

There are plenty of interesting birds to be seen locally at present. A visit to Newport Wetlands Reserve or any other coastal site can result in seeing a wide range of wildfowl and waders, whilst a peek at your garden feeder could well result in spotting siskin or blackcap. There have been numerous reports of red kite from North

Gwent

and Newport birders have been kept happy by a small flock of waxwings which have been present for a while near

Sainsbury's

petrol station.

Although it is still cold, many of our birds are already thinking of nesting, with several species busy singing in a hope to attract a mate and establish a breeding territory.

If you are thinking about putting up a nest box (and now is a good time to do it) why not give Richard Evans a call on 07568 535563. Richard started up Project Nestbox Wales from his New Inn home a few years ago and has made and sited hundreds of nestboxes

locally. He has a range of hand made boxes, suitable for many bird species, at a very reasonable price and is happy to give you advice on what to choose and how to site it



GOS Walks and Talks

On Saturday 2nd March, Roger Beck presents 'Wildlife of Trinidad and Tobago'. Offering some of the best birdwatching in the Caribbean, Trinidad has a diverse array

of South American mainland birds whilst Tobago's ancient rainforest holds birds such as the fantastically named white tailed sabrewing.

On Saturday 16th March, Ashley Grove introduces 'Jewels of Gambia'. Ashley's tour starts at the coast before heading inland in search of species such as the red throated, little green and northern carmine bee eaters.

Talks takes place at Goytre Village Hall (just off the A4042 Newport to Abergavenny road) and start at 7.30pm. Entry, including tea and biscuits, costs £2

Argus readers are very welcome at GOS events. For more details visit www.gwentbirds.org.uk

Readers might also be interested to join a guided birdwatching walk in the Forest of Dean on Saturday 16th March. The walk is being led by my good mate Steve Butler, a knowledgeable local birder who will give you a warm welcome. Visiting the Forest in March gives you an opportunity to see a couple of our more elusive birds – namely hawfinch (pictured) and goshawk....Don't miss the chance. Meet at Waitrose car park, Monmouth at 9.00am. For more details call Steve 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