

No, don't worry, it's not one of my corny jokes – My mates Mike and Cath from City Wildlife Care have received a number of interesting calls to rescue unusual birds recently – including one from the landlord of a local pub who was surprised to see a heron wander into the bar! Unsurprisingly it caused a bit of a flap (boom boom!) - but, once it was established that the heron didn't want a pint, the locals managed to shepherd it into a box before calling for help.

They also took a call from a lady in Cwmbran the other day, reporting a 'buzzard like' bird in her garden. Mike has dealt with quite a few buzzards over the years and describes them as being 'a bit dozy', but was soon sent scurrying for his gauntlets when the bird turned out to be a very feisty goshawk.

Can I urge any readers who come across an injured bird not to put themselves in any danger; All birds will be terrified of your approach, and whilst most birds cannot cause you any harm, there are some (such as heron and goshawk) that could inflict a serious injury if you attempt to handle them.

Many of you will have heard the recent news story about the South Wales man who picked up an injured gannet only to lose an eye when it pecked at his face. Don't let it happen to you - Call the experts at City Wildlife Care on 07794 179207.

City Wildlife Care is a registered local wildlife charity that depends on donations to operate. To find out more about the work they do, for advice on injured wild animals, or to make a donation, visit www.citywildlifecare.org.uk





Birdwatching Events

Gwent Ornithological Society (GOS) have lined a few more guided birdwatching walks; On Saturday 3rd September Craig Constance will be leading a morning wader watch at Goldcliff

. The walk starts at

8.00am

from the Newport Wetlands Reserve main car park and will carry on to around midday. The lagoons at

Goldcliff

attract a wide range of migrant birds on passage and this is an ideal opportunity to get some expert help in identifying them.

On the following Saturday, 10th September, Rob Parsons will be your host when he leads a walk around Forest Coal Pit SSSI. This is a smashing spot just North of Abergavenny and Rob is expecting some interesting sightings. The walk starts at

8.00am

from the site car park (SO 292 211).

GOS's eagerly awaited season of indoor talks kicks off at Goytre Village Hall (just off the A4 042

by the

Goytre

Arms) on Saturday 17th September when 'The Great Bustard Group' will be in town to give an update on the exciting project to reintroduce a bird that was hunted to extinction back to Britain – It should be a great evening.

There is no need to book places on these walks and talk - just turn up. New faces (especially Argus readers) are always welcome at GOS events.

Entry to talks is £1.50 and includes tea and biscuits.

Walkers should remember to bring suitable clothing (boots essential), food and drink – and binoculars if you have them.

For more information visit www.gwentbirds.org.uk or give me a call on the number below. Likewise, if you want me to send you a copy of GOS's programme of walks and talks, just let me know.

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 m.stevens@webster.uk.net or on 01633 866470.

Mark Stevens