



Your Committee 2015/16

Chairman	Keith Turton 07552 944121	Committee member	Martin Kaye
Vice Chairman	John Parlby 01773 861262	Committee member	Frank Wharram
General Secretary	Jen Marshall 01623 401937	Committee member	Jeff Davies
Membership Secretary	Julia Smith	Committee member	Mike Conroy
Treasurer	Keith Turton 07552 944121	Committee member	David Marshall
Publicity Officer	Steve Slack 07599 845298		

Ogston Bird Club Newsletter – December 2015

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

Lee Maisfield and Andrea Yates-Maisfield of Chesterfield, Judith & Timothy Sargent of Bakewell, Anthony Broome of Matlock and Jayne Jackson and Paul Rowlett of Dronfield

Welcome to one and all!

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.

Renewal Reminder

Dear Members

It's that time of year again - a time for giving! We hope that you have enjoyed your year at Ogston and plan to renew your membership with the Club for 2016. The rates remain the same, and the renewal form is included with this Newsletter.

A copy of the Renewal Form is also available to download from the Club

website <http://www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk/how-to-join/>

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support. Happy birding!

Julia, Membership Secretary, Ogston Bird Club.

Osprey Highlights

We had an amazing season at Ogston with Osprey sightings being unprecedented. These hopefully being enjoyed by all. Certainly many people visited the reservoir keen to see these birds, some never having seen an Osprey before. The sightings being regular and I don't think anyone was disappointed. I showed a couple of new members around one Sunday afternoon and they were absolutely thrilled to see their first Osprey and watch it fishing.

Ospreys visited us on 82 consecutive days – fabulous!

We now must wait and hope that they or some of them return from their wintering grounds in West Africa.

I also thank the Rutland Osprey project for their valuable support and input to our project. They believe that our hope of having breeding Ospreys in Derbyshire for the first time will be a success. I am told that once a male Osprey takes to our own nesting platform we will be successful.

John Parlby

Site Improvements

If you've visited over the last few months, you will have seen the tremendous amount of work which has been carried out around the Members Hides. All ponds around the hides have been cleared of vegetation and an enormous amount of willow and ash saplings have been cut away. The net result of these endeavours is increased visibility for us and improved habitat for the birdlife. (photos on website). But we are not finished yet. We intend to restore the scrapes and re-gravel the island and bunds. A JCB will be required and the availability of this and depending on water levels we intend to start early in the New Year. If funds allow, the moat around the big island and ditches around the reed bed just north of the Main Hide will be also be cleaned out .

All work carried out so far has been by a few willing volunteers. Just think what we could do if half a dozen more could join us. Next year, please consider giving us an hour or two if you can. I can promise you will find it rewarding and seeing the site from the scrape area instead of peering through a hide window puts a much different perspective on the area.

Dag Marshall

Keeping you informed.

Those members with e-mail access should already be aware of our attempts to keep you better informed of Club and Local Birding activities.

Emails are the quickest way to keep you informed of the very latest news so please try to take advantage of this. Recent communications told members about the Skills Courses organised by the Derbyshire EcoCentre as part of the DerwentWise scheme and also, more recently, the Crag Martin which has been camped out in Chesterfield.

All this is only possible if we know your correct e-mail address. Please take care to print your email address when you send in your Membership Renewal form. Remember, if you change your email address please let us know.

Again, if you feel that communications such as Information emails and Newsletters (April/August/December) don't seem to be getting to you please call one of the committee (numbers at the top of Page 1)

CRAG MARTIN IN CHESTERFIELD

Chesterfield has been blessed with a visit from a bird which is extremely rare in the UK. The Eurasian Crag Martin, normally found in Southern Europe, northwest Africa and Southern Asia, is extremely rare in the UK. It usually breeds on caves and cavities on cliff faces in much sunnier climes than those it finds itself in around Chesterfield. The bird has stayed around for upwards of 12 days now and many birders have taken the opportunity to catch a glimpse. One can only hope that when he/she finally moves on it finds it's way home safely. The journey is a long one, the days are much shorter and the weather less kind than it is probably used to. Fingers crossed!

The Nature of Climate Change

A new RSPB report reveals the impact of climate change on some of the UK's best-loved species. Climate change is one of the greatest long-term threats to the nature we love. Compounded by other pressures on land and at sea, it is putting our wildlife at risk. As such it is a vital area of work for the RSPB, and we have scientists working to understand and develop solutions to the threats that nature faces.

https://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/natureofclimatechange_summary_tcm9-409729.pdf

This leaflet summarises a longer report that RSPB scientists have put together.

The full report, "The Nature of Climate Change," on how climate change will affect wildlife can be found here:

[rspb.org.uk/natureclimate](https://www.rspb.org.uk/natureclimate)

The Plight of the Curlew

A new study led by RSPB Scotland has called for the curlew, Europe's largest wading bird, to now be considered the highest conservation priority bird species in the UK.

The UK is responsible for as much as 27 per cent of the world's breeding curlews, but they are being lost at an alarming rate. The population has fallen by 43 per cent since the mid-1990s, and their global status is listed as 'near threatened' by the IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

A new report assessing the status of all the UK's 244 birds – Birds of Conservation Concern 4 – has also placed the curlew on its Red List under 'highest conservation concern'.

Birds of Conservation Concern is a report compiled by a coalition of leading conservation and monitoring organisations, reviewing the status of all birds in the UK. Each species is assessed and placed on the Green, Amber or Red List – indicating an increasing level of conservation concern.

The Red List now contains 27 per cent of the UK's birds, an increase from 52 species in 2009 to 67 species in 2015.

Puffins, kittiwakes and shags were some of the other species added to the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List in 2015, joining birds like the curlew, dotterel and starling. However, the assessment does contain some good news and demonstrates that targeted conservation action can make a real difference. Three species (bittern, nightjar and dunlin) have been removed from the Red list and added to the Amber. While an additional 22 species, including the red kite, have moved from the Amber to the Green list; meaning they are of the lowest conservation concern.

Read the full report on the RSPB website <http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/410756-curlew-should-be-uks-top-conservation-concern-says-rspb-scotland>

Jim Mart Nature Reserve

Late summer and autumn work parties invariably focus on removing the year's growth of taller vegetation to allow the smaller plants to see some daylight before winter arrives. The meadow area was cut in mid-September and then again in mid-November, the more vigorous grasses having put on a spurt of late growth in the warm autumn weather. The two main nettle areas were cut to ensure fresh young growth in the spring, and in the hope that other plant species might become established amongst them. Several black bin-bags full of seeds were collected and removed from the reserve as part of our aim to restrict the spread of Hogweed. Some of the larger bramble patches were trimmed hard back to prevent them taking over the adjacent grassland, particularly so in the old filter beds area where we have noted that shorter, finer grasses and Creeping Cinquefoil grow. Finally, the banks of the brook between the larger bridge and the weir have been restored to a more open habitat - the brambles having reached head-height and runners stretching across to the opposite bank.

Over the Autumn new moth records continued to be added to the reserve's species list, and there appears to be a gradual increase in fungi sightings, with addition of Snowy Waxcap, Shaggy Parasol and probably Blue Roundhead. A single Banded Demoiselle was seen in early August and a Dipper was arguably the best bird sighting, the only record of this species since we acquired the reserve. Over one weekend in September, Derbyshire Mammal Group held their annual small mammal survey, trapping and then releasing 53 individuals of four species. Separately, distinctive shiny black droppings were sufficient evidence to add Hedgehog to the mammal list.

If anyone has sightings to add to the reserve's wildlife list for 2015, irrespective of whether or not they have been sent direct to County Recorders or submitted to other recording schemes, then please provide them to Paul Beard (or Peter Faulkner) as soon as you can. One way that you can do this is via the link on the club's web-site at http://www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk/?page_id=2013 - and whilst you are there you can keep up to date with any reserve news and sightings at <http://www.ogstonbirdclub.co.uk/?cat=9>.

NB: There is no work party at the Jim Mart reserve in December, but we will be back as usual in 2016 on the third Saturday morning of each month.

Peter Faulkner

OBC Hats & caps are still available from John Parlby. Keep your tabs warm this winter! A bargain at £6!

For more info, contact John on 01773861262, or, 07767652036

Birding Abroad?

Frank Wharram is organising another birding trip to Extremadura in Spain in April 2016. This is a repeat of the successful trip in 2015 when 142 species were seen, including 5 species of Eagle, 3 Vultures, Great & Little Bustards, Storks, 3 kinds of Shrikes and Harriers and many more great birds! Number of participants is limited to 8 and the trip lasts 6 nights, with everything except flights and insurance included. For more info contact Frank at 01246 250559 or frankwharram@gmail.com

Out and About

Our friends at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have provided the following article on the Avenue Washlands. This is very local to Ogston and is worth considering for a trip out during the Winter!

Wild Winter Wander at The Avenue Washlands (courtesy of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)

The Avenue Washlands Nature Reserve is on part of the former Avenue Coking Works site at Wingerworth near Chesterfield and was once the most polluted land in Western Europe. Managed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of The Land Trust, the national land management charity it has become one of the Trust's important wetland reserves and a haven for wildlife with over 700 species.

Follow this simple walk this winter to see how many species you can find!

Time: Approximately 1.5 hours but longer if you soak up all the wildlife.

Distance: Approximately 2 miles.

Difficulty: Easy

Start at the Visitor Centre on Mill Lane. Continue down the lane and enter the reserve through the first stile on your right and turn immediately left up to the short slope to the stone snake seating area; a great vantage point. Here you can take a look at the feeding stations attracting finches and buntings, including the brightly coloured Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer.

Head back down towards the entrance stile and turn left along the track towards the reedbed. Grey Wagtails can often be seen bobbing around the edge of the pond directly in front of Keith's screen. A small plot to the right of the screen is ploughed and seeded with a crop specifically chosen to provide winter food (seed) for farmland birds. Small flocks of Linnets may be seen feeding here, when previously this bird would be absent during winter.

Look further out across Duckmarsh meadows to the open water, in past winters a single Bittern was spotted skulking around the edges – if you are lucky maybe another will visit this winter. This is also a good place to look skywards: several birds of prey frequently hunt over the meadows from the characteristically hovering Kestrels and circling Buzzards to the swifter Sparrowhawks.

Continue your walk down to the Reedbed screen. This is one of the best places to look out for the reserve's waders, wildfowl and ducks. Snipe overwinter in good numbers. Teal, Tufted duck, Gadwall and wigeon are most commonly seen on the reedbed along with Herons, Canada geese and Black Headed Gulls. Last year a male Hen Harrier was seen flying over the reedbed on a number of days in January – this was a first for this bird on the reserve. Will he return again?

From the Reedbed screen retrace your steps back to Mill Lane, turn right and walk beneath the railway line through the small underpass and take the next right through another stile back in to the nature reserve on the east side of the railway. Keep the River Rother on your left, continue on up the gentle slope and if you are lucky you may see a Waxwing feeding from guilder berries.

The next viewing screen allows for great views down the length of the Sidings meadows. Flocks of over fifty Snipe may be hiding in the marsh and wetter grassland.

Turn right through the kissing gate just beyond the Sidings viewing screen and take the steps down to the dipping pond. Look out for Reedbunting, Woodpecker, Redwing and Fieldfare.

Cross the boardwalk to the other side and go through the small wicket gate onto the Riverside walk. A very different feel to the rest of the reserve, here you walk beneath large willow and alder trees close to the river on your right. Look out for Tree Creepers, Siskins, Redpolls and the flash of a Kingfisher.

When you reach the end of the Riverside walk turn back along the old railway line and head back towards Mill Lane, making sure you look out for the Barn Owl.

For more information about The Avenue Washlands or for other nature reserves across Derby, please visit Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts' website: www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Sightings

August 2015 Sightings

Highlights –

Our first Redstart of the year visited on the 4th whilst a Whinchat was seen almost daily. The highlight for volume was the 90 Mandarin which were concentrated around the Chapel Bay and West Bank areas. A single visit from a Merlin and a Pintail Duck were a treat for the lucky ones who saw them.

Full August Species List

Black Tern	Greylag Geese	Redshank
Blackcap	Hobby	Redstart
Buzzard	Kingfisher	Spotted Flycatchers
Canada Geese	Lapwing	Stonechat
Common Gull	Lesser Whitethroat	Swifts
Common Sandpiper	Little Egret	Teal
Common Tern	Little Ringed Plover	Tufted Duck
Coot	Mallard	Wheatear
Crossbill	Mandarin	Whinchat
Cuckoo	Merlin	Wigeon
Dunlin	Moorhen	Willow Tit
Garden Warbler	Mute Swan	Willow Warbler
Goosander	Peregrine	Yellow Legged Gull
Great Crested Grebe	Pintail Duck	Yellow Wagtail
Green Sandpiper	Raven	
Greenshank	Red Kite	

September 2015 Sightings

Highlights –

A first 2015 visit from a Marsh Harrier came on the 9th whilst 2 days a second bird entertained us by having a brief dog-fight with an Osprey!

A Snipe seen on the 8th was the first for some time, 6 Raven were seen aloft together on the 1st of the month.

Full September Species List

Blackcap	Little Grebe	Siskin
Buzzard	Mandarin	Sparrowhawk
Chiffchaff	Marsh Harrier	Swallow
Common Snipe	Meadow Pipit	Teal
Common Tern	Merlin	Whimbrel
Curlew	Peregrine	Whinchat
Green Woodpecker	Pochard	White Wagtail
Grey Wagtail	Raven	Wigeon
Hobby	Redpoll	Yellow Legged Gull
Kingfisher	Ringed Plover	Yellow Wagtail
Linnet	Rock Pipit	

October 2015 Sightings

Highlights –

The sightings made it quite clear that Autumn was upon us. Pink Footed Geese came through with a max. count of 475 on the 17th and big numbers of Redwing (max of 640 on 31st) and Fieldfare (max of 660 on the same day) passed through. A Goshawk showed on 3 dates whilst the Great Black Backed Gull seen on 31st was the first for some time.

Full October Species List

Blackcap	Great Crested Grebe	Pochard
Brambling	Grey Wagtail	Raven
Canada Geese	Greylag Geese	Red Breasted Goose
Chaffinch	Herring Gull	Lesser Redpoll
Chiffchaff	Kestrel	Redwing
Common Gull	Kingfisher	Rock Pipit
Common Snipe	Lapwing	Shelduck
Crossbill	Lesser Black Backed Gull	Siskin
Dunlin	Linnet	Skylark
Fieldfare	Little Egret	Sparrowhawk
Gadwall	Little Grebe	Starling
Golden Plover	Mandarin	Swallow
Goldeneye	Meadow Pipit	Teal
Goldfinch	Merlin	Tufted Duck
Goosander	Mute Swan	Wigeon
Goshawk	Peregrine	Yellow Billed Teal
Great Black Backed Gull	Pink Footed Geese	Yellow Legged Gull

November 2015 Sightings

Highlights –

The Black Redstart which graced us on the 20th was only the 5th Site Record and the first since 2003! A Water Pipit showed up on the 4th – the first recorded since October 2012 and two days later 2 were seen in the air together. 4 Whooper Swans flew through on the 14th whilst 5 went through on the 21st. The Red Breasted Goose first seen on the 4th and stayed around for a week was a pleasant sight whilst the Red Breasted Merganser seen on the 22nd was only the second record of the year following the 3 we had in April. The Short Eared Owl noted on the 6th was the first since Dec 2013 and only 13th ever record. A Hawfinch showed up at the Churchyard at the beginning of the month.

Full November Species List

Black Redstart	Greylag Geese	Red Breasted Merganser
Brambling	Hawfinch	Redwing
Canada Goose	Herring Gull	Short Eared Owl
Chaffinch	Kingfisher	Siskin
Chiffchaff	Lapwing	Skylark
Common Redpoll	Lesser Black Backed Gull	Sparrowhawk
Common Snipe	Lesser Redpoll	Starling
Coot	Linnet	Stonechat
Dunlin	Little Grebe	Swallow
Fieldfare	Mallard	Teal
Gadwall	Mandarin (drake)	Tufted Duck
Goldeneye	Meadow Pipit	Water Pipit
Goldfinch	Merlin	Whooper Swan
Goosander	Mute Swan	Wigeon
Goshawk	Peregrine	Willow Tit
Great Crested Grebe	Pink Footed Goose	Wood Pigeon
Greater Black Backed Gull	Pochard	Yellow Billed Teal
Greenfinch	Raven	Yellow Legged Gull
Grey Partridge	Red Breasted Goose	

Club Trips for 2016

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.

Trip	Date/ time	Meeting Point	Dist from Ch'field	Leader	Limit on No.s	notes and target species
Upper Derwent then Ladybower or Burbage	19-Mar-16 09.30	Beside Derwent Dam Wall SK171898	30 miles	Paul Beard	No	Sat Full day. Bring a packed lunch. 4 mile walk (Derwent 3, Ladybower/Burbage 1). Derwent - conifer woodland birds, raptors/mountain hares, Ladybower/Burbage - Ring Ouzels + Golden Plover.
Old Moor /Adwick Washlands RSPB	17-Apr-16 09.30	Old Moor car park, S73 0YF, SE422022	33 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch or eat in reserve restaurant. Water birds galore and may be a Bittern.
Avenue Washlands, Wingerworth	05-May-16 09.00	Drive to bottom of Mill Lane, S42 6NG SK397671	2 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Thurs Half day. Warbler migrants e.g. blackcap, willow/garden/grasshopper warblers, linnets, yellow hammer wetland and woodland species.
Coombes Valley, Calver, Derbyshire	25-May-16 09.00	Calver Cross Roads SK238749	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.
Padley	05-Jun-16 09.00	Grindleford train station SK250788	14 miles	Paul Beard	20	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. 4 mile walk. Flycatchers, Redstart, Goldcrest, Wood Warbler.
Thorne Moors	22-Jun-16	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.
Clumber	29-Jun-16 19.00	Clumber Park SK619752	20 miles	John Parlby	5	Wed evening Nightjars and woodcock.
Clumber	07-Jul-16 19.00	Clumber Park SK619752	20 miles	John Parlby	5	Thurs evening Nightjars and woodcock. A re-run for those who can't manage 29th June
Blacktoft RSPB	13-Jul-16 09.30	RSPB reserve SE843232	60 miles 1 hour 15	Martin Kaye	No	Wed Full day. Packed lunch. Water birds, Marsh Harriers and possibly Montague Harriers
Frampton RSPB	18-Sep-16 10.00	RSPB reserve PE20 1AY TF356392	75 miles 2 hour	to be announced	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. Returning migrant waders and wildfowl including early geese and shelduck
Blacktoft RSPB	23-Nov-16	RSPB reserve SE843232	60 miles 1 hour 15	Martin Kaye	No	Wed Full day. Packed lunch. Variety of birds then Harrier roost including hen harriers at dusk.
To be announced	December					Starling murmuration

And finally.....

I recently read an article** which put a different slant on the statistics that publications such as the BTO's Migration Atlas provide us with. In the article, the author noted that the Atlas quoted that 60% of the Redwings that appear over here in the winter came from Finland, 14% from Sweden and 5% from Norway. The author then used these numbers to 'fancifully extrapolate' the flock of 15 Redwings he saw and came to the conclusion that 9 of them came from Finland, 2 from Sweden and three quarters of the other remaining bird came Norway!

Similarly, apparently, 70% of Black Headed Gulls seen in winter are visitors mainly from places such as Norway, Sweden and Finland but some from the likes of Poland, Czech Republic or Belarus, Again the author suggested that his local flock could consist of birds from 10 different nationalities.

The point of the article was to encourage us to give a little more thought to the 'ordinary' winter birds we see around us by trying to understand where in the world they might have travelled from to visit us.

This is all a bit 'tongue in cheek' but I found the use of statistics this way quite amusing.

43.7 % of those surveyed agree!

(**Bird Watching Magazine December 2015)

I hope you all have a great Christmas and carry on enjoying Birds in 2016!!

Steve Slack

Publicity Officer