

THE DIPPER



THE GWENT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Registered charity number 1088830

GOS WEB SITE: www.gwentbirds.org.uk

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Committee Summary – September

Ten members of the committee were present at our September meeting.

The major discussion at the September committee meeting was regarding progress on our new website. We had an early viewing of how the home page would display and the location of the key elements in order to navigate through the site. Aspects of sightings input and information on forthcoming events was discussed at length. We are hopeful that the new improved website will be launched by the end of the year.

Correspondence had been received from the Hawk Conservancy Trust regarding survey work required to assist an MSc student at Cardiff University studying raptors with a view to re-introduce White-tailed and Golden Eagles into Wales. As the survey area included very little of the Gwent Recording area, we felt that it should be left to individuals to offer themselves for the survey.

The indoor programme for the remainder of 2018 has been confirmed as per the published programme. The 2019 programme, in the absence of an indoor programme secretary, had been started by Keith Roylance with input from Trevor Russell. At the time of the committee meeting the first half of the programme had been completed. (The full year programme has since been finalised). A major coup is having Iolo Williams to give us a talk on 'Wildlife of Wales' this has been scheduled for Monday March 25th in Cwmbran. (More details will be found elsewhere in the Dipper)

We also have wildlife presenter Mike Dilger (BBC One Show etc) providing a talk in February.

The outdoor programme will be arranged by Dave Brassey. Portland weekend 2019 is already set as October 4th & 5th.

It was agreed that we need to update our display materials for summer shows etc. Richard Clarke has agreed to investigate.

SOCIETY AGM & MEMBERS' EVENING

The Society's AGM & Members' evening will be held on Saturday January 26th 2019. The members evening will be of up to four presentations of no more than 15 minutes each of photos taken by the member during 2018. The photos don't have to have been taken in Gwent but it would be good to see local wildlife.

If you wish to present your photos at the AGM please contact chairman@gwentbirds.org.uk with a brief description of your presentation. The four presenters will be chosen on a first come first served basis.

Presentations should preferably be PowerPoint and loaded on to a memory stick. The society will have laptop and projection equipment available on the day. If you would prefer to use your own equipment please advise us on your initial submission.

IOLO Monday March 25th 2019

We have managed to attract Iolo Williams to give a talk, 'The Wildlife of Wales', to GOS within our indoor programme for 2019.

The meeting will be on Monday March 25th at Woodland Road Sports & Social Club, Cwmbran, NP44 2DZ and entry will be by ticket only.

Tickets will go on sale to the public on December 10th 2018 at £10. (Concession for under 16's £5). As a member you can purchase your tickets in advance at the concessionary price of £5 per ticket. Individual members can purchase one ticket at £5. Joint members can purchase two tickets at £5. Those with family membership can obtain tickets at £5 for parents and children under 16. If you wish to purchase tickets for friends / relations you can do so at the regular price of £10 per ticket.

Tickets will be available at indoor meetings from the middle of October. If you wish to pre-order by post send your ticket requirements together with cheque for the full amount to:

GOS Tickets, 100, Glan Rhyd, Cwmbran, NP44 6TZ and enclose a stamped addressed envelope. (Cheques to be made payable to: Gwent Ornithological Society)

PLEASE REMEMBER ENTRY WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY

BIRDWATCHING AT LLANDEGFEDD RESERVOIR

Birdwatching permits are required for Llandegfedd Reservoir from October 1st - March 1st.

They can be purchased from the Welsh Water visitor centre located at the Dam end of the reservoir at a cost of £8.00.

For entry to the north end of the reservoir you will need a key for the car park gate. The keys cost £6.00 and you can obtain them from the visitor centre at the same time as the permit. If you already hold a key from a previous year you do **NOT** need a new one.

VANDALISM AT GOLDCLIFF

At the time of writing (Sept 10th) at least two occurrences of significant vandalism have occurred at the bird hides at Goldcliff Lagoons during daylight hours. It may be wise for the time being NOT to visit the lagoons on your own and be vigilant. If you see anything suspicious please contact a NWR member of staff.

The police have been informed and it is hoped that we can return to a normal state of affairs shortly. Any updates will be posted on our website and on the Gwent Birders Facebook page.

Gwent UKBS Report for August 2018

Highlights

A Wood Sandpiper was reported from Newport Wetlands (8th). A probable Black Tern was seen at Llandegfedd reservoir(9th). Two Common Cranes were reported from Newport Wetlands on several occasions (From 14th).

Newport Wetlands Reserve

Male and female Marsh Harriers were reported on several dates. A Merlin was seen (11th). 42 Yellow Wagtails were recorded (30th). Large numbers of Curlew and Black-tailed Godwits were recorded throughout the month together with smaller numbers of other wader species passing through.

Other sites

A Nightjar was seen on the Sugar Loaf (2nd). 110 Curlew were seen at Collister Pill (2nd). A Barn Owl was recorded at Parc Nant y Waun (8th). A Yellow-legged Gull was reported from Llandegfedd reservoir (14th). A Marsh Harrier was seen at Peterstone Gout (16th). An Osprey was seen at Newcastle, near Monmouth (18th). A Merlin was reported from Rogiet (19th). A Curlew Sandpiper was present at Llandegfedd Reservoir (26th). A Mediterranean Gull was seen at Sudbrook (29th). 22 Little Egrets were present at Collister Pill (30th).



Highlights

Two Choughs were present at Twm Barlwm (5th-6th). Photographs of the choughs have been provided by Keith Roylance. Four Cattle Egrets were seen at Newport Wetlands (17th), with another seen at Dingestow (18th). Two Grey Phalaropes were reported from Newport Wetlands (21st), with another present at Llandegfedd Reservoir (also 21st). A single Grey Phalarope was again seen coming off the sea at Newport Wetlands (26th). A Great White Egret was recorded at Sudbrook (22nd).

Newport Wetlands Reserve

Up to four Curlew Sandpipers were recorded (up to 14th). Two Marsh Harriers were present (12th), with single birds also recorded on several dates throughout the month. Four Hobbies were reported (14th). A Little Stint was present (29th), with 22 Avocets reported on the same date .

Other Sites

A Mediterranean Gull was reported from Sudbrook (3rd -4th), with two birds present at the same site (19th). 24 Little Egrets were present at Collister Pill (13th). A female Merlin was seen at Black Rock (25th)



RAPTOR SURVEY in SOUTH WALES

We have been contacted by the Hawk Conservancy Trust regarding a potential Raptor Survey being carried out in South Wales.

The survey is being co-ordinated with a project at the University of Cardiff exploring the feasibility of reintroducing Golden & White-tailed Eagles into Wales.

The survey work will be based on a system already carried out in central southern England which involved walking a series of survey routes twice each year for predetermined number of years in an attempt to assess the population sizes of three common raptor species: Buzzard, Red Kite and Kestrel.

Whilst the proposed survey area in south Wales does not include a significant area within our (Gwent) recording area you may wish to be involved in some way. More details can be obtained from Matt Stevens of the Hawk Conservancy Trust – Matt@hawkconservancy.org

Naturetrek Presentation Evening in Cardiff.

Tour leaders from Naturetrek will be presenting a number of wildlife travel talks on Monday 7th January 2019 at Jury's Hotel, Cardiff between 7 pm and 9:30 pm. Tour leaders will be present from 6:30 pm for informal discussions.

To register for free tickets please send an email to events@naturetrek.co.uk or phone on 01962 733051 advising the number of tickets required. Tickets are limited and will be supplied on a first come first served basis.

Lift Required

Can you offer a GOS member, located close to Chepstow Road, Newport, a lift to indoor meetings.

If you are willing please email chairman@gwentbirds.org.uk for contact details so you can make your own arrangements with the GOS member.

Indoor Programme from September 2018

Saturday 20 October	Dippers on the Honda, Wye and Olchon	Mick Jenner
Saturday 03 November	Birds of Majorca	Len Clarke
Saturday 17 November	Changing Landscapes on the South Wales Coast	David Broadbent
Saturday 01 December	Finland through the Seasons	Phil Mugridge
Saturday 15 December	Focus on Wildlife - a Nature Photographer's Year	Chris Hatch

Outdoor Programme

Saturday 20 October	Ynys-y-fro Reservoir	Ian Walker
Saturday 24 November	Llandegfedd Reservoir	Keith Roylance

2019 Indoor Programme

We are still without an Indoor Programme Secretary to organise next year's talks. We need assistance in this otherwise the programme that may be put together will fall far short of expectations.

Speakers required for 2019 programme.

If there are any members who would be prepared to offer a talk during 2019 please contact chairman@gwentbirds.org.uk

GOS CONTACTS

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