Client Review

"The course earlier this month was splendid; the easy style which you and Steve have helps that a lot. Without wishing to overload you with compliments, you combine an encyclopaedic knowledge of birds with being a great teacher and communicator. It was a pleasure to be part of this course from first to last".

"The accommodation and food at Highfield was once again top notch, nothing seems too much trouble for them. Please pass on our thanks to them"

well as getting to grips with those difficult-to-find species. If you are interested in nature photography, there will be plenty of opportunities to learn new skills or improve your technique from our experienced guides. With up to the minute news our timetable may change. The unpredictability of east coast birding is all part of the fun! **If there is any species you would particularly like to see, please let us know.**

#### **Please Bring**

Warm, waterproof clothing, stout footwear and, if you have them, binoculars. We do have a limited number of high-quality binoculars for hire at £10.00/day; please let us know if you need a pair. A telescope will be available on the tour for closer views of the birds.

#### **Please Note**

The tour will include some walking on rough ground. If you have a medical condition, physical or sensory impairment or learning difficulty which is relevant to the event, please let us know. Every effort will be made to conduct the tour; however, in exceptional circumstances such as severe weather, Yorkshire Coast Nature reserves the right to change the content, guides or cancel the tour at short notice. In the event of cancellation by Yorkshire Coast Nature or Highfield Farm a full refund of the tour costs will be made. If you have any queries prior to the tour please call us on 07747753260.

#### **COVID-19 Changes to Tour**

To ensure we follow government guidelines at the time of the tour the following precautions will be taken (subject to change):

- Clients may be required to use their own transport to adhere to government guidelines (dependant on govt restrictions at time of tour)
- Social Distancing will be maintained whilst outside in groups
- Mask wearing on the trips will be essential only in Bird Hides Where social distancing cannot be maintained



*Purple Sandpiper © Steve Race*



*Waxwing © Steve Race*



*Snow Bunting © Steve Race*