



# Ogston Bird Club

## April 2018 Newsletter

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

Graham & Ann Holliday	Michael & Vanessa Joesbury	Barry Hutchinson	Stuart Firth
Mark & Sandra Mercer	Nadine & Phillip Snowsill	George Morris	Ken Knight
Melvin & Jill Gratton	James & Claire Seaman	Chris Gardner	Ann Turner
Elizabeth & Eleanor Salt	Susan & Dennis Rix	Dave Farmer	Joshua Cowey
Phil & Trisha Wardle	Irene & John Powdrill	Claire Mountford	Rachel Leafe
Robert & Susan Day	Lewis Willis	Dave Lander	
Duncan & Carole Anderson	Matthew Vaughan	Judith Dean	
Nigel & Janice Johnson	John Green	Sue Todd	

**Welcome to one and all!**

### Club Trips

Club trips for **2018** have been scheduled as follows (See [website](#) for full details).

Sites	Date	Target Species
Lawrencefield, Padley Gorge and Burbage (Derbs.)	17/4/2018	Stonechat, Cuckoo, Tree Pipit, Redstart, Pied and Spotted Flycatcher, Ring Ouzel.
Whisby and Langford Lowfields (Lincs.)	15/5/2018	Nightingale, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Hobby.
Clumber Park (Notts.)	24/5/2018	Nightjar, Woodcock
Clumber Park (Notts.)	6/6/2018	Nightjar, Woodcock
Annesley Pit Top (Notts.)	19/6/2018	Black Necked Grebe
Blacktoft Sands (S. Yorks.)	10/7/2018	Marsh Harrier, Montagues Harrier (poss.), Bearded Tits.
Frampton Marsh (Lincs.)	11/9/2018	Migrant waders and wildfowl

Further details and booking can also be arranged, by contacting Martin Kaye on **07833 720542**, or by e-mail at [martin.kaye@icloud.com](mailto:martin.kaye@icloud.com)

### Publicity Officer Required

We are looking to appoint 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](mailto:johnparlby1@gmail.com) or call on **01773 861262**, or **07767652036**

## December Highlights

The gull roost produced some notable records with 1000 **Herring Gulls** and 200 **Greater Black Backed Gulls** on the 1<sup>st</sup>, sightings of **Caspian Gulls** on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> and a **Yellow Legged Gull** was also recorded on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

A fly-past of 74 **Pink Footed Geese** was noted on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, with up to 3 birds being seen amongst the **Greylag Geese** from the 26<sup>th</sup> onwards. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 **Egyptian Geese** were also noted. **Gadwalls, Goldeneyes, Teals, Tufted Ducks, Mallards** and **Pochards** were seen throughout the month. There were regular sightings of **Shelduck, Mandarin Duck** and **Goosander**, with 3 **Wigeon** being present on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Water Rail** sightings were noted on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and **Little Egrets** were present on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Redshank** sightings were recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month, 325 **Lapwings** on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 205 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a **Dunlin** also on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and **Snipe** on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. **Linnet, Redpolls, Meadow Pipets, Fieldfares, Redwings, Bullfinches, Willow Tits, a Pied Wagtail** and a **Brambling** were also seen.

For some perspective on the Ogston year list, see Tim Sexey's [comments](#) in the [Ogston Daily Report](#) on the OBC Website.

## Full December Sightings

Barn Owl	Goldfinch	Little Grebe	Snipe
Brambling	Goosander	Mallard	Sparrowhawk
Bullfinch	Goshawk	Mandarin Duck	Teal
Buzzard	Great Black-Backed Gull	Meadow Pipit	Tree Sparrow
Canada Goose	Great Crested Grebe	Mute Swan	Tufted Duck
Caspian Gull	Grey Wagtail	Peregrine Falcon	Water Rail
Coot	Greylag Goose	Pink-footed Goose	Wigeon
Dunlin	Herring Gull	Pochard	Willow Tit
Egyptian Goose	Lapwing	Raven	Yellow-Legged Gull
Fieldfare	Lesser Redpoll	Redshank	
Gadwall	Linnet	Redwing	
Goldeneye	Little Egret	Shelduck	

## January Highlights

**Whooper Swans** (3) visited on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Throughout January, on occasions 3 or 4 **Pinkfooted Geese** could be found amongst the **Greylag Geese** around the reservoir and on 6<sup>th</sup> large numbers were seen (900) flying past. **Teal** (up to 210), **Gadwall** (1-13), **Tufted Ducks** (0-13) and **Goldeneye** (0-5) were ubiquitously present, or almost so, throughout the month. Less ubiquitous were **Great Crested Grebes** (0-6) and **Goosander** (0-9); with the odd **Pochard** (on the 1<sup>st</sup>), **Shelduck** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>), **Pintail** (30<sup>th</sup>), a few **Wigeon** (8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>), 16 **Mandarin Ducks** (14<sup>th</sup>), **Little Grebes** (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>); and a **Water Rail** being seen on several occasions.

Good numbers of **Lapwing** were recorded throughout January, the most (nearly 600) being counted on the 30<sup>th</sup>. **Dunlin** were recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, a **Woodcock** on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Snipe** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, with 50 birds being seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Partridges** (4) were seen within the recording area on the 19<sup>th</sup>, whilst **Ravens**, flocks of **Fieldfares** and **Redwings**, **Dipper**, **Willow Tit**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Tree Sparrow**, **Yellowhammer**, **Brambling**, **Siskin**, **Chaffinch**, **Greenfinch** and **Common Redpoll** were all noted.

The gull roost also produced some notable records with 2500 **Herring Gulls** and 910 **Greater Black Backed Gulls** on the 5<sup>th</sup>; 2070 **Herring Gulls**, a **Yellow Legged Gull**, 1080 **Greater Black Backed Gulls**, 26 **Lesser Black Backed Gulls**, 19 **Common Gulls** and 2000 **Black Headed Gulls** on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. **Yellow Legged Gulls** were also seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>; and **Iceland Gulls** on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Full January Sightings

Barn Owl	Goosander	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Shelduck
Black-Headed Gull	Goshawk	Lesser Redpoll	Siskin
Buzzard	Great Black-Backed Gull	Linnet	Snipe
Canada Goose	Great Crested Grebe	Little Grebe	Sparrowhawk
Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Little Owl	Teal
Common Gull	Grey Heron	Mallard	Tree Sparrow
Coot	Grey Partridge	Mandarin Duck	Tufted Duck
Dipper	Grey Wagtail	Moorhen	Water Rail
Dunlin	Greylag Goose	Mute Swan	Whooper Swan
Fieldfare	Herring Gull	Peregrine Falcon	Wigeon
Gadwall	Herring/LBB Hybrid	Pink-Footed Goose	Willow Tit
Glaucous/Herring Gull	Iceland Gull	Pochard	Woodcock
Hybrid	Kestrel	Raven	Yellowhammer
Goldeneye	Lapwing	Redwing	Yellow-Legged Gull

## February Highlights

A **Glaucous Gull** was present in the gull roost on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, whilst **Herring Gulls**, **Greater Black Backed Gulls**, **Lesser Black Backed Gulls**, **Common Gulls** and 1000 **Black Headed Gulls** were noted on the 6<sup>th</sup>. **Common Gulls** were also noted on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 20 on the 25<sup>th</sup> (along with 500 **Herring Gulls**, a **Yellow Legged Gull**, 50 **Greater Black Backed Gulls**, 100 **Lesser Black Backed Gulls** and 2000 **Black Headed Gulls**).

**Mute swans** were seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, as was possibly “a” **Pink-Footed Goose** on occasions throughout the month. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, 196 **Pink-Footed Geese** flew over, as did a flock of 9 **Barnacle Geese** on the 10<sup>th</sup>. **Shelducks** were seen on a number of occasions, as were **Wigeon**, **Mandarin Ducks** and **Little Grebes**. More frequent visitors, in generally variable abundance depending on the species, were **Tufted Ducks**, **Teal**, **Gadwall**, **Goldeneye**, **Goosander** and **Great Crested Grebes**. A **Water Rail** was also seen on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Throughout late January and February **Grey Herons** started to occupy nests in the heronry with 2-3 birds on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 7 nests inhabited on the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb and 14 occupied nests counted on the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lapwings** (up 400) were counted on regular occasions, as were **Oystercatchers** (up to 4). A **Knot**, several **Snipe**, a **Ringed Plover**, a fly-past of 18 **Golden Plover** and a **Curlew**, were also seen throughout the month.

Of the Passerines: up to 80 **linnets** were present throughout the month; the odd flock of **Fieldfares** and **Redwings**; 3 **Song Thrushes** on the 6th; **Willow Tits** and **Grey Wagtails** were fairly frequent visitors; a **Yellowhammer** on the 18th and a **Common Crossbill** on the 21st; occasional **Common Redpoll** with a small flock on the 23rd; and small flocks of **Lesser Redpolls** were seen on the 21st and 22nd.

## Full February Sightings

Barn Owl	Golden Plover	Lesser Redpoll	Skylark
Barnacle Goose	Goldeneye	Linnet	Snipe
Black-Headed Gull	Goosander	Little Grebe	Song Thrush
Buzzard	Goshawk	Mandarin Duck	Sparrowhawk
Canada Goose	Great Black-Backed Gull	Mute Swan	Stock Dove
Carrion Crow	Great Crested Grebe	Oystercatcher	Tawny Owl
Common (Mealy) Redpoll	Grey Heron	Peregrine Falcon	Teal
Common Gull	Grey Partridge	Pink-Footed Goose	Tufted Duck
Coot	Grey Wagtail	Pochard	Water Rail
Crossbill	Greylag Goose	Raven	Wigeon
Curlew	Herring Gull	Red Kite	Willow Tit
Fieldfare	Kestrel	Redwing	Yellowhammer
Gadwall	Knot	Ringed Plover	Yellow-legged Gull
Glaucous Gull	Lapwing	Shelduck	
Goldcrest	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Siskin	

## March Highlights

**Mute Swans** were present on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of March and 35 **Whooper Swans** were seen on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A **Pink-footed Goose** was seen on the 28<sup>th</sup>, **Pintails** were seen on several occasions, a **Pochard** on the 12<sup>th</sup> and small numbers of **Wigeon** were present on 4 days, 3 of these consecutive. More frequent sightings of **Tufted Duck**, **Gadwall**, **Teal**, **Goldeneye**, **Goosander** and **Great Crested Grebe** were also recorded. Carrying on from February a wave of **Mandarin Ducks** passed through, with up to 29 birds being counted in the middle part of the month, also continuing into April. There were also occasional sightings of **Little Grebes** and **Water Rail**.

During the cold spell at the beginning of the month, a rapid decline of the **Lapwing** population around the reservoir was noted (272 on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb to 6 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March). The population then recovered again partially (e.g. 96 on the 9<sup>th</sup>) before declining again, presumably as birds moved away to establish breeding territories in suitable locations. Numbers of **Oystercatchers**, **Snipe** and **Curlews** passed through; 6 **Woodcock** were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a single bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; a **Black Tailed Godwit** was seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>; also on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 19 **Golden Plover**; a **Redshank** on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a **Dunlin** on the 16<sup>th</sup>; and single **Little Ringed Plovers** were seen on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

A **Nordic Jackdaw** was noted on the 9<sup>th</sup>, **Redwings** and **Fieldfares** were still seen throughout March, **Willow Tits** were seen often and **Skylarks** continued to pass through. Summer visitors started to arrive, the first **Sand Martin** and **Chiffchaffs** being recorded on the 13<sup>th</sup>. **Meadow Pipits** were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with a **Rock Pipit** being listed on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers of **Linnet**s were still noted but fewer sightings of **Common Redpoll** and fewer still of **Lesser Redpoll**. **Hawfinches** (4) were noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> and odd birds were seen on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Amongst the gulls on the 22<sup>nd</sup> were 418 **Herring Gulls**, 160 **Greater Black Backed Gulls**, 113 **Lesser Black Backed Gulls**, 16 **Common Gulls** and 750 **Black Headed Gulls**. **Common Gull** numbers fluctuated throughout March; also single records of some other species were also noted through the month (a **Yellow Legged Gull** on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, an **Iceland Gull** on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 28<sup>th</sup>, a **Little Gull** on the 5<sup>th</sup> and a **Kittiwake** on the 13<sup>th</sup>).

## Full March Sightings

Barn Owl	Goshawk	Little Gull	Sand Martin
Black-Headed Gull	Great Black-Backed Gull	Little Owl	Shoveler
Black-Tailed Godwit	Great Crested Grebe	Little Ringed Plover	Siskin
Brambling	Green Woodpecker	Mallard	Skylark
Buzzard	Grey Heron	Mandarin Duck	Snipe
Canada Goose	Greylag Goose	Meadow Pipit	Sparrowhawk
Chiffchaff	Hawfinch	Mute Swan	Starling
Common (Mealy) Redpoll	Herring Gull	Oystercatcher	Tawny Owl
Common Gull	Iceland Gull	Peregrine Falcon	Teal
Coot	Jackdaw	Pink-Footed Goose	Tufted Duck
Curlew	Kestrel	Pintail	Water Rail
Dunlin	Kittiwake	Pochard	Whooper Swan
Fieldfare	Lapwing	Raven	Wigeon
Gadwall	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Redshank	Willow Tit
Golden Plover	Lesser Redpoll	Redwing	Woodcock
Goldeneye	Linnet	Reed Bunting	Yellow-Legged Gull
Goosander	Little Grebe	Rock 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](mailto:bluetail.58@live.co.uk)

## **Pollyanna Pickering**

Members will be aware of the recent, sad passing of Pollyanna Pickering after a short illness.

Pollyanna was a world renowned and prolific wildlife artist who was also a committed conservationist. Living in Derbyshire, she travelled the world painting wildlife subjects and was always willing to deliver talks on her subject to local societies.

I am fortunate to have two of Pollyanna's original paintings, one of which she kindly produced specially for use in a booklet prepared on the subject of Derbyshire's Pied Flycatchers some years ago and the other of nestling Barn Owls. Pollyanna wrote to me recently from Tulsa USA, where she was preparing for exhibitions, readily giving agreement for me to use images of them in our Ogston Bird Club annual report 2017, which is in the course of preparation. This is typical of Pollyanna's unstinting kindness.

Pollyanna is going to be sadly missed but leaves in her memory outstanding paintings which are treasured by so many people.

Bill Padley (13 April 2018)

## **Ogston Open Day**

This annual event is on Monday May 7th. This year, we will have the OBC gazebo in the West Bank car park. We are a little short on helpers, so any member wishing to offer help would be very welcome. Setting up assistance is needed plus any help throughout the day. Even a couple of hours, if you can.

## **Pleasley Wildlife Day**

We have again accepted an invite to attend this day. As with the Ogston open day we could use volunteers to help please. This is on Sunday June 3rd. Many local organisations are present to make this a very interesting occasion. The Pit Head cafe will be open serving a variety of food. This is extremely good value and enjoyable.

## **Ogston Bird Club AGM**

As already advertised our AGM this year is on Tuesday May 15th. 7.30pm. start. The venue is again at Blackwell Community Centre. The formal proceedings will be followed by a presentation from Mike Price of the Peak District Raptor Monitoring Group, entitled "The Peak District Bird of Prey Initiative". We are not able to have the bar facilities this year, therefore we will serve tea/coffee biscuits etc. Again we need a few volunteers to make and serve the refreshments, and of course wash up afterwards.

If you can give some of your time to assist in any of these events, please contact John Parlby *via* email; [johnparlby1@gmail.com](mailto:johnparlby1@gmail.com) or phone 01773 861262, or, 07767652036

## **21st Century Communication**

I would like to say a big thank you to all of our members who allow us to use email to keep in touch.

Doing so helps us keep administration costs under control and eliminates waste of resources from printing which has to be a good thing. For those few members who prefer not to use email but are able to do so, please consider changing. This would really help us all.

Steve Slack

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

### Old Annual Reports

It was only when I got my hands upon a full set of Ogston's Annual Reports (courtesy of Phil Shooter who, as one of the Club's founder members, played an enormous part in the early years of the club and who was its first Chairman), that it occurred to me how rare these documents were likely to be and what a valuable resource they would be to those interested in club history and/or wanting to research occurrences of specific species of bird/s that had been recorded on site in the past. The first Annual Report was produced in 1969 on what is now an unfamiliar size of cheap paper. It was typed and then reproduced by what I guess was a kind of Offset Litho process resulting in a very variable product. Since then one has been printed annually (except 2015, which was combined with the 2016 report). If only they could be digitised I thought, and made freely available for posterity!

### Bird Records

Bill Padley and I began editing and assembling the Annual Report beginning with the 2015-16 report. Conscious of the fact that not all club members were expert birders, we adopted a different approach to previous editions in an attempt to create something that we hoped the majority would find more readable. To do this, we dispensed with a lot of the detail on bird sightings and replaced it with more of an overview and with, where appropriate, an interpretation of the data and the inclusion of graphs and tables. The down side of this approach is that for some members, vital detail was missing. In contrast, Bill and I had access to the detailed website records for a whole year which we had stored in an Excel Spreadsheet enabling us to create graphs/tables which we could incorporate within the report. It thus seemed that if we could make this spreadsheet available to members and make the Annual Report more readable (hopefully), all needs would be catered for.

After consulting Nikki Mahadevan, our website guru, the committee agreed that old Annual Reports could be made available on the Internet. In addition, the spreadsheets for all OBC's website bird records would be made available in the same way (see example below of this type of data).

Systematic No.	Observation Date	Species Name	No. seen	Sex if known	Site	Additional Comments
342	31/Oct/17	Peregrine Falcon	1		Ogston Reservoir	
342	03/12/17	Peregrine Falcon	1		Ogston Reservoir	
342	23/12/17	Peregrine Falcon	1	F	Ogston Reservoir	
356						Highlight today and bird of the year so far was a Great Grey Shrike in the South (Fisherman's) car park at around 1500 hrs. Though not seen subsequently well worth looking out for tomorrow, this is Ogston's sixth record with the last in the early part of 2007 being the first for thirty-five years.
	09/03/17	Great Grey Shrike	1		Ogston Reservoir	
362	21/03/17	Jay	4		Ogston Reservoir	
362	28/09/17	Jay	11		Ogston Reservoir	
368	02/01/17	Raven	2		Ogston Reservoir	
368	05/01/17	Raven	2		Ogston Reservoir	
368	28/01/17	Raven	2		Ogston Reservoir	
368	04/02/17	Raven	2		Ogston Reservoir	
368	05/02/17	Raven	2		Ogston Reservoir	
368	10/02/17	Raven	2		Ogston Reservoir	

The intention is to create a new menu item upon the OBC website, **Archive**, where these old documents and data records can be accessed via links. This will happen just as quickly as possible and when it's up and running, members will be alerted to it by email.

Martin Kaye



## Work Parties

Probably the most significant recent site development was the renewal of the roof of the Main Hide. Prior to its installation, a great deal of research took place in choosing the best materials. This was followed by a mammoth day's work by seven members who braved the cold and periodic snow flurries to remove the old roof and replace it with the shiny new one. The weather did however have the last laugh when during the most recent snowfall, snow was blown under the eaves on the north side and formed a mini drift on the shelf. (Hopefully the latest remedial work will stop that happening in the future.)



Health and Safety at work, removing the old roof; working from inside the hide. Mind you is Mr Left trying to take over Mr Right's stepladder?

Clearly Mr Left has upset someone and they've taken away his stepladder



Mr Left seems to have dealt with the matter

The Proud Controller



## The Birds of Derbyshire

We are able to offer a special price on the 'Birds of Derbyshire' book. The normal price is £40 and a few are available at £25. If you're interested, contact John Parlby on 01773 861262 or email him at [mjohnparlby1@gmail.com](mailto:mjohnparlby1@gmail.com)

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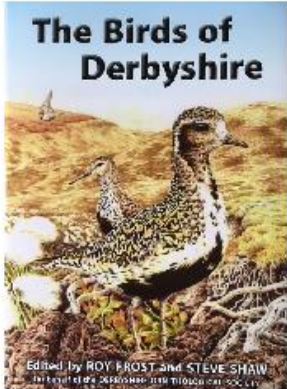
**North West:**  
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**North:**  
Bryan Barnacle 01433 630726

**North East:**  
John Parlby 01773 861262

**Central inc. Derby:**  
Paul Bingham 01332 513487

**South:**  
"Syd" Garton 01283 544870



**The Birds of Derbyshire**

Edited by ROY FROST and STEVE SHAW  
The Derbyshire Ornithological Society

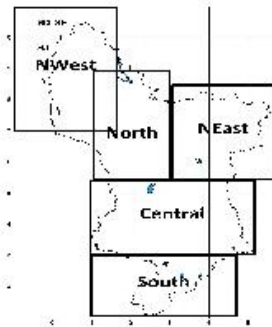
Published in 2013

376 pages

History  
Habitats  
Species status  
Breeding Bird Survey  
Colour photos  
Charts  
Line drawings  
... and more

Excellent reviews

30.5cm x 22cm x 3.5cm



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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 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 August 2018, so until then enjoy your birding!!