

Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group – inaugural meeting

Saturday 17th January, 10am, St Peter's School, Gloucester.

If you are interested in contributing to the Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group, please come along to our initial get-together at **10am on Saturday 17th January at St Peter's School, Stroud Road, Gloucester, GL4 0DD** – please reply to glosraptors@gmail.com if you wish to attend.

We aim to start slowly and see how things develop, so we are not thinking of a formal "club" at this stage; but we are looking for people to contribute in various ways, whether it is by sending in records, looking for new nest sites, or with administrative things like storing and analysing records and looking after the website.

The main purpose will be long-term monitoring of known breeding sites so that we can learn more about this group of birds. We aim to contribute to scientific knowledge and conservation, to raise awareness of persecution, and to generally educate and inform people.

Specifically, we hope that contributors will monitor and record breeding activity and/or behaviour annually, collate records for submission to BTO and our county recorder, produce an annual report, and meet (perhaps twice a year) to plan and evaluate each breeding season. Of course care will be taken to keep sites confidential where necessary, but we will learn a lot if individuals pool their findings.

Are you interested? Do you know of a nest site? If so, please come along to the meeting to find out more. Exactly which species will be monitored will depend on the number of people involved and their particular interests – Peregrine, Hobby, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, Red Kite, Buzzard, Owls, etc.

We do need to have an idea of likely numbers, so do please reply using the e-mail address above – thank you.

Note also that a specific Barn Owl Monitoring Programme is being planned as a parallel and complementary initiative – watch this space for further details.

Natalie Wylde, Rob Husbands and Gordon Kirk
November 2014