

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

This record constitutes the 4th record for Staffordshire and the 8th record for the West Midland Bird Club region for this species.

The bird, a first summer plumage male, was located on 9th July 2015 in horse paddock pasture close to the entrance of Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The bird remained at or near this location for a period of 32 days, departing on 9th August 2015. During its stay the bird provided close up views that enabled watchers and photographers to obtain excellent views of the bird resting, feeding and making many short flights in search of prey.

It would appear that many Red-footed Falcons were forced into a more westerly route on their 2015 northbound spring migration than they would normally take from their South African wintering grounds to their Palearctic breeding grounds. Severe weather conditions may well have had a significant impact on their route, forcing birds off their normal course. During this spring migration, unprecedented numbers of Red-footed Falcons were found on the Iberian Peninsula, particularly in Portugal, further west than would be expected. The Staffordshire bird is, without doubt, a further offshoot from this misplaced movement, severe wear and tear to the birds flight feathers are an indication of an arduous journey.

The purpose of this document is to provide a photographic account of this bird's occurrence in the West Midland Bird Club region. The following photographs have been submitted for use here in this document by *Pete Hackett*, *Dave Hutton* and *Steve Nuttall*, we are extremely grateful for the availability of their excellent work.

The following photographs appear in the order of 1 x *Pete Hackett*, 1 x *Dave Hutton* and 3 x *Steve Nuttall*, many thanks to all.



Red-footed Falcon – Chatterley Whitfield, Staffordshire – Pete Hackett



Red-footed Falcon – Chatterley Whitfield, Staffordshire – Dave Hutton



Red-footed Falcon – Chatterley Whitfield, Staffordshire – Steve Nuttall



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Having departed the WMBC region on 9th August 2015 the bird was relocated at Willow Tree Fen LWT Lincolnshire several days later.