



Your Committee 2015/16

Chairman	Keith Turton 07552 944121	Committee member	Martin Kaye
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General Secretary	Jen Marshall 01623 401937	Committee member	Jeff Davies
Membership Secretary	Julia Smith	Committee member	Mike Conroy
Treasurer	Keith Turton 07552 944121		
Publicity Officer	Steve Slack 07599 845298		

Ogston Bird Club Newsletter – April 2016

Since the last Newsletter we have recruited yet more new members.

Welcome to one and all!

Robert Avery	Stuart Daffin	Dale Jackson	Haydn Maisfield	Brian Savage
Stefanie Avery	James Eate	Stephen Jackson	Rachel Maisfield	David Smith
Gareth Barnard	Nicholas Ellis	Chris James	Stephen Mellor	Jane Smith
Janet Callaghan	Sarah Ellis	Margaret James	Simon Mortimer	Thomas P Warne
Donna Carter	Dean Farmer	Stuart Kelly	Kate Mortimer	David Mark Warren
Xia Meio Chen	Stan Fox	Loretta Kelly	Zak Parlby	Stephen Whiteley
Brian Corless	Tom Fox	Geoff Kempster	Stuart Poll	Steven Wood
Richard Cox	Sophie Gaunt	Grace Kempster	Ursula Poll	Hilary Wood
Trudy Cox	Garyth Gooding	Susan Key	Kevin Randall	Russell and Paula Hubber
Stewart Crossland	Susan Gooding	Graham Knowles	Nicola Raynes	
Karen Czernik	Gerard Hobley	Sharron Knowles	James Rushton	
David Czernik	Jennifer Hudson	Craig Maisfield	Jean Mary Rushton	

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CARRY YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON SITE.

Members should never reveal the lock number to non members. Please remember that non-members on site are not covered by Public Indemnity insurance.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM this year will be held on **Tuesday May 24th 7.30pm** and the venue is -

Blackwell Community Centre

Woburn Close

Blackwell

Alfreton

DE55 5HH

Everyone is welcome to attend

After the formal part of the evening we have an illustrated talk presented by Ian Newton ARPS entitled -

"BIRDING USA"

Ian is a professional photographer, past chairman of York Ornithological Club, a position he held for around twenty years. He gained his ARPS in Nature in 1998 in the days of film.

Ian's work can be viewed on his website www.iannewtonphotography.com

Open Hide Day

We are opening out hides to the general public on Saturday May 7th between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Volunteer members will bring interested visitors down to our hides for an insight into what membership of our Club provides. If you are visiting the hides on that day, please bear with us. We will try to keep any disturbance of your enjoyment to an absolute minimum.

Osprey Update

Derbsyhire Wildlife Trust visited our Osprey platform in January to check for any visitations to assess any maintenance required. There was no sign of any use or activity on the nest at that point. It was felt that some refurbishment and adjustment would be beneficial. The whole process is a learning curve and our friends at DWT decided to add some rings of twigs they had pre-built. Our thanks go to all involved at The Trust and to Ann Hufton and Mike Walsh who climb the 30 foot structure. Without them we could not do this. The three photos show the process and the finished article.



Stop Press – The first reported 2016 sighting of an Osprey was noted on March 24th when we were visited for 35 minutes!

Site Improvements

Since the last Newsletter, the only work we've done is to clear scrub and saplings along the West Bank to improve visibility to the reservoir. We have been unable to do any restoration work on and around the scrapes do to the very high water level. The migration/breeding season is now here which means we cannot get any more work done till the end of the year.

We have noticed a roof leak in the main Member's hide and recently have made efforts to seal it. Hopefully, the problem is fixed but if any member notices any problems with our facilities, please get in touch.

Dag Marshall

Jim Mart Nature Reserve

Work parties

The monthly work parties continued over the winter and early spring months, with varying levels of support from members. Along with work carried out by individuals, the following have been achieved: hedge-laying near the main entrance; clearance of brambles from the east side of the Hide Pond and from the slope overlooking it; brambles trimmed back along the edge of the brook from the monitoring raft to the upper weir; young Alders in the north hedge given a crown-lift to admit more light to the slower growing hedge plants; rough grassland and brambles cut back between the Top Pond and the north ditch, and between the fire-pit and the east slope; removal of some decaying vegetation from the shallows of the Hide Pond; and the annual removal of accumulated ash from the fire-pit. Work has commenced on a short section of willow fence (a 'fedge') to improve the visual screening between the Hide Pond and the approach to the hide.

Annual nest box survey

2015 saw increased usage of the reserve's nestboxes with nine (39%) containing a nest, compared to 26% in 2014. In Liz's Wood, on the adjacent farm, eleven boxes (55%) held a nest, compared with 40% in 2014. We do not check occupancy during the breeding season, so strictly speaking the figures reflect nest building activity rather than successful breeding.

Site species list

Over the winter months all of the reserve's wildlife sightings from 2015, as recorded in the Hide Log, on the OBC website and in various emails were collated into a single 'diary' covering the calendar year. From this, the site species list is updated, now covering every year from 2006 to 2015 inclusive. After ten years the total number of species now stands at 774, an increase of 32% over last year. This was primarily driven by one-off visits to carry out detailed plant and invertebrate surveys, as reported in previous newsletters, along with the continuation of moth trapping on suitable nights. The number of Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan species increased by 15% to 45.

Five bird species were added, giving a new total of 75; Canada Goose, Cormorant and Raven flew over, whilst Reed Bunting and Dipper made closer inspections. A Hedgehog was the only additional mammal (total now 25), and alas this was only to leave a single, though distinctive, dropping. Butterfly species seen on the reserve were slightly down, notably Holly Blue was not recorded after an unbroken run of five years. However it was good to see a return of Common Blue which was not seen in 2014. 23 macro- and 25 micro-moths boosted the moth list to 180, and there are still hundreds more possible species to keep the interest level up. It was a poor year for Damselflies and Dragonflies with no new species recorded, and only 10 of the 18 species known on the reserve were seen during the year. Nearly 70 species of other invertebrates were newly recorded, quite a job considering the difficulty of photographing the little critters in the first place let alone trying to find a matching identification. A large number of plants were newly recorded and, given the level of expertise that the surveyors brought to the task, it is no surprise that we find ourselves having, for example, 4 species of Forget-me-not, 3 species of Ragwort, and 5 of Willowherb.

As ever, many thanks to everyone who helped make the reserve a continuing success story.

Peter Faulkner

Ogston Bird Club Members' Flickr Group

Prior to Christmas, the issue was raised at a committee meeting, that the club needed a forum where members could share their photographic efforts with like-minded members of the club. It was agreed therefore that a small group should look into the matter.

At the following meeting it was proposed and agreed that we should use the image hosting service provided by Flickr.

Since then, a 'Flickr Group' has been set up and a set of instructions/guidance notes will be issued by email when I return from holiday in early April. Because it is a private Group, only Ogston Bird Club members will be eligible to join and those who are interested in showing their Ogston photos will have to apply via Flickr, to join the Group. It is clearly in the interest of all members of the club that the content of the site should be appropriate and to this end, those joining must agree to abide by the 'Group's Rules' and this will be monitored by a 'Moderator' appointed by the committee.

Please don't request to join until you've received the instructions because if you don't supply the correct information, I shall have to email you for the missing data.

This is potentially an exciting venture and we look forward to its launch in the near future.

Martin Kaye

Sightings

December 2015 Sightings

Black Headed Gull	Great Crested Grebe	Reed Bunting
Brambling	Greylag Goose	Shelduck
Buzzard	Herring Gull	Siskin
Canada Goose	Kingfisher	Skylark
Caspian Gull	Lapwing	Sparrowhawk
Chaffinch	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Stock Dove
Chiffchaff	Lesser Redpoll	Stonechat
Common Gull	Leucistic Herring Gull	Teal
Common Scoter	Linnet	Tufted Duck
Cormorant	Little Grebe	Wigeon
Egyptian Goose	Mandarin	Willow Tit
Gadwall	Peregrine	Woodcock
Goldeneye	Pochard	Yellow Billed Teal
Goosander	Raven	Yellow-legged Gull
Great Black Backed Gull	Redwing	

January 2016 Sightings

Barnacle Goose
Brambling
Buzzard
Canada Goose
Caspian Gull
Chaffinch
Common Scoter
Coot
Fieldfare
Gadwall
Golden Plover
Goldeneye
Goosander
Great Crested Grebe
Greylag Goose
Kestrel
Kingfisher

Lapwing
Lesser Redpoll
Little Grebe
Mallard
Mandarin
Mediterranean Gull
Merlin
Mute Swan
Peregrine
Pink Footed Goose
Pochard
Raven
Redwing
Reed Bunting
Shelduck
Shoveler
Siskin

Skylark
Snipe
Sparrowhawk
Stonechat
Tawny Owl
Teal
Tree Sparrow
Tufted Duck
Water Rail
Whooper Swan
Wigeon
Willow Tit
Woodcock
Yellowhammer
Yellow-Legged Gull

February 2016 Sightings

Black Headed Gull
Brambling
Buzzard
Canada Goose
Caspian gull
Chiffchaff
Common Gull
Curlew
Dipper
Dunlin
Egyptian Goose
Gadwall
Golden Plover
Goldeneye
Goosander
Goshawk
Great Black Backed Gull
Great Crested Grebe

Grey Heron
Grey Wagtail
Greylag Goose
Herring Gull
Iceland Gull
Kestrel
Kingfisher
Lapwing
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Lesser Redpoll
Little Grebe
Mandarin
Mediterranean Gull
Oystercatcher
Peregrine
Pink Footed Goose
Pintail
Pochard

Raven
Red Kite
Redwing
Shelduck
Shoveler
Siskin
Skylark
Snipe
Tawny Owl
Teal
Tree Sparrow
Tufted Duck
Whooper Swan
Wigeon
Willow Tit
Yellow-legged Gull
Yellowhammer

March 2016 Sightings

Barn Owl
Black Headed Gull
Blackcap
Brambling
Buzzard
Canada Goose
Caspian Gull
Chiffchaff
Common Gull
Coot
Curlew
Dipper
Dunlin
Fieldfare
Gadwall
Glaucous Gull
Glaucous/Herring Gull Hybrid
Golden Plover
Goldeneye
Goosander
Goshawk

Great Black Backed Gull
Great Crested Grebe
Grey Wagtail
Greylag Goose
House Martin
Kestrel
Kittiwake
Lapwing
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Linnet
Little Ringed Plover
Mallard
Mandarin
Meadow Pipit
Mediterranean Gull
Mute Swan
Osprey
Oystercatcher
Peregrine
Pink Footed Goose
Pochard

Raven
Red Kite
Redshank
Redwing
Ringed Plover
Sand Martin
Shelduck
Shoveler
Snipe
Sparrowhawk
Swallow
Tawny Owl
Teal
Tree Sparrow
Tufted Duck
Twite
Water Rail
Whooper Swan
Wigeon
Willow Tit
Yellowhammer

Upcoming Club Trips

Note that transport is usually by members cars. It is possible to pair up those who do not wish to drive with those who have spaces in cars. Petrol costs are usually shared.

To secure a place on any of the trips shown below, please contact Martin Kaye with your names and contact details (ideally this should be landline, mobile email address and house address).

Full details will be posted on the Club website under TRIPS/TRIPS DIARY. There may be last minute changes of date/location due to weather and/or availability of trip leader. Always check the website or check with Martin Kaye for up to date details

Martin can be contacted by phone on 01246 279785
 by e-mail at martin.kaye@icloud.com
 or at 21 Longedge Rise, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NX.

The following table shows the timetable of trips planned until the end of June. More details can be found by going to the OBC website or by phoning Martin Kaye (trips organiser). If you wish to go on one or more trips, please contact Martin Kaye (07833 720542 or martin.kaye@icloud.com).

PLEASE NOTE – there are a few changes since the list was published in December – the list below is the updated one.

Trip	Meeting Point	Time	Dist from Chester-field	Leader	Limit on Numbers	notes and target species
17-Apr-16 Old Moor / Adwick Washlands RSPB	RSPB Old Moor car park, S73 0YF, SE422022	09:30	33 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch or eat in reserve restaurant. Water birds galore and may be a Bittern.
05-May-16 Avenue Washlands, Wingerworth	Drive to bottom of Mill Lane, S42 6NG SK397671	09:00	2 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Thurs Half day. Warbler migrants e.g. blackcap, willow/garden/grasshopper warblers, linnets, yellow hammer wetland and woodland species.
22-May-16 Padley	Grindleford train station SK250788	08:30	14 miles	Paul Beard	20	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. 4 mile walk. Flycatchers, Redstart, Goldcrest, Wood Warbler.
25-May-16 Coombes Dale Calver, Derbyshire	Calver Cross Roads SK238749, park on side road forming part of triangle	09:00	12 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Wed Full day. Packed lunch. Gentle walk of up to 5 miles. Woodland/scrub birds e.g. goldcrest, warblers, redstart, flycatchers.
22-Jun-16 Thorne Moors	Details to be announced			Martin Kaye	No	Wed full day. Huge variety of flora and fauna - see http://www.thmcf.org/home.html - possibility of sightings of Cranes.
29-Jun-16 Clumber	Clumber Park SK619752	19:00	20 miles	John Parlbly	5	Wed evening Nightjars and woodcock.
07-Jul-16 Clumber	Clumber Park SK619752	19:00	20 miles	John Parlbly	5	Thurs evening Nightjars and woodcock. A re-run for those who can't manage 29th June

And finally some interesting tit-bits.....

Our friends at the Derbyshire Bat Group offer the following advice should you ever find a grounded bat....

If you find a grounded bat PLEASE don't leave it where it's found, thinking "nature will take its course". It will - but it'll take several days to do it, and meanwhile the bat can fall prey to predation, injuries become infected, they can become fly-struck, or other horrors overtake them. For all their tiny size they're tough little beasts and take a long time to die. Scoop them up in a cloth or wear gloves, put them in an escape-proof box and phone **0345 1300 228 (Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group)**.

Plumage abnormalities

From time to time you may encounter a bird with plumage that is rather different from that which would be typical for the species. Some of these abnormalities may result from abnormal feather growth or feather loss, while others may be a consequence of problems with pigmentation.

Changes in the amount and/or distribution of particular feather pigments are some of the most commonly reported types of plumage abnormality. Most often, these abnormalities occur within the common feather pigments, like melanin, and so we tend to see a pattern to the types of abnormalities being reported. We know that the most frequently spotted plumage irregularities are when birds gain odd white feathers. Interpreting exactly what condition these birds have can be tricky.

Having plumage that differs from the population 'norm' is often disadvantageous, giving the wrong signals to other individuals or making the bird more obvious to would-be predators. Feathers with reduced pigment are often less robust and wear more rapidly, reducing flight efficiency and decreasing their insulative properties.

There are several different forms of plumage abnormality centred on altered amounts of pigment. These include leucism and albinism (where there is loss of the pigment melanin), melanism (in which the amount and/or distribution of dark-coloured melanin pigment is often elevated), erythrism (where a chestnut-red pigment replaces certain other pigments) and flavism (where there is an excess of yellow pigment). Both erythrism and flavism are thought to be rare compared with leucism and melanism.

Courtesy of the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology)

How do wading birds find food in mud?

Many of us have struggled with chopsticks – now imagine using them blindfolded. That's effectively what wading birds do when they push their bills into mud to probe for worms, bivalve molluscs and other invertebrates. This is an enormously abundant, protein-rich resource – provided you can reach it.

"If you're a long-billed shorebird such as a godwit, curlew, snipe, redshank, knot or dunlin, vision has little to do with feeding, other than glancing sideways to check if other birds near you have found a productive spot," says wader aficionado Graham Appleton. "These waders have high-set eyes – perfect for spotting predators, rather than for looking down their beaks." Instead, Graham says, the birds make use of selectively bendy bills. "They have a remarkable ability known as distal rhynekinesis, which means that the final section of the upper part of their bill can flex upwards independently of the rest of the bill. This action opens the tip of their bill wide enough to seize prey, even while buried deep in mud or wet sand." The second key feeding adaptation used by wading birds is a tiny structure called a Herbst corpuscle. "Masses of these miniature sensors line their bill-tips," Graham explains. "They're primed to pick up pressure waves bouncing back from solid objects – prey – in mud or wet sand. When feeding, waders steadily move forwards, probing the mud with a 'stitching' action as they feel for the next pressure wave. It's a bit like echolocating, only in soft ooze rather than air."

Did you know?

In several long-billed waders such as godwits and curlews, the female has a longer beak so that the sexes can target different prey and do not compete for food.

Courtesy of the BBC Wildlife Magazine

Return of the Swift

One of the great sights of a British Spring and Summer is a flock of screaming Swifts flying around our rooftops. Take a look at the following website to learn more interesting facts about them including where they breed, winter and fly and especially why, between 1995 and 2011, we have lost about **one third** of our breeding swifts in the UK and what we can all do to help.

www.swift-conservation.org

Steve Slack

Publicity Officer