

# THE DIPPER



## THE GWENT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Registered charity number 1088830

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GOS WEB SITE: [www.gwentbirds.org.uk](http://www.gwentbirds.org.uk)

**Newsletter No. 162**

**Spring 2022**

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Note from the Chairman....

Dear All,

Welcome to March's edition of 'The Dipper'. I hope you enjoy reading through the articles and news snippets from Gwent and beyond. If there are any budding writers out there (young or old) who would like to submit an article for consideration, then please contact our publication secretary at [newsletter@gwentbirds.org](mailto:newsletter@gwentbirds.org) .uk

It is an honour and certainly a privilege to be sat here writing this article, on a cold evening in early February, as your new chairman. I have been a member of the Gwent Ornithological Society (GOS) for many years but never thought I would be sat in the 'big chair'. Sometimes you know when the time is right! I will keep you updated on how I get on.

As well as an interest in birds, I also enjoy wildlife photography although I am not that good. I am a keen chess player – think I'm a better chess player than I am a photographer.

I also enjoy flying – currently working towards my pilot's licence. I best mention that I am married with six children; my eldest is 24 this year and is studying criminology and my youngest is studying how to walk as she's only 8 months old.

So as well as a busy personal life I am also busy professionally.

I have worked for the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board for nearly 25 years. I am a Senior Biomedical Scientist specialising in medical microbiology. I am part of a dedicated team of scientists and support workers who deal with all the messy and smelly stuff that is sent to us. It is a very rewarding job – honestly. I also run my own finance business albeit part time.

Like many of you I am sure, the past two years has been very difficult, especially if you have lost loved ones to this dreadful virus – COVID-19.

As a Microbiologist I am only too aware of the destructive nature of pathogenic micro-organisms but what has helped me greatly is nature - it's remained there in all its glory. Just opening the back or front door and listening to the birds is so satisfying don't you think? So, thank you nature for being there.

I am looking forward to the next couple of months with further relaxing of restrictions while we try and get back to whatever is the new normal.

I took on the role of chairman for several reasons. A keen interest in birds but more importantly to see the survival of this great society for many generations to come. We can only do this with your help.

One of my first objectives as chairman is to work with the committee to design a

series of short surveys which are designed to better understand how we can best serve you as members.

I am particularly interested in why members joined GOS, how long you have been a member, what you like or dislike about the club and what we can do better. Maybe dates of our meetings are not convenient (indoor or outdoor), or it may be the content doesn't interest you.

I think it is very important for as many of you to complete these surveys, so we have an overall picture of which path we need to take.

While we are on the topic of surveys. Could I mention the All Wales Rook Survey which is being organised by the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS). Did you know in Wales between 1995 and 2018 Rook numbers have fallen by 58%. If you have never taken part in a survey before and would like to do so then this is a good one to start with as it is very simple. Check out the WOS website for more details (<https://birdsin.wales/all-wales-rook-survey-2022-2023/>) There are lots of areas in Gwent that need to be surveyed so come on get and on their website and sign up – make it a family affair! I have already signed up!!

On a final note can I mention our FIRST indoor meeting for nearly two years. It's the 5<sup>th</sup> March at Goytre Village Hall for 7:30 titled 'China-off the beaten track by Nick Smith, so hope to see you all there.

I thank you in advance, happy birding and I hope to meet you all soon either in the field or maybe an indoor meeting.

I am happy to take emails if you have any suggestions.

Iestyn Harrigan  
Chair, GOS  
[chairman@gwentbirds.org.uk](mailto:chairman@gwentbirds.org.uk)

## Summary of Committee Meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Happy New Year! Firstly a thank you to everyone for a successful AGM meeting and thank you to all the committee members for their hard work through the year, especially the former chairman, Keith Roylance, and the former treasurer, Andrew Cormack. Welcome and thank you to the new chairman Iestyn Harrigan and the new treasurer Leesha Salamon and new committee member James Graham.

Here is the summary of first general committee meeting of the year which took place on Tuesday 15th February 2022 via Zoom.

Leesha's Treasurer's report shows that the finances are healthy as ever and subscriptions are coming in.

Andrew Cormack has been automating the website; back-ups are done automatically now and can be restored with a click. Processes are faster due to a change of image format. Uploading of Dipper and reports is more automatic. Andrew has also been working on a format for feedback surveys and produced a draft for the committee to consider.

The committee discussed Zoom access to physical meetings at GVVH but Wi-Fi access is an issue and there was a question over whether this would increase attendance. If potential attendees are concerned about using Zoom, there are demos on YouTube which explain how to use Zoom.

This and other related issues, such as preference for certain days of the week, regular dates versus observance of rugby internationals, distance to venue, range of meeting topics, use of Twitter etc. for reminders, could form the basis of a membership survey. Are members interested in indoor meetings about activities in which people can get involved; bird recording, BBS training, citizen science as much as hearing about exotic places?

While, we've mentioned Twitter, there are now many followers of [https://twitter.com/GOS\\_birds](https://twitter.com/GOS_birds) so bear in mind adding the hash tag @GOS\_birds if you're posting anything relevant to birds in Gwent.

There have been a few outdoor events already and the demonstration by Goldcliff Ringing Group was really successful, with good weather and great involvement with the public. We're looking for suggestions for future outdoor events; maybe visiting the sand martin hotel or active participation events such as learning birdsong, making people aware bird song apps (Collins, Merlin).

Annual Report Progress: Writing for 2020 is progressing and reports are being shared out among the writing team. Most of the data for 2021 has been received, although some is still trickling in and paper submittals are being transferred to a spreadsheet.

Newport Wetland Reserve: There is an issue with photographers climbing on viewing platforms and climbing over fences onto the bund at Goldcliff Lagoons in order to photograph the local barn owl. A lot of these people don't seem to appreciate that this creates disturbance for other waders and fowl. This will be an offence in breeding season. GOS is approaching NRW to ask if there is anything GOS can do to help.

Bird Projects: Verity Picken is asking for observers to help with the curlew project again this year, with more emphasis on monitoring pairs because breeding is failing. Every record sent to [curlew@gwentbirds.org.uk](mailto:curlew@gwentbirds.org.uk) is useful but more information is needed because breeding is failing.

GOS is also hoping to set up a similar swift survey using a dedicated email, possibly with help from swift groups in the region.

Goytre House Wood: GOS is looking into the 'plant a tree for the jubilee' scheme where saplings are provided by the woodland trust. If this is appropriate we may well be looking for volunteers to help with tree planting in the autumn.

The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday 5th April, 7.30 pm, via Zoom.

## **Volunteers required for a new, all-Wales Rook Survey (2022/23)**

Rooks are in trouble and need help. They have been moved from Green to Amber in the recently published *Birds of Conservation Concern 5* and are classified as Vulnerable on the *IUCN European Red List*. Here in Wales, they appear to be in more trouble than elsewhere. The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) index for Wales fell by 58% during 1995-2018, accelerating after 2010, and the rate of decline is considerably greater here than in any other UK nation.

To try and establish why the decline has been so rapid here; to map out in greater detail the distribution of Rook and to create a robust breeding population estimate in Wales, the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) is running a breeding Rook Survey during the Springs of 2022/2023. It will be a tetrad (2km x 2km) based survey and we have 56 tetrads allocated to us within the Gwent BTO region. Please note that this varies slightly from the VC Gwent.

### **Can you help?**

If you've never taken part in a bird survey before, this is an excellent survey to start off with. All you need to be able to do is to confidently identify a Rook and then count the nests in any rookeries you may find on a single visit to your allocated tetrad, sometime between 1 March and 15 April. Or, if there are no rookeries in your tetrad, record a '0' and become a 'Zero Hero'. Negative data are equally as important as counts in this survey – particularly if you know where there was once an active rookery which has now fallen silent.

### **How to book your tetrad and send in your data.**

To find out more about the survey and to find vacant tetrads in our region, please visit the WOS website <https://birds.wales> Alternatively, for more information and to register your interest in the survey, email [chair@birds.wales](mailto:chair@birds.wales) You can book a tetrad for survey by clicking on <https://app.bto.org/batmap/squares/walesrooks>

There will be an online data entry system to enter your counts, which will be available on 1 March. Alternatively, paper forms will also be available to those who prefer to submit their data in that format.

## **Invaluable support**

WOS is very grateful to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for funding part of this survey, to the BTO for supporting the creation of the tetrad booking app and to the RSPB for scientific advice. We hope we can have your invaluable support too so that, together, we can contribute to the future conservation of Rooks in Wales.

*Anne Brenchley, WOS Rook Survey Coordinator*

## **Chair – Welsh Ornithological Society**

## **SCREAMING PARTY OBSERVERS WANTED!**

**Question 1:** What bird commonly seen in the UK in the summer is capable of flying 8 times (EIGHT TIMES!) to the moon and back (4 million miles) during its lifetime?

Good guess if you said Arctic Tern, but it's a mere pedestrian at 1.5 million miles! In this case we're talking about the common Swift (*apus apus*)

Swifts usually scream into Gwent from sub-Saharan Africa during April and are gone by the end of August, following their insect food. In those four months they have to: find a mate, mate, build a nest and rear their young.

And all that without putting a foot on the ground!

Don't try it at home!

Whilst we know they are monogamous and mate for life using the same nest site year after year (they rendezvous at the nest, which is a great time-saver, if it's not been destroyed) their nest sites can be difficult to find.

Despite their obvious presence Swifts are a Red-Listed endangered species.

**Question 2:** Where do they go in Gwent?

**This is where you come in.** We're looking for volunteers who would be prepared to lead a small group of helpers on a short walk around their local area looking for and recording any sightings/screamers and locations of nest sites.

Clearly the leader should be able to distinguish Swifts from Swallows, House Martins, Sand Martins etc, but maybe you are also familiar with previous Swift nest sites. Swifts are usually seen flying around buildings, so are more likely to be spotted in towns & villages and not woodland. They often nest in small cup-shaped nests under the eaves of houses, especially older buildings, e.g. Usk Jail and Monmouth's Old Gaol House!

It is suggested that surveys should be conducted at weekly intervals if possible - though just one visit is better than none - during the main nesting period i.e. throughout June, and between the hours of, say, 8pm – 10pm (but you may wish to pick a different period) to catch the main roosting time. Be sure to pick pleasant evenings too, when the Swifts will help to save you from the insects!

Records\* will be emailed to [Swifts@gwentbirds.org.uk](mailto:Swifts@gwentbirds.org.uk) to be compiled on a Gwent spreadsheet and forwarded to the BTO at the end of the season. They in turn will compile a national picture of sightings and nest sites for publication in due course

\*Records will include:

1. Date
2. Time
3. Location (GPS or description, with house number if poss.)
4. Activity (screaming party, or visiting an occupied nest site)
5. Number seen
6. Observer name and contact details
7. Notes (if any)

Your records will receive an automated response but we could be in touch again if necessary.

If you'd like to get involved with monitoring this severely endangered species, please contact

Mike Pointon, [wryneck100@btinternet.com](mailto:wryneck100@btinternet.com) or Trevor Russell [tjuss2010@gmail.com](mailto:tjuss2010@gmail.com)

Many thanks

Mike & Trevor

### **Help needed to find breeding Curlews in Gwent**

Curlews will soon be back on their breeding sites in inland Gwent and your help in locating them is needed urgently!

GOS has set up an email address [Curlew@gwentbirds.org.uk](mailto:Curlew@gwentbirds.org.uk) to which you are asked to send **all** records of birds seen or heard in inland Gwent this spring and summer (coastal records are not required). Before we can target conservation work we need to know where these iconic birds are.

Please include the date, location (nearest town or village plus, if possible, the grid reference), the number of birds, behaviour, any vocalisation (call or bubbling song), the habitat (e.g. grassland, silage, bog) and the presence of any livestock. **All information, no matter how little, will be helpful.**

This lovely video shows Curlew breeding behaviour in detail, explaining what the different behaviours and calls mean <https://curlewcountry.org/2020/04/20/curlew-observation-training-film/>

Please spread the word far and wide as we want records from everyone, not just GOS members.

## **Outdoor Programme: Tregaron & Aberystwyth, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Report**

Meeting at Abergavenny bus station at 7:00 am on a damp and foggy morning should have prepared us for the day ahead.

After a circuitous route nine members had arrived at the bridge at Tregaron by 9:00 am to begin our search for bird species. There was very little activity due to the cold and damp environment. A Snipe in flight was probably the highlight of 90 minutes of watching and waiting. Little Egret and Heron were also noted along with Carrion Crow.

Moving on to the visitor centre and car park the drizzle was continuing. We ventured to the hide where visibility was poor due to the drizzle causing distortion through the windows. Red Kites were flying over the hillside whilst Little Grebe, Mallard, Teal, Mute Swan and Gadwall were present on the small amount of visible open water. The trees around the hide gave us Jay, Magpie, Raven, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Blackbird, Robin and two pairs of Bullfinch.

After returning to the cars and consuming our lunchtime sandwiches a decision had to be made as the rain was continuing and our weather apps indicated no improvement for the remainder of the day.

A decision to head back via Llangorse Lake was made as the weather situation was better the further south you were. Stopping off at Llangasty Church to view Llangorse Lake there were several species in close proximity to the shore including Mallard, Shoveler, Garganey, Cormorant, Coot, Moorhen, Wigeon, Great Crested Grebe and Canada Geese. A small flock of Goldeneye were visible at times whilst 20+ Goosander flew over.

A raft of gulls in the middle of the lake were scanned but only Black-headed and Herring Gulls were identified.

At the end of a disappointing day only 29 species had been noted.

## **GOS Walk 19 March 2022**

**Nicholas Beswick**

A breezy but sunny morning saw six GOS members participating in the walk on Mynydd Llangatwg. Things got off to a good start with a Wheatear recorded by two observers on the way to the rendezvous! Before setting off we saw a number of birds using garden feeders and a pair of Stonechats in nearby scrub, the first of three encountered all told.

As we headed uphill we heard the first of many singing Skylarks. Raven, Sparrowhawk, Peregrine and Red Kite were all spotted riding the wind above the escarpment as we made our way to the Lonely Shepherd stone pillar. We then set off across the moor to head for the summit, flushing a Snipe along the way and enjoying Meadow Pipits parachuting as well as more singing Skylarks. During a welcome break at the summit a distant male Red Grouse kept a watchful eye on us



but the plateau at the summit was otherwise birdless. The return leg found another Red Kite effortlessly cruising by and a party of three Stock Doves flying over. The tally for the morning was a respectable 28 species:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Blackbird ( <i>Turdus merula</i> )               | Pied Wagtail ( <i>yarrellii</i> ) ( <i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i> ) |
| Blue Tit ( <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> )          | Raven ( <i>Corvus corax</i> )   |
| Bullfinch ( <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> )           | Red Grouse ( <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> )                                 |
| Buzzard ( <i>Buteo buteo</i> )                   | Red Kite ( <i>Milvus milvus</i> )                                     |
| Carrion Crow ( <i>Corvus corone</i> )            | Robin ( <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> )                                   |
| Chaffinch ( <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> )           | Skylark ( <i>Alauda arvensis</i> )                                    |
| Dunnock ( <i>Prunella modularis</i> )            | Snipe ( <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> )                                  |
| Goldfinch ( <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> )         | Sparrowhawk ( <i>Accipiter nisus</i> )                                |
| Great Tit ( <i>Parus major</i> )                 | Stock Dove ( <i>Columba oenas</i> )                                   |
| Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )         | Stonechat ( <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> )                                |
| Jackdaw ( <i>Coloeus monedula</i> )              | Wheatear ( <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> )                                 |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) | Woodpigeon ( <i>Columba palumbus</i> )                                |
| Magpie ( <i>Pica pica</i> )                      | Wren ( <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> )                               |
| Meadow Pipit ( <i>Anthus pratensis</i> )         |   |
| Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )            |   |

## **Gwent UKBS Report for December 2021**

**Chris Hatch**

### **Highlights**

A Cattle Egret was seen near St. Brides (23rd onwards). A Glossy Ibis was reported from Newport Wetlands (16th). A Black Redstart was present at Newport Wetlands (19th to 21st). A Bittern was also present at Newport Wetlands (11th).

### **Newport Wetlands Reserve**

A Barn Owl was regularly seen throughout the month. Up to four Marsh Harriers were seen together during the month. A Yellow Wagtail was seen (1st). Three Whooper Swans were reported (2nd). Up to 492 Lapwing were present (8th).

### **Other sites**

A Barn Owl was seen regularly at Llangybi (3rd onwards). A Hawfinch was present at Llanbadoc (5th). Hawfinches were also reported from Cefn Ila on several dates. 2000+ Knot were present at Collister Pill (9th). A flock of 600+ Lapwing were seen near Undy (9th). A flock of 157 Greenfinches was recorded at Black Rock (13th). Fifteen Pink-footed Geese were reported from St. Brides (23rd). A Common Sandpiper was seen at Pant y Goetre (26th), with eleven Little Egrets also present there (26th).

**Highlights**

A probable Grey-headed Gull was seen at Llandegfedd reservoir (11th). The Cattle Egret was still present at St. Brides (8th to 15th). A Spoonbill was recorded at Black Rock (14th), with presumably the same bird seen at Newport Wetlands (14th). A Tundra Bean Goose was reported from Newport Wetlands (25th onwards).

**Newport Wetlands Reserve**

A Bittern was present (1st). A pale-bellied Brent Goose was reported (9th). A Siberian Chiff-Chaff was seen (9th). 22 White-fronted Geese were recorded (10th). An Egyptian Goose was reported (18th). Other species of note were a Spotted Redshank (23rd) and a Merlin (25th). A single Barn Owl was reported on several occasions, whilst a number of Marsh Harrier sightings were reported during the month.

**Other sites**

Two Barn Owls were seen at Black Rock (4th), with a single bird also seen there (7th). Single Barn Owls were also seen at Llandenny (6th) and Mitchel Troy (13th). Single Short-eared Owls were recorded at Waunafon Bog (9th and 14th), whilst a Merlin was also recorded at this site (9th). A Mediterranean Gull was seen at Newport (5th). Hawfinches were recorded at Marshfield (11th) and Mitchel Troy (29th).

**Gwent UKBS Report for February 2022****Chris Hatch****Highlights**

The Tundra Bean Goose was still present at Newport Wetlands (2nd). A Bittern was seen flying over the road on the approach to Uskmouth (17th). A Little Gull was present offshore at Peterstone Gout (22nd to 23rd). An early Osprey was seen at Gobion (25th).

**Newport Wetlands Reserve**

A pale-bellied Brent Goose was reported (2nd). A female Hen Harrier was present (2nd). Up to 20 Pink-footed Geese were present on several dates throughout the month. 17 Avocets were present (26th). A female Merlin was reported (26th). Marsh Harriers were reported on a number of occasions.

**Other sites**

Over 80 Stock Doves were seen at Llangybi (4th). A Barn Owl was also seen in the Llangybi area (5th). Two Hawfinches were present at Marshfield (7th), whilst ten Hawfinches were reported from Mitchel Troy (9th). A Jack Snipe was recorded near St. Pierre Pill (10th). 68 Kittiwakes were seen offshore at Sudbrook (19th). Over 300 Lapwings were present in fields near Undy (22nd). 148 Pintail were present at Peterstone Gout (25th).

***Congratulations to Steph  
Tyler, pictured collecting  
her MBE at Windsor  
Castle and with her River  
Wye Award from Hereford  
Ornithological Club***



## **CONGRATULATIONS**

***Our congratulations to Membership Secretary Gill Jones who has recently married Nic Wall.***

Gill will continue as Membership Secretary when she returns from their honeymoon in the Caribbean.

## **Dr Martin Anthoney**

It is with sadness we record the death of Martin Anthoney whose death has been reported in the Monmouthshire Moth & Butterfly Group Blog of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Martin was a regular attendee at GOS indoor meetings and a great help to a number of us 'trainee' moth trappers.

"It is with great sadness that Martin's family have asked us to advise you of his peaceful death in the Royal Gwent Hospital on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

This is a great loss to all he befriended and also a great loss of someone who made a huge contribution to our knowledge of this county's wildlife and in particular Lepidoptera. Martin's illness was mercifully short and the care he received in hospital was in every way exemplary."

### **Journals**

If anyone is interested in the following journals, please contact Steph Tyler  
[steph\\_tyler2001@hotmail.com](mailto:steph_tyler2001@hotmail.com)

**British Birds since 1960s,**

**the Oriental Bird Club - complete set**

**Onithological Society of the Middle East and of Neotropical Bird Club - more or less complete runs of these publications.**

Collection from Steph Tyler at Penallt and a donation please to GOS.

## **GOS INDOOR PROGRAMME 2022**

**Please note that meetings will be via Zoom or live at Goytre Village Hall. All meetings commence at 7:30 pm.**

**See comments column for location.**

**Zoom connection information will be sent to email members within 7 days of the date of the meeting.**

| <b>DATE</b>                      | <b>TOPIC</b>   | <b>SPEAKER</b>         | <b>COMMENTS</b>                    |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>APRIL 2ND</b>                 | <b>To Be Confirmed</b>                                   | <b>PAUL BOWDEN</b>     | <b>GOYTRE VILLAGE HALL MEETING</b> |
|                                  |  |                        |                                    |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup></b> | <b>Sri Lanka</b>   | <b>ASHLEY GROVE</b>    | <b>GOYTRE VILLAGE HALL MEETING</b> |
| <b>OCTOBER 1ST</b>               | <b>Wader Quest</b>                                       | <b>RICK SIMPSON</b>    | <b>GOYTRE VILLAGE HALL MEETING</b> |
| <b>OCTOBER 15TH</b>              | <b>New Zealand: Endemic Birds &amp; Natural History</b>  | <b>JOHN BUCKINGHAM</b> | <b>ZOOM MEETING</b>                |
| <b>OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup></b>   | <b>Russian Far East</b>                                  | <b>CHRIS COLLINS</b>   | <b>ZOOM MEETING</b>                |
| <b>NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup></b>  | <b>Britain's Coastal Birds and Their Secretive Lives</b> | <b>SIMON GINNAW</b>    | <b>ZOOM MEETING</b>                |
| <b>NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup></b>  | <b>Birding Israel</b>                                    | <b>MIKE ALLIBONE</b>   | <b>ZOOM MEETING</b>                |
| <b>DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup></b>  | <b>A Year In the Life of a Bird Tour Guide</b>           | <b>NEIL GLENN</b>      | <b>ZOOM MEETING</b>                |
|                                  |  |                        |                                    |

# OUTDOOR PROGRAMME 2022

| Charges may apply at some reserves.<br>at outdoor events is undertaken at your own risk. |       |                                       |  | Attendance   |                   |  |  |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Date   | Time  | Walk Area                             | Description  | Meeting Place  | Leader            |  |  |
| 16/01/2022   | 7.00  | Tregaron & Aberystwyth                | Full day - Raptors and Starling murmuration  | Abergweuny Bus Station. Car sharing.                       | Dave Brassey      |  |  |
| 30/01/2022   | 9.00  | NWR Uskmouth                          | Bird ringing with Goldcliff Ringing Group as part of the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch weekend. Weather dependent. | NWR Uskmouth RSPB centre                                   | Richard M. Clarke |  |  |
| 13/02/2022   | 9.15  | Slimbridge                            | Full day - Winter visitors inc Bewicks and Whoopers  | Slimbridge Car Park. Charge for non WWT members            | Dave Brassey      |  |  |
| 19/03/2022   | 9.00  | Mynydd Llangatwg                      | Moderate Walk 2 - 3 hours - Wheatear, Red Grouse and Golden Plover   | SO202124 (NP23 4GU)  | Nick Beswick      |  |  |
| 23/04/2022   | 9.00  | Brynmawr, Beaufort and Garmydan       | Moderate walk 2 - 3 hours  | Aeda Brynmawr car park                                     | Nick Beswick      |  |  |
| 30/04/2022   | 9.00  | River Ebbw Tredegar Park              | Easy Walk 2hrs with opportunity to look inside the newly built Sand Martin hotel                                 | South bound layby on A467 (Forge Road - ST282860)          | Richard M Clarke  |  |  |
| 07/05/2022   | 9.30  | RSPB Gwentffrwd-Dinas                 | Full day with RSPB staff guides - Hawfinch, Pied Flycatcher etc  | Gwentffrwd-Dinas but car-sharing to be arranged            | Dave Brassey      |  |  |
| 15/05/2022   | 8.30  | Lower Monnow                          | Easy walk 3 hours  | On road by Osbaston School SO507137 - NP25 3PU             | John Coleman      |  |  |
| 28/05/2022   | 9.00  | Collister Pill                        | Easy walk 3 hours  | Undy Church  | Lyndon Waters     |  |  |
| 10/06/2022   | 20.00 | Wentwood Forest                       | Easy evening walk to look for Nighthar and Firecrest   | Cadira Beeches   | Gavin Vella       |  |  |
| 11/06/2022   | 8.30  | Blaen Bran Woodland                   | Moderate walk 2 - 3 hours  | Blaen Bran Woodland car park ST272968                      | Keith Roylance    |  |  |
| 18/06/2022   | 8.30  | Trellech Heaths                       | Moderate walk 2/3 hrs  | Ninewells Car Park   | Steph Tyler       |  |  |
| 26/06/2022   | 7.30  | NWR Uskmouth                          | Warbler ringing with Goldcliff Ringing Group. Booking essential (surveys@gwentbirds.org.uk) Weather dependent    | NWR Uskmouth car park                                      | Richard M Clarke  |  |  |
| 23/07/2022   | 9.00  | Ham Wall                              | Easy walk Full day   | Ham Wall Car Park ST 449 396 (Charge for Non-RSPB members) | Dave Brassey      |  |  |
| 24/09/2022   | 9.00  | Steart                                | Full Day in this large improving reserve   | Car Park ST 25208 44210                                    | Blair Jones       |  |  |
| 07/09-Oct  |       | Portland                              | Bookings taken from 1st July - take sleeping bag and food. book - email Dave Brassey david.brassey@ntlworld.com  | Observatory  | Dave Brassey      |  |  |
| 22/10/2022   | 8.00  | Allt-y-ym NR and Tyny-y-fro Reservoir | 3 hours walk - some gradients and steps  | Fourteen Locks Car Park (E1 charge)                        | Dave Brassey      |  |  |
| 26/11/2022   | 9.00  | Ullandefield Reservoir                | Easy Walk around the reservoir   | Fisherman's car park at north end of reservoir SO332007    | Keith Roylance    |  |  |