



Ogston Bird Club

August 2018 Newsletter

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

Dave Lander
Judith Dean
Stuart Firth
Irene Powdrill
Julian Snodin
Martin Froggatt

David Preston
Kevin Osborne
Sharon Seddon
Ann Smedley
Anette Love
Stephen Ball

Phil Turton
Kay Turton
Geoffrey Else
Celia Holmes
Maggie Campbell

Welcome to one and all!

An Archive of Ogston's Data and Records available to All

As promised and discussed in the last Newsletter, there is a new menu item on the OBC website titled **Archives**. It can be found between 'Local Sightings' and 'About'. Currently within this section can be found:

1. Old Annual Reports
2. Consolidated Bird Recordings from the OBC Website
3. Ogston Bird Club Monthly Reports

The intention is to add further material relevant to OBC as and when it becomes available and thus limit the possibility of the historical origins of the club and of birding in the area, disappearing for good.

Old Annual Reports - there are currently copies of reports from 1969-1981 available to be read and the intention is to add further reports in the future although the most recent reports will not be added until a few years have elapsed ensuring that members only will have access.

To my knowledge, there's only one complete set of annual reports and these, beginning in 1969, have been kindly donated to the club by Phil Shooter, the club's first chairman and one of the founder members. These early reports provide a fascinating insight into the origins and development of the club as well as providing an historical record of the birds in the Ogston area from this time. They thus make essential reading for those interested in the history of the club and birding within the area. In addition they provide a valuable resource for individuals who might wish to research sightings of particular species of bird over the years.

Consolidated Bird Recordings from OBC Website - the writers of the 'Systematic Bird Records' section of the annual report rely very heavily on the sightings recorded on the Sightings section of the OBC website. These are downloaded from the website into a spreadsheet where they are sorted and analysed thus making the writers job considerably easier. The last two annual reports have changed the format of the Systematic List in that some interpretation of the data is attempted, the data for individual species is often consolidated in tabular form and less detail of individual sightings is included. The reasoning behind this is to attempt to make this section more readable and hopefully more informative to the majority of members. However not all members agree with this approach because it lacks the detail present in earlier reports. In order to compensate for this change, the archives section now contains the spreadsheet records for the last 3 years with the data grouped by species. This now provides all members with as complete a record as currently practically possible.

Ogston Bird Club Monthly Reports - unsurprisingly provides a summary of the bird records for each month.

Committee Notices posted in the Hides

As you may have noticed, we have various charts and posters pinned up around our hides. A lot of these, such as the bird I.D. charts are informative and are there to provide a bit of assistance to any of us who might benefit from such.

Some of the pin-ups are Committee notices, placed there to draw attention to club affairs. One such notice which has drawn a few comments, is the one regarding keeping birding and photography equipment inside the hide rather than protruding out of the windows.

However, just recently, several copies of this particular poster have been removed from the hides. This has disappointed the Committee but it may be that we are guilty of not telling our members why we need such posters.

We really do understand that members want a better view or picture of our avian visitors, after all, that is why we go birdwatching.

However, getting that better view or picture sometimes leads to equipment protruding from the windows, however unintentionally that may be.

Breeding or roosting birds on scrapes and gravel banks often only 10m from the windows can be disturbed by such equipment.

I know that the great majority of our members understand this but we are forever attracting new members and a poster is an easy way of getting the message across.

Our Constitution states that the Club exists “to maintain and improve the habitat within the Area, and land outside the area either owned by or with permitted access to Ogston Bird Club, for the benefit of birds and other wildlife”

The Ogston Bird Club site is an official *Site of Special Scientific Interest*. This was achieved by the great efforts of Club Members and we have to do our very best to maintain this status. Also, as a registered charity the same aims have been declared and have to be upheld.

So please indulge us with posters. We do not do it to irritate members nor do we wish to be seen as condescending.

We all want to maintain our SSSI status and our position as one of the biggest and most successful bird clubs in the country and that can only be done if we work together.

Thankyou

John Parlby, Chairman

Maintenance Time Again!!

Autumn heralds the end of the breeding season and the start of our Club maintenance activity at Ogston. As usual we will soon be issuing a schedule of work parties starting after the end of September.

Once again we call on our hardy members to join us!

The working conditions are weather dependent, the hours are long, the pay is non-existent but the banter and comradery is brilliant!!

Some of the likely activities we need to undertake are –

- Clearing meadows and scrapes of vegetation.
- Improvement of the feeder area.
- Hide maintenance.
- Repair of gravel banks (following high water levels)

Dates and times will be advertised in the hides and on our Website. However little time you can contribute, you will be most welcome.

Dag Marshall

Organised Trips

There is just the one calendared trip remaining this year and that to RSPB Frampton Marsh. Details (which are also on the website - link [Frampton](#)) is shown. Please contact Martin Kaye if you wish to go - possible car share available. martin.kaye@icloud.com 07833720542

Frampton Marsh RSPB – Lincolnshire Coast – Tue 11th Sep 2018

Date: 11/09/2018

Meeting Point: Frampton RSPB reserve near Boston Lincs PE20 1AY

Time: 09:30

Lunch: bring packed lunch and drink

Transport: Members cars

Cost: free

Leader: Martin Kaye

Numbers Limit: None.

Notes: A fantastic reserve on the south western corner of the Wash. Although there are only 3 hides, there is non-stop interest over a large area. Guaranteed 50+ different species. At this time of year a number of the less common migrant waders can be seen. Last year this included Little Stint, Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Spoonbill and Great White Egret. Approx 2 hour drive from Chesterfield.

Directions – most folks will head for Newark and then take the A17 for 35 miles to Sutterton before joining the A16 to Boston. After 3 miles in Kirton, turn right towards Frampton village then keep on Middlegate Rd East to get to the reserve.

For further details contact Martin Kaye on **07833 720542**, or by e-mail at martin.kaye@icloud.com

Thankyou!!

On behalf of all the Committee may I say a big thank you to all those who helped to deliver the 2017 Annual Reports.

Whether you collected your individual copy or delivered to members in your local area, your efforts were really appreciated.

This sterling effort saved the club over £400 in postage!!

On top of this it was good to meet so many of our members on the morning of distribution.

John Parlby, Chairman

Publicity Officer Required

We are still looking for a Publicity Officer to the Ogston Bird Club Committee and invite any interested Member to get in touch. The role involves the production and distribution of our thrice yearly Newsletters by collecting and collating articles from other Committee Members, as well as helping with generating publicity for Ogston Bird Club.

As a Committee member the successful applicant will be required to attend Committee Meetings (every 6 weeks) and engage with other Committee functions and activities.

This is a great opportunity for someone to play a positive part in enhancing Ogston Bird Club for the general benefit of our wildlife.

To show interest or just to get more details, please contact John Parlby by email at johnparlby1@gmail.com or call on **01773 861262**, or **07767652036**

April Highlights

Early April saw our first Osprey on the 3rd, with our first Swallows and Willow Warbler, all welcome sights. The first House Martin showed the next day. On the 5th the highlight was the two Mediterranean Gulls soaring high over the reservoir, unfortunately they didn't land but as last year was the first blank year since the 1980's they were well received. On the 16th we had our first Common Sandpiper of the year on the dam wall as well as our first Common Tern. A Little Tern turned up (no pun intended) on the 18th and stayed all day. This is the 27th record for Ogston and the earliest by seven days. A nice drake Red-crested Pochard was off the west bank on the 19th, only the ninth record for here. The 21st saw our 4th ever recorded sighting of a Common Crane as well as our first Swift and Sedge Warblers. Our first Garden Warbler and Whitethroat showed up on the 23rd. I love April!

Full April Sightings

Arctic Tern	House Martin	Redstart
Blackcap	Kestrel	Redwing
Black-Headed Gull	Kittiwake	Reed Warbler
Brambling	Lapwing	Sand Martin
Buzzard	Lesser Redpoll	Sandwich Tern
Chiffchaff	Lesser Whitethroat	Sedge Warbler
Common Gull	Linnet	Shelduck
Common Sandpiper	Little Egret	Shoveler
Common Scoter	Little Grebe	Siskin
Common Tern	Little Gull	Skylark
Cormorant	Little Ringed Plover	Sparrowhawk
Crane	Little Tern	Swallow
Curlew	Mallard	Swift
Fieldfare	Mandarin Duck	Teal
Gadwall	Mediterranean Gull	Tufted Duck
Garden Warbler	Mute Swan	Water Rail
Goldeneye	Osprey	Whimbrel
Goosander	Oystercatcher	Whitethroat
Goshawk	Peregrine Falcon	Willow Tit
Great Black-Backed gull	Pintail	Willow Warbler
Great Crested Grebe	Pochard	Yellow Wagtail
Grey Partridge	Raven	Yellowhammer
Hawfinch	Red Kite	
Herring Gull	Redshank	

May Highlights

May started with a surprise Marsh Harrier which had apparently roosted overnight. Surprising because all of our previous 26 records were of fly-throughs. This was quickly followed by 42 Arctic Terns on the 2nd, including a group of 41. The month saw occasional Osprey visits and a good highlight was the Woodlark which was Ogston's second ever sighting with the first being back in October 1971! A returning pair of Spotted Flycatchers were noted later in the month whilst the Oystercatcher successfully hatched a couple of chicks, always good to see considering the predations we have had in recent years. To finish the month a Blue Headed Wagtail visited our scrapes on the 30th.

Full May Sightings

Arctic Tern	Lesser Redpoll	Ringed Plover
Buzzard	Lesser Whitethroat	Sanderling
Common Sandpiper	Little Owl	Shelduck
Common Scoter	Little Ringed Plover	Sparrowhawk
Common Tern	Mandarin Duck	Spotted Flycatcher
Cuckoo	Marsh Harrier	Swift
Curlew	Osprey	Tufted Duck
Dunlin	Oystercatcher	Whimbrel
Gadwall	Peregrine	White Stork
Goshawk	Pied Wagtail	Willow Tit
Greenshank	Pochard	Woodlark
Hobby	Red Kite	Yellow Wagtail
Kingfisher	Redstart	

June Highlights

The start of June saw our first Turnstone of the year and also a party of 8 Willow Tits which is great to see. Two family of Mandarins, 8 and 7, were a welcome sight as was the male Honey Buzzard which stopped by and displayed over Carr Wood for a small fortunate group of birdwatchers. In the middle of the Month, the clear top highlight was the visiting Manx Shearwater which stayed with us all day despite the unwelcome attention from the gulls. At the end of the Month the great news was that the Lapwings and Little ringed Plovers had hatched chicks, 3 of each!

Full June Sightings

Arctic Tern	Honey-Buzzard	Redshank
Black-Headed Gull	Kingfisher	Ringed Plover
Black-Tailed Godwit	Lapwing	Shoveler
Canada Goose	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Skylark
Common Sandpiper	Lesser Whitethroat	Snipe
Common Tern	Little Grebe	Sparrowhawk
Coot	Little Ringed Plover	Spotted Flycatcher
Cormorant	Long-Tailed Tit	Swift
Curlew	Mandarin Duck	Tawny Owl
Dunlin	Mute Swan	Teal
Gadwall	Oystercatcher	Tufted Duck
Great Crested Grebe	Pochard	Tufted Duck/Pochard Hybrid
Greylag Goose	Raven	Turnstone
Hobby	Red Kite	Willow Tit

July Highlights

As our birds get down to the more serious business of rearing their young, highlights for July were few and far between. Up to 5 Little Egrets showed well and a Hobby was an occasional caller. Up to 6 Black Tailed Godwits were seen on several days whilst on the water the broods of young were the most noticeable with up to 25 Mandarins seen in one raft.

Full July Sightings

Barn Owl	Great Crested Grebe	Mute Swan
Black-Headed Gull	Greenshank	Oystercatcher
Black-Tailed Godwit	Greylag Goose	Raven
Buzzard	Herring Gull	Snipe
Canada Goose	Hobby	Swift
Common Gull	Kingfisher	Teal
Common Sandpiper	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Tufted Duck
Common Scoter	Little Egret	Whimbrel
Common Tern	Little Grebe	Wigeon
Coot	Little Ringed Plover	Willow Tit
Crossbill	Mallard	Yellow Wagtail
Gadwall	Mandarin Duck	Yellow-Legged Gull
Goldfinch	Meadow Pipit	

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

Missing Person

We have been asked to share this missing person notice with our members to recruit another 650 pairs of eyes in the search. Anthony has been missing since the 2nd of August and his family and friends are increasingly concerned.

MISSING PERSON



OFFICERS LEADING THE SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN ANTHONY WARD NOW HAVE REAL CONCERNS THAT THE 70-YEAR-OLD MAY HAVE COME TO SERIOUS HARM. ANTHONY WAS LAST SEEN IN MAIN STREET, MORTON, ON THURSDAY, AUGUST, 2. HE WAS RECENTLY DIAGNOSED WITH EARLY ONSET DEMENTIA, ADDING TO THE CONCERNS ABOUT HIS SAFETY. ANTHONY, WHO GOES BY THE NAME TONY, IS 5FT 7INS TALL, OF SLIM BUILD AND HAS GREYING HAIR. HE WAS LAST SEEN WEARING A DARK JUMPER AND DARK COLOURED TROUSERS. TONY HAS LINKS TO THE BELPER AREA, WHERE HE PREVIOUSLY LIVED, AND IS ALSO A KEEN WALKER.

IF YOU HAVE HAD ANY INFORMATION IN REGARDS TO TONY'S DISAPPEARANCE SHOULD CONTACT US QUOTING INCIDENT 445-030818.

- TWITTER – DIRECT MESSAGE OUR CONTACT CENTRE ON @DerPolContact
- WEBSITE – COMPLETE THE ONLINE CONTACT FORM WWW.DERBYSHIRE.POLICE.UK/CONTACT-US.
- PHONE – CALL US ON 101.

YOU CAN ALSO CALL CRIMESTOPPERS ANONYMOUSLY ON 0800 555 111. PLEASE NOTE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY YOU SHOULD ALWAYS CALL 999.

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 body parts, scopes and 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 December 2018, so until then enjoy your birding!!