



OGSTON BIRD CLUB

Reporting of Bird Sightings by Ogston Bird Club

Background

The Constitution of Ogston Bird Club (hereinafter referred to as “the Club”) states that the primary object of the Club is to study and record, on a database, birds of Ogston Reservoir and Ogston Woodlands and to make such records available to the public’.

This is achieved at Ogston by recording of Daily Sightings which are then shared with organisations who have an interest in receiving them (currently the Derbyshire Ornithological Society (DOS), Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is the primary legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK and Section 1 of this Act outlines the protection afforded to birds in general and Schedule 1 defines additional legal protection afforded to certain bird species. Part of this protection involves keeping certain records confidential. Accordingly, we, as a Club, need to satisfy ourselves that we support that legislation and maintain responsibility for our own actions with regards to sharing knowledge of birds.

As well as the controls in the above Act, the well-respected Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) exists to oversee records of birds which are classed as rare breeders. Although most of these species are already classed as Schedule 1, some are not and there are birds which, whilst not classified as rare or even Schedule 1, deserve protection due to well documented risk of persecution. The Derbyshire Ornithological Society maintains a list, derived from the above sources and their own knowledge, of sensitive species and the restrictions they impose on publishing records of them. In the interests of conformity, the Club will adopt this list and its restrictions on publication of records.

Policy

This policy defines the Club’s reporting process with the intention of ensuring we control the sharing of knowledge of birds in the above categories on social media and the very public Club website.

The reporting process will be –

- **ALL** bird sightings are to be recorded in the site diaries or conveyed to the Recording Secretary by email or verbally.
- **ALL** bird sightings are reported to the interested parties referred to above via the monthly spreadsheet. DOS treat records of sensitive species as confidential and do not publish them on their website or in bulletins.
- All bird sightings can be reported on the Club’s website and Facebook Group **EXCEPT** those on the list of **Sensitive Species** during the relevant restricted periods. Where no breeding period is mentioned, it is to be taken as from 1st April to 31st July in accordance with the RBBP recommendations.

The Club will maintain and make available to our membership the list of **sensitive species** of birds based on the list maintained by DOS which should be read in conjunction with this policy.

Links

Derbyshire Ornithological Society “Think before you click” [TBYCD.pdf \(derbyshireos.org.uk\)](#)

Derbyshire Ornithological Society “Finding rarities” [FindingRarities.pdf \(derbyshireos.org.uk\)](#)

Rare Breeding Birds Panel guidance [Guidance on rare breeders 2021 – UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel \(rbbp.org.uk\)](#)

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

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