



The Phil Ridsdale SBSG Young Birder's Memorial Bursary

This joint venture between the Sheffield Bird Study Group and Spurn Bird Observatory was successfully launched during September 2023 in memory of the late Philip Ridsdale – a long-standing Sheffield birder and SBSG member, who was also a regular and popular visitor to Spurn.

In recognition of Phil's dedication to sharing his knowledge with others and encouragement of young people in particular, this bursary is primarily aimed at encouraging the next generation of Sheffield birders to develop their interest in local field studies by experiencing the work of a UK bird observatory.

The bursary award is available to any SBSG members between the ages of 18 and 24, who are interested in getting involved in the Group's activities such as bird recording, species surveys, committee structures, local conservation or breaking new ground at a local level. In recognition of this, the SBSG Committee will award the bursary to fund a week's stay at Spurn Bird Observatory – arguably the UK's premier mainland site for bird migration and a true pioneer in the engagement and development of young birders in the UK.

The week's stay will include travel, accommodation, a small allowance for provisions and a donation to the Observatory, in order that the lucky recipient will get a chance to experience first-hand the important work carried out by Spurn's observatory staff. As well as engaging in the Group's activities prior to the award, it is anticipated that on their return to Sheffield, they will apply what they have learned for the benefit of the SBSG and local birding in general.

How to apply

Applications should be made in a brief supporting email to the SBSG Membership Secretary Martin Hodgson at mjhodgson43@btinternet.com. If you have any further questions or have any difficulty in completing the email, please contact Martin in advance.

The final decision to award a bursary will be taken by the SBSG Committee. The main conditions attached to the award are as follows:

- The recipient must be aged between 18 and 24 and a member of the U25 section of the SBSG.

- The recipient will serve a year’s term on the SBSG Committee as “Youth Officer” with a view to sharing their ideas on youth engagement.

- The recipient will be expected to provide a short testimonial or a presentation at one of the SBSG’s indoor meetings, summarising their achievements, which they will then write up as a short report for publication on the Group’s website and e-newsletter. This could be after the study or activity is completed or during its course, in which case SBSG members may be able to contribute thoughts to the study.

- Subject to externally set limitations, SBSG will be allowed to publish or otherwise use the research data from the study.

If you yourself do not wish to apply, but know a non-member who might, please feel free to pass this email on. The recipient would have to become an Under 25 member of the Group before applying.

The General Committee
Sheffield Bird Study Group

