



The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) are looking for volunteers to take part in a fun and simple winter thrush survey. The UK has three resident thrushes ; Song thrush, mistle thrush and blackbird, whose numbers swell each winter as they are joined by their continental cousins along with two other species from Northern Europe – redwing and fieldfare . These birds arrive and take advantage of the berries and invertebrates available during our mild winters whilst their homeland is gripped by freezing conditions.

Britain is a vitally important wintering place for thrushes and their breeding success each spring depends on how they fare during the winter. The BTO are keen to find out more about their movement and habits to help preserve and improve conditions for these charming winter visitors.

This worthwhile, on line survey is simple as you only have to look out for a few species whilst out walking a regular route – If you are are a dog walker this is a great way to add an extra bit of interest to your outing.

To find out more visit www.bto.org.uk



Nightjar Makes My Day

My mate Mike from City Wildlife Care rang the other day to let me know that he had just picked up an injured nightjar from the Chepstow area and asked whether I would like to see it.... Well, I've always wanted to see a nightjar up close so I didn't need to be asked twice!

It was a beautiful bird; It looked like a cross between a swift and a falcon with wonderfully camouflaged plumage and I feel immensely privileged to have seen it. Mike wasn't sure of the circumstances leading to the bird being found but I have heard of these nocturnal birds being disturbed whilst roosting during the day and then mobbed by other birds, presumably mistaking it for a bird of prey.

Coming Up...

GOS start their eagerly anticipated programme of illustrated talks on Saturday 22nd September with a presentation on the majestic and elusive harpy eagle. The venue is Goytre Village Hall and the talk starts at 7.30pm – Put a note in your diary!

Argus readers are very welcome and entry costs £2 including tea and biscuits.

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