

### Black-headed Wagtail -- 28th May 2013

Clive and I had been at a work party at East Lea in the morning and heard on the radio that a Red-backed Shrike had been seen at the Tip. After refreshments at Jack's Café we decided to go and see if we could find it.

On arrival at the Tip we discovered that the shrike had gone missing and hadn't been seen for almost an hour. Joined now by Ian Glaves the shrike was eventually found on fence posts within in the cattle enclosure. However, it soon went missing again and we decided we would walk slowly through the cattle field to see if we could relocate it.

We kept to the eastern side of the field in the lee of the hedge, firstly giving us a bit of cover, but more importantly, to put a bit of distance between us and Ben Blackburn's boisterous young heifers that were grazing on the far side of the field.

We were now directly opposite the new (ish) scrape towards the northern end of the field and I was scanning the bushes and fence posts to see if I could find the shrike. Suddenly I was distracted by a flash of yellow at the far end of the scrape, about 150 metres distance, refocusing by bins I was amazed to find myself looking at a smart, very bright yellow wagtail with a very dark head.

At that moment we could have done with a scope, but we didn't have one between us, we all decided that we could do with being a bit closer. We headed back down the field and used the cover of a Hawthorn bush to sneak a bit closer to the flash. We peered round the bush to find the wagtail walking towards us along the edge of the flash.

Excellent views were obtained and a few photos taken. Once we had seen the solid black head along with the yellow chin and throat we had no doubt that we were watching a fine male BLACK-HEADED WAGTAIL.

Once it had reach a grassy bank at the edge of the flash it turned around and walked back along the waters edge, when it reach the far side it suddenly flew high in a westerly direction towards Filey Dams and East Lea. Had it stayed just a couple more minutes several other local birders who had been alerted by the radio would have added this totally unexpected mega to their Filey lists.

I haven't attempted to put together a full feather by feather description as I hope the following photos will provide sufficient detail to form a subjective opinion

Ian Robinson,  
FBOG



Jan Robinson



Jan Graves



Clive Schoteland

FILEY BRIGG ORNITHOLOGICAL GROUP RARITY DESCRIPTION

SPECIES BLACK-HEADED WAGTAIL

AGE/SEX ADULT MALE

NUMBER OF BIRDS ONE

DATE AND TIME 28th MAY 2013 3:55 pm

DURATION OF OBSERVATION Approx. 6/7 minutes.

PLACE OLD TIP NATURE RESERVE, FILEY

FINDERS IAN ROBINSON - IAN GLAVES - CLIVE SCHOLEFIELD

OTHER OBSERVERS NONE

OPTICAL AIDS LEICA ULTRAVIO 10x42

DISTANCE FROM BIRD 40 - 150 METRES

WEATHER NOTES

Wind strength and direction: NORTH (LIGHT TO MODERATE)

Light and visibility: GOOD

SEABIRD NOTES

State of sea: / Height and Direction of flight: /

SPECIES PRESENT FOR COMPARISON /

EXPERIENCE OF THE SPECIES SEVERAL THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN TURKEY

EXPERIENCE OF SIMILAR SPECIES

Same day: NONE Previously:

WAS THE BIRD PHOTOGRAPHED (name of photographer) IAN ROBINSON CLIVE SCHOLEFIELD IAN GLAVES

WAS THE BIRD TRAPPED (name of ringer) NO







