



Ogston Bird Club

August 2016 Newsletter

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

David Allcock	Mike Coates	Lisa Hayes	Alan Medlock	Alison Stacey
Roger Anscombe	David Coates	Alan Heeley	Simon Moody	David Stamp
Sue Anscombe	Janet Coates	Andrew Henderson	Julian Moore	Gillian Stamp
Jane Arguile	Paul Collins	Christopher Hoult	Kingston Moss	Paul Townson
Steven Ashlee	Anne Collins	Margaret Hoult	Emma Parkinson	Maxime Townson
Vivienne Ashlee	Jacquie Collins	David H Howgate	Colin Penny	David Walker
Derek Beech	Michael Cotton	Will Jardine	Gregory N. Sanderson	Louise Wallis
Christopher Bent	Matthew Crouch	Linda Jardine	Diane Scrimshaw	Christopher Watkinson
Angela Bent	Tony Durrant	Joy Kirkham	George Shaw	Lisbeth Williamson
Gavin Boswell	Jean Durrant	Megan Lees	William John Sheppard	Patricia Wilson
Glynn Brearley	Leonardo Galante	Diane Lightowler	Collin Shore	John William Wilson
Mandy Brearley	Kenneth Goodwin	Ken Lomas	Sue Shore	Robert Wolstenholme
Robert Butt	Arran Gouge	Andrew Marshall-Clarke	Graham Smith	Mike Wood
Linda Butt	Laura Guilfoyle	Karon Mayor	Mike Smith	Chris Wood
David Clay	Frazer Harrison	John McElvaney	Thomas Joshua Smith	James Wright
Barrie Clifton	Dennis Hayes	Michael McNeill	Tracy Solman	

Welcome to one and all!

Osprey Project Update

We have had an amazing summer so far with Ospreys at Ogston, hopefully our members have been able to see these birds at the reservoir. Not least watching them fishing.

Last year we had numerous birds at the reservoir (82 consecutive days) continuing through the Autumn migration season. At least one of these birds has returned this year. Many of course were young and on their first journey to their wintering grounds. Hopefully some of these will return in 2017.

Exciting times are ahead as we all at OBC make our contribution to conservation.

There is a joint initiative with DWT, DOS and Rutland with Ogston very much playing an important part. Hopefully Derbyshire will eventually have breeding Ospreys, as no records of such activity exist.

Our nest site was visited recently by two officers from the Rutland Water Release Project. They were very impressed and whilst one or two minor changes were suggested, it was generally felt that we will eventually be rewarded for our efforts.

May I say a big thank you to the landowners for their support, to Rutland, DWT and DOS.

Also thank you for the member's photographs I receive, the texts etc. that I receive regarding visiting Ospreys. Please keep them coming, I appreciate everyone's input.

John Parlby

Site Improvements

Restoration and improvements to Habitat

Starting at the end of August there will be a full programme of work parties (dates to be announced). We will be cutting and clearing the area between the public Hide and beyond the Members Hides, the scrapes will be restored (conditions permitting) and re-covered with matting and gravel. This will mean we will have to bring a JCB/Digger on to the site.

We will do our very best to get this done as quickly as possible but there will inevitably be some disruption for us birdwatchers.

A problem with wind

'Wind shadows' are calm spots on the reservoir where any wind is diverted away from the water's surface by trees surrounding the reservoir. These areas become no-go areas for sailing. After all, no wind means no sailing. A tree at the water's edge can prevent wind getting to the water for a distance 20 times as long as the height of the tree! Working with the Sailing Club we are investigating the creation of 'wind channels' which involves the thinning of some trees and the removal of lower level branches on some others. This isn't as dramatic as it sounds and we believe that this will clearly benefit the Club. The trees to be thinned are mostly down the West Bank along Ogston New Road and are largely the fast growing willow and birch trees which as we all know have restricted visibility of the reservoir and the heronry. We will make sure any such work undertaken is supervised by Club Officials to ensure it is done sympathetically with no detriment to wildlife.

Assuming we receive the correct permissions from the likes of Severn Trent and Natural England we will be starting this work in the Autumn.

Dag Marshall & Martin Kaye

Jim Mart Nature Reserve

The generally poor weather experienced since the last newsletter reduced human activity at the reserve. However, followers of the JMNR pages on the OBC web-site may recall some of the spring highlights, including the discovery of five Bee Orchids and a Southern Marsh Orchid, and the flotillas of Mandarin ducklings on the brook. Few members will be aware of the two Tawny Owl chicks which fledged from the Owl Chalet, only discovered a few days before they left the 'nest'.

Butterfly monitoring continued on a weekly basis, though many were the tales of woe as recorders reported that there were very few butterflies - at least until the warmer and drier conditions arrived at the start of July. So far no unusual species have been seen and even some regulars did not appear or were noticeably late. The same proved true for damselflies and dragonflies, giving a poor start to our recording efforts for the PondNet Adult Dragonflies survey.

One positive from the weather was that our ponds were full of water for the PondNet Pond Habitat Survey, carried out at the end of June. Four members did the surveying over what proved to be a very long morning session that extended to mid-afternoon, meaning missing lunch and getting caught by afternoon rain.

We managed to include Nitrate and Phosphate testing for the Clean Water for Wildlife Survey, sampling not just the four ponds but also the brook, north ditch and the mysterious piped outlet below the main weir. The Top and Middle Ponds tested as clean water, perhaps not surprising given that they are mainly supplied by rainwater. The Bottom Pond turned out to have a very high level of nitrate pollution (witness the regular green algae build-up), the source of which is the water in the seasonal stream coming from outside the reserve and down the North Ditch. Press Brook, and hence the Hide Pond, also carries very high levels of nitrate, but less so than the water in the North Ditch. That mysterious pipe below the weir constantly spews clear water you think that you might drink, but the nitrate content was off the scale of the test kits that we had been supplied with! Interesting stuff, so we plan to carry out

more of the PondNet surveys next year looking at what is living in and around the margins of the ponds. Many thanks to the members who are doing the work, and to the Freshwater Habitats Trust for supplying the survey methods, test kits and ongoing support.

Monthly work parties continued as usual, bar one cancellation, dealing with the routine tasks of keeping paths open and the more vigorous vegetation under some control. Several willows have been planted near the Hide Pond with the intention of coppicing these to maintain a ready supply of withies for making and repairing willow screens at Ogston. Members kindly donated a large bat box and a picnic bench for the reserve, and repaired the hide window, for all of which the club is grateful.

Pete Faulkner

Club Trips

Once again, the Club Trips have proved successful so far in 2016. Surprisingly the member uptake is very low but those regulars that do turn up invariably have a good day.

Currently, no more trips are planned for this year but keep a look out on the website for hastily arranged events. Alternatively contact Martin (details below) and he will keep you notified.

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.

Spare a thought for our beautiful Swift

My favourite sound each year is my first Willow Warbler arriving in Spring. My favourite sight is the first Swift tearing through the skies. Within a couple of weeks, Swifts are everywhere and suddenly I don't seem to notice them as much. I am guilty of taking them for granted.

Yet in a few short weeks they will be gone. Not all at once, but slowly they aren't there anymore. The eventual realisation that they have gone tells me that Summer is over and a dark winter looms ahead. This is a sad time for me.

However, an article I picked up in BirdWatching Magazine has lifted my spirits and reminded me what an incredible bird they truly are and suddenly I am looking forward to welcoming them back again next Spring.

Read on and I'm sure you will agree.

- *Juvenile Swifts stay on the wing for 3 years without EVER landing – yes 3 years. From the moment they fledge until they mate and stop to nest, lay eggs, incubate and feed their young!*
- *The young feed from a 'bolus', a saliva bound ball of up to 500 insects gathered into a pouch of the flying parent bird, situated just below the beak.*
- *They pair for life and are site faithful returning to the same place each year.*
- *They sleep on the wing by closing down one half of the brain at a time allowing them to fly and roost at the same time.*
- *Swifts fly on average 500 miles each day, clocking up to 2 million miles in a lifetime that can span 30 years. That's 4 times to the moon and back.*
- *They can reach a top speed of 67 miles per hour and fly as high as 2 miles above the earth.*

What did I tell you?.....amazing!

Steve Slack

Sightings

April Highlights

The Hen Harrier which flew through heading NW was only the 8th Ogston record and the second Spring sighting following the one on May 7th 2011, which also flew in the same direction. Besides the usual regular Spring arrivals, we were visited by a Jack snipe which hung around freely displaying for all to see for several days. The real highlight has to be the Scandinavian Rock Pipit that flew in and landed on the island in front of the Member's Hide. And we recorded our first Little Egret of the year – mentioned here because of how popular the site is to become for Egrets later in the Summer!

Full April Sightings

Arctic Tern	Goosander	Little Owl	Siskin
Black Necked Grebe	Great Crested Grebe	Little Ringed Plover	Skylark
Blackcap	Green Woodpecker	Mandarin	Snipe
Brambling	Greenshank	Mute Swan	Sparrowhawk
Buzzard	Grey Wagtail	Osprey	Swallow
Chiffchaff	Greylag Goose	Oystercatcher	Swift
Common Gull	Hen Harrier	Peregrine	Tawny Owl
Common Sandpiper	House Martin	Pink Footed Goose	Teal
Common Tern	Jack Snipe	Pintail	Tree Pipit
Corn Bunting	Kestrel	Raven	Tufted Duck
Cuckoo	Kingfisher	Red Kite	White Wagtail
Curlew	Lapwing	Redstart	Whitethroat
Dunlin	Lesser Redpoll	Rock Pipit	Wigeon
Fieldfare	Lesser Whitethroat	Sand Martin	Willow Tit
Gadwall	Linnet	Sandwich Tern	Willow Warbler
Goldcrest	Little Egret	Sedge Warbler	Yellow Wagtail
Goldeneye	Little Gull	Shoveler	Yellowhammer

May Highlights

The nationwide influx of Black Tern finally registered at Ogston with two birds on May 10th. The Yellow Billed Teal referred to in DOS circles as Speckled Teal showed well and a count of 10 Mandarin ducks including 9 young was a nice sight. We recorded our first Spotted Flycatcher and also Hobby.

Full May Sightings

Arctic Tern	Greenshank	Osprey	Siskin
Barnacle Goose	Greylag Goose	Oystercatcher	Sparrowhawk
Black Tern	Hobby	Peregrine	Spotted Flycatcher
Buzzard	House Martin	Pink Footed Goose	Swift
Common Gull	Kestrel	Raven	Tawny Owl
Common Sandpiper	Kingfisher	Red Kite	Teal
Common Tern	Lesser Redpoll	Redstart	Tufted Duck
Cuckoo	Lesser Whitethroat	Reed Warbler	Whimbrel
Curlew	Little Egret	Ringed Plover	Whinchat
Dunlin	Little Grebe	Sanderling	Whitethroat
Gadwall	Little Ringed Plover	Sedge Warbler	Yellow Wagtail
Garden Warbler	Mandarin	Shelduck	
Goshawk	Mute Swan	Shoveler	

June Highlights

The female Common Scoter with 4 young was a good sight but the highlight has to be the Female Gadwall with 5 young. A first time breeder for Ogston. The Little Egret story continues with a site record of 3 birds. Ospreys continued to put in an appearance drawing in the crowds.

Full June Sightings

Black Headed Gull	Great Crested Grebe	Mallard	Sparrowhawk
Buzzard	Grey Wagtail	Mandarin	Speckled Teal
Canada Goose	Greylag Goose	Mediterranean Gull	Spotted Flycatcher
Common Sandpiper	Hobby	Mute Swan	Swift
Common Scoter	House Martin	Osprey	Tawny Owl
Common Tern	Kingfisher	Oystercatcher	Teal
Coot	Lapwing	Red Kite	Tufted Duck
Cormorant	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Ringed Plover	Yellowhammer
Curlew	Little Egret	Sand Martin	Yellow-Legged Gull
Gadwall	Little Grebe	Sandwich Tern	
Great Black Backed Gull	Little Ringed Plover	Siskin	

July Highlights

A Black Stork appeared high over the west car park mid-morning and drifted slowly south-east before, legs dangling, it dropped out of sight and appeared to be landing. Further searches failed to relocate it unfortunately. A nationally rare bird, this will be a new bird for Ogston if accepted. A Black Tailed Godwit was a first of the year and the Little Egret tale ended with the site record being repeatedly smashed until we finally had nine birds roosting.

Full July Sightings

Black Headed Gull	Curlew	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Reed Warbler
Black Redstart	Gadwall	Little Egret	Sand Martin
Black Stork	Garden Warbler	Little Grebe	Sedge Warbler
Black Tailed Godwit	Goshawk Great Black	Little Ringed Plover	Sparrowhawk
Buzzard	Backed Gull	Mandarin	Swift
Canada Goose	Great Crested Grebe	Mute Swan	Tawny Owl
Common Gull	Great Spotted	Osprey	Teal
Common Sandpiper	Woodpecker	Oystercatcher	Tufted Duck
Common Scoter	Green Woodpecker	Peregrine	Tufted Duck/Pochard Hybrid
Common Tern	Grey Heron	Pochard	Yellow-Legged Gull
Cormorant	Greylag Goose	Raven	
Crossbill	Hobby	Redshank	
	Kingfisher		

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

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 December so until then enjoy your birding!!

Steve Slack Publicity Officer