



Bird Notes...

Hello everybody

Let's hope by now that the sun is shining on us all and that we are having something like a proper summer. Here are some excellent photographs taken by Harold Millburn - they really are stunning, thank you.



This first group are all finches that have visited Harold's bird feeders; the first one is of an adult male Greenfinch, obviously enjoying some niger seed. Greenfinches like to make their nests in large shrubs, they feed their young almost entirely on vegetable matter and as a consequence their fledging period is considerably longer than other finches who tend to feed their young on protein rich insects.



This shot is a superb study of a male Bullfinch, quite a rare garden visitor, they will be usually seen in pairs or very small groups and the main view that most of us will have of them is from behind, showing their black wings and tail relieved by their shining white rump as they fly off into deep cover.



This photograph, although looking like a finch is actually a bunting – a Reed Bunting. This bird is a very uncommon garden visitor, as its name implies these birds prefer an element of water and waterside vegetation in their habitat. They will only visit feeding stations when hard pressed or are lucky enough to find a safe one. A great record!



These next shots are of two species that have only recently started to visit garden bird feeders with any regularity – this is mainly due to people starting to provide niger seeds. The bird on the right is a Goldfinch, which usually eats similar seeds such as teasel and thistles. The bird on the left is a Redpoll, these agile little finches usually feed on birch and alder seed and can be occasionally seen feeding in tall weeds.

The next two shots are again of a Redpoll and deserve to be admired just as brilliant photographs of this stunning little bird!



These final shots are of two woodland species, although Harold apparently took these photographs in the 'mature scrubby' bits along the river Meden. The first is a Nuthatch, a species adept at chiselling through bark for grubs and the like and also dealing with tough tree seeds and nuts. It can do this either facing up or down, something even woodpeckers can't do. The other two shots are outstanding views of a Tree Creeper which seems to be building a nest. The Tree Creeper is often sited behind loose flakes of bark or a similar site and to get shots of this quality Harold has outdone himself. As always many, many thanks to him for making the effort.

All the best B.A.