

OGSTON BIRD CLUB

MARCH 2024



NEWSLETTER



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

This year the Ogston Bird Club AGM is going to be held in Ashover Parish Hall on **Wednesday 1st May** at the usual time of **7:30 pm**.

Ashover Parish Hall, Milken Ln, Ashover, Chesterfield S45 0BA

This location has excellent parking and excellent facilities which should overcome last year's problems of some of the audience not being able to hear the speaker very well.

After the business of the meeting (of which further details later) we shall be entertained by a presentation by Tony Davison on The Wildlife of Shetland. Tony has visited the Shetland Isles over a period of 12 years photographing the birds and mammals in the different seasons to include the iconic otter and some of the rare migrants for which Shetland is deservedly famous.

So get this date in your diary/calendar without further ado.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2024

It is opportune to thank all the members who have renewed their membership for 2024. If any of you reading this have not renewed yet and intend to do so, it isn't too late, you still have until the end of this month to renew! We have said this many times before, but our members are at the heart of Ogston Bird Club and we could not continue to fulfil our objectives without your support.

Steve Slack _ Chairman and Membership Secretary

NEWS ROUND-UP

February 2024 may prove to have been the wettest on record for the UK, and there was certainly plenty of water about in our area, with the reservoir level always high, and hence rather few waders to be seen. That said, there were days of mild temperatures and welcome early signs of spring appeared.

There was an early Smooth Newt which became a road casualty on 18th February – very early for a species which typically returns to the water in April. Several toads also fell afoul of the traffic around that day when the air temperature was in double figures.

The Snowdrops were in fine flower in early February at the road entrance.

Bird highlights included two Common Scoter on 30th January, and a Jack Snipe on 15th January. Bramblings have been scarce with at the most three at Ogston (2m 1 f). Winter Hawfinches continue to delight, but only up to two, high in the leafless trees in the churchyard, becoming inconspicuous when feeding on berries in the nearby female yew trees. There were fifteen singing Song Thrushes in a three mile walk around the west bank and Brackenfield on 4th February.

Our long-staying (almost certainly) female Red-breasted Merganser was still with us on 3rd March (103days) as I write this.



Mary Wilde's shot of the bird flying with a Goosander gives an excellent comparison.

Herons are early nesters, and there were several on eggs by 18th February amongst a serviceable nest count of twenty-five at the heronry.

The Gull roost may have suffered by recent tip closures, with seemingly less white-winged gulls, although there have still been up to about 4,000 roosting birds, probably comprising 3,000 + Black-headed Gulls and, on the 10th January, for example, up to 267 Common Gulls among the remainder. Up to two Water Rails have been resident with us throughout the winter.

Early spring promises warmer days ahead. This Black-necked Grebe was close to the main hide on 19th February, coming into breeding plumage.

We always begin to look for the arrival of the early migrants as harbingers of spring, and our first Sand Martin is expected soon as I write this on 3rd March.



Oystercatchers and **Curlews** were returning by mid-February, and some fourteen Curlews were on the large island on 24th February.



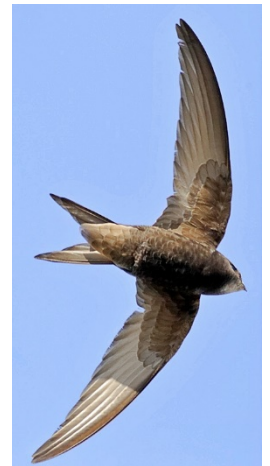
M Wilde



The **Cormorants** which are regulars at the reservoir are of two sub-species: the Atlantic form *carbo* which typically breeds on the north Atlantic coasts, and the continental form, *sinensis*, found across Europe. This bird, photographed from the main hide, had come into breeding plumage on 18th February and is probably of the Atlantic race.

We expect our first **Swift** to be seen around late April with the main influx in early May. Swifts have declined seriously in numbers over recent years.

It was good to see OBC members at the Medway Centre, Bakewell presentation on 27th February by Andy Broadhurst who is master-minding recovery of breeding Swifts by provision of nest sites in the Derbyshire Dales. Along with colleagues from DWT, Bakewell Bird Study Group, DOS, Chatsworth and



Sheffield, there were some 100 people enthralled by the presentation. Swifts only land to breed. They breed when three or four years old, meaning that when a fledgling Swift leaves the nest, it will be continuously airborne for three or four years. I find it difficult to get my head round that!

Work parties since last autumn have been rather limited by high water levels, but some small tree clearance has been possible to improve visibility at Milltown inlet, Carr Pond and to a limited extent on the west bank.

The hides will be painted with preservative this year. This work was postponed due to pressure on work parties after the breeding season in 2023, and it has been too wet and cold in the early months of this year, so it must now wait until September.



Trips for the new year have included a three-site outing to Frampton (**Lesser Yellowlegs**), Deeping Lakes (**Long-eared Owls**) and Willow Tree Fen (**Common Cranes**), and a day at Rufford and Budby when this **Great Grey Shrike** was found (photo at considerable distance) Future trips are detailed in this newsletter.

Jim Mart Nature Reserve is coming to life for the summer. The floods of 27th October 2023 actually helped us a bit, in that the overflowing Press Brook cut a swathe through the more invasive vegetation in some area.



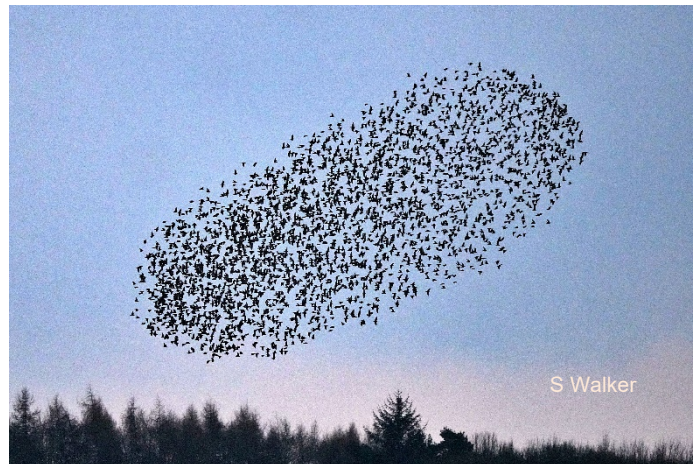
We are reviewing the situation with our bats at Press Lane, with particular reference to the hibernaculum. We have recorded eight species on site, including most abundantly the **Common Pipistrelle**: this photograph (not taken at Press Lane) with kind permission of Alan Wragg of the Derbyshire Bat Group.

We are delighted to say that membership renewals have held up very well. We had to squeeze the subscriptions up a little this time to meet our commitments to conservation work whilst making ends meet. Fortunately, membership levels remain buoyant at previous levels. Sincere thanks to all. Plenty to look forward to in the coming months.

Bill Padley _ March 2024

Late News: this Starling murmuration over the reservoir on 6th March was a truly wonderful sight to behold. There must have been two to three thousand birds involved all told. Starlings murmurate i.e. gather in large flocks mainly for protection. Murmurations offer safety in numbers from predators attracted by the sheer number of birds. The most interesting fact about murmuration is that Starlings are the only species of birds which do it.

Murmuration is the same as flocking, with a couple of key differences. Starlings murmurate in much denser, bigger groups than other species of birds that flock. They also tend to 'dance' and move around a lot more in an aerial display, rather than flying together towards one direction. The most notable feature of murmuration, however, is the deep, low defining 'murmur' sound which gives a murmuration its name, so perfectly describing the rustling sound of thousands of pairs of wings.



Steve Walker _ Editor March 2024

How can we help our Swifts?

S Walker

The Common Swift is that dark, sickle-shaped bird that scythes through our sky from late April until late August / September after which it returns to its wintering grounds in Southern Africa. The average longevity of a Swift is approx. 9 years although some may live as long as 17 years. It's a good job that they have a relatively long life because they don't begin to breed until they're 4 years old (a few as early as 3).

They migrate from their wintering grounds to Europe in the spring in order to breed. While they do nest in natural cavities, they seem to prefer crevices within buildings. As a consequence, the highest density of birds tends to be around the built environment.

Swifts pair for life and return to the same nest site each year [2]. They have one brood per year, laying 2-3 eggs (4 occasionally) in a nest composed of material picked up on the wing such as feathers, bits of straw, tree seed cases and all held together with saliva.

So why do we need to help Swifts? There was a 60% decline in numbers in Britain between 1995 and 2020, a mere 25 years which has led to them being Red Listed [1]. The cause of this fall in numbers isn't entirely clear but is at least partly due to improvements in existing buildings removing access to the crevices in which they previously nested. We can therefore redress this by providing them with artificial nest sites in the form of nest boxes on existing buildings and 'Swift Bricks' in new build.



The remainder of this article focuses on procuring and siting Swift nest boxes. The boxes can be purchased or you can build your own [3, 5]. We bought ours at not inconsiderable expense from the RSPB but they are extremely well made. They can be obtained far more cheaply from other retailers but, some of the reviews suggest that they are poorly made. When purchasing online it's difficult to get construction details such as whether the box has a nest cup (which Swifts prefer).

Swifts tend to live in groups so we bought two boxes and will add to that number in the event of nesting success.

WHERE? The boxes need to be sited 5metres above the ground with at least 5 metres of space in front of the box, clear of any obstructions, so ideally under the eaves of a two-storey house, on a wall facing east, north, or west (Fig 1) [3, 4]. Unlike boxes for other birds, they don't need an annual clean so once up, they can stay up. The one negative comment I would make about the RSPB box, is that they didn't provide any means of fixing the boxes to the wall. However, one/two battens screwed to the back should make installation relatively easy. In view of the cost, we decided that they should be taken down in September so they weren't subjected to the winter weather and that the removal should be as easy as possible. How this was done is described below.



The aim was to be able to lift the boxes off the wall without having to use a screwdriver while wobbling around on a ladder. A piece of tanalised timber slightly longer than the box to act as a backing batten, was prepared by attaching two drilled metal plates so that the box would fit between them. These were raised from the backing plate with a bit of plastic (see fig 2) so that the two L shaped drilled metal plates screwed to each side at the back of the box (fig 3) would slot behind the plate on the backing batten. (Plates from B&Q.)



Research showed that other birds, particularly Starlings like the Swift boxes so it is advised to block the entrance of the box until the beginning of May to discourage Starlings and Sparrows from occupying the boxes. Stuffing some rag into the hole would be fine but in an excess of woodworking zeal, a sliding door was fashioned which could be opened/closed from the ground using an extendable pole.

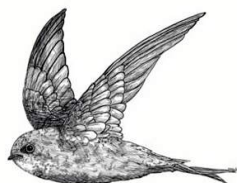
Finally, to be more sure of success, it's apparently a good idea to install a speaker system to play Swift calls. The idea behind this comes from the fact that the youngsters that fledge in your neighbourhood fly around the area before returning to their wintering grounds, prospecting potential nesting sites for when they reach adulthood. We purchased one from Peak Boxes [6] and installed it as shown under one of the boxes (fig 4).

Our boxes were installed in 2023 and while we didn't expect them to be occupied that year we did have Swifts flying over the house during June through to August and, towards the end of August we did get them flying within a few feet of the boxes so fingers are crossed for success in 2024.

Warning – 5 metres is not an inconsiderable height to be working on a ladder. As a minimum, the ladder should be on horizontal, solid ground and footed by an able person, ideally it should be tied in place.

Martin Kaye _ January 2024

1. <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts/swift#:~:text=Although%20widespread%20across%20much%20of,loss%20of%20suitable%20nesting%20sites.>
2. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/swift>
3. <https://www.bristolswifts.co.uk/swift-nest-box-design/>
4. <https://manuals.plus/rspb/swift-nest-box-manual#axzz8JcaJUDJG>
5. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-swift-box>
6. <https://www.peakboxes.co.uk/filters/swifts>



WAXWINGS



While as far as we know, no Waxwings were seen around Ogston or Jim Mart, it would seem wrong if we didn't celebrate the arrival of sensational numbers of these amazingly exotic birds which were so much enjoyed by so many of our members toward the end of 2023. Many of us made special journeys to nearby locations to see, and in some cases photograph, these fabulously attractive birds. Others were lucky enough to have them within their village and even in their garden.

There are three species of Waxwing in the family *Bombycillidae*: the Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*), the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) and the Japanese Waxwing (*Bombycilla japonica*). The Bohemian Waxwing is the most widespread of the three, breeding in the boreal forests of Northern Europe, Russia, Siberia and North America then moving south for the winter. The Cedar Waxwing is solely a North American bird with few records of vagrants reaching our shores. The Japanese Waxwing as the name suggests, lives and breeds in the region of Japan, Korea, Russian Far East and north-east China. In particular, the Bohemian and the Cedar Waxwings have red tips to their secondary feathers which looks as if they've been dipped in sealing wax from which their English name originates.

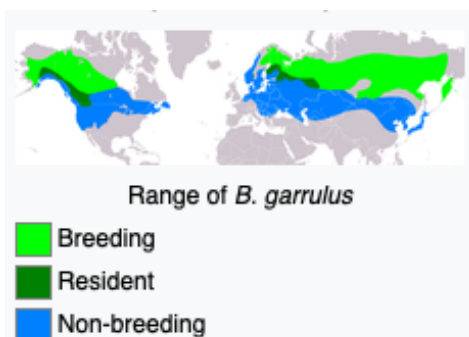
The Waxwing seen in Europe is thought to be called Bohemian because of its nomadic behaviour like peoples such as Romanies which were also described as bohemians because they roamed westward from the central European region of Bohemia (currently part of the Czech Republic).

The Bohemian Waxwing

Focusing on the Bohemian Waxwing, because that's the one we see, they are similar in size, shape and flight action to a Starling. They breed in Northern Europe and Russia in loose colonies, preferring to nest in spruce, birch or pine near the tree limit. Normally single brooded, they begin to build their nest mid-June to July. This is built of twigs, grasses and lichens and sometimes lined with hair and feathers. The nest is often built close to the trunk of the tree. They lay 3-7 eggs with the female incubating them for 13-14 days while the male feeds her. Both parents then feed the chicks initially on insects and then mainly on fruit, with the chicks fledging after a further 14-16 days when they are fed by the parents for a further two weeks.



They feed mainly on berries but also seeds, buds and insects. In some years when the berry crop is plentiful, the numbers of Waxwing increases but if this is followed by a poor year, the increased numbers of birds from the previous year don't have adequate food supplies so they migrate south and west to areas where the crop of berries is more bountiful. Occasionally, the berry crop may fail catastrophically and they migrate in large flocks to the east coast of the UK. This is known as an irruption. Initially landing in North East Scotland on the shores of the Moray coast and in Aberdeenshire. They then work their way southwards taking the berries as they go. In recent years, in our area, we have experienced irruptions in 2012-2013, 2016-2017 and this year 2023-2024 which is what stimulated the writing of this article.



Martin Kaye _ March 2024

Reporting of Bird Sightings & Protecting our vulnerable species

Background

The Ogston Bird Club Constitution states that the primary object of the Club is to study and record the birds of Ogston Reservoir and Woodland 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 such as 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 extra protection to certain bird species. Part of this protection involves keeping certain records confidential.

We at Ogston, 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 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 at Ogston will be –

- ALL bird sightings are to be recorded in the site diaries or conveyed to our Recording Secretary
- 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.

Further Information

Check out the very informative Derbyshire Ornithological Society website at derbyshireos.org.uk. Here you can use the links to their common sense 'Think before you Click' campaign and the **Rare Breeding Birds Panel** (rbbp.org.uk)

Steve Slack _ March 2024

Derbyshire 'drug addict' jailed for stealing Peregrine eggs

In April 2023, officers from RSPB Investigations installed a surveillance camera to monitor a Peregrine Falcon nest in a limestone quarry near Bolsover, Derbyshire. The Falcons were incubating a clutch of eggs when on 23 April 2023 video footage showed a rope being dropped from above, causing the parent bird to abandon the nest. Click on the following link to watch the RSPB video <https://twitter.com/i/status/1746955297782931930>



The Peregrines can be heard sounding distress calls as a man abseils down to the nest and steals three eggs from the cliff-ledge nest, before climbing back to the cliff top. Derbyshire Police were alerted, and enquiries soon identified Christopher Wheeldon as the individual involved. Search warrants were executed at two addresses, resulting in the discovery of items of clothing seen in the video at Wheeldon's address.

Sadly, no eggs or Peregrines were recovered. It is considered likely that the eggs were destined to be laundered by being artificially incubated, and when hatched, the chicks passed off as 'legal' captive-reared birds. Unfortunately, once in the system, and following the removal of the

Government registration scheme, it is now virtually impossible to trace these wild birds. It is likely these wild Peregrines were stolen to order and are now in the overseas Falconry trade, where wild British Peregrine Falcons are regarded as being of genetically superior stock and command high prices.

On Monday 15 January Wheeldon, who pleaded guilty to disturbing these protected birds and taking their eggs, received an eight-week prison sentence for these crimes and a further 10 weeks for unrelated shop-lifting charges. District Judge Stephen Flint said on sentencing: "Even the birds are not beyond your thieving grasp. You may conceive these as just eggs but they are protected. This was a deplorable thing to do."

Although Peregrine Falcons are specially protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, these magnificent birds of prey have sadly been subjected to a diverse range of persecution over the years. Over the years the RSPB Investigations team has documented many incidents of shot and poisoned Peregrines on land managed for driven grouse shooting in the UK, including Derbyshire.

In other parts of the county, Peregrines face a different sort of persecution, with nests in quarries being targeted for their highly prized chicks and eggs, to be intended for the illegal Falconry industry. Previously, in May 2020, RSPB managed to film another Peregrine nest robbery in Derbyshire but unfortunately this did not lead to a conviction in court. This latest case highlights the ongoing demand for wild Peregrine eggs from the UK to furnish the overseas market. With the laundering of wild Peregrine Falcons fetching tens of thousands of pounds, this crime will continue to be worth the risk to some.

Without the reinstatement of full registration controls for captive bred birds this illegal activity will continue to threaten wild Peregrine populations across the UK. The RSPB Investigations Team will continue to monitor nests in Derbyshire and the wider area, and as this case shows, hope to secure more convictions in the future. The RSPB would like to thank Derbyshire Police Rural Crime Team for their thorough investigation and diligent work which has resulted in this successful outcome, the South Peak Raptor Study Group for their continued efforts in monitoring these birds and Tarmac for their assistance throughout.

Thomas Grose, RSPB Investigations Officer: "Peregrine Falcons represent the epitome of being wild and free and it is this very characteristic that makes them such a target for criminals involved in the illegal Falconry trade, earning money from the laundering and trading of these birds overseas. The theft of Peregrine eggs and chicks has been a persistent threat to these birds in Derbyshire. This case is a great example of organisations working together to bring those responsible to justice. Without dedicated volunteers and the efforts of Derbyshire Police this would have been just another failed nest. I hope this sends the message that we are watching and will continue our efforts to protect these amazing birds of prey."

Chris Wilkinson, Derbyshire Police Rural Crime Team: "The nesting sites of these beautiful birds of prey are protected in law for a reason. Peregrines are an endangered species and groups, including the RSPB, have been working hard to ensure they are free from persecution and able thrive in Derbyshire. The efforts made by the RSPB, Derbyshire Police, NWCU and the Animal and Plant Health Agency to secure the conviction and subsequent sentence handed down by the courts, goes to show that we will go above and beyond to identify those responsible and bring them to justice."

If you notice a dead or injured bird of prey in suspicious circumstances, call the police on 101 and fill in the RSPB's online [reporting form](#). If you have information about anyone killing birds of prey which you wish to report anonymously, call the RSPB's confidential Raptor Crime Hotline on 0300 999 0101.

"Rare Bird Alert" article _ 16 January 2024

Climate change driving declines in Scotland's birds

Some of Scotland's most iconic species, including [Western Capercaillie](#) and [Black Grouse](#), are among those declining as a result of climate change, a new report has found.



NatureScot's [Scottish Terrestrial Breeding Birds report](#) charts the populations of Scotland's terrestrial breeding birds between 1994 and 2022. It found significant changes to the numbers and species of birds living in the country's urban, woodland, upland and farmland habitats, in large part due to warmer and wetter weather linked to the climate crisis.

Only four of the 66 species monitored remained stable over the 28-year period.

[Black Grouse](#) is declining in Scotland, with climate change a major factor (Mark Woodhead).

Black Grouse, [Common Kestrel](#), [Greenfinch](#) and [Northern Lapwing](#) have each seen their numbers reduced by more than 50% owing to factors including increased rainfall in summer, alongside the expansion of forests and changes to land management practices.

[Eurasian Oystercatcher](#), [Rook](#) and [Eurasian Skylark](#) are also among those in decline, as is Western Capercaillie. The [decline of the last species](#) is thought to be related in part to changing temperatures and patterns of rainfall.

Some species have increased their populations due to warmer summers, attracting those which would not traditionally travel to Scotland. These include [Great Spotted Woodpecker](#), whose numbers have increased by more than 500%, and [Eurasian Bullfinch](#) and [Eurasian Wren](#), which have each seen an increase of more than 50%. Furthermore, Scotland is becoming a place for 'climate refugees' as its temperatures climb closer to those preferred by species used to warmer environments. This includes [Willow Warbler](#), which has increased its population in Scotland by more than 50% since 1994.

Simon Foster, NatureScot trends and indicators analyst, said: "This report shows how our weather today will affect bird populations in future years. With extreme weather such as flooding and heat becoming more prevalent, we must ensure that improving Scotland's nature and habitats uses the latest science to help deliver the best results."

"BirdGuides" article _ 24 January 2024

Links to MORE ARTICLES of general interest

Millions of birds impacted by New Year's Eve fireworks-

<https://www.birdguides.com/articles/ornithology/millions-of-birds-impacted-by-new-years-eve-fireworks/>

Sandeel fishing ban provides boost for seabirds-

<https://www.birdguides.com/news/sandeel-fishing-ban-provides-boost-for-seabirds/>

Is AI a birder's friend or foe?-

<https://www.birdguides.com/articles/comment/arjun-dutta-is-ai-a-birders-friend-or-foe/#:~:text=There%20are%20reasons%20to%20be,birds%20can%20be%20found%20locally.>

Song Meter Touch app-

<https://www.birdguides.com/reviews/apps-software/song-meter-touch-app/>

Swarovski Optik launches the world's first smart binoculars -

https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/Swarovski_Optik_launches_the_worlds_first_smart_binoculars.aspx?s_id=968871511&applefix=true

FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE

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



This is a “private” Group, membership of which is only open to Ogston Bird Club members, so I do hope you have renewed your Club membership for 2024 to ensure your continued uninterrupted and valued participation.



Of the Club’s total membership of 600+ the Facebook Group currently has in the order of 230 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.

Male Brambling Jan 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.



Curlew Feb 2024

Steve Walker_Group Admin March 2024

Ogston Bird Club Trips 2024

All trips will be by members cars. Full details are on the Club website under trips. Alternatively phone Martin Kaye 07833 720542

Trip	Day/Date	Meeting Point	Time	Dist from Chesterfield	Leader	target species
Cutthroat Bridge South Yorkshire	Wednesday 10/4/24	Car park in massive layby on south side A57 heading towards Sheffield at SK217875 one mile east of Ladybower Inn (map on website)	08:30	16 miles	Martin Kaye	Ring Ouzels, Red Grouse, Golden Plover, Raven, Kestrel and Peregrine.
Lawrence Field, Upper Padley Gorge, Bar Brook Plantation	Wednesday 8/5/24	Park at the side of the Grindleford to Foxhouse road (SK258800)	08:30	15 miles	Martin Kaye	Stonechat, Cuckoo, Tree Pipit, Whinchat. Redstart, Pied + Spotted Flycatchers, maybe Wood Warbler + other woodland birds.
Whisby Nature Park and RSPB Langford Lowfields	Wednesday 15/05/24	Whisby reserve is brown signed left from the roundabout on the A46 just west of Lincoln	09:30	45 miles	Steve Slack	Blackcap, Garden Warbler, both types of Whitethroat. Hobby, possibly Bittern and Bearded Tits
Nightjar trip	Wednesday evening 22/5/24	Flash Lane (Darley Moor) at large layby SK293694 (see map on website)	9pm	6 miles	Steve Slack	Tree Pipits, Nightjars and Woodcock
Annesley Pit Top	Wednesday 12/6/24	Newstead SK523530 (see map on website)	09:30	20 miles	Martin Kaye	Black-necked Grebe dragonflies and stunning wild flowers.
Blacktoft RSPB	Wednesday 17/07/24	RSPB reserve DN14 8HR	09:30	60 miles 1 hour 15	Martin Kaye	Water birds, Marsh Harriers and possibly Bearded Tits
Frampton RSPB	Sunday 04/08/24	RSPB reserve PE20 1AY TF356392	09:30	75 miles 2 hour	Martin Kaye	Returning migrant waders, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper, Spoonbill, Gt White Egret, Yellow Wagtail various raptors. 50+ species!
Dearne Valley Tour	Wednesday 16/10/24	Edderthorpe Flash Wombwell Ings RSPB Old Moor	09:30	44 miles	Martin Kaye	Wide variety of birds 50 species expected.