

January Short-eared Owl



February Pallid Harrier



March Barn Owl



April Firecrest



May Grey Wagtail



Cover Waxwings on rowan



# NATURALLY NORFOLK 2018

Bird Calendar - By Richard Brooks



June Little Owl



I was particularly pleased with this shot as it was one of the very few occasions that I've managed to photograph a Little Owl in flight. The bird's question was a recently fledged juvenile of 'Liberated' which was learning to catch beetles on foot before flying a short distance to the next area to try for luck. Not knowing because of the repetitive nature of the exercises, get a number of takes until you get it right.

June 2018

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Father's Day	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July Sparrowhawk



August Osprey



September Hoopoe



October Desert Wheatear



November Bearded Tit



December Waxwing



After two very enjoyable trips in 2016 with a fellow photographer (to Poland's Bialowieza Forest and Biebrza Marshes in May and the Spanish Pyrenees in November to photograph Lammergeier and Golden Eagle from purpose built hides - both only made possible by my partner Jessica kindly agreeing to move in and look after my mother in my absence) things quietened down somewhat in 2017 through force of circumstance as my mother's health continued to deteriorate. As a result I was spending much of my time looking after her (and latterly nursing her) and in consequence was concentrating my photographic efforts in the limited time available on the more immediate vicinity, and in particular my garden and mini nature reserve (where I was inspired to dig out a new drinking pool in photographic range of my garden shed - which also doubles as a hide). This will hopefully offer me some good photo opportunities over the coming years to supplement my resident Barn Owls (which as I write in June have just fledged a brood of five). During the winter up to nine were coming down to food nightly, but sadly the Tawny which had been regular for the last two years disappeared a few months back.

More significantly I lost far more than that back in mid-May when my beloved mother passed away just three months short of her 102nd birthday - with myself and immediate family at her bedside. I can take some comfort from the fact that she was able to remain in the home she loved to the end and only suffered a relatively short illness. Nevertheless, I shall miss her desperately - as an only child we always had a very close bond and she was always fully supportive of everything I did (in spite of the fact that the bulk of it failed to make me any money!). I'm also lucky in that I can seek solace by communing with nature, which can prove extremely therapeutic. After a June break in Speyside and Mull with a friend I hope to return with my batteries fully charged! Anyone wishing to enquire about my Norfolk photo and birding tours (specialising in owls) is welcome to contact me (as is anyone wanting more details of the photo opportunities from my nightly owl feeding programme or newly constituted drinking pool!). As a tribute to my mother I'm incorporating a picture from her 100th birthday back in 2015.



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Sales of this calendar directly benefit my conservation work and feeding programme