



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	Pete Birley 01332 753078	Committee member	Mike Conroy
Treasurer	Keith Turton 07552 944121	Committee member	David Marshall
Publicity Officer	Steve Slack 07599 845298		

Ogston Bird Club Newsletter – August 2015

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

Matthew Smyth of Alvaston, Derby, David Swift of Spondon, Derby, Mrs Irene Brierton of Crich, Ian Deuchar of Belper, Mrs Ann Joynes and Mrs Janet Callaghan of Wingerworth, Dorothy Evans of Ashgate, Robert Grew Of Walton, Steven Bridgett, Annice Bridgett & June Hatton of Sutton in Ashfield, Notts, Michael & Julie Johnson of Brimington, William & Jacqueline Machray, Paul Ward and Mrs Audrey Turner of Newbold, Steve Parsons & Peter Haywood of Holmehall, Chesterfield, Miss Wendy Dyson & Sue Dyson – Wicks of Sheffield, Ms Michelle Mcfarlane & Matthew Cartledge of Ripley, Paul & Patricia Parker of Clay Cross

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.

Osprey Project

If any member sees an Osprey in the vicinity of the reservoir it would be appreciated if they would make an entry in the hide diary, also please inform John Parlby, email; johnparlby1@gmail.com

Please include as much information as possible, e.g. direction of birds flight etc.

Any photographic evidence would also be helpful and appreciated.

Photographs will most likely be forwarded to the Osprey team at Rutland, this is needed for identification purposes and possibly tracking a birds whereabouts.

Please tell us if you do not wish for your photo's to be used in this way.

STOP PRESS!!

We are now getting daily sightings of an Osprey as many of you will be aware and few days go by without reported sightings. We have now confirmed that there are **TWO** Ospreys visiting the Reservoir and both have been seen on several occasions.

Hopefully the area will see some breeding success in the next year or two.

I would like to thank all those who have given me information as requested, this has been very useful. All you contributors know who you are and it is really appreciated.

Many thanks.

John Parlby

Site Improvements

After all the hard work carried out at the beginning of the year to the scrapes, island and grassland, it is now looking very overgrown again. This Autumn, our intention is to replace the weed suppressant membranes on the island and the scrapes, and replace the stone chippings on the island, scrapes and the bund. We are awaiting approval from Severn Trent for clearance of the scrub and to create a new scrape in front of the Sue Worsley Hide. I would like to express my thanks to all those who helped with the clearance work, and hope for similar support in future.

Dag Marshall

Making Ogston Bird Club better!!

The committee are constantly trying to ensure that the Club's facilities meet the needs of the visiting bird life and of the visiting Members! However, changes happen slowly as we have responsibilities to the Landowners, Severn Trent Water who need to ensure that the reservoirs water quality is not affected by what we do. Also to the wildlife itself. We cannot do any ground maintenance during the bird breeding season which effectively restricts us to the Autumn and Winter months. We have SSSI status (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and they have a view on what we should do and what we shouldn't.

Nonetheless, we do our best and Site Improvements is always on the Agenda at our Committee meetings.

We thought that we would ask you, the Members, for your views on the Club facilities and for your suggestions as to how we can continue improving. Please get in touch with Julia Smith (email j.sheridans@hotmail.co.uk) or Steve Slack (email steveslack26@gmail.com or call 01332 883391)

Jim Mart Nature Reserve

Wildlife surveys

The last newsletter carried an overview of the results of the 2014 update to the reserve's species list, which had reached a total of 585. Most of the records come from casual visits by members, and we have also been fortunate in having some more specific surveys carried out by experienced local naturalists. In recent months we have had two such visits, which have greatly added to our existing knowledge of what the reserve holds.

First up, in late June, Steve Plant and Bill Grange paid a visit to take a look at the insect life. The summer had not started well for insects in general but nevertheless around 50 different ones were recorded during this survey, although some could not be identified in the field down to species level. At the current time it seems that 22 of these insects had not been noted on the reserve in the past. The main excitement was the later identification of a micro-moth which had landed on Bill's rucksack. This turned out to be a Fenland Pearl, which is not often recorded away from fenland and coastal areas of southern and south-eastern England. Steve and Bill are hoping to return later in the summer to see what else can be uncovered - "All involved are to be congratulated on an excellent nature reserve".

In early July, Dr. Alan Willmot and Roy Branson endured a very showery day carrying out a flora survey. Dr. Willmot is the co-author of the recently published book 'The Flora of Derbyshire – more details below. He has also been, since 1996, the county plant recorder for Derbyshire for the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, so it should perhaps not have come as a surprise when we received a list of over 170 plants from the survey. Of these, 58 species did not appear in our previous records; we are now looking at around 220 species of plants on the reserve, so far. "...at 172 plants it is an impressive list for one visit to a small site...a rich mix of typical plants of the area."

Thanks to members Nikki Mahadevan and John Parlbly for arranging, and being present during the two surveys.

Butterflies

The butterfly season did not get off to a great start this year with cool and windy conditions prevailing, and this has been reflected in the records from our transect. For the first 13 weeks (1 April to 30 June) numbers were down 40% compared with 2014, and down 18% on 2013. In the first three weeks of July there was a noticeable increase as the Meadow Browns and Ringlets appeared, but numbers were still well down on the two previous years. At the date of writing, 15 species have been recorded during the transect walks, as opposed to 18 species for the same period in each of the previous two years.

Work parties

These have continued on a monthly basis (the 3rd Saturday morning in the month) with the most recent ones attending to the paths, weeding out the bottom of the north hedge, and starting to get the vegetation in the garden area (Cyril's Patch) back under control.

The Flora of Derbyshire

In the Spring of last year, we were acclaiming the publication of *The Birds of Derbyshire* and acknowledging the many excellent reviews of the book. This year comes a counterweight for the other end of the bookshelf in the form of *The Flora of Derbyshire*. Based on 840,000 plant records, it is the culmination of some 20 years of research and fieldwork. It gives details of all 1,919 species of wildflowers, grasses, trees and ferns that have ever been recorded in the county with over 1,100 mapped in colour and more than 100 coloured photographs.

It is instantly impressive both visually and in terms of the detail covered. Introductory chapters describe the various landscapes and vegetation of our county, the history of Derbyshire field botany and the story of local plant conservation. There is also a chapter entitled "*Where to See Plants in Derbyshire*" which describes over 50 easily accessible and botanically rich sites, as well as some of the plants that one might expect to find at each. It is the first county flora to appear since 1969 and covers a 400 year historical period running to 458 pages in large format. It is in full colour throughout.

The authors, Alan Willmot and Nick Moyes are to be warmly congratulated on a magnificent achievement, although they generously share the credit with the many who have assisted the recording efforts that they have coordinated. The book seems set to become an outstanding reference for students and botanists and is highly recommended. We feel sure that it will appear in local bookshops soon and even if you have to pay the full price of £38.50, we think it good value for money. Further details can also be obtained from the publishers at www.naturebureau.co.uk/bookshop/

Bryan & Kate Barnacle

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY 2016

As part of the work being carried out by the club in conjunction with Natural England to get the SSSI status back to full recovery it will be necessary to start doing Breeding Bird Surveys from March to May next year, and each year after.

We need volunteers to help with these surveys.

A leader is required, who will be an experienced "birder" he will lead a small team. Also a scribe, this is an easy job. Then observers at any level of birdwatching. For someone keen to learn from any level this is a great opportunity, all you need to do is give a couple of hours of your time.

Also needed will be someone to co-ordinate these teams. This, once set up, runs smoothly.

Interested? Please in the first instance email John Parlby -

johnparlby1@gmail.com

Look forward to hearing from you.

THANK YOU

Members may have seen the map of the reservoir and surrounding area in the Sue Worsley Hide.

This is indeed special and something the club can be proud of. The map and frame were kindly donated by Bill Padley.

On behalf of the Chairman, committee and membership may I extend our thanks to Bill.

John Parlby

2015 Big Butterfly Count

Interested in butterflies? Get involved with the 2015 Big Butterfly Count. Visit the website on

<http://www.bigbutterflycount.org>

Here you can download a recording/identification chart and record your sightings during a 15 minute session. You can do it anywhere – at home, in the park, or, ideally, at the Ogston Bird Club Site when you visit.

So if the sunshine eventually comes back, give it a go!

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

Monthly Highlights

April 2015 Species recorded = 102

Running Total = 108

The **Saturday Morning Bird Walk** on the 4th **April** was led by Petr Faulkner and attracted a dozen brave souls who walked to Clattercoates Farm, White Carr Lane and Brackenfield. A commendable total of 55 species were seen by the group as a whole.

Highlights of the month :

A Black Tailed Godwit appeared on the 28th & 29th, Buzzards were plentiful with a high of 10 on the 21st, 12 Common Gulls were seen on the 2nd with an odd one on two later occasions, a Common Scoter stopped by on the 1st & 7th, Common Sandpipers were around on 6 days with a high of 5 on the 16th, a Common Tern on the 21st & 22nd, a solitary Crossbill on the 21st, up to 4 Curlews were seen on, up to 5 Dunlin were seen on most days at the end of the month, 2 Egyptian Geese appeared on the 9th and 1 on the 20th, around 100 Golden Plovers made a brief visit on the 2nd, 37 late Fieldfares were seen on the 8th, a single Goldcrest on the 2nd, 6th & 12th, a Goshawk was reported on the 18th, a Green Woodpecker recorded on the 13th, a "Greenland" Wheatear (verified by two people) spotted on 19th & 24th, a Jay was seen on 4 occasions, a Linnet on 3 days, a Little Egret was seen on the 4th. The Little Owl continued to be seen near Brackenfield Church, Little Ringed Plovers were seen on most day with a high of 5, large numbers of Meadow Pipits were seen, an Osprey flew high over on the 18th, a Peregrine was spotted on the 1st & 14th, 3 Red Breasted Mergansers made a surprise visit on the 28th, a Redshank appeared briefly on the 3rd & 5th, up to 3 Ringed Plovers appeared on several days, and we had a Skylark on the 6th & 8th. A Treecreeper crept in on the 8th, a Whooper Swan flew over on the 17th and a Whimbrel was seen on the 23rd & 26th. The Willow Tit showed on the 23rd & 26th, a common Wheatear was around on most days. Pied Wagtails were around and up to 4 Yellow Wagtails in the second half of the month and a White Wagtail on the 28th. It was good to see the Warblers returning, with Chiffchaff most days with a high of 12 on the 10th, Garden Warbler on the 27th, Reed Warbler from the 25th, Whitethroat from the 16th with and Willow Warbler most days from the 9th, with a high of 9 on the 22nd.

A total of 102 species were recorded in April 2015, as follows :-

Black Headed Gull ; Black Tailed Godwit ; Blackbird ; Blackcap ; Blue Tit ; Bullfinch ; Buzzard ; Canada Geese ; Carrion Crow ; Chaffinch ; Chiffchaff ; Coal Tit ; Common Gull ; Common Sandpiper ; Common Scoter ; Common Tern ; Coot ; Cormorant ; Crossbill ; Curlew ; Dunlin ; Dunnock ; Egyptian Goose ; Fieldfare ; Gadwall ; Garden Warbler ; Goldcrest ; Goldeneye ; Goldfinch ; Goosander ; Goshawk ; Great Black Backed Gull ; Great Crested Grebe ; Great Spotted Woodpecker ; Great Tit ; "Greenland" Wheatear ; Greenfinch ; Grey Heron ; Grey Wagtail ; Greylag Geese ; Herring Gull ; House Martin ; Jackdaw ; Jay ; Kestrel ; Kingfisher ; Lapwing ; Lesser Black Backed Gull ; Linnet ; Little Egret ; Little Grebe ; Little Owl ; Little Ringed Plover ; Long Tailed Tit ; Magpie ; Mallard ; Mandarin ; Meadow Pipit ; Merlin ; Mistle Thrush ; Moorhen ; Mute Swan ; Nuthatch ; Oystercatcher ; Peregrine ; Pheasant ; Pied Wagtail ; Pintail ; Pochard ; Raven ; Red Breasted Merganser ; Redshank ; Reed Buntings ; Reed Warbler ; Ringed Plover ; Robin ; Rooks ; Sand Martin ; Sedge Warbler ; Shovelers ; Skylark ; Snipe ; Song Thrush ; Sparrowhawk ; Swallow ; Swift ; Tawny Owl . Teal ; Tree Sparrow ; Treecreeper ; Tufted Ducks ; Wheatear ; Whimbrel ; Whitethroat ; White Wagtail ; Whooper Swan ; Willow Tit ; Willow Warbler ; Woodpigeon ; Wren ; Yellow Wagtail ; Yellowhammer.

May 2015 Species recorded = 96

Running Total = 130

The **Saturday Morning Bird Walk** on the **2nd May** was led by Paul Beard and attracted 21 members who walked in cold dry conditions from the hide along the West Bank and around the Brackenfield Loop. A commendable total of 59 species were seen by the group as a whole.

Highlights of the month

An Arctic Tern was spotted on the 6th and 4 terned up (sorry!) on the 18th. One or two Common Sandpiper were recorded on 4 occasions ; up to 5 Common Terns made regular appearances in the second half of the month ; a Cuckoo was noted in the 21st but not clear if it was seen or just heard ; a single Curlew made several appearances during the month ; a "Flavia" wagtail was reported on the 18th & 19th ; a single Gadwall was seen on 4th & 7th ; 2 Garden Warblers were reported on the 1st & 12th with

one on the 13th ; a Hobby caused some excitement on the 6th with 2 on the 20th ; upto 3 Linnets on odd occasions ; a Lesser Whitethroat was around during the first week ; we had one Jack Snipe on the 7th and a Greenshank on the 12th ; a rare view of a Mistle Thrush on the 27th ; a Redshank was seen on the 12th, 23rd, 25th & 26th ; a Sanderling made a brief visit on the 16th ; Sand Martin was reported on the 5th * 18th ; 1-3 Sedge Warblers have been singing most of the month ; a few Snipe were seen in the first week but nothing since then ; we had a Sparrowhawk on 4 days in the first half of the month ; one or two Spotted Flycatchers were seen on the 8th, 17th & 18th and the 25th ; a single Turnstone was recorded on the 19th ; a Tawny Owl was recorded on the 26th and on the 25th with chicks ; a Whimbrel was reported on a few occasions but some of these sightings were changed to Curlew ; a White Wagtail was reported on the 1st & 3rd ; up to 5 Whitethroats were recorded on 8 days ; Willow Warblers were reported on 8 days ; a Yellow Legged Gull on the 1st.

A total of 96 species were recorded as follows :-

Arctic Tern ; Black Headed Gull ; Blackbird ; Blackcap ; Blue Tit ; Bullfinch ; Buzzard ; Canada Geese ; Carrion Crow ; Chaffinch ; Chiffchaff ; Coal Tit ; Common Sandpiper ; Common Tern ; Coot ; Cormorant ; Curlew ; Dunlin ; Dunnock ; "Flavia" Wagtail ; Gadwall ; Garden Warbler ; Goldfinch ; Goosander ; Goshawk ; Great Black Backed Gull ; Great Crested Grebe ; Great Spotted Woodpecker ; Great Tit ; "Greenland" Wheatear ; Greenfinch ; Greenshank ; Grey Heron ; Grey Wagtail ; Greylag Geese ; Herring Gull ; Hobby ; House Martin ; House Sparrow ; Jack Snipe ; Jackdaw ; Jay ; Kestrel ; Kingfisher ; Lapwing ; Lesser Black Backed Gull ; Lesser Whitethroat ; Linnet ; Little Ringed Plover ; Long Tailed Tit ; Magpie ; Mallard ; Mandarin ; Mistle Thrush ; Moorhen ; Mute Swan ; Nuthatch ; Oystercatcher ; Peregrine ; Pheasant ; Pied Wagtail ; Raven ; Redshank ; Reed Buntings ; Reed Warbler ; Ringed Plover ; Robin ; Rooks ; Sand Martin ; Sanderling ; Sedge Warbler ; Shelduck ; Snipe ; Song Thrush ; Sparrowhawk ; Spotted Flycatcher ; Stock Dove ; Swallow ; Swift ; Tawny Owl ; Turnstone ; Tufted Ducks ; Wheatear ; Whimbrel ; Whitethroat ; White Wagtail ; Whitethroat ; Willow Warbler ; Woodpigeon ; Wren ; Yellow Legged Gull ; Yellow Wagtail ; Yellowhammer.

June 2015 Species recorded = 83

Running Total = 135

The **Saturday Morning Bird Walk** on the **6th June** was led by Paul Beard and attracted 14 members who walked in sunny but windy conditions along the West Bank to the River Amber. A total of 50 species were seen by the group as a whole.

Highlights of the month :

An American Kestrel noted on the 20th, 2 Black Tailed Godwits on the 2nd ; Common Sandpiper noted on 13th, 26th & 27, a Cuckoo reported on the 15th and heard on the 19th, Curlews were with a high of 6 on the 25th, a Goshawk was sighted on the 16th and a Greenshank on the 20th, a Hobby was flying around on 11th & 19th and a Kingfisher made several appearances, a Little Egret appeared on the 5th, 6th, 24th and 26-28th. An Osprey was observed fishing on 5th, 7th & 23rd. One or two Red Kites were seen on the 3rd, 5th, 6th & 14th, with a Redshank on 9th & 15th. Spotted Flycatcher on 27th. One or two Whitethroats were present on 7 occasions. The Willow Tit made a welcome return, being seen on the 21st, 23rd & 26th.

A total of 83 species were recorded up to 28th June 2015, as follows :-

American Kestrel, Barnacle Goose, Black Headed Gull ; Black Tailed Godwit ; Blackbird ; Blackcap ; Blue Tit ; Bullfinch ; Buzzard ; Canada Geese ; Carrion Crow ; Chaffinch ; Chiffchaff ; Coal Tit ; Common Gull ; Common Sandpiper ; Common Tern ; Coot ; Cormorant ; Cuckoo ; Curlew ; Dunnock ; Gadwall ; Goldfinch ; Goshawk ; Great Crested Grebe ; Great Spotted Woodpecker ; Great Tit ; Greenfinch ; Greenshank ; Grey Heron ; Grey Wagtail ; Greylag Geese ; Herring Gull ; Hobby ; House Martin ; House Sparrow ; Jackdaw ; Kestrel ; Kingfisher ; Lapwing ; Lesser Black Backed Gull ; Little Grebe ; Little Egret ; Little Ringed Plover ; Long Tailed Tit ; Magpie ; Mallard ; Mandarin ; Mistle Thrush ; Moorhen ; Mute Swan ; Nuthatch ; Osprey ; Oystercatcher ; Pied Wagtail ; Pochard ; Raven ; Red Kite ; Redshank ; Reed Buntings ; Reed Warbler ; Ringed Plover ; Robin ; Sand Martin ; Shoveler ; Siskin ; Skylark ; Song Thrush ; Sparrowhawk ; Spotted Flycatcher ; Stock Dove ; Swallow ; Swift ; Teal ; Tufted Ducks ; Whitethroat ; Willow Tit ; Willow Warbler ; Woodpigeon ; Wren ; Yellow Legged Gull ; Yellowhammer.

July 2015 With our regular Recorder Frank Wharram having injured himself, Tim Sexey stepped in at the last minute to produce this month's report.

31 July 2015

2 Little Egrets, male Whinchat still and a Stonechat, the first this year.

30 July 2015

2 Mandarins, Common Sand and Hobby.

29 July 2015

The Osprey and a single Sanderling, probably a different bird, reported this morning. 3 Dunlin arrived in the afternoon with the first two juveniles of the period and a single Whimbrel flew SE calling without being seen. Also 4 Mandarins, juv Peregrine, 2 Yellow-legged gulls, male Whinchat still and the autumn's first Yellow Wagtail.

28 July 2015

Osprey still present and showing on & off all day, 2 Sanderling were found at the south end of the west bank mid-afternoon and were still present 1630 as was the first Whinchat of the year in front of the member's hide. Also today ad Yellow-legged Gull, juv Peregrine, 6 Mandarins, 36 Tufteds and a Teal.

27 July 2015

The Osprey caught a fish c0930 and left south. Also single adult Yellow-legged and GBB Gulls, a juvenile Peregrine made several brief visits and a Whimbrel suddenly appeared on the west bank at 1210 and stayed for 30-40 minutes.

26 July 2015

Osprey again most of the morning at least with single adult Yellow-legged and Common Gulls.

25 July 2015

Osprey & juv Peregrine.

24 July 2015

Osprey & juv Peregrine.

Club Trips for 2015

We still have some trips planned for the remainder of 2015. Please see the list below.

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).

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	Meeting Point	Time	Dist from Chesterfield	Leader	Limit on No.s	notes and target species
Frampton RSPB	13-Sep-15	RSPB reserve PE20 1AY TF356392	10:00	75 miles 2 hour	Frank Wharram	No	Sun Full day. Packed lunch. Returning migrant waders and wildfowl including early geese and shelduck
Blacktoft RSPB	24-Nov-15	RSPB reserve SE843232	11:00	60 miles 1 hour 15	Martin Kaye	No	Tues Full day. Packed lunch. Variety of birds then Harrier roost including Hen Harriers at dusk.
Langford Lowfields RSPB / Stoney Middleton	06-Dec-15	Details to be announced later	14:00	40 miles/ 15 miles	Martin Kaye	No	Sun - late afternoon for Starling murmuration

Steve Slack
Publicity Officer