

At this time of year you may well come across a young, seemingly abandoned bird. My friends Cath and Mike of City Wildlife Care currently take numerous calls from people who find an 'abandoned' bird every day and would like to let them know that it is quite normal for young birds to leave their nests before they can fly and fend for themselves properly. These fledglings typically spend a few days in or under bushes and shrubs building up their strength and learning how to feed themselves, whilst their parents keep an eye on them and visit occasionally with food.

Nobody can look after a young bird as well as it's parents, and their best chance of survival is to be left in their care.

These young birds and the parents communicate by quietly calling each other and the parent always knows where it's youngsters are hidden. Moving a young bird can have fatal consequences as it can easily become lost from it's parent.

As a rule of thumb, the only time you should move a young bird is when it is in imminent danger – However, if you do come across a young bird that you are concerned about, please leave it alone and contact City Wildlife on 07794 179 207 first... They are more than happy to offer you some practical advice and, if the bird needs to be rescued can arrange to collect and care for it. For more information visit [www.citywildlifecare.org.uk](http://www.citywildlifecare.org.uk)



## **Birdwatching Walks**

GOS have organised 3 fantastic birdwatching walks this month:

For those of you not going to watch Newport County at Wembley on Saturday 12th May, why not spend a few hours birding at one of Gwent's most scenic spots - St. Mary's Vale, near Abergavenny  
? Local birder Keith Trott is leading the walk, which takes in woodland, hills and valleys so that walkers get the opportunity to spot a wide range of interesting bird species. The meeting point is Abergavenny Bus Station at 7.00 am.

On Saturday 19th May my mate Rob Parsons is leading a walk at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad, a lovely nature reserve situated just off the A470 between Merthyr and Brecon . This site is a prime spot to see upland species such as stonechat , whinchat , wheatear and hopefully one of my favourite birds – ring ouzel. If you would like to join in, meet Rob at the second layby after leaving Libanus on the A470 ( SN 989 249) at 9.00am.

As if that wasn't enough, on Saturday 26th May there is yet another walk - this time at Blaen

Bran Community Woodland, Upper  
Cwmbran

. The walk is being led by Mick Bailey and Keith

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(

GOS's

own geriatric version of

Jedward

) who have a three mile route mapped out, taking in woodland and mountain side. I know this area very well and can almost guarantee that walkers will see and hear cuckoo and wood warbler among lots of other species.

Argus readers are particularly welcome to come along to all 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](http://www.gwentbirds.org.uk) or give me a call on the number below.

## **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) or on 01633 866470.