



# Ogston Bird Club

## April 2017 Newsletter

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

Robert Aldridge	Alan Hatfield	Tracey Nichol	Gill Sheldon	Alan Taylor
Trevor Atkinson	Andrew Hoskison	David Parkinson	Bill Sheldon	Maurice Tilford
Jackie Atkinson	Margaret Hoskison	Sharon Partridge	Richard Shirley	Kevin Turner
Jan Bartlett	David John	Graham Partridge	Eric Slater	John Ward
Ann Bateman	Peter Julian	Robin Peel	Alan Smithies	Mark Weston
Graham Collins	Christopher Lamb	Janet Peel	Elisabeth Smithies	Jake Weston
Vinnie Fox Cooper	Mark Lloyd	Julie Ann Pehl	Craig Stansbury	Anne Young
Shaun Fox Cooper	Anita McKenzie	Ann Pennial	John Stone	Andrew Parker
Garry Froggatt	Claire Mead	Tony Rawson	John Stubbs	John Bloor
David Gilbert	John William Moore	Barry Rawson	Joanne Stubbs	Abby Bruce
Angela Gilbert	Marlene June Moore	Sharon Rawson	Veronica Stubbs	
Tony Gunnee	Nick Musson	Tracey Rawson	Elizabeth Stubbs	
James Hatfield	Lynda Musson	David Schmidt	Gordon Swain	

Welcome to one and all!

### Date for the Diary – Ogston Bird Club AGM Wednesday May 24th. 7.30pm

Venue: Blackwell Community Centre  
Woburn Close, Blackwell,  
Alfreton, DE55 5HH

Steve Williams will be delivering an illustrated lecture –

“A Nature Trek to Northern Lands and Far Beyond”

The new committee for 2017/2018 will be elected on the night of the AGM. Nominations for the committee must be delivered to the Club Secretary by **May 10<sup>th</sup>** at the very latest. Nominations must be made in writing and should be endorsed by a Proposer and a Seconder, each of which must be a fully paid up Club member. The membership number of the Proposer and Seconder must be included on the nomination letter.

A tear off Nomination Form is included on Page 8 for this purpose should you find it useful.

Nominations must be delivered to -

Jenny Marshall  
94 Common Road  
Huthwaite  
Nottinghamshire  
NG17 2JT

## Osprey Project Update

The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust volunteers scaled our platform on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March to carry out refurbishment and improvements to the nest as per advice from Tim Mackrill of the Rutland Osprey Project

They have found that the nest itself was not in a safe condition. Under these circumstances it was felt necessary to leave things as they were and return to put matters straight at a later date. Whilst we are only concerned with the our current nest pole, seeing ours in this condition gave the Wildlife Trust some concern that their other platforms might be in a similar condition. It was suggested that they would correct this at some future time. I immediately pointed out that the matter was urgent as the birds are already returning as you all know.

I again contacted the Wildlife Trust to ask them to treat this as urgent and this is now being done. They have had some brackets made and these were successfully installed on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

**John Parlby**

## Mr. John Allsopp.

It is with sadness that I have to report the death of Mr. John Allsopp. John had been an Ogston Bird Club member for a few years and was a very regular attendee of the monthly guided walks.

He loved his bird watching and was a keen conservationist; he showed a lot of interest in the clubs' Osprey project, always asking about progress. He will be sadly missed.

**Keith Turton,  
Chairman OBC.**

## Site Improvements

### Restoration and improvements to Habitat

We continue to observe the new scrapes and ponds created over the Autumn/Winter. It seems to be taking a little time for the birds to trust us after we radically changed their habitat. As Spring takes hold, vegetation will start to grow and we will see more feathered visitors starting to trust the area.

One of our big concerns has been the rising water levels. When the scrapes and bunds were designed, the bund height was set to be higher than the previously recorded high water mark. As Severn Trent resumed pumping into the reservoir a few weeks back, we waited patiently, observing the water levels on the bunds creeping higher and higher. We feared that if water rose over the top it would start to wash away the bunds. Thankfully, it didn't and we can breathe again!

All this interest in water levels prompted Phil Rhead to take the opportunity to talk to the Severn Trent Rangers and ask more about where the water is pumped from. See Phil's article below.

The next proposed habitat improvements are to clear the scrub and trees to the rear of the pond in front of the Sue Worsley Hide. This is to restore the wet grassland habitat and increase the size of the Phragmites reedbed. This work is scheduled for the end of September and has already been agreed by Natural England and Severn Trent.

**Dag Marshall**

## Ogston Reservoir and its water

Have you ever looked across the reservoir towards Ogston Hall and seen a stream flowing down the bank? The mystery was that sometimes the water stopped completely even after a lot of rain. I was once told that there were some fishponds by the Hall and it was related to their maintenance to explain this.

A few weeks ago Severn Trent organised a work party over that side of the reservoir and I took the opportunity to ask about the outflow and how the water supply grid worked in the area. I was impressed by the answer.

Ogston Reservoir and the treatment works on the other side of the dam supply drinking water to large parts of the Chesterfield area and can send any surplus to the new reservoirs at Ambergate. The small outflow is water that has been used in the purification process that is not clean enough to send down the River Amber but can be diluted in the reservoir without causing any damage.

There has been a lot of debate recently about the water levels, the shortage of rainfall has greatly reduced the inflow of water from the Amber and from the many land drains around the reservoir. This would not be a problem in most circumstances because the reservoir is part of a national water supply grid that links our area to the West Midlands, Central Wales and the lower Severn. Our part of this grid links Ogston to Carsington by a gravity powered pipeline and to the Derwent at Ambergate. Taking water from the Derwent is expensive because it has to be pumped up to the reservoir or directly to the treatment works. STWA need permission from the Environment Agency to take water from the rivers.

Carsington pumps most of its water from the Derwent at Ambergate Pumping Station via a 9km long tunnel 2m in diameter and a 1.5km pipeline. If the river levels are low water is fed from Carsington back to the Derwent by gravity. All in all an impressive piece of engineering.

Some facts:

- Ogston Reservoir covers 200 acres and holds 5.9 billion litres of water.
- It is 119m above sea level and 100m above sea level on the far side of the dam giving a depth of 20m
- Carsington is the ninth largest reservoir in England. It holds 7800 million gallons of water and covers 741 acres.
- It is 181 metres above sea level and when the reservoir is full it is 31 metres deep.
- The River Derwent is about 65m above sea level at Ambergate.

**Phil Rhead**

## Bird Feeders

Visitors to the hides will have noticed the absence of birds around the now empty feeders and bird table. We have noticed over some weeks, a few birds, particularly chaffinches, with an unhealthy looking fungal growth round their legs.

We have done some research on this and, thanks to some sterling work by Bill Padley, identified the disease as Trichomonosis. This causes disease at the back of the throat and gullet so the birds have difficulty swallowing and become lethargic with fluffed-up plumage. Typically birds sit on the bird table, because they are hungry but cannot eat, and don't fly away when approached. Finches often have matted wet plumage around the face and beak. When the birds, typically, die they are often very thin or emaciated. The disease is a parasite transmitted between birds via food or drinking water contaminated from an infected bird.

Whilst there exists no cure, its effect can be minimised with thorough hygiene at the feeding stations.

The Club hold the welfare of the birds very highly and feeding has been suspended whilst we evaluate our facilities and introduce a better cleaning regime which might necessitate a new type of feeder and bird table.

Please bear with us as we want to get this right.

## Jim Mart Nature Reserve

Those of you who visit JMNR will be aware of the work that goes into maintaining this Nature Reserve.

This work is planned and co-ordinated by Peter Faulkner. This has been so for around ten years now.

Peter wishes to move on to pastures new. He will be missed.

I thank Peter for all his hard work on behalf of all our members.

This leaves a gap which needs to be filled.

Peter will offer full support to anyone offering to take this very rewarding work.

If any member is interested in doing some of the work I would be happy to talk it through.

For further information please contact me; johnparlby1@gmail.com

01773861262; or; 07767652036

I would be pleased to hear from you, no obligation.

John Parlby

### Pete's last Jim Mart Report!

Three work parties took place over the winter and early spring months, with varying levels of support from members. With additional visits by individual members the following tasks were undertaken: Finished off some hedge-laying left over from the 2015/2016 season; fallen limbs from the severely decayed Horse Chestnut by the roadside cut up and cleared away; camouflage finish applied to the new bat 'hotel'; clearance of concrete blocks and boulders from grass in the garden area (Cyril's Patch); checking and cleaning of bird boxes on the reserve and in the nearby Liz's Wood; Top Pond and west ditch cleared of debris and surrounding vegetation cut back; Blackthorn suckers removed in vicinity of the middle hedge; and the four Buddleia pruned back.

Volunteers are always welcome at Jim Mart and if any of the good people who helped with the great work on the scrapes are looking to fill their spare time, please get in touch. Work Parties are on the third Saturday of every month, starting at 9.30 and finishing around lunchtime.

**Pete Faulkner**

### Target Species - Willow Tits

Willow Tits are now one of our rarest and most endangered birds.

In the last few months a group of members have been busy placing nesting boxes and logs along the West Bank trying to encourage our willow tits to breed successfully this year.

Attempts have been made over the years and there is evidence that they have been successful in the early stages but for some reason no young have been seen. Possible explanations for this include predation by birds and mammals and being fed on too much fat or whole peanuts.

The fat diet was checked out by one of the group and can be largely discounted but we will stop letting them take whole peanuts from the feeders.

We are trying several different designs and locations that we hope will minimise the risk of predation.

There are logs that have been hollowed out to create a cavity big enough for the nest and commercially produced nest boxes that have been successful at other reserves. These boxes include some 'woodcrete' ones that would keep out most of their predators. In all cases the cavity has been filled with sawdust/wood chips because willow tits will only nest in holes that they have made themselves.

We are also placing suitable logs in the wet habitat that is preferred by Willow Tits hoping that they will rot to become natural nesting sites.

**Phil Rhead** with thanks to Bill Padley, Richard Carr, Phil Shooter, Collin Shore, Steve Slack and many others who have been generous with advice.

## Photo of the Month

Most of you will be aware of our Photo of the Month activities and some of you have actually participated. We just wanted to point out to everyone that full instructions of how to do this are now on our website. Go to [www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk](http://www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk) and click on GALLERY on the top menu.

Go on and have a go, it's just for fun and you don't have to be a professional photographer to join in!

## Club Trips

Once again, the early Club Trips have proved successful so far in 2017. See the list below for further planned trips.

Contact Martin by phone on  
or by e-mail at  
or

01246 279785,  
[martin.kaye@icloud.com](mailto:martin.kaye@icloud.com)  
21 Longedge Rise, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NX.

Trip	Date	Meeting Point	Time	Dist from Chesterfield	Leader	Limit on No.s	Notes and target species
Old Moor/Adwick Washlands RSPB	06-Apr-17	RSPB Old Moor carpark, S73 0YF, SE422022	9:30	33 miles	Jeff Davies	No	<b>Thur</b> Full day. Packed lunch or eat in reserve restaurant. Water birds galore and may be a Bittern.
Whisby Nature Park	04-May-17	Whisby reserve is brown signed left from the roundabout on the A46 just west of Lincoln	9:30	42 miles	Martin Kaye	No	<b>Thur</b> - take lunch if you want to stay out into the afternoon. Short gentle walking around the reserve. <b>Nightingales</b> are the target species but we should get sightings of Blackcap, Garden Warbler and both types of Whitethroat.
Padley	21-May-17	Grindleford train station SK250788	8:30	14 miles	Paul Beard	20	<b>Sun</b> Full day. Packed lunch. 4 mile walk. Flycatchers, Redstart, Goldcrest, Wood Warbler.
Clumber	23-May-17	Clumber Park SK619752	19:00	20 miles	John Parlby	5	<b>Tue evening</b> Nightjars and woodcock.
Clumber	07-Jun-17	Clumber Park SK619752	19:00	20 miles	John Parlby	5	<b>Wed evening</b> Nightjars and woodcock. A re-run for those who can't manage 22nd May
Coombes Dale Calver, Derbyshire	14-Jun-17	Calver Cross Roads SK238749, park on side road forming part of triangle	9:00	12 miles	Martin Kaye	No	<b>Wed</b> Full day. Packed lunch. Gentle walk of up to 5 miles. Woodland/scrub birds e.g. goldcrest, warblers, redstart, flycatchers.
Clumber	29-Jun-17	Clumber Park SK619752	19:00	20 miles	John Parlby	5	<b>Thurs evening</b> Nightjars and woodcock. A reserve date in case the Nightjars don't show in May and early June
Blacktoft RSPB	11-Jul-17	RSPB reserve SE843232	9:30	60 miles 1 hour 15	Martin Kaye	No	<b>Tue</b> Full day. Packed lunch. Water birds, Marsh Harriers and possibly Montague's Harriers and Bearded Tits
Frampton RSPB	10-Sep-17	RSPB reserve PE20 1AY TF356392	10:00	75 miles 2 hour	to be announced	No	<b>Sun</b> Full day. Packed lunch. Returning migrant waders and wildfowl including early geese and shelduck
Blacktoft RSPB	22-Nov-17	RSPB reserve SE843232	11:00	60 miles 1 hour 15	Martin Kaye	No	<b>Wed</b> Full day. Packed lunch. Variety of birds then Harrier roost including hen harriers at dusk.
To be announced	December						Starling murmuration

## Sightings

### December Highlights

Unusual numbers of Gadwall noted during the month with a maximum of 30 (a site record) probably due to local smaller waters being frozen. The fly through by a Water Pipit on the 12th as was the Hawfinch recorded on the less fashionable East Bank on the 29th. The count for Stock Dove on the 8th was a site record of 540 whilst an equal site record of 182 Greylag Geese was recorded on the 2nd.

### Full December Sightings

Black Headed Gull	Great Black Backed gull	Linnet	Sparrowhawk
Brambling	Great Crested Grebe	Little Grebe	Stock Dove
Buzzard	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Mallard	Teal
Canada Goose	Green Woodpecker	Meadow Pipit	Tufted Duck
Caspian Gull	Grey Wagtail	Mistle Thrush	Tufted Duck/Pochard Hybrid
Chaffinch	Greylag Goose	Moorhen	Water Pipit
Common Gull	Hawfinch	Pink footed Goose	Wigeon
Coot	Herring Gull	Pochard	Willow Tit
Fieldfare	Kestrel	Raven	Yellowhammer
Gadwall	Kingfisher	Redwing	Yellow-legged Gull
Golden Plover	Lapwing	Shoveler	
Goldeneye	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Siskin	
Goosander	Lesser Redpoll	Snipe	

### January Highlights

A welcome sight was the 9 Whooper Swans which dropped in on the 17th. It was encouraging to see the two juveniles amongst the nine as recent Ogston records only mentioned adults. We had 2 female Pintail on the 20th which are quite scarce here-usually only two or three records a year. The 57 Great Crested grebes on the 25th was the best ever winter count at Ogston.

### Full January Sightings

Black Headed Gull	Goosander	Linnet	Snipe
Brambling	Goshawk	Little Egret	Snow Goose
Buzzard	Great Black Backed Gull	Little Grebe	Sparrowhawk
Canada Goose	Great Crested Grebe	Mallard	Starling
Caspian Gull	Green Woodpecker	Meadow Pipit	Tawny Owl
Common Gull	Grey Heron	Moorhen	Teal
Coot	Grey Wagtail	Peregrine	Tree Sparrow
Cormorant	Greylag Goose	Pink Footed Goose	Tufted Duck
Dipper	Herring Gull	Pintail	Whooper Swan
Fieldfare	Herring/LBB Hybrid	Pochard	Wigeon
Gadwall	Iceland Gull	Raven	Willow Tit
Glaucous Gull	Kestrel	Redwing	Woodcock
Glaucous/Herring Gull Hybrid	Kingfisher	Ringed Plover	Yellowhammer
Golden Plover	Lapwing	Shoveler	Yellow-Legged Gull
Goldeneye	Lesser Black-Backed gull	Siskin	
Goldfinch	Lesser Redpoll	Skylark	

## February Highlights

The two Shelduck on the 2<sup>nd</sup> were the first of the year and the 50 Snipe recorded on the same day were flushed in style by a male Kestrel! The 10 Waxwings recorded on the Monthly walk were a pleasant site whilst the peace of the Gull roost was destroyed by the Juvenile Goshawk again. The first Dunlin stopped by on the 7<sup>th</sup> and our first Oystercatcher arrived on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the first Curlew on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Full February Sightings

Black Headed Gull	Great Black Backed Gull	Little Grebe	Siskin
Brambling	Great Crested Grebe	Long Tailed Tit	Skylark
Buzzard	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Mallard	Snipe
Canada Goose	Grey Heron	Mandarin	Sparrowhawk
Caspian Gull	Grey Wagtail	Meadow Pipit	Tawny Owl
Common Gull	Greylag Goose	Mute Swan	Teal
Curlew	Herring Gull	Oystercatcher	Tufted Duck
Dunlin	Kestrel	Peregrine	Waxwing
Gadwall	Kingfisher	Pink Footed Goose	Wigeon
Golden Plover	Lapwing	Pochard	Willow Tit
Goldeneye	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Raven	Yellow-Legged Gull
Goldfinch	Lesser Redpoll	Redwing	
Goosander	Linnet	Ringed Plover	
Goshawk	Little Egret	Shelduck	

## March Highlights

The first Red Kite of the year flew north at 1145 and a Brambling was on the feeders. The kite was right on cue with the majority of records at Ogston being in the spring from March right through to early June. A female Stonechat between the hides on the 7<sup>th</sup> was the first since January last year. Highlight of the month and bird of the year so far was a Great Grey Shrike in the South (Fisherman's) car park on the 9<sup>th</sup>. This is Ogston's sixth record with the last in the early part of 2007 being the first for thirty-five years.

## Full March Sightings

Black Headed Gull	Great Grey Shrike	Mandarin	Skylark
Brambling	Grey Heron	Meadow Pipit	Snipe
Buzzard	Grey Wagtail	Mute Swan	Sparrowhawk
Canada Goose	Greylag Goose	Osprey	Stonechat
Chiffchaff	Herring Gull	Oystercatcher	Swallow
Common Gull	Jack Snipe	Peregrine	Tawny Owl
Curlew	Jay	Pochard	Teal
Dunlin	Kestrel	Raven	Tufted Duck
Fieldfare	Kittiwake	Red Kite	Whooper Swan
Gadwall	Lapwing	Redshank	Wigeon
Glaucous Gull	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Redwing	Willow Tit
Goldeneye	Lesser Redpoll	Ringed Plover	Yellowhammer
Goosander	Linnet	Sand Martin	Yellow-Legged Gull
Goshawk	Little Egret	Shelduck	
Great Black Backed Gull	Little Ringed Plover	Shoveler	
Great Crested Grebe	Mallard	Siskin	

**Our membership gives us 100's of pairs of eyes to spot birds. To help our Club Recorder, Tim Sexey, to record these, please remember to enter your sightings in the daily log book or, alternatively, contact Tim via email at [bluetail.58@live.co.uk](mailto:bluetail.58@live.co.uk)**

And finally, help us to keep our site safe for members and attractive for the birds –

- *Lock all gates, doors and windows securely if you're the last one out!*
- *Keep camera lenses fully inside the hide windows.*
- *Report any damage to a Committee Member.*
- *Always carry your membership card with you.*
- *Don't pass on lock codes to others*

Your next Newsletter will be published in August so until then enjoy your birding!!

***Steve Slack Publicity Officer***

-----TEAR OFF HERE-----

### Committee Nomination Form

Nominee	<small>(Print Name)</small>		Member Number	
Proposer	<small>(Print Name)</small>	<small>(Sign)</small>	Member Number	
Secunder	<small>(Print Name)</small>	<small>(Sign)</small>	Member Number	

This form must be returned to the Club Secretary by May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017