

I've had a request from my friends Mike and Cath at City Wildlife Care to ask that if any reader comes across a young bird that they think needs help to Ring for advice before moving the bird. City Wildlife Care are available on their 24 hour emergency hotline 07794 179207 and will rescue any wildlife casualty – However, they would like to hear from you before you 'rescue' a young bird so that they can advise you on the best course of action.

Mike told me 'We are extremely busy at the moment picking up young animals, particularly birds. Whilst we are very happy to offer a rescue service, we often collect animals that the public have picked up when they would have best been left in situ'. He went on to say 'We've got years of experience caring for young animals and, dare I say, are pretty bloody good at it...but, nothing can care for a young animal as well as it's parents. I urge anyone who finds a young animal to call us for advice straight away'.

Over the past weeks City Wildlife Care have taken in a host of different birds including heron, tree creeper, skylark and tawny owls along with the more regular tits, thrushes, pigeons, crows and gulls. They have also recently taken in mammals including badgers and foxes. To find out more about their work and some of the animals they have helped visit www.citywildlifecare.org.uk

Unusual Sightings

As always the sightings page at www.gwentbirds.org.uk yields news of numerous seldom seen bird species that have been spotted locally. Among the more unusual are storm blown sea birds including pomarine and arctic skua, storm petrel, gannet and common scoter that were seen at Peterstone last weekend. Star sighting must go however to a group of 4 white storks that stopped for a few days to feed in fields at Dingestow. White storks are striking birds, about the size and shape of a heron, but black and white with red legs and beak. They are summer visitors to many parts of mainland Europe where they often build their massive nests on roofs. They are quite a rare sight in the UK but have been seen in increasing numbers this year, prompting some to speculate that they may soon breed here.





Birdwatching Walks

Gwent Ornithological Society have arranged two more fantastic birdwatching walks over the next few weeks – These walks, one on the coast and one high up in the Valleys, highlight the varied habitats and

birdlife

that we are privileged to have present in this wonderful part of the world:

Next Saturday, 23rd June, my old school mate Lyndon Waters will be leading a walk around Collister

Pill near

Magor

. This often overlooked spot on the Severn Estuary coast regularly turns up some very good bird sightings – and Lyndon knows the area like the back of his hand. If you would like to join in this easy 3 -4 hour walk, meet Lyndon at

Undy

Church (ST 440 869) at 8.00am.

On Saturday 7th July the venue changes to North Gwent, when local birder Paul Kelly will be leading walkers to Llangattock

Quarries. This 4 hour mountain and moorland jaunt should also showcase some interesting and unusual birds and starts off from the Bridge End PH car park,

Brynmaur

(just off the

A465

roundabout) at 8.00am.

Argus readers are particularly welcome to come along to any of the walks mentioned. There is no need to book a place – just turn up. Remember to bring boots and waterproof clothing, refreshments, drinks and binoculars if you have them.

If you would like more details visit www.gwentbirds.org.uk or give Steve Butler a call on 01873 854583.

Keep in Touch

Thank you to all readers that have taken the time to get in touch.

I always enjoy hearing from you and can be contacted at smegstevens@gmail.com