



THE DIPPER

Newsletter No. 169 - Winter 2023

Registered charity Number 1088830

Website: www.gwentbirds.org.uk

Chair's Introduction

Richard M. Clarke chairman@gwentbirds.org.uk

Contents	Page
AGM 2024	2
Special Reserve	3
Recent sightings	4
Birds of yesteryear	5
BTO News	7
Committee News	8
What's coming up	9
Starlings – Roger James	10
Your chance to be involved	11
Outdoor Programme 2024 Appendix 1: Outdoor Programme Report 2023	12

Welcome and seasonal greetings to you all. With the end of 2023 fast approaching it's timely to reflect on the year that has gone and to look forward to the new year that is about to start. With this in mind, I'm pleased to announce that we have our AGM on 20th January.

This is your chance to hear how your charity has fared in the past 12-months, to ask questions and to vote on motions. It also provides the opportunity for members to come forward to be part of the team that helps run the society. Please see the next article for details of vacancies and how to apply.

As well as formal business, our AGM will include a finger buffet and two presentations on the Usk swift project and the Gwent Wildlife Trust's priority species. This should be an interesting meeting and I very much hope that you will be able to join us. Admission is free, but please bring some food for sharing at the buffet.

The year end reminds us that it's time to both consider renewing our GOS membership and to check that we have submitted our 2023 bird records to the County Recorder, Darryl Spittle. I know that many of you submit records throughout the year, but please check that you have put forward all your valuable records. If you are new to this and are a little uncertain on what is required, then please have a look on our website where you will find helpful guidance.

Looking to 2024, we have both excellent outdoor and indoor programmes coming up and I hope you will join us for these. You might also consider taking an active part in one of the many great opportunities available to volunteers. I think we have something for everyone, from bird surveys, scrub-bashing at our nature reserve or being involved in one of many of the interesting committee roles. What could be better as a New Year's resolution – a spot of satisfying volunteering. I very much look forward to welcoming you once again to another exciting year for the society.

Happy New Year!

Annual General Meeting 2024

Notice is hereby given that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Gwent Ornithological Society will be held on Saturday 20th January at 07:30pm, at the Goytre Village Hall.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the meetings held on 21st January 2023 (AGM) & 1st April 2023 (EGM)
- 3 Matters arising from the Minutes
- 4 The Bert Hamar Bursary 2023
- 5 Treasurer's Report

5.1 Motion to propose that based on projected expenditure, and to maintain the current level of membership benefits, the annual subscriptions should be retained at current levels (Normal £15, Family £18). Subscriptions being set as minimal subscriptions with the option provided for people to increase the sum they pay should they wish.

- 6 Chairman's Report
- 7 Election of Officers and Committee Members
- 8 Any Other Business

8.1 Motion to propose revisions to the Society's Rules for the Conduct of Business (Version 2 dated January 2008).

After the AGM we will have a finger buffet and Mark Mogford will tell us about the Usk Swift Project and how we can attract these flying scythes to our own homes. Andy Karren will also join us to speak about the 10 Gwent Wildlife Trust priority species, which include Barn Owl, Dipper and Nightjar.

A call for nominations

If you would like to have a say in how your society is run, then why not submit your name for nomination as a trustee. We have various vacancies on the committee and are looking for a Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary and two other committee members. Please see article *Your chance to be involved* for further details.

If you would like to find out more about any of these positions, then please do get in touch for an informal chat. Please send nominations by e-mail to Blair Jones Secretary@gwentbirds.org.uk by **no later than 15th January 2025**.

Special Reserve - Kevin Dupé

Latest news from the the Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve.

I'm writing this on 21st December, the winter Solstice, and cant help but notice some unseasonal things going on. Last night I trapped a Hebrew character moth at Redhouse Barns, a moth you wouldn't normally expect to see until March. I went to the Uskmouth hide intending to take down the "caution honey bee nest" signs, but to my surprise there were honey bees flying in and out of their nest. On Tuesday, both myself and Richard Clarke, independently heard a bittern boom - myself in the morning and Richard in late afternoon. The mild weather, undoubtedly caused by anthropomorphic induced climate change, possibly also explains the low wintering bird numbers on the reserve.



Hebrew character moth - RM Clarke

We started pumping water into fieldblock 03 (visible from the Redhouse hide) on 27th September. This is traditionally our best fieldblock for wintering wildfowl and waders, which is possibly surprising given that it has three houses bordering it and is next to the "main" road. By 11th October we had raised the water level by 50cm. The large double ditches inside the fieldblock were brim full and beginning to spread out and there were areas of splash-flooding beginning to attract wildfowl, mostly mallard at first. We stopped pumping and let rainfall do the rest. The fieldblock is now being used by wigeon, teal, mallard and shoveler, plus a few snipe. All the heavy rain throughout late October, November and December has wetted up all the wet-grassland and some areas are now too heavily flooded and are over-topping. There are very few birds using the flooded wet-grassland.

	17th Sep	30th Oct	19th Nov	30th Nov	17th Dec
Species					
Black-headed Gull	506	6	14		
Black-tailed Godwit		2	2	107	
Canada Goose	6	360	391	377	215
Curlew	81	199	244	130	181
Dunlin	1	451	1,412	469	10
Gadwall	17	15	23	16	11
Grey Plover				80	4
Lapwing		122	135	154	250
Little Egret	14	7	2	1	1
Mallard	410	358	115	132	210
Marsh Harrier		2	3	3	2
Mute Swan	9	15	7	3	10
Oystercatcher	13	0	0	14	21
Redshank	27	86	34	45	64
Shelduck	168	7	78	116	9
Shoveler	44	73	57	49	109
Teal	184	181	188	447	395
Wigeon	46	365	297	327	425
Avocet				35	
Water Rail		54		64	74

During the autumn and winter, we supplement the monthly WeBS counts with mid-week high-tide counts. We are very grateful to all the volunteers who help with both these counts. So far this winter, Mike Pointon, Jackie Pointon, Brian Thomas, Chris Perry, Daniel Webb and Darryl Spittle have all helped. Myself and Richard Clarke also carry out monthly water rail tape lure surveys during this period. The head-line bird numbers are shown in the table below (water rail surveys are not always on the same day as the other figures, but are within a day or two).

Following heavy rainfall the water level at Goldcliff Lagoons is now too high for many waders - although the ducks and geese are loving it! All of the rain that falls in the area within the sea-wall, flood banks along the Pill and the secondary bund (where the 1st two hides are and viewing platforms), has to drain out to sea along a single ditch and over a 1.37m wide sluice. When the tide is in, no water can drain out as the tidal flaps are shut. It takes a couple of weeks for the water level to drop following the removal of sluice boards. All of the boards (except for the bottom board) have been out since September, but water levels are still too high because of the heavy rains. Yesterday we took the decision to take out the bottom board for the first time since it was installed 24 years ago! The board is only 75mm deep, so its removal should lower Monk's Lagoon by that amount. The bottom board isn't normally taken out, because it is cemented in and it is difficult to get a seal afterwards. We will see if 75mm water levels make Monk's Lagoon more attractive to waders.

Recent Interesting Sightings in Gwent – Chris Hatch

October

Highlights: two juvenile Spoonbills were present at Newport Wetlands (from 4th). A Great White Egret was present at Newport Wetlands (5th). A Hoopoe was seen, also at Newport Wetlands (10th). Two White Storks flew over Grosmont (25th).

Newport Wetlands Reserve: a Bittern, together with a Garganey was reported (5th). A flock of 21 Snipe was seen (17th). Marsh Harriers were recorded on several occasions.

Other sites: a male Hen Harrier was seen on Mynydd Llangatwg (7th). A Ring Ouzel was present on the Bloreng (8th). A Willow Tit was recorded at Wentwood (17th). A Water Rail was seen at Parc Nant y Waun (31st). A juvenile Osprey remained at Llandegfedd reservoir for most of the month. Several Wheatears remained along the coast. Several sightings of Bramblings were reported, while the first influx of Redwings and Fieldfares occurred.

November

Highlights: a Grey Phalarope was present at Newport Wetlands (6th). A Snow Bunting was seen in the Black Mountains (7th).

Newport Wetlands Reserve: a Great White Egret was reported (13th). A female Merlin was seen (from 24th). A murmuration of 70,000+ Starlings was recorded during the month. Several sightings of adult and immature Marsh Harriers were reported.

Other sites: a female Merlin was seen at Sluice Farm (11th). A Jack Snipe was recorded at Mynydd Llangatwg (17th). Two Hawfinches were reported from Cefn Ila, Usk. Several large flocks of 500+ Fieldfares were reported at various locations around the County. Bramblings were recorded in small numbers.

Birds of yesteryear – Chris Jones

Welcome to another look at what was recorded in Gwent's birding past - a seasonal look back at what was happening locally 10/25 and 40-years-ago.

10-years ago	Winter 2013
	<p>December 2013 was a damp month with frequent cyclonic systems which brought bands of rain and stormy weather. It was generally quiet with the last of 2013's four Great Grey Shrikes being found on Twmbarlwm on the 28th. Elsewhere, there were six Pintail at the Nedern on 14th, a Rock Pipit on the waterfront at Newport on 9th, two Short-eared Owls at Sluice Farm on 4th and six Hawfinch at Dingestow Court on 8th. The last Yellow-legged Gull of the year was at Llandegfedd Reservoir gull roost on 28th. Finally, a Black-tailed Godwit, seen at Goldcliff on the 10th, had been ringed four years earlier on the Solent in Hampshire in 2009.</p> <p>January 2014. Heavy and persistent rain continued from 2013, giving us the wettest January in England and Wales since records began, some 250 years ago! It was nevertheless mild, with the mean temperature for the month more than one degree above the average of the last 30 years. Despite the rain, the hours of sunshine in January were only just below average. The month was quiet for scarce species. A Black Redstart frequented the Goldcliff seawall area, with the site also hosting wintering Spotted Redshank and Greenshank. There was an unusual record of a Hawfinch, feeding in gardens near The Moorings, Newport on the 9th. Other notable records included the continued presence of the Great Grey Shrike on Twmbarlwm, with another present at Wentwood. Three first-winter Bewick's Swans with the small but regular Llangybi flock, a 'ringtail Hen Harrier at NWR Uskmouth on the 25th where there were at least seven Chiffchaff on the 11th, including one interesting "very pale bird" which, unfortunately, couldn't be relocated.</p> <p>February 2014 saw a continuation of heavy storms, with coastlines in Wales taking a severe battering. The rain continued, making February the fourth wettest month on record, with more than 180% of the average rainfall although, amazingly, the tally of sunshine hours was some 8% above average. It was a surprisingly busy period for birders, with the County hosting a duo of rare North American wildfowl in the shape of an American Wigeon from the 3rd and American Green-winged Teal found on 7th. Very strong winds that wrecked many auks on the south coast of Britain produced a series of notable seabird sightings from the Gwent coast. Bird watches at Goldcliff Point produced two Guillemot, two Great Skua, a Little Gull and an 'auk sp' on the 9th; a Guillemot, two Great Skua and a single 'auk sp' on the 15th; and a diver species on the 20th and a skua species on the 23rd were both too distant for positive identification. A single Guillemot was also found storm-driven at Peterstone Sluice Farm on the 17th. An Iceland Gull was near the Asda store at Brynmawr on the 17th. Other interesting sightings included a European White-fronted Goose with the Canada flock at Peterstone Golf course on 7th and a dark-bellied Brent Goose at Goldcliff Point on the 17th.</p>
25-years ago	Winter 1998
	<p>December 1998: overall a mild month with a series of south-westerly fronts bringing yet more wet and windy conditions. A Dartford Warbler was near an earlier breeding site on 9th. More typical birds of the season included up to four Short-eared Owls along the Rogiet foreshore, Hen Harriers near Bryn Bach Country Park and Garnlydan reservoir, ten Goldeneye along the Afon Llwyd at Caerleon, seven Golden Plover at Goldcliff, a Mediterranean Gull at Llandegfedd reservoir and a count of 9,200 Dunlin between Peterstone and St Brides. Monthly highlights included a wary flock of 16 Barnacle Geese that spent a week between St Brides and Sluice Farm and 127 Common Snipe at Llanwern steelworks, the largest count by far of this species for many years. A Common Scoter at Ynysyfro reservoir, a Jack Snipe at Llandegfedd reservoir, a Water Pipit at Peterstone Wentlooge and two Brent Geese at Goldcliff brought the year to an end.</p>

January 1999. The year started as 1998 ended with mainly mild, wet and windy weather, although there were some periods of generous sunshine making it the sunniest January since 1991. Temperatures were also more than a degree above average and rainfall was well above average. The year got off to a good start, especially at Llandegfedd reservoir where both Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes and Glaucous Gull were all noted. 120 Canada Geese were present in the Dingestow area early in the month and a Brent Goose wandered the Severn estuary where a count of 1,055 Shelduck was noted at Peterstone. Bewick's Swans were generally scarce, although 17 flew east past PW and 24 were present on the Nedern. Elsewhere, a Mandarin and a Water Pipit were recorded from the river Wye at Whitebrook and the river Usk at Gobion respectively. Along the coast single Black Redstarts were at Caldicot Pill and Uskmouth. Short-eared Owls frequented an old wintering haunt with up to four in the Caldicot area and a further three were at Milfraen Bog, Blaenafon remaining into February and March respectively. There was an exceptional count of 125 Common Snipe in the grounds of Llanwern steelworks and a single Kittiwake passed Sluice Farm where a Little Egret over-wintered.

February 1999: the month was generally quiet, changeable and windy at times, although overall mild. This was reflected in the temperatures being again more than a degree above the average and approximately three hours of sunshine per day, well above the monthly average, resulting in the 10th sunniest February since 1961. Bird wise it was much quieter than January with the only records of any note being a Slavonian Grebe at Llandegfedd reservoir, a Water Pipit at Sluice Farm, a Red Kite over Glascoed, 35 Bewick's Swans, 1,000 Lapwing at the Nedern, 10 Brent Geese at the mouth of the river Wye and a single Kittiwake flying down the river Usk at Newport.

40-years ago | Winter 1983

December 1983. There were three Slavonian Grebes in the County during the month, with single birds noted at Newbridge on Usk and at both Wentwood and Ynysyfro Reservoirs. Up to 38 Bewick's Swan could be found in the Usk valley at Llanybi, with presumably 20 of the birds seen flying over Wentwood on 26th. A Long-tailed Duck spent most of the month on Wentwood Reservoir. Up to six Brent Geese were noted at Peterstone and Collister Pill where they were joined by a White-fronted Goose on 27th. Collister Pill also held impressive numbers of wintering waders with counts of 2,000 Knot and 10,000 Dunlin during the month. Single Kittiwakes were seen at both Peterstone and Ynysyfro Reservoir on the 27th. A Black Redstart was seen briefly at Llanwern steelworks and six Short-eared Owls were flushed from a young plantation near Raglan mid-month. Excellent counts of wintering thrushes were recorded as the month ended, with 600 Fieldfare at Peterstone, a 1,000 near Gwernesney and 2,000 Redwing at Llandenny. There was a good mixed finch flock at Llanybi, which contained 70 Tree Sparrow and at least 60 Brambling. Crossbills were also recorded in good numbers, with peak counts of 31 at Osbaston and 70 in Wentwood. Finally, up to 15 Twite were present along the foreshore at Sluice Farm throughout the month with two birds seen at Undy as the month ended.

January 1984. The December Slavonian Grebe at Ynysyfro Reservoir remained until 1st January and subsequently a further bird was noted at Llandegfedd reservoir as the month drew to a close. A Red-throated Diver, found on Tredegar House lake, sadly had a large patch of oil on its belly. Despite it being caught and treated, the bird sadly died. A coordinated count on 15th at the regular wintering sites of Bewick's Swan located 62 birds and an adult Whooper Swan joined birds mid-month. The large wader flock in the Collister Pill area from December remained, with counts of 2,400 Knot, 11,000 Dunlin and 1,000 Grey Plover. The 8,000 Dunlin at Peterstone may have involved some of the same birds. A count along the Wentlooge levels noted a total of 1,300 Lapwing during the month and 27 Golden Plover were seen at Sluice Farm on 24th. Some blustery weather brought up to 30 Kittiwakes off Peterstone. Following the County's 1st Iceland Gull at Llandegfedd reservoir mid-month, regular watching of the gull roost over the following weeks noted up to five birds. The roost also contained an estimated 10,000 Common Gull, as well as large numbers of Black-headed, Herring and Lesser Black-backed gulls. Single Mediterranean Gull and Kittiwake were also noted in the roost, whilst a Mediterranean Gull was at Ynysyfro Reservoir at the start of the month. Short-eared Owls were present briefly at Bettws, Newport and Clytha Hill with two at Collister Pill late in the month. A Black Redstart was a good find in Monmouth, as was a Chiffchaff at

Nantyglo. Finally, up to 1,000 Fieldfare were at the Olway Meadows and the Llangybi area, a flock of 75 Tree Sparrow at New Inn and the Twite flock remained at Sluice Farm throughout the month.

February 1984. The coordinated Bewick’s Swan count was completed again mid-month, resulting in a combined total of 71 birds with the Whooper Swan remaining with the flock until mid-month, when it was either joined by a 2nd individual or replaced by two birds. Then a further single bird was seen at the Nedern as the month ended. Gull interest continued at Llandegfedd Reservoir, with up to five Iceland Gulls at the evening roost with other notable species being found including Mediterranean & Ring-billed Gulls and a Kittiwake. A Long-tailed duck was on the estuary at Sudbrook briefly and a White-fronted Goose at Sluice Farm where the flock of Twite remained throughout the month. A count of five Jack Snipe was very noteworthy at Nantyglo. Redwing were still being seen in reasonable numbers with 700 at Llangybi and 500 at the Olway Meadows, though these counts were eclipsed by approximately 2,000 seen going into a roost near Llandegfedd reservoir. Also notable were 200 Brambling at Sudbrook and two Chiffchaff – one of which was in song at Chepstow mid-month.



BTO News Update – Richard M. Clarke
bto@gwentbirds.org.uk

You don’t need to be a professor to be a citizen scientist. Please consider taking part in one of the BTO’s exciting surveys and [make your birdwatching really count.](#)

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

GOS members contribute greatly to this annual national survey, which enables the BTO to monitor the population changes of over 100 bird species. In 2023, volunteers excelled and made it the most successful year ever for the Gwent region. In total, 52 squares were surveyed by 37 people, which is



the highest annual number of squares surveyed since the survey began in 1994. It’s also worth noting that this was the second consecutive year that 50 squares were visited, and that the previous highest level of surveying was back in 2005, when 43 squares were looked at. Gwent also has four Waterways BBS squares, and all of these were successfully surveyed in 2023 - the first time this has happened since 2014. The

total distance walked this year by volunteers, whilst counting for BBS and WBBS, was 196km. A truly fantastic effort - my sincere thanks to all who took part in this year’s survey.

What did people find this year? Details of the most widespread species for BBS are set out in the

Most widespread species for BBS

Gwent in 2023

Species	Squares	Percentage of all squares surveyed	Individuals
Blackbird	51	98%	794
Wren	51	98%	618
Carrion Crow	50	96%	557
Song Thrush	50	96%	264
Great Tit	50	96%	230
Woodpigeon	49	94%	850
Robin	49	94%	507
Blue Tit	49	94%	360
Chaffinch	47	90%	271
Chiffchaff	44	85%	328

table below. The most numerous species recorded were Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Wren, Carrion Crow and Robin. It’s interesting to note that Robin has moved up two positions since 2022 and that both Jackdaw and House Sparrow that featured last year were no longer in the top ten – presumably larger flocks were not encountered.

If you haven’t signed up already, why not claim your patch and play your part as a citizen scientist. You don’t need to be an expert to take part –

you simply need to be able to identify the common birds you are likely to encounter. It's worth noting that upland squares typically contain smaller numbers of birds, of fewer species, and are a high priority for increased volunteer coverage – therefore ideal for familiarising yourself with the survey.

Currently there are seven unallocated squares in Gwent (see table), but other squares might become available before the next season. Could you take on one of these? Survey information can be found at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/bbs> or if you would prefer please contact me on the e-mail address at the start of this article – I'm always happy to have a chat about this important national survey.

Available BBS squares

SO2016	Llangattock	SO3728	Ewyas Harold	SO3228	Longtown
SO2303	Abertillery	SO3613	Llanvapley		
SO2719	Sugar Loaf	SO4708	Cwmcarvan		

Winter Gull Survey (WinGS)

CAN YOU HELP LOOK FOR GULLS ON 21st JANUARY 2024? The BTO is looking for volunteers to visit gull roost sites, counting five key species: Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull.



There are several sites in Gwent including Llandegfedd Reservoir and sections along the Gwent coastline – Peterstone & St Brides and Portskewett & Caldicot. Further details of the survey can be found on the BTO's website at: [Winter Gull Survey | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

[Survey | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

Committee News

The committee met on 12th December. A summary of the key discussion points follow:

1. Preparations for the society's AGM were considered including draft papers.
2. Membership fees for 2024 were discussed and the committee agreed to propose to AGM that current rates should continue to be maintained.
3. The Society's Rules of Conduct of Business required refreshing and the committee agreed revisions, which would be submitted to the AGM for approval.
4. The committee agreed to continue its subscriptions with RSPB, Welsh Ornithological Society and the Gwent Wildlife Trust. The committee also approved the society subscribing to the British Trust for Ornithology and to continue to provide a £200 grant to the Goldcliff Ringing Group.
5. An application by Richard Evans for the Bert Hamer Bursary award towards his Pied Flycatcher nest box project was approved by the committee.
6. The committee noted that a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Survey of Goytre House Wood had been conducted by the Gwent Wildlife Trust. This confirmed that the society's management of the wood had ensured that it retained its LWS status and continues to be one of the best places for wildlife in SE Wales and a cause to be proud.
7. The drafting of the 2020 Annual Report was nearing completion and distribution was anticipated in early spring.
8. Draft 2024 indoor and outdoor programmes were discussed and agreed.
9. A discussion was held on officer/committee member succession planning.
10. Reports by the Treasurer and Conservation Officer were discussed.

What's Coming Up

GOS Indoor Programme

20th January – AGM, Finger Buffet & Talks about the Gwent Wildlife Trust's priority species and the Usk Swift initiative.

7.30pm, Goytre Village Hall, NP4 0AR
Free Admission

17th February – *Fair Isle: a naturalist's paradise*: an illustrated talk by Lee Gregory

Hear about the unsurpassed wildlife of the UK's remotest inhabited island. See images of orcas, rarities, seabirds and extraordinary scenery captured by the island's former assistant warden
7.30pm, Goytre Village Hall, NP4 0AR
Admission £2, payable (cash) at door

16th March - *São Tomé and Príncipe - birds, chocolate and Einstein*: an illustrated talk by Bob Potter

Hear about the incredible birdlife of this Equatorial country of islands in the Gulf of Guinea and learn how both chocolate and Einstein have played an important part in the Nation's history.



GOS Outdoor Programme

See page 12 for full details of our 2024 outdoor programme.

Birds of Gwent – a photographic celebration of the fabulous birdlife of Gwent.

In April we will be holding an exhibition of member's photographs at Newport's Riverfront Theatre. Full details of this exciting event, including how you can take part, will be circulated separately to members.



National Nest Box Week - 14th Feb to 21st Feb 2024

British birds are short of nesting holes, and there are many reasons why. Anyone with a garden can help by putting up a nestbox, which will attract interesting birds to your garden too. This week is devoted to encouraging people to put up nestboxes.

Starlings

*The day draws down November sky,
Dry reeds murmur with shivering sigh.
Darkening clouds trimmed crimson and gold
Fade out last light on gathering cold*

*Suddenly! - movement - a darkling blur,
Rising, fall with whispering whirr
Flight upon flight link and meld
In sinuous snake together held*

*Why this hosting of whirling birds?
What strategy lacking signs or words
Redefines flocks size and scan
Above the head of earthbound man?*

*A thousand upon a thousand eyes
Can better search the treacherous skies
For sickle beak and gimlet claw
That rend the flesh and split the crow*

*And yet I would prefer to think
There is a deep archaic link
To energy and ascending pleasure
To twist and turn in circling measure*

*If lark can rise and cast its trill
And nightingale full throated thrill
Kingfisher flash its stream-shot hue
And hawk soar vaulting heaven's blue
Cannot the humble starling's rise
To show their mastery of the skies?*

Roger James

Your chance to be involved – can you take up the challenge in 2024?

Role	Overview
<i>Membership Secretary/Trustee</i>	Help people with their GOS membership and keep in touch with members about what's coming up. Find out more – contact: Billy Harris membership@gwentbirds.org.uk
<i>Vice Chairman/Trustee</i>	Step in when the Chair is not available and shadow for possibly taking on the Chair role from 2025. Find out more – contact: Richard M. Clarke chairman@gwentbirds.org.uk
<i>Dipper editor</i>	Great opportunity to take on the role of editor of our quarterly newsletter the <i>Dipper</i> . Find out more – contact: Richard M. Clarke Dipper@gwentbirds.org.uk
Annual Report Editor/Trustee	Your chance to lead on the production of the GOS Gwent Bird Report. The role involves working closely with the County Recorder and a small team of writers to produce this prestigious county report of sightings and other key annual ornithological information. Find out more – contact: Report.Editor@gwentbirds.org.uk
Website management	Could you be our next webmaster or someone who can help with updating and maintaining the GOS website? Find out more – contact: Blair Jones secretary@gwentbirds.org.uk
Committee Member/Trustee	An opportunity to help manage the Society's day-to-day business. Just four committee meetings a year. Find out more – contact: Blair Jones secretary@gwentbirds.org.uk
Librarian	Are you a bookworm? Could you manage the GOS library at indoor meetings (Goytre Village Hall). Find out more – contact: feedback@gwentbirds.org.uk
Goytre House Wood - volunteer	Become a wood warbler and join a new team of volunteers to help manage our nature reserve. Great fun and activities including nest box checking, scrub bashing, wildlife surveying etc Find out more – contact: feedback@gwentbirds.org.uk



OUTDOOR PROGRAMME 2024

Day	Date	Time	Walk Area	Description	Meeting Place	Leader	Email	Phone
Sunday	28 January 2024	7.00	Tregaron & Aberystwyth	Full day - Raptors and Starling murmuration	Abergavenny Bus Station	Dave Brassey	david.brassey@ntlworld.com	07804038170
Saturday	30 March 2024	9.00	Mynydd Llangatwg.	Hill walk for Red Grouse & Wheatear	SO221132 - parking area opposite Ty-yn-y-Coed	Nick Beswick	bezzes@btinternet.com	07955 750546
Weekend	12- 14 April 2024		Portland	Weekend - Bookings taken from 1st Feb - take sleeping bag and food To book - email Dave Brassey david.brassey@ntlworld.com	Observatory	Dave Brassey	david.brassey@ntlworld.com	07804038170
Thursday	02 May 2024	9.00	Lower Machen and Coed Craig Ruperra	3 hour easy walk on well-established paths which can be muddy at times.	Lay by on A468 before Draethen turn- ST 227879	Mike Pointon	wryneck100@btinternet.com	07908756381
Saturday	04 May 2024	8.30	Blaen Bran Woodland	Moderate walk 2 – 3 hours	Blaen Bran Woodland car park ST272968	Keith Roylance	k.roylance@ntlworld.com	07718315910
Wednesday	08 May 2024	9.30	RSPB Gwenffrwd Dinas	Full day with RSPB staff guide-Jon Cryer	RSPB Gwenffrwd Dinas car park SN78794707	Dave Brassey	david.brassey@ntlworld.com	07804038170
Thursday	16 May 2024	9.00	Goytre House Wood	Easy walk through our own wood and environs	Goytre Car Park	Andrew Baker	andrew.baker234@gmail.com	07870975894
Sunday	19 May 2024	8.30	Upper Cwm Farm Llantilio Crossenny	Farmland birds inc Redstarts and spotted flycatchers	In Farm NP7 8TG. Entrance at SO 39373 16837	Chris Ball	chrisuppercwm@gmail.com	07807366640
Friday	24 May 2024	21.00	St James's Forestry	Nightjar, Tree Pipit, possible Grasshopper Warbler and Crossbill	SO155094 - small car park on south side of road next to masts	Nick Beswick	bezzes@btinternet.com	07955 750546
Sunday	26 May 2024	8.30	Trellech Heaths	Moderate walk 2/3 hrs	Ninewells Car Park SO 51495 03853	Steph Tyler	steph_tyler2001@hotmail.com	
Friday	31 May 2024	20.30	Wentwood Forest	Easy evening walk to look for Nightjar and Woodcock	Cadira Beeches ST422948	Gavin Vella	gavinvella@me.com	07889184282
Wednesday	12 June 2024.	9.30	Henllys Local Nature Reserve.	Easy 2 hour walk followed by visit to Henllys Bog for those who want	Birch Grove Car Park, ST272936 W3W: backs.filer.pouch	Keith Roylance	k.roylance@ntlworld.com	07718315910
Saturday	15 June 2024	9.00	Collister Pill	Easy walk 3 hours	Undy Church ST439869	Lyndon Waters	lynchris30@yahoo.co.uk	07506060939
Saturday	22 June 2024	8.00	Allt-yr yn NR and Ynys-y-Fro Reservoir	3 hours walk - some gradients and steep steps	Fourteen Locks Car Park (possible £1 charge)	Dave Brassey	david.brassey@ntlworld.com	07804038170
Saturday	06 July 2024	9.00	Around the Grange Project	The Grange Project - Rewilding in action	Grange Farm, NP25 SHW. Grid: SO 42130 16435	James Graham	j_graham10@hotmail.com	07769158255
Saturday	10 August 2024	7.00	NWR Uskmouth	Bird ringing with Goldcliff Ringing Group. Close up to Cetti's, Sedge and Reed Warbler and possibly Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff.	NWR Uskmouth RSPB centre	Richard Clarke	chykembro2@aol.com	01633615581
Saturday	21 September 2024	9.00	Steart	Full Day in this large improving reserve	Steart Car Park ST 25208 44210	Blair Jones	blaircjones@icloud.com	
Weekend	11-13 October 2024		Portland	Weekend - Bookings taken from 1st July - take sleeping bag and food To book - email Dave Brassey david.brassey@ntlworld.com	Observatory	Dave Brassey	david.brassey@ntlworld.com	07804038170
Saturday	14 December 2024	9.15	Slimbridge	Full day - Winter visitors inc Bewicks and Whoopers	Slimbridge Car Park	Dave Brassey	david.brassey@ntlworld.com	07804038170