

# OGSTON BIRD CLUB

DECEMBER 2024



## NEWSLETTER



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2025 .....	1
NEWS ROUND UP .....	2-6
FACEBOOK GROUP .....	7
RSPB ARTICLE ON NEED TO PROTECT UK SHORELINES .....	8-10
LINKS TO MORE ARTICLES OF TOPICAL INTEREST .....	11
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM .....	12

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2025

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 2025. The subscription rates for this coming year are unaltered, with the exception of the charge for anyone wanting a paper copy of the Newsletter. A renewal form is included with this Newsletter.

A copy of the Renewal Form is also available to download from the "How to Join" page on the Club website.

If you wish to pay by Bank Transfer, please transfer your payment to the following account –

**Sort Code 77-74-18      Account 25031260**

**(£15 Single Member, £20 Family, and of course voluntary donations are welcome)**

Add your membership number for reference if you know it and send a short email to [ogstonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:ogstonbirdclub@gmail.com) to let the Club's membership secretary know you've sent it. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support. Happy birding!

## NEWS ROUND-UP. WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT OGSTON?

In the months since our last newsletter in August, **work parties** have resumed.

The bird nesting season has drawn to a close, and we have been able to work in the areas to which we have access, around the hides and down the west bank.

In co-operation with our landlords Severn Trent Water and their contractor Robin Brooke of Wildwood Forestry, the meadows, including the bracken bed, have been cut and the cuttings removed.

Planned control of willow is in place, and already the shoreline around the public hide and adjoining the public car park have been cleared to much improve the views of the reservoir and its birds. This task has been undertaken this year to include removal of the roots to prevent regrowth next year.

The area around the members' hides has been cleared of rough grass and encroachment of invasive vegetation. The public hide has been given a facelift, with STW funding materials

The habitat which we actively manage for the birds and wildlife are of course part of a **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**, the whole of which is managed closely by STW ecologists and our co-operation with them is so important.

This year Wildwood Forestry are, in response to our needs and under instruction from STW, opening up several of the key viewpoints.

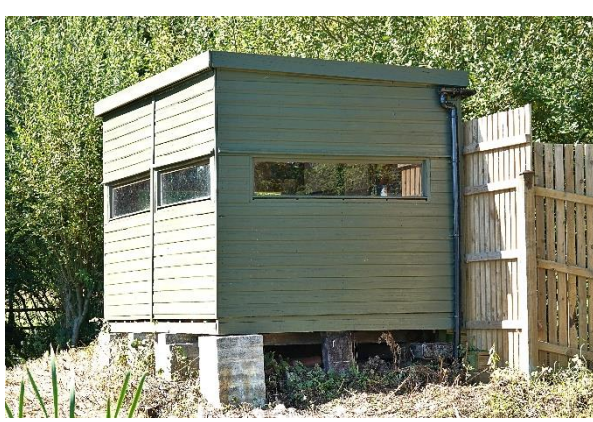
They have taken over the clearance of some of the gaps down the west bank which give views out to our raft in the southern part of the reservoir and to the gull roost.

In addition, they have substantially opened up an area on the west bank which we have named the 'Damp Patch' (see map on page 3 of the 2023 annual report). Some years ago, it was noticed that a tiny patch of *Phragmites* reeds was growing there and that for most of the year, there was a good supply of water. However, surrounded by fast growing willow, the embryonic reed bed looked doomed to be overgrown. Beginning in 2020, we have run work parties and removed much of the smaller willow growth but with only bow saws and loppers allowed, it wasn't practicable to deal with larger willow trees which were taking light and moisture from the reed bed.

Nonetheless, our efforts did bear fruit as evidenced by the rapid increase in area covered by reeds. Recently, the contractor, with chainsaw, enlarged the area so perhaps in not too many years' time, we may be able to watch Reed and Sedge Warblers from the west bank and possibly a Water Rail - who knows what might turn up? This photograph shows the fruits of the most recent work undertaken.



The **members' hides** have received two coats of preservative, and an access path created to the reed bed area, all undertaken by our usual amazing volunteers.



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November saw the launch of the **Ogston Bird Club WhatsApp Bird Sightings Group**, which will assist in real-time access to notable sightings. Take-up has been remarkably high., with over 100 conscripts in the first three days. This is intended to augment, but of course not to replace, the usual reporting of records via the site diary and email to our recorder Richard Gratton. It is important that we limit postings by this group very strictly to bird sightings only, rather than conversation or comment.

As a member of the Club, joining the group is not mandatory and is on an opt-in basis. To request to join, simply email any of the group administrators with your name and mobile phone number:

1. Richard Gratton (Recording Secretary) – richg76@gmail.com
2. Steve Slack (Chair) – steveslack26@gmail.com
3. Bill Padley (Committee member) – billpadley5@hotmail.co.uk

The Club will retain a database of group members but this information will not be used for any other purpose or shared with anyone else. Upon receiving your email you will then be added to the WhatsApp group as soon as possible. This will be taken as you having given your consent to share your number with the group and that you agree to abide by the group's rules. When you join, please take the time to read the group's aim statement and code of conduct (these will be sent to you as attachments upon joining).

Highlights of the **recent bird sightings** included the arrival on 4<sup>th</sup> November of eight Bearded Tits in the reedbed, which afforded excellent views. These photographs taken by Mary Wilde show a male and a female. We were considering putting grit trays out to encourage them to stay, but they drifted on over the succeeding days.



Other highlights included an Arctic Skua which was present on 5<sup>th</sup> September, a Yellow Browed Warbler at Highoredish on 28<sup>th</sup> September, and a Water Pipit on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

We had two Black Terns on respectively 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October and, as one good tern deserves another, a Sandwich Tern on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Two Common Scoters were down between 5<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September, and we have enjoyed one and occasionally two Caspian Gulls and our regular Yellow-legged Gull.

It had appeared that 2024 was to pass without a **new species for Ogston**, until on 7<sup>th</sup> November Tim Sexey identified a **Shore Lark** passing over the west bank with Skylarks. Shore Lark is a Derbyshire rarity and as such will require acceptance by the Derbyshire Ornithological Society Rarities Committee for validation. If accepted this will be species number 257 on our All-Time List.

Readers of the DOS bulletins will be aware of the **Barn Owl colour ringing initiative** which is being undertaken in NE Derbyshire by the Sorby Breck Ringing Group, working with BTO. Of the 40 plus Barn Owl chicks ringed thus far, we contributed three from the general Ogston area. Watch out for 3L, 3N and 3P; white numbers on blue. Photos by Bryn Roberts



On the subject of leg rings, Steve Walker was able to photograph the rings on several of the **passage Ospreys** this year, enabling him to confirm indeed that our birds are of Scottish breeding stock.



This particular Osprey with the blue darvic ring number PU0 was to be seen at Ogston on 24<sup>th</sup> August for about 50 mins until about 6pm that day during which time it fished twice successfully. The same bird appeared again at about 4pm the following day and stayed around for about 30 mins during which time it fished once successfully.

PU0 was ringed at a nest at Morenish by Loch Tay in Perthshire, Scotland on 10/7/20. It was one of a brood of two chicks and the BTO ring number is 1439260.

This bird was previously last seen intruding at the Loch Arkaig nest in Scotland on 14/5/23.



Enjoyable **Club Trips** organised since August included a day in the Dearne Valley on 16<sup>th</sup> October when we visited Ederthorpe Flash (Pintail) followed by Wombwell Ings and Old Moor where the bird of each was probably the Green Sandpiper (one and three birds respectively)

The monthly Saturday walks have continued enjoyably; always a pleasure to meet friends and enjoy some exercise – nothing too strenuous – come along if you have a “first Saturday morning in the month “free.



**Autumn** is a season of fruitfulness and is also when interesting fungi can be found on a walk down the west bank. This Blushing Rosette was found by Dave Mansfield .

**Jim Mart Reserve** has benefited from attention to the vegetation and in particular to the newly developing hay meadow, designed to encourage diversity of insects in particular. Budgetary constraints need us to review carefully plans for bridge access to the far side of Press Brook where the old pumphouse stood – now demolished. The site will benefit shortly from some careful planning of tree control to admit more light to the **butterfly bank** in 2025

A survey by Alan Wragg and Annie Adlington of **Derbyshire Bat Group** was undertaken at JMNR using a “mini” song meter called *Kaleidoscope* between 16<sup>th</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September. There were 239 records of 5 species. Some would have been the same bat more than once. Most were Common Pipistrelles, with 7 Soprano Pipistrelles. There were 19 Noctules and 6 Brown Long-eared Bats. There was one of either Leislars or Serotine - which if the latter (a Serotine) would be remarkable. Curiously there weren't any of the Myotis genus. (See annual report 2023 page 76 for your recollection). Some more analysis is being undertaken by the bat group.

A repeat exercise is proposed.

So – plenty to enjoy and plenty to look forward to in 2025.  
Meanwhile. Merry Christmas everyone, and may 2025 be a good one.

**Bill Padley** - November 2024



# FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/697216894038085/about>



The Club's **Facebook Group** continues to be actively supported and enjoyed by many members. This is a "private" Group, membership of which is only open to Ogston Bird Club members, so may I urge you to renew your Club membership for 2025 as soon as possible to ensure your continued uninterrupted and valued participation.



Of the Club's total membership of 700+ the Facebook Group currently has in the order of 250+ members – there are a number of regular contributors to the Group and as such it is a good source of information on a daily basis in terms of what birds or other wildlife have been sighted and as often as not are still to be seen in the Ogston recording area.

Little Owl sighted in its usual tree at Brackenfield Nov 2024

If you are on Facebook please consider joining. You do not have to post photos to actively contribute to the Group, liking and commenting on posts is as much a contribution as the posts themselves. You can just use this Group for information on what is out and about at Ogston, but as a member please post your sightings and comments back on the Group page with or without a photo for others to see and enjoy. But do please bear in mind the importance of not drawing attention to "sensitive" breeding or nesting birds in your postings on this or any social media site for that matter.

Mandarins aplenty sighted in the Milltown inlet Nov 2024



**Steve Walker** - Group Admin 30/11/2024

## IUCN Red List highlights need to protect UK shorelines

Concerning decline of migratory shorebird species highlights vital need to protect UK shorelines.

- UK shorebirds Grey Plover, Dunlin, Turnstone and Curlew Sandpiper moved to higher threat categories on global IUCN Red List .
- Latest Red List update reveals highly concerning decline of migratory bird species, with 16 shorebird populations globally moving to higher threat categories.
- With UK shorelines being globally important for migratory birds and as COP16 enters the final days of negotiations, the news underlines the need for urgent action, both internationally and in the UK, to protect and restore nature.

Scientists reviewing the conservation status of the world's bird populations have confirmed that four UK shorebird species have seen significant declines in numbers. As a result, these species have moved to higher threat categories on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Most of these species journey to the UK in winter from colder climes, making use of the shoreline and estuaries to rest and feed on nutrient-rich food ahead of their migration back to their northern breeding grounds in spring.

The latest IUCN Red List update for birds globally, by Birdlife International\*, shows that the following UK shorebird species that have moved to higher threat categories:



Curlew Sandpiper, Marazion, Cornwall, (© Andrew Jordan)

- **Grey Plovers** spend the winter mainly on estuaries and have declined by more than 30% globally since the late 1990s. Their conservation status has moved two categories from 'Least Concern' to 'Vulnerable'.
- **Dunlins** also spend the winter mainly on estuaries and have declined by at least 20% globally since the early 2000s, resulting in them being moved one category from 'Least Concern' to 'Near Threatened'.
- **Turnstones** can be found in more countries worldwide than almost any other bird species and mainly spend the winter on more rocky coastlines. They have declined by at least 20% globally since the mid-2000s and have moved one category from 'Least Concern' to 'Near Threatened'.
- **Curlew Sandpipers** are a scarce species that passes through the UK on their autumn migration between its wintering areas further south and its Arctic breeding grounds. They have declined by more than 30% globally since the late 2000s and have moved one category from 'Near Threatened' to 'Vulnerable'.

### International collaboration vital to protect migratory bird populations

The latest IUCN Red List update for birds has revealed a highly concerning downwards trend in migratory shorebird numbers globally, with 16 species moved to higher threat categories. These shorebirds are just some of the 145 bird species whose global extinction risk category has changed in the 2024 update\*\*.

Following migration routes called flyways, migratory birds require multiple interconnected sites to rest and feed, making them especially at risk from threats such as habitat loss due to rising sea levels and climate change.

Many of these shorebirds are still commonly encountered along their flyways. However, new analyses of data from long-term monitoring schemes reveal that the global populations of some species have declined by more than a third in recent decades. In some cases, the rate of decline is accelerating, underlining the urgent need for research to better understand the root issues causing the declines, and conservation action to address them.

As the Convention on Biological Diversity COP16 draws to a close, governments must not miss this vital opportunity to take urgent action to reverse habitat loss, protect species and preserve the ecosystems upon which all wildlife and people depend. International declines in migratory shorebirds highlight the significant challenges facing nature worldwide, as well as the critical need to collaborate beyond borders and to ensure that countries take action to safeguard the habitats found along the migration routes that these threatened birds take.

Dr Guy Anderson, the RSPB's migratory birds programme manager, said: "Migratory bird populations know no borders and are a key indicator of the health of the planet. With the return of many migratory bird species to our shores heralded each year, it's extremely concerning to see these declines.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed two years ago created a chance to reverse nature's decline, but now we really need to turn these promises into urgent action. The UK Government must commit to urgently publish detailed, ambitious action plans outlining how the UK will contribute to global efforts to save our natural world. Time is running out, but we still have an opportunity to take a leading role in protecting nature and the wild spaces we all rely on."

Martin Harper, CEO of BirdLife International, adds: "COP16 must be the catalyst for governments to back up commitments made two years ago with meaningful action to reverse the catastrophic declines in species populations. This means action to transform our food, energy and industrial systems, backed up by the necessary funding. The decline of migratory birds is a symbol of how we are currently failing. We need international collaboration to conserve these species and their habitats and safeguard the livelihoods of the millions of people who depend on them for their survival."

## UK shorelines a lifeline for migratory birds



The Red List update shines a light on the UK's shorelines, and in particular its estuaries, and their global importance for migratory birds. Every autumn, hundreds of thousands of threatened wading birds and waterfowl embark on epic journeys across land and sea to reach UK estuaries and spend their winters here.

Grey Plover, Titchwell, Norfolk, (© Tony Davison)

For many migratory birds including Dunlin, Turnstone and Grey Plover, the UK's estuaries are a vital lifeline as part of the connected network of coastal habitats along the bird "superhighway", known as the East Atlantic Flyway. Millions of birds travel back and forth every year along the flyway, with the rich diversity of shore habitats providing essential nutrients and a place to refuel.

Whilst many estuaries are protected by special designations, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), they are under threat and face a myriad of challenges including pollution, development and climate change, with sea level rise causing increased erosion and a heightened risk of coastal flooding, forcing wildlife into smaller and smaller spaces.

These coastal areas are not only vital for wildlife, but also provide food, jobs, and flood protection. Rising sea levels also threaten nearby communities and businesses, with some current coastal defences struggling to cope with increasing sea levels. Thankfully, estuaries can play an integral part in helping to tackle climate change, locking away large quantities of carbon while also acting as a natural defence against flooding.

Milo Sumner, England Coastal Programmes Manager, said: "The irony is that the estuaries and other coastal areas that these birds, and our coastal communities, rely on are not only vital for wildlife, they can also help fight the climate crisis - if we look after them. But globally, they are being degraded or destroyed globally at four times the rate of tropical forests<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. It is crucial that we protect our UK shorelines if we are to tackle the nature and climate crisis."

UK estuaries cover just under 590,000 hectares – 2.5 times the size of the Lake District National Park – and the RSPB oversees the conservation of large areas of this habitat. The Wash on the east coast of England is the most important estuary in the UK for winter migratory birds, with more than 458,000 birds recorded in the most recent survey of this area alone<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>.

Around the UK, the RSPB works hard to protect estuaries and make them the best that they can be for wildlife. The RSPB does this by protecting the wider landscape around estuaries, including looking after nature reserves which can also act as natural flood defences. Where possible and beneficial to wildlife, the RSPB also enhances wetland landscapes and supports UK estuaries by campaigning against inappropriate developments which threaten them. And critically, it helps to raise awareness of how visitors to these habitats can help safeguard the health of these birds. By giving the birds that make our estuaries their winter homes plenty of space to rest and feed and reducing the level of disturbance they face, we can give them the best chance of survival over the winter months.

Milo Sumner continued: "Thankfully, we can all play our part in supporting our very tired and very hungry shorebirds after their arrival this winter, and the best way to do this is by not disturbing them. If we disturb these birds, they will be scared into taking flight, which wastes all the energy they are so desperately trying to build up from feeding. We ask people to keep to public paths, avoid getting too close to large groups of feeding or resting birds, and to please keep dogs on leads during this vulnerable season. If we work together our winter birds can get the nourishment and rest time they so urgently need while we are lucky enough to have them here in the UK."

## LINKS TO MORE ARTICLES OF TOPICAL INTEREST (ctrl+click to follow links)

A research team primarily based at New York University (NYU) has achieved a breakthrough in ornithology and artificial intelligence by developing an end-to-end system to detect and identify the subtle nocturnal calls of migrating birds:

[https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/Researchers\\_unveil\\_nocturnal\\_migration\\_system\\_which\\_identifies\\_species\\_on\\_the\\_move.aspx?s\\_id=125271220](https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/Researchers_unveil_nocturnal_migration_system_which_identifies_species_on_the_move.aspx?s_id=125271220)

Plans have been unveiled to reintroduce White-tailed Eagle to Cumbria:

[https://www.birdguides.com/news/plan-unveiled-to-reintroduce-white-tailed-eagle-to-cumbria/?utm\\_campaign=1300364\\_Weekly%20News%20from%20BirdGuides%2023%2F09%2F2024&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dotdigital&dm\\_i=73DM,RVD8,ZVD5U,3R7IU,1](https://www.birdguides.com/news/plan-unveiled-to-reintroduce-white-tailed-eagle-to-cumbria/?utm_campaign=1300364_Weekly%20News%20from%20BirdGuides%2023%2F09%2F2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dotdigital&dm_i=73DM,RVD8,ZVD5U,3R7IU,1)

A project to reintroduce Black Grouse to the North York Moors has commenced:

[https://www.birdguides.com/news/north-york-moors-black-grouse-reintroduction-scheme-launches/?utm\\_campaign=1330642\\_Weekly%20News%20from%20BirdGuides%2021%2F10%2F2024&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dotdigital&dm\\_i=73DM,SIQA,ZVD5U,3URXK,1](https://www.birdguides.com/news/north-york-moors-black-grouse-reintroduction-scheme-launches/?utm_campaign=1330642_Weekly%20News%20from%20BirdGuides%2021%2F10%2F2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dotdigital&dm_i=73DM,SIQA,ZVD5U,3URXK,1)

Unsustainable breeding season for Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers:

[https://www.birdguides.com/news/unsustainable-breeding-season-for-british-lesser-spotted-woodpeckers/?utm\\_campaign=1338941\\_Weekly%20News%20from%20BirdGuides%2028%2F10%2F2024&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=dotdigital&dm\\_i=73DM,SP4T,ZVD5U,3VPJJ,1](https://www.birdguides.com/news/unsustainable-breeding-season-for-british-lesser-spotted-woodpeckers/?utm_campaign=1338941_Weekly%20News%20from%20BirdGuides%2028%2F10%2F2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dotdigital&dm_i=73DM,SP4T,ZVD5U,3VPJJ,1)

Threatened populations of Hen Harriers, Curlews and Orkney Voles are on the up:

[https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/orkney-conservation-sees-hen-harriers-double-and-orkney-voles-triple?utm\\_source=notes\\_on\\_nature\\_20241109&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=notes\\_on\\_nature&utm\\_content=16&utm\\_campaign=notes\\_on\\_nature](https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/orkney-conservation-sees-hen-harriers-double-and-orkney-voles-triple?utm_source=notes_on_nature_20241109&utm_medium=email&utm_term=notes_on_nature&utm_content=16&utm_campaign=notes_on_nature)



*The Committee would like to wish all Club members a very Happy Christmas and a fulfilling and successful New Year!*



# OGSTON BIRD CLUB - Membership / Renewal Application 2025

APPLICANT (S) INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)			
Applicant Full Name			
Email		Telephone	
For a <b>Family Membership</b> (2 Members at the same address) Enter the second member's details below			
2nd Applicant Full Name			
2nd Applicant Email		Telephone	
Please note to keep costs down, Newsletters are sent by email. A paper copy is always available in the hide to read after issue. <b>Copies can be posted if absolutely necessary but will cost £10 to cover some of the cost.</b>			
Membership Type – Please Tick as appropriate			
RENEWING MEMBER?		OR NEW MEMBER?	
<b>Full Postal Address including Post Code –</b>		SINGLE MEMBERSHIP - <b>£15</b>	
		FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - <b>£20</b>	
		<b>Postage for Newsletters - £10 (only for members without email)</b>	
		VOLUNTARY DONATION	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	
I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED WILL BE HELD ON THE OGSTON BIRD CLUB DATABASE <u>FOR CLUB USE ONLY</u> AND WILL NOT BE SHARED WITH ANY OTHER CLUB, ORGANISATION OR BUSINESS.			
Signature of applicant (s):			Date:

**Membership renewals are due on JAN 1st annually, access codes changed shortly after.**

**\*\*\*\* Gift Aid \*\*\*\***

Gift Aid raises more funds for Ogston Bird Club **without costing you a penny more**. If you're a UK taxpayer we can reclaim the tax on your membership subscriptions and donations.

**For each £1 you give, we can claim 25p from HM Revenue and Customs.** All we need is for you to tick this box

I would like Ogston Bird Club to reclaim the tax on this and any other eligible donations or membership subscriptions that I may make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I understand that I need to pay enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year to cover the Gift Aid claimed on all my donations otherwise it is my responsibility to pay any difference. **GIFT AID DECLARATION --- PLEASE SIGN AND DATE:**

*Signature:-* .....

*Date:-* .....

**Please return above form with cheque/PO made payable to Ogston Bird Club** (existing members can renew by Bank Transfer – see page 1 of the Newsletter for details)

Ogston Bird Club c/o Mr Steve Slack, Membership Secretary,  
26 Bramble Way, Kilburn, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 0LH, e-mail - [ogstonbirdclub@gmail.com](mailto:ogstonbirdclub@gmail.com)