

If you enjoy watching Springwatch on TV, why not get out and do a little bit of wildlife watching of your own? We are extremely fortunate to have a host of different natural environments on our doorstep, the majority of which are easily accessible: Within a few miles of Newport you can visit the coast, rivers, reservoirs, farmland, woods and mountains – all of which have different habitats that support a diverse range of wildlife....plus there are numerous parks and nature reserves such as Newport Wetlands.

Getting out and about is a great way of seeing different bird species and we are spoilt for choice locally - If you took a trip to Newport Wetlands today you'd probably see fantastic birds like great crested grebe, water rail, avocet and spoonbill. Within the hour you could be stood on Mynydd Maen listening to cuckoos and watching skylark, wheatears and much much more.

If you would like to find out a bit more about what birds can be seen locally check out Gwent Ornithological Society at [www.gwentbirds.org.uk](http://www.gwentbirds.org.uk) This local birdwatching group can help you start to appreciate the wonderful array of birdlife that exists around you. There is an up to date sightings page to keep you informed of what's been seen – and a programme of events such as guided walks to help you improve your identification skills.



## Birdwatching Events

Tomorrow, Sunday 16th June, there is a guided walk at Garn Lakes, Blaenavon. This 3 hour moderate walk is being led by Nicholas Beswick and starts at the Whistle Road car park (just off the B4298 Brynmawr to Blaenavon Road) at 8.00am. This is a very interesting site – with some very special birds....including cuckoo (pictured) and grasshopper warbler!

Put a note in your diary for Saturday 13th July, when Andrew Baker will be leading a morning walk around The Blorenges. The walk starts at the F oxhunter car park (SO 263 107) at 9.00am and walkers should expect to see a wide range of upland birds including sylark, meadow pipit, stonechat, whinchat, wheatear and red grouse.

Argus readers are very welcome at these events. For more details visit [www.gwentbirds.org.uk](http://www.gwentbirds.org.uk) or call Steve Butler on 01873 854583.

Please remember to bring suitable clothing and footwear along with refreshments - and binoculars if you have them.

## 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](mailto:smegstevens@gmail.com)