



### Chair's Welcome! Croeso'r Cadeirydd!



The lengthening days and increase in temperatures tell us that spring is here – my favourite season of the year. This is bird breeding time and many of the resident species have already paired up and built nests. March and April are great months to observe breeding behaviour and revise those birdsong identification skills. Knowing who breeds where and when is extremely valuable information that can help WOS and other organisations plan future conservation activities. This leads me into some very exciting news about a tremendously important bird recording project that will involve WOS and all its members and supporters.

At the end of the WOS Annual Conference in November 2024, Iolo Williams informed the audience that WOS had been invited to partner with the BTO over the biggest bird recording project to take place in the UK for 20 years – Atlas 2027-31. This is a hugely exciting opportunity and WOS is delighted to say that we have agreed to become a project partner. The exact details of what will be involved will become clearer over the next twelve months, however we do know that at the heart of this project is bird recording; recording at different levels and something to which everyone will be able to contribute.

Planning the project will take time but in the meantime we can all practise our ID skills and improve our bird recording ability. This newsletter is full of fascinating information which is based on good quality bird records, mostly received from people like you and me - the keen amateur birdwatcher.

Over the coming pages, you'll find information about a number of opportunities where you can get involved in recording different species. If you're looking for something a little bit different, we've dug out a couple of very interesting citizen science projects for you: 'Gulls Eating Stuff' (p19) and 'Birds and Debris' (p7). Both sound fascinating! But, please don't forget the more traditional bird surveys. BTO Cymru has several survey and bird ID training sessions this spring and we have news of those for you on p25. There is something for everyone, whatever your level of birding skill.

I'm particularly pleased that we continue with our theme of including stories about the next generation of birders in this newsletter. We have news of an exciting project we're funding with the *Urdd*, Wales' largest youth organisation. We welcome Wales' newest BTO Youth Representative and again we will be sponsoring a student from Wales to take part in this year's Bardsey University Week.

Thanks as always for supporting WOS. I hope you have a lovely spring time to enjoy the birds.

Anne Brenchley

## WOS: supporting community and local conservation projects

WOS has awarded several grants for community and bird conservation work in Wales in recent months.

### Community Grants

We awarded a grant of £650 to the [Wenvoe Wildlife Group](#) for a project aiming to increase nest availability for birds across Wenvoe, Vale of Glamorgan and getting different sections of the community involved in local conservation efforts. The group will work with a local farm to provide Swift and Swallow nesting opportunities and placing nest boxes targeting smaller passerines across the village.

[Canolfan yr Urdd Pentre Ifan](#). A project aimed at enhancing community engagement in bird conservation, focusing on red and amber-listed species in the SSSI and Special Area of Conservation areas of Pentre Ifan, Tŷ Canol and the Preseli region of Pembrokeshire, including collaboration with local schools to build, erect, and monitor nest boxes. A grant of £750 was awarded. You can read more about this project on p6.

### Project Grants

Pembrokeshire Ringing Group: Caldey Island Swift Project. A project to provide Swift nest boxes on the Caldey Island monastery, Pembrokeshire, where Swift used to nest before the building was re-roofed about 20 years ago. A grant of £308 was awarded.

### President's Grant

There was only one application for the President's Grant, from the [Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru](#) (INCC) for a Willow Tit Habitat Improvement project at Llwyndewi Nature Reserve,



*Ring barking trees at Llwyndewi  
(Photo: INCC)*

Carmarthenshire. The project will install specialist boxes for Willow Tits in areas of suitable habitat on site. It will also improve the site's potential for nesting Willow Tits by increasing the amount of small width standing deadwood through targeted ring barking of trees. New pools and wetland habitat will be created within the reserve by digging scrapes and selectively damming small ditches. We awarded the sum of £1,000 to this project.

Monitoring and evaluation of the results of this work could provide valuable lessons for work elsewhere in Wales to benefit a species which has declined dramatically in the past thirty years.

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## News

### Welsh Bird Report 2023

We were pleased to recently publish the 2023 Welsh Bird Report. You should have received your copy in January. We hope you enjoyed reading it!



We're sure you'd like to join us in thanking Julian Hughes, the Report's Editor, for the tremendous amount of work he did on the publication, as well as Ian Spence for the Report's typesetting and design. We're also very grateful to all the County Bird Recorders, local bird report editors, photographers and numerous other individuals who helped in the report's preparation. Finally, thanks to all of you and other birders who submit bird records in Wales. Keep 'em coming! Without your contributions there would be no bird report.

Our annual Welsh Bird Report is available free of charge to WOS members and we've received lovely feedback from some of you about this latest edition. However, suggestions for improvement are always welcome and if you have any ideas or feedback you'd like to share with us, please drop Julian a line at [wbr@birdsins.wales](mailto:wbr@birdsins.wales)

### WOS Photo competition 2025

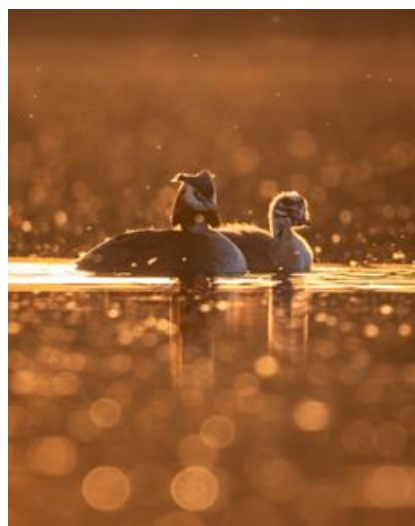
Following a record number of entries last year, we're continuing with our Photo Competition in 2025. There are two important changes from the 2024 competition:

1. The closing date has been brought forward to **31st August**. Photos taken between 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2024 and the new closing date will be accepted.
2. The Flocks category is being replaced by a **Mobile Phone Category**.

The **Main Section** – open to everyone, with first prize of a week's accommodation on Ynys Enlli/Bardsey Island (travel to the island is not included). The second and third prizes are £100 and £75 of NHBS vouchers.

**Mobile Phone Section** – open to everyone, with first, second and third prizes of £100, £75 and £50 of NHBS vouchers.

**Young Photographers Section** – open to anyone 21 years old or under on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, with prizes as per the phone section above.



*The 2024 Main Section Winner - George Rossini*

With the success of the 2025 calendar, we hope to use entries from the 2025 competition to produce a 2026 calendar, which will be on sale at the Conference. For more information, please visit the [competition's page](#) on our website.

## Damaged envelopes?

Did you receive your copies of our journal *Milvus* or the Welsh Bird Report 2023 in a damaged envelope when they were mailed out recently? If you did, can you please report this to Alison Noble, our Membership Secretary, at [wosmembership@btinternet.com](mailto:wosmembership@btinternet.com)? We're looking into whether we need to use stronger packaging for some of our mailings and your feedback would be useful.

## WOS has left 'X' (Twitter)

Like many other organisations, WOS took the decision recently stop using X as a social media platform, focusing instead on our BlueSky, Facebook, Instagram and Threads accounts. We did not feel comfortable on X any longer.

It has become apparent that the platform's new algorithms suppress some posts, including those containing links or promoting scientific information. These new algorithms also don't work as well for small accounts like ours. Our posts on X weren't getting the traction and interaction that they once did. We were also concerned by X's reluctance to tackle hate, aggression, misinformation and far-right extremism on its platform, all in the name of 'free speech'.

Over the last twelve months, we have worked hard on increasing our presence and followers on our four other social media platform accounts, as well as our website and newsletters. Indeed, many birdwatchers, naturalists and conservationists appear to have chosen to migrate onto BlueSky and our following there has rocketed over the past few weeks. This means that, despite leaving X, we are able to continue to effectively share our, and your stories to birders and other interested parties across Wales and beyond. Hopefully we will be able to keep in touch with you through one platform or another. You can find details of our various social media channels on the past page of the newsletter. Please follow us!

## Croeso Simon Boyes

We have recently co-opted Simon Boyes as a new member of WOS' Council of trustees.

Simon has been a keen birdwatcher since teenage years and after completing his MSc in Environmental Conservation he led bird tours around the world until 2017. Simon has visited most of the world's birding hotspots from the Antarctic to North America, Asia and Africa and has a life list of over 6,000 species – enough to make most of us 'green with envy'.



He lives in Montgomeryshire (Powys) and was a founder member of the Montgomery Wildlife Trust, of which his wife Clare is now Vice-Chair. After retiring Simon has been actively involved in local bird recording, is the current Chair of the [Montgomeryshire Bird Group](#) and been the Montgomery County Bird Recorder since 2019. Simon likes meeting other birders and encouraging them to take part in surveys and send in their bird records.

Although fully aware of all the problems that the natural world is encountering, Simon is always keen to promote and encourage any activity that looks to help reverse the declines of all our wildlife, in particular our wild bird populations.

We are looking forward to having Simon joining us on Council and, if we don't scare him away over the coming months, that he stands for election as a full member of Council at the next AGM.

## Could you be WOS' next Secretary?

Clare Ryland is coming to the end of her term as our Secretary and will be standing down at October's AGM. We'll miss her!

Over the coming months we're keen to hear from people who may like to step into Clare's shoes. If you're interested, you'd be very welcome to attend one or more of our meetings so that you can get a feel for the role and then decide if you'd like to throw your hat in the ring. Clare would be very happy to have a 'no obligation chat' with you too.

The primary role of the Secretary involves organising the Council (trustees) meetings, taking and distributing minutes and organising the AGM. There are six Council meetings annually, 3 of which are full meetings (duration approx. 5 hours), the remainder being evening meetings (duration 2-2.5 hours). Two of the full meetings are face-to-face and are held in Newtown, the 3<sup>rd</sup> full meeting and all the evening meetings are held on Zoom.

For more information, including the 'one side of A4' job description, please drop a line to our Chair, Anne Brenchley, at [chair@birdsins.wales](mailto:chair@birdsins.wales)

## **WildJustice petition to ban driven grouse shooting**

*WildJustice* (Ruth Tingay, Mark Avery and Chris Packham) have launched a government petition calling for driven grouse shooting to be banned. If it reaches 100,000 signatures by 22 May then it will be debated in parliament.



WOS supports this petition. You can read more about this type of grouse shooting and the reasons given by *WildJustice* for why it should be banned in [this blog of theirs](#) and you can sign this petition [here](#).

## Goose decline continues

Sadly, the number of Greenland White-fronted Geese wintering in Wales continues to fall. We know of only 25 birds spent this winter with us – down from 32 birds in 2023-24. The Dyfi flock numbered only 10 this year, but two of them were juveniles. 14 birds wintered there in 2023/24, 16 in 2022/23 and 27 in 2021/22.



*A flock of thirteen Greenland White-fronted Geese on the Dyfi back in 2019 (Photo: Tim Collier)*

On Ynys Môn, 15 birds were recorded around the Cefni valley, down by 7 from last winter. All these birds were adults.

## Got an idea for our *Milvus* journal?

If you have an idea for an original research paper (up to 5000 words) or a short communication (up to 2500 words) for the journal, the editor, Dr Rachel Taylor, would be delighted to hear from you. Rachel is also keen to include more short articles which could be interesting notes, intriguing negative (or non-significant?) results; perhaps observations from local studies and certainly more pieces by citizen scientists. *Milvus* should be a journal that brings scientists, both professionals and citizen scientists, together through our shared interest in Welsh birds. Rachel and the Editorial Board are here to help and advise you through every step of the process. You can find out more about submissions to *Milvus* here:

[www.birdsin.wales/milvus-submissions/](http://www.birdsin.wales/milvus-submissions/)

Rachel's email address is:

[milvuseditor@birdsins.wales](mailto:milvuseditor@birdsins.wales) Bring us your

best ideas!

## Bringing Communities Closer to Nature

*The Urdd is Wales' largest youth organisation. It provides sports, arts, volunteering, apprenticeship, outdoor pursuits, humanitarian, international and residential opportunities for children and young people through the medium of Welsh and, at its centre at Pentre Ifan in Pembrokeshire it offers Eco-wellness accommodation and courses. We were very pleased to offer the Urdd one of our Community Grants and here, **Owain Evans**, Pentre Ifan's Sustainability and Engagement Officer explains how our funding will be used.*



We are delighted to have been awarded £750 from the Welsh Ornithological Society's Community Grant fund, supporting our efforts to engage local schools and communities in bird conservation. This funding will play a crucial role in strengthening our outreach, fostering hands-on learning, and building a deeper connection between people and nature.

### Inspiring the next generation



*Ysgol Gynradd Eglwyswrw's pupils busy building nestboxes ....*

One of the key aspects of this project is our collaboration with local schools. We strongly believe that conservation starts with education, and thanks to this funding, we will be able to bring more young people into the world of birdwatching and habitat protection. With the support of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, we will run workshops where students help build and install nest boxes in the surrounding woodlands of Tŷ Canol and Pentre Ifan, both of which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

But the engagement won't stop at nest box installation. Students will be encouraged to monitor the bird boxes over time, recording species usage and nesting success. This ongoing involvement will not only help collect valuable data on local bird populations but also instil a sense of ownership and responsibility in young conservationists.

### Enhancing learning through interactive resources

The grant will also help us develop educational materials and signage to support visitors in identifying local bird species, including promoting the use of Welsh bird names. These resources will be incorporated into our existing nature-based activities at the centre, enriching our visitors' experiences and allowing them to engage with conservation in a meaningful way.

For school groups, we will integrate birdwatching and identification into our Nature and Sustainability residential courses, ensuring that students of all ages and abilities can take part. ether through field sketching, recording calls, or simply observing birds in their natural habitat, we aim to make conservation an accessible and enjoyable experience.

### Looking to the future

Our hope is that this funding will not just support a one-off project, but instead help lay the foundation for long-term community involvement in conservation. By encouraging collaborative data collection, promoting awareness, and providing hands-on experiences, we aim to create a legacy of environmental stewardship that will continue to benefit both people and wildlife for years to come.



*It's clear that Ysgol Eglwysrwr pupils have great woodworking skills!*

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the **Welsh Ornithological Society** for their **generous support**. This grant is an investment not just in bird conservation, but in connecting communities with the natural world – and we can't wait to see the impact it will have.

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## **Citizen science projects to get involved with #1**

*A couple of slightly different, bird related citizen science projects recently caught our eye. Here's the first one. Turn to p19 for the other. Why not give them a go?*

### **Bird and Debris**

We've all seen birds entangled in, or incorporating rubbish into their nests. But, the next time to see such a sight, please record it. [Birds and Debris](#) is a website encouraging people to report birds found with debris (rubbish). This will help scientists understand more about the scale and spread of pollution, especially plastic pollution. Set up by Dr Alex Bond, Senior Curator of Birds at the Natural History Museum, the project's aim is to start to piece together how big and widespread the problem is, which opens up a variety of ways that the issue can be tackled. For example, the findings can feed into future environmental policies around waste management.



*A Coot's nest with a plastic cup and biscuit wrappers  
(Photo: Dan Jenkins-Jones)*



## Glamorgan Bird Club's 'Big Bird Count'

*We're proud of the fact that the Glamorgan Bird Club is one of WOS' affiliate bird club members. They do terrific work in their region. **Tim Adcock**, the Club's Treasurer, tells us more about one of their recent new ventures to get birders out into the field recording birds.*

Glamorgan Bird Club are running their second Big Bird Count from April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup> inclusive. The aim is to get as many of our members as possible out birding and then to form a snapshot of the birds in East Glamorgan at this key time of year. Over those four days club members are invited to do a bird species list (and a count of each species also if possible) somewhere local to them in East Glamorgan. It could be their local patch, their garden, their favourite local reserve, their WeBS patch – anywhere they fancy. We also get the photographers amongst us to send in photos. Members can spend ten minutes looking out of their kitchen window or a day in the field, it's up to them. Also, they can visit different sites on different days and send in multiple lists.

Any WOS members in East Glamorgan are also more than welcome to participate. Lists and photos are sent to: [bbcrecords@glamorganbirds.org.uk](mailto:bbcrecords@glamorganbirds.org.uk)

The lists are compiled into a report which is then put onto the club website to share the information throughout the club and enhance all our awareness of what birds are where. The club committee vote on a best bird, best photo and best list from the event just for fun (there are no prizes). The best bird from last September's event was a Black Tern seen at Lisvane Reservoir (remarkably one of two seen that weekend in East Glamorgan, the other bird was at Kenfig, near Porthcawl). In all 95 species were recorded over the four days (27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September).



***Black Tern taken by GBC member ©Tim Collier during GBC first Big Bird Count in September 2024***

For this April's event we're reaching out to local wildlife groups and WhatsApp based birding groups across East Glamorgan to see if they would like to join in. In this way we hope to involve as many East Glamorgan bird enthusiasts as possible and bring our birding community together.



The [Glamorgan Bird Club](#) was formed in 1989 and now has over 300 members. We are an active club with a busy schedule of field trips and indoor meetings. Our members voluntarily participate in several projects including the Ely floodplain Green Sandpiper study and farmland bird surveys, as well as being Wetland Bird Survey and Breeding Bird Survey volunteers. Club trustees and members work with a range of partners such as Porthcawl Swifts. With the support of Bridgend Local Nature Partnership, Bridgend County Council, Town and Community Councils the Glamorgan Swifts project also helps Swifts by raising awareness and putting up Swift boxes, for example on new housing developments. The club plays a part in supporting local ringing groups and supplies nestboxes to local organisations, as well as offering them support through our Small Grants Scheme.

However, from April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup> we'll mostly be out birding! Wish us luck.

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## Swift News

### Swift Petition Update

You may recall that a Senedd petition was launched last year by Julia Barrell calling for legislation to ensure Swift bricks are installed in all new buildings in Wales. It was supported by Wales largest conservation organisations like RSPB Cymru, the North Wales Wildlife Trust and, of course, WOS. The good news is that 10,930 people signed it, surpassing the 10,000-signature threshold needed to make the Petitions Committee meet to consider the petition. The Committee met on 10 March and you can watch the webcast [here](#). The decision was made to keep the petition under review while the Petitions Committee write to relevant Cabinet Secretaries asking for a collaborative approach across Welsh Government. Keep an eye out on our social media pages for further updates.

### Swifts in Pembrokeshire

There's clearly a lot of love across Wales for Swifts. At a Wildlife Trusts Wales 'SOS – Save our Swifts' event at Theatr Gwaun in the Fishguard on 24 March was packed out. Sponsored by the Pembrokeshire Bird Group, an incredible 148 people attended the event.

They listened to Swift enthusiast, Elfyn Pugh, who brought everyone up to speed with the challenges facing our declining Swift population; and to Tim Birch of Wildlife Trusts Wales who outlined the Fishguard project which will help the recovery of our Swifts and Clare Ryland spoke on behalf of the Fishguard Swift Group.



*Theatr Gwaun was packed out for the SOS - Save our Swifts event (Photo: Tim Birch)*

The **Fishguard Swift Group** has set up a local WhatsApp group to record sightings of Swifts in the Fishguard/Goodwick/Newport area to help us target the next stage of the project. If you'd like to join this group, please text **07753 639872**.



## Curlew in Wales, the 2024 breeding season and beyond

An update by **Bethan Beech** of [Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales](#) and Specialist Advisor, Terrestrial Species Recovery at Natural Resources Wales.

As WOS members will know, breeding Curlew, along with a number of other breeding waders in Wales, are in significant decline and need urgent help to aid recovery.

In Wales, the breeding Curlew population has declined by 80% since the mid-1990s, with a similar rate of decline in Ireland and 50% declines in England and Scotland. Based on expert opinion it is estimated that the total Welsh Curlew breeding population is currently between 400 to 500 breeding pairs.

We know the key driver of population decline in this relatively long-lived bird is poor breeding success. It is widely accepted by scientists that the maintenance of a stable breeding Curlew population requires each breeding pair to produce 0.6 fledged chicks per year. It is thought that current productivity in Wales is 0.3 fledged chicks per year, only half of what is required, with some areas fledging no chicks at all in some years. Low productivity is predominantly driven by predation of eggs and chicks by meso-predators, such as Red Fox and Carrion Crow and the switch from hay to silage where much earlier cutting dates does not allow time for young chicks to fledge.

Gylfinir Cymru / Curlew Wales identified twelve Important Curlew Areas (ICAs) in Wales [Recovery Plan | Curlew Wales](#) each of which has a lead organisation to monitor and manage for breeding Curlew. Habitat management and predator control are being carried out in a number of these ICAs but significant increases in productivity are yet to be achieved.

### **2024: a difficult spring and early summer**

The spring 2024 was mostly cold and wet, with heavy and prolonged June rainfall creating difficult foraging conditions for the Curlew chicks. Data collated from 11 ICAs in Wales, in addition to areas monitored by volunteers of the Gwent Ornithological Society and a survey commissioned by Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri in Meirionnydd, suggested 253 confirmed Curlew breeding territories in Wales. The number of chicks fledged from those territories was estimated to be between 51 (probable) and 80 (possible), giving an indicative 0.2-.0.3 fledged chicks per breeding pair.



*The cold wet spring of 2024 made foraging difficult for Curlew Chicks (Photo: Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales)*

In addition to conservation interventions such as habitat management and predator control, a practice known as head-starting has been undertaken in Germany, Poland and a number of other countries since 2014. Curlew head-starting is the taking of Curlew eggs from the wild, incubating those eggs and rearing chicks in captivity under bio-secure conditions, and then releasing these chicks back into the natal area as fledglings.

In England, Curlew eggs on RAF air bases were destroyed under licence for the purpose of air safety. Since 2019 Curlew eggs have been removed under licence, incubated and then released at a number of areas in lowland England.

Gylfinir Cymru is currently working to develop a framework to inform any Curlew head-starting proposal in Wales.



***Curlew eggs could be taken from the wild, incubated and the chicks reared in captivity before being released  
(Photo: Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales)***

The charity, Curlew Action recently organised an online European Workshop on head-starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025. All presentations are now available on their You Tube Channel. The presentation given Geoff Hilton of WWT [Headstarting: The Big Picture](#) provides a very useful introduction to the topic.

For the 2025 breeding season, all records of breeding Curlew are very valuable. For details of who is working on curlew in the different areas of Wales please visit the blog pages of the Gylfinir Cymru web site [Blog | Curlew Wales](#) to see who to discuss your sightings with. Please enter records into the dedicated all Wales Cofnod Curlew recording page [Cofnod - North Wales Environmental Information Service | Home](#) or into your [Local Environmental Records Centre](#).

All head started Curlew are ringed and fitted with leg flags. The reporting of these birds, particularly during the breeding season, will help us learn about the return rates and breeding behaviour of those birds in comparison to wild birds. A number were seen in Wales in 2024. Further sightings in 2025 should be passed through the [colour ringing reporting channels](#).

NRW are planning to commission a Wales Wader Survey during 2026 which will involve a combination of paid surveyors and volunteers in areas of Wales. We will be asking for your help and support throughout Wales to build up as complete a picture of the distribution of these iconic birds as possible. Further details of the Wales Wader Survey will be available before the end of 2025.

If you find Curlew in suitable breeding habitat this spring, please record the sighting. You can do this via your local [County Bird Recorder](#), your [Local Environmental Records Centre](#) or by using BTO's [BirdTrack](#). You're welcome to drop Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales a line too: [hello@curlewwales.org](mailto:hello@curlewwales.org)

## Keith Noble – a tribute by Clare Ryland



*Keith Noble . . . in his element (Photo: Alison Noble).*

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Keith Noble on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Keith was a much-liked and respected former member of WOS Council whose love of birds and other wildlife remained undiminished, inspiring countless others. He had a gift for imparting knowledge with a gentle enthusiasm, whether it concerned rarities which had shown up at Llangorse Lake or the life cycle of nomad bees living in his garden in Brecon.

As a member of the London Natural History Society Keith spent a lot of time recording birds at Rainham Marshes in the late 1960s - 1970s. His records helped to track the cleaning of the River Thames which eventually led to the setting up of the RSPB reserve at Rainham Marshes – now a haven for waders, wintering Short-eared Owls and Water Voles.

Keith started work with the RSPB as Education Officer at The Lodge, Sandy in Bedfordshire preparing material for schools and running school film shows. In 1976 he married his wife Alison and they moved to Sussex and the RSPB's Brighton Office where Keith's responsibilities included the film shows which may be familiar to many WOS members. I certainly remember going to see them in the Swansea Brangwyn Hall as a child. When the films were discontinued Keith took on work promoting birdwatching to the general public such as the Peregrine CCTV on Chichester Cathedral, one of the first such relays which generated huge public interest.

After retiring to Wales in 2007 Keith became an active member of the Brecknock Wildlife Trust, serving as a Trustee for 6 years including a stint as Chair. As Brecknock County Recorder for dragonflies, in 2022 he was instrumental in seeing Llangorse Lake established as the first Dragonfly Hotspot in Wales, with a star turn highlighting this achievement on the BBC's *Countryfile* programme.

He joined WOS Council as a Trustee in 2015, playing a pivotal role along with Alison in organising the WOS Annual Conference – a role he continued even after stepping down from Council in 2020. In May 2022 he joined a small WOS team at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show's Spring Festival in Llanelwedd, listening to and encouraging local birdwatchers.

A keen photographer, Keith gave hundreds of illustrated talks to audiences varying from local gardening groups to public meetings. He never made any personal gain from them but liked to ask for £1.00 per head as a donation to the Wildlife Trust. Alongside this he managed to find time to take on being Director of the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, a member of the Advisory Group for Llangorse Lake and a member of Brecon Swift Group.

Keith was born in South Woodford, London. When he was 8 the family moved to a new build house in Essex with fields behind the house. Keith would climb over the fence and explore the fields - full of wild flowers, butterflies and birds. He never stopped exploring!

The family have advised that donations may be made to [Usk Valley Ospreys](#).

## Introducing Liliana Tarrant Snedden, Wales' latest BTO Youth Rep

*This is not the first time Liliana's appeared in the WOS Newsletter. She's previously shared with us some of her experiences on Skomer and with the Cardiff University Ornithological Society and we were delighted to hear that she'd recently become a BTO Youth Rep for Cardiff (where she's at university) and for Pembrokeshire (her home county). Llongyfarchiadau Liliana!*

### **What first sparked your interest in birds and natural history?**

I have always loved nature and wildlife, having an undeniable curiosity from a very early age but my deeper passion for birds only came later. For most of my life I wasn't particularly aware that birding was something that I could access or be involved in but joining my university Ornithological Society changed all that! I joined in my first year and met a welcoming group of wonderful people all enthusiastic about nature and birding. My involvement in the society gave me the confidence to pursue other opportunities such as visiting Skokholm island with the university and completing the BTO Young Leaders course in 2022. Both these experiences enabled me to meet other young people passionate about birding and conservation and really inspired me to get more involved. I finally got my first pair of binoculars through the BTO equipment donation scheme in September 2022 and **have** never looked back! Since then, my binoculars and I have visited Borneo for volunteering and a university field trip, and travelled all over Central and South America on my university placement year where I studied the amazing diversity of birds in the rainforests of Costa Rica.

### **Where is your favourite wildlife place in Wales?**



***Liliana on Skomer with a young Manx Shearwater***

The Pembrokeshire islands of Skokholm and Skomer would have to be my joint favourites, having been lucky enough to visit both over the last few years as a visitor, to volunteer and for the amazing Skomer Young Birders week. The west coast of Wales is breathtaking, although I am slightly biased as a Pembrokeshire resident. I love all the wildlife and birds on the islands, with the charismatic Puffins and Manx Shearwaters, acrobatic Chough, wonderful marine life and many diverse invertebrates. It is always so exciting to go out and look for rare migrants, unusual vagrants and the regular favourites!

### **What's the most memorable wildlife experience you've had in Wales?**

I find all my experiences with wildlife magical but a particular favourite was seeing a Hoopoe on Skomer island during one of their Young Birders weeks. It was one of the first times I ran to see a bird so that feels like a pretty special occasion, demonstrating that I was becoming well and truly converted to the ornithological life. Seeing such an unusual bird, not far from where I grew up, was rather surreal and brought so much excitement and joy to all of us lucky enough to catch a glimpse!

### **What kind of activities do Cardiff University Ornithological Society do?**

We organise a range of activities including indoor events such as talks on a diverse range of topics, identification training and fun socials, alongside outdoor events such as guided walks, surveys and trips to good birding spots. Our aim as a society is to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and has a supportive group within which to learn and importantly have fun!

### **Do you already participate in any BTO surveys?**

Yes, we do! As a society we are in charge of a Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) count at Roath Park Lake in Cardiff. While a challenging site due to its size and the multiple islands that birds can hide around, it is a very rewarding experience, both for me to organise and also for members to participate in. This monthly count is often the first survey experience for many of our members and everyone seems to really enjoy the chance to improve their identification and contribute to such a long-standing and important national survey. The society has also been involved in some nest box monitoring in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust, which we'll hopefully be doing again this year. Nest monitoring is such a great experience for beginner and experienced birders, getting to see the whole development process and be so close to a bird is always brilliant.



*Some of the CUOS WeBS team at Roath Park Lake*

### **It's early days of course, but do you have any thoughts on what you'd like to do/achieve as a BTO Youth Rep?**

I have many ideas of events and goals and they all mainly revolve around getting more young people interested in birding, as a means of inspiring action to protect our precious biodiversity while also facilitating easier access to natural spaces and birding for people from all backgrounds. I have an idea to organise a Welsh Young Birders conference that would enable young people from across Wales to meet. It would include events such as interesting talks, project inspiration sessions and also outdoor nature-based activities. This would hopefully allow young Welsh birders to meet likeminded people, share their ideas and passion, be inspired and feel part of a welcoming and inclusive community.

### **What do you think are the biggest barriers which prevent young people from engaging with nature?**

I truly think it is lack of connection. People, of any age, will not engage with something that they don't know or care about and, as a society, we are generally becoming more and more disconnected from the natural world around us, which we are also part of! Young people cannot be expected to suddenly engage with nature when they have no experience of connection or exposure to it. There are also so many barriers to nature access and connection for young people, everything from transport to get to nature reserves, entrance fees, not having anyone available to take them somewhere or even just feeling safe to access outdoor spaces. Therefore, I think maximising the access children have to nature from as early age as possible would be extremely beneficial, especially if this was done through schools so that all children had equal opportunity and access.

### **What have you got on your wildlife/birding experiences 'bucket list'?**

I would absolutely love to see Condors and a Harpy Eagle in their natural habitat. They are just such incredible birds and would just be so magical to see! I was lucky enough to visit a few countries within their ranges but was sadly unable to see either species while I was travelling, so a great excuse to head back to that part of the world. Additionally, I really want to learn how to ring. I've had a few brief experiences of ringing but would love to get my permit so that I can incorporate ringing into possible future research.

## Cambrian Mountains Society “Soundscapes” project

*Many birders and wildlife enthusiasts have recently turned to using various digital devices left in situ in various habitats to record the calls of birds and other animals present there. We’ve already covered the use of such devices for ‘nocmiggling’ – the recording of birds calling overhead as they migrate after dark. Here, **Lorna Brazell, Secretary of the Cambrian Mountains Society**, shares with us the story of the early stages of an exciting project that uses this technology.*

In January 2024, the Cambrian Mountains Society started a project to collate and analyse data on the biodiversity of the remote Cambrian Mountains of Mid-Wales. This large glacial plateau, dissected by river valleys and including a number of large reservoirs in the Elan Valley and at Llyn Brianne, runs north-south, from the west slopes of Bannau Brycheiniog to the Pumlumon massif facing Cadair Idris across the Dyfi estuary. Like almost all Welsh uplands, the land has of course been used for summer grazing for centuries, but it is largely unimproved land with areas of bog and peatland, heath, some grassland, conifer plantations and oak woodlands, wet woodland and scrub – a wide array of habitats, supporting a very wide range of species. Importantly, the remoteness of the area means that until now there has been considerably less human disturbance than many otherwise-equivalent areas have experienced.

It rapidly became clear from the data available on the National Biodiversity Network that, whilst the region certainly has biodiversity to be proud of, the data is patchy. Species abundance apparently shoots up whenever a particular project is in progress counting its numbers, then apparently falls off again when that project ends. There are very few areas where systematic recording has been carried out consistently over many years. As a result, population numbers and trends are at best uncertain.



*Some areas of the Cambrian Mountains can be a bit of a challenge to monitor birds*

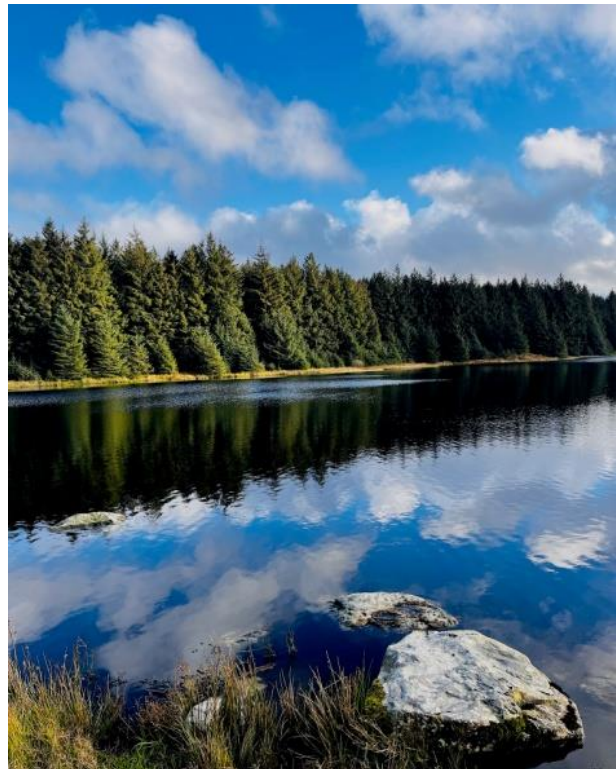


**An AudioMoth unit in situ**

We're a small charity and we don't have the manpower to deploy expert birdwatchers across the region, so we decided to see what we can do using *AudioMoths*, bioacoustic monitoring devices (i.e., sound recorders) instead. These have been used in academia for years to monitor wildlife, but more recently the cost has fallen and opensource – that is, free – software such as BirdNet, to analyse the recordings has become available.

Each *AudioMoth* will record the sound around it for one minute out of every 10, 24 hours a day. They can record for up to 189 hours (depending on the chosen recording schedule) which means they can be left on site for months on end.

Since October, we have been deploying our 25 *AudioMoths* (so far) in a range of habitats up and down the Cambrian Mountains. The plan is to have some entirely static over the course of the year, and others move once per month within a limited area, to give us potentially three, one-month data sets per season for three different, adjacent habitats. We are planning to acquire a few more, having now identified further promising locations and raised extra funds through generous donations by a number of members. At the end of each term a volunteer visits the recorder, changes its batteries and inserts a new memory card, bringing the original memory card back to base in order to download the data for analysis.



At the time of writing, we have not quite completed our first three-month stint so we have not yet started analysing any data – and, of course, we know that autumn is likely to be one of the quieter times of year for bird listening. A 'pilot' run by a member around his own land over the summer has however already identified a number of unexpected rarer birds including Yellow-browed Warbler, Yellow Wagtail and Curlew. After 12 months, we will have a continuous set of data covering both spring and autumn migrations and the breeding season, as well as the over-wintering populations, for a very wide and under-studied area of Mid-Wales.

We'll then have the choice whether to re-deploy the recorders to target particular species or habitats, or simply move them to another set of locations in the enormous area we want to study. We might even re-programme a few to see what bat species we can pick up!<sup>1</sup>

For more information about the Cambrian Mountains Society and, in due course, the results of the project, see our website at <http://www.cambrian-mountains.co.uk>

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<sup>1</sup> The Bat Conservation Trust are already running an annual, UK-wide bat monitoring project using AudioMoths, see <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/science-research/passive-acoustic-surveys/british-bat-survey>



## **Bardsey Observatory University Week: A Unique Opportunity for Aspiring Ornithologists**

*This August (9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>), Bardsey Bird and Field Observatory (BBFO) will host its much-anticipated University Week, a week-long immersive experience designed for students and young bird enthusiasts. There are spaces for eleven participants this year and, as part of WOS' commitment to support and nurture the next generation of ornithologists, **we will again be sponsoring one lucky individual from Wales to attend this amazing event.** What can participants expect? Steve Stansfield, BBFO's Director of Operations tells us more.*

Nestled on the picturesque Bardsey Island, the observatory offers a unique setting for participants to engage in hands-on learning and contribute to vital conservation efforts. The week promises a blend of education, research, and adventure, making it an unforgettable experience.

### **Activities at the Observatory**

Participants will dive into a variety of activities that showcase the observatory's core mission of bird monitoring and conservation. These include:

**Bird Ringing and Monitoring:** Students will learn about ringing birds, a crucial activity for tracking migration patterns and population dynamics. This hands-on experience provides invaluable insights into avian ecology.



*One of last year's students, ringing her first Storm Petrel (Photo: Steve Stansfield)*

**Daytime Ringing of Shearwater Chicks:** Always a highlight of the week! There will be the opportunity to ring Manx Shearwater chicks during the day. These adorable chicks are part of the island's significant breeding population, and this activity plays a vital role in monitoring their development and survival rates.

**Migration Studies:** August is a prime time for observing bird migration, and participants will have the chance to witness and document this natural phenomenon, with arrivals of Willow Warblers, flycatchers and more.

**Rock Pooling Adventures:** The coastline around Bardsey Island is teeming with marine life, making it an ideal spot for rock pooling. Participants will explore tide pools to discover fascinating creatures such as crabs, sea anemones, and small fish, learning about the delicate ecosystems of the intertidal zone.

**Guided Walks and Nighttime Adventures:** From exploring the island's rugged landscapes to nighttime sessions, participants will experience Bardsey's natural beauty. Nighttime activities will include catching Storm Petrels and seeing Manx Shearwaters as they return to their nesting burrows under the cover of darkness. These hands-on experiences offer a rare glimpse into the nocturnal lives of these fascinating seabirds.



*Learning to ring a Manx Shearwater (Photo: Steve Stansfield)*

**Stargazing Under Dark Skies:** Bardsey is recognised for its International Dark Sky Sanctuary status, making it one of the best places in the UK for stargazing. Participants will marvel at the Milky Way, planets, and countless stars in the unpolluted night sky. The island's dark sky designation ensures an unparalleled view of the cosmos, offering a magical experience for all.

**Birds, Dolphins, and Seals to Watch for in August:** Bardsey Island is a haven for wildlife, and mid-August offers an excellent opportunity to see a variety of species. Participants can expect to see:

**Wheatears and Warblers:** Migratory species passing through Bardsey during this time.

**Peregrine and Choughs:** Peregrines are known for their speed and agility, these raptors are a thrilling sight, whilst the Choughs, another Bardsey speciality are often seen in noisy flocks.

**Razorbills and Shags:** these coastal birds commonly seen around the island.

**Out at Sea:** Additionally, August is an excellent time to see Risso's dolphins in the waters around the island. These distinctive marine mammals, with their unique scarring and playful behaviour, are often seen offshore, providing spectacular viewing opportunities. The island is also home to 200 Grey Seals, which can frequently be spotted lounging on the rocky shores or swimming gracefully in the surrounding waters. During windy conditions Skuas and Shearwaters can be seen passing by.

## Fun Challenges: Quiz and Bird Race

The week will also feature engaging and competitive activities to test participants' knowledge and skills. A quiz will challenge their understanding of birds, marine life and natural history, fostering a fun and educational atmosphere. Additionally, a bird race will see teams' participants compete to identify the most bird species within a set timeframe, adding an exciting dynamic to their learning experience.

## A Week to Remember

Beyond the structured activities, the week offers a chance to connect with like-minded individuals, share knowledge, and build lasting memories. The observatory's comfy accommodation and communal spaces foster a sense of camaraderie, making it a perfect environment for learning and collaboration.

The sponsorship by the Welsh Ornithological Society highlights the importance of supporting young talent in the field of ornithology. Their involvement ensures that financial barriers do not hinder passionate individuals from taking part in this enriching experience. For more details about Bardsey Observatory and its activities, you can explore their official website [bbfo.org.uk](http://bbfo.org.uk) or their blog [www.bbfo.blogspot.com](http://www.bbfo.blogspot.com) for insights into past University Weeks.

This August, Bardsey Observatory University Week promises to be a transformative experience, blending education, conservation, and the sheer joy of observing birds, marine life, and the wonders of the night sky in one of the UK's most stunning locations. Don't miss the chance to be part of this incredible journey!

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## Citizen science projects to get involved with #2

*The following citizen science projects recently caught our eye. If you're looking for something different to do this spring, how about having a go at one of these?*

### Gulls Eating Stuff

The Gulls Eating Stuff team want to know what gulls are eating and where! Across the world, gulls have been undergoing a huge demographic shift. We want to know all the weird and wonderful things gulls eat in order start collecting some data on gull diet and behaviour - whilst also having a bit of fun!

As a contributor, you will submit your photographs of: gulls eating something that can be broadly identified (species level would be ideal, but not necessary); the gull species can be identified from features and location; the date and the location of where the photo was taken is known; the gulls are not being deliberately fed.

You can follow the project and view some of the photos submitted on the project's Instagram page [@gulls\\_eating\\_stuff](https://www.instagram.com/gulls_eating_stuff). Visit the project's [website](#) for more information



***A Lesser Black-backed Gull eating a Coot chick in Cardiff Bay (Photo: Ian Hartrey)***

## The Bird Collections at Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales

*A small party of WOS trustees recently visited Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales in Cardiff to look through some items stored there of Welsh ornithological importance, including the WOS archive. We were shown round by **Jennifer Gallichan, the Museum's Curator, Vertebrates**. We were blown away by the bird collections there and, well, we just had to ask her to write a piece for the newsletter. Luckily for us, Jen accepted!*

The vertebrate collections at Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales encompass much more than what is displayed in the galleries. They include a diverse range of taxidermy specimens, study skins, eggs and nests, bones and fluid-preserved specimens. The origins of these collections trace back to the Cardiff City Museum, once housed in the old Central Library, and today, about 200 of these early specimens remain, with the oldest dating back to 1882.

Since then, the collection has expanded through the acquisition of smaller collections and individual donations. Although still relatively small, it contains approximately 12,000 study skins, 7,500 bird egg clutches, 4,000 osteological specimens, 1,800 taxidermy mounts, and 25,000 glass plate negatives.



*Some of the modern taxidermy bird mounts . . . alongside the museum's Bison! (Photo: Jennifer Gallichan)*

The bird collections at the museum contain nearly 19,000 specimens, representing about 75% of the world's bird families. This includes 10,800 study skins, 7,500 egg clutches, 1,300 mounted specimens, and 360 osteological preparations.

## Study Skins



*The skin collections at the museum's offsite collections centre*

The largest part of the bird collection is made up of study skins. The most significant is the collection of Captain H. Vivian Hewitt, purchased from the British Trust for Ornithology in 1979. It represents 60% of the world's bird families and consists mostly of non-British species. Other key contributions include two donations from the Natural History Museum of largely non-British species and potentially includes rare finds from prominent Victorian collectors like Seebohm and Salvin. In the 1930s to 1950s, J.G. Williams donated nearly 1,000 specimens, primarily British or European, but with notable African and Indian species. More recently, Norman McCanch added 1,200 skins, predominantly British birds, collected over four decades. The rest of the collection consists of many smaller donations of mainly British birds. This includes the collection of Ronald Lockley, the influential naturalist and ornithologist who played a leading role in establishing the Pembrokeshire National Park in 1952.



*A close up of a drawer of study skins*

## Egg and Nest Collections

We have a small collection of bird nests, consisting of 258 specimens, representing 76 mainly British species. Although little used, it probably represents a useful historical voucher collection and contains beautiful examples of the range and diversity of bird nests.



*A close up of some of the egg collections*

The egg collection is predominantly British, mostly from Wales, making it an important historic record for the region. The largest donation came from A.F. Griffiths, who contributed around 1,500 clutches between 1919 and 1933. This collection includes eggs from notable collectors like A.J. Wilson, G. Haines, Captain J.H. Howell, and C.E. James. In 1980, the museum acquired the 'Trimarco' Collection, which consists of 710 clutches, mostly from non-British species, including around 30 CITES-listed species. We still receive offers of egg collections, mostly older specimens that have been found in attics, or passed on to a relative. We hold a licence to ensure we can continue to keep and take on collections, but all due diligence is carried out before any are approved or refused.



## Taxidermy Mounts

We hold a wide range of taxidermy bird mounts representing species from across the world. This includes a King Penguin (left) presented by Sir Ernest Shackleton collected on the 1907-09 Nimrod Expedition.

One of the founding collections of National Museum Cardiff in 1915 is a series of cased specimens, each displayed in its own diorama. The collection remained a prominent part of the museum's displays until 1992. It includes a broad selection of British species, along with rarer records and species that either no longer breed in Wales or are rare visitors, like the Red-backed Shrike, Little Bittern, and Corncrake.

## Glass Plate Negatives

The museum has a significant collection of early ornithological photographs, including the works of prominent photographers such as Frances Pitt, Geoffrey Ingram, Arthur Brook and Colonel H. Morrey Salmon.



*Images from the Arthur Brook collection including nesting Golden Eagles*

## Extinct Species

We hold the remains of six extinct bird species. These include a taxidermy mount and egg of the Great Auk (below), an egg of the Elephant Bird, bones of the Moa, a Dodo skeleton and model, four mounts of the Huia (a New Zealand wattlebird), and a Passenger Pigeon mount. The Great Auk belonged to Captain Vivian Hewitt, considered to be one of the world's greatest private collectors of these birds.



## The Collection Today

Today, the bird collections continue to grow, albeit at a slower pace. They are primarily used for educational purposes and exhibitions, raising awareness about biodiversity and environmental issues, such as the effects of climate change and habitat loss. Museum collections span vast expanses of time which is important for research, and they provide invaluable data for researchers studying ecological and evolutionary changes. Chemical analyses and DNA sampling also deepen our understanding of evolutionary relationships, allowing us to explore how species have adapted over time. This research not only enhances our knowledge of biodiversity but also informs conservation strategies to protect endangered species and ecosystems.

We regularly welcome visitors to the collection and appointments can be made in advance. If you're interested in visiting the collections or learning more, please feel free to reach out via email:

<https://museum.wales/enquiries/>

## Year-in-review for BTO surveys in Wales

### Garden BirdWatch (GBW)

A total of **481** people across Wales took part in Garden BirdWatch last year, together recording **121** bird species. 24 birds were seen in more than half of Welsh gardens, with Blue Tit, Robin and Blackbird the most-frequently recorded species. Rare and exciting species seen included **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Water Rail**, and **Chough**.



### Heronries Census

This is our longest-running survey, beginning in 1928. Of the 156 active Heron colonies in Wales currently on our database, **80** were monitored in 2024 (up from 78 in 2023). The largest colony in Wales currently is at Garth Lake (Brecknock), which last year had **34** apparently-occupied nests.



### Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

BBS coverage increased from 2023, with **304** squares surveyed (up from 294 in 2023). This included record coverage in Gwent and South Glamorgan (thanks to RRs Richard Clarke and Daniel Jenkins-Jones respectively). Three new birds for the survey in Wales were recorded in 2024: **Black-throated Diver**, **Black Redstart** and **Ring-necked Parakeet**.



### Nest Record Scheme (NRS)

**5,400** nests were monitored for NRS in Wales last spring. This was a drop from 6,087 in 2023 (though it should be noted that that was a record-breaking year nationally). **89** species were monitored, including record submissions for Barn Owl and Kestrel (334 and 28 respectively). Blue Tit, Pied Flycatcher and Great Tit were once again at the top of the league, together accounting for 64% of all nests monitored.



### Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

WeBS coverage also increased in Wales last year, with **260** registered volunteers participating in the 2023-2024 WeBS season (up from 244). **70%** of our 'high-priority' sites have assigned volunteers, including full coverage for the Dee and Severn estuaries, and the Burry Inlet. (Top work!)



### Ringling Scheme

**71,709** birds were ringed in Wales last year (down from 73,629 in 2023). These consisted of **166** species (up from 162), and included an exciting new bird for the scheme in Wales - a Black-faced Bunting, ringed in Gower.







## BTO Cymru spring update

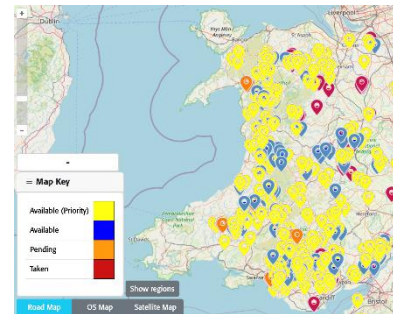


### Heathland Bird Survey



We are excited to announce that for the first time in two decades, this year we are running our Heathland Bird Survey across the UK. The aim of this survey is to establish the latest population estimates of three scarce heathland species: Nightjar, Woodlark, and Dartford Warbler. All three species are important features of protected sites (such as SSSI's and SPA's), therefore it is vital that we understand how these birds are faring.

In Wales, Nightjar is by far the most widespread species, though there are sites in South Wales we would like surveyed for the other two. If you'd like to join us this spring, sign-up to the survey, and find a vacant site near you.



*Online map of Nightjar square locations in Wales*

### Breeding Bird Survey

Achieving a record year for BBS in Wales is within our grasp for 2025, which will allow us to make population trends for more species nationally. If you'd like to join the BBS community, there are still spaces left for some of the morning training events in Wales this spring, as well as an online session. You can find a training event near you on our [webpage](#).



## Exclusion zone to prevent damage at protected site on Anglesey



A six-month exclusion zone will be introduced at a protected Anglesey site to combat damage caused mainly by adventure activities.

Natural Resources Wales has granted an exclusion zone following a request from the RSPB, covering a 1.8 mile stretch of coast from March 15 until September 15, 2025. It covers part of an area known as the Range, which falls within Glannau Ynys Gybi Site of Special Scientific Interest, on land leased to the RSPB by Isle of Anglesey County Council, which is part of South Stack Nature Reserve. The request was in response to an increase in damage from commercial adventure activities neither the landowner nor occupier agreed to allow on the land.

Members of the public can still walk the full length of the site on the Wales Coast Path with no change to access along public rights of way or designated paths.



*There is considerable pressure on wildlife from human activities along some areas of the Anglesey coastline (Photo: NRW)*

The zone will help protect rare bird species, endangered wildlife and the environment from damage caused by increasing numbers taking part in activities such as sea cliff traversing and coastering, which involves exploring rocky coastlines by climbing, jumping, and swimming, during bird breeding season. These activities are not allowed without the landowner's or occupier's permission, and the RSPB

has previously tried initiatives to prevent them from taking place at the wrong time of year and in the wrong area. The Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act exclusion zone will cover open access land from the Wales Coast Path to the sea, and no access will be allowed without the landowner's or occupier's permission.

### **And finally . . .**

Many thanks for your continued support for WOS. Our membership is growing but we really do need more members and we need them quickly. This will ensure that our voice is louder and can be heard more clearly in the Senedd and elsewhere, and enable us to offer more and larger grants for conservation projects, community work and to support young conservationists in Wales. Can you please help us by telling your friends about WOS and the work we do and encourage them to become members? It would be wonderful if each member could help recruit another member. Now there's a challenge for 2025!

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**Please follow us on our social media channels:**



Please visit our corporate sponsors, Natoura Voyage <https://natouravoyage.co.uk/>



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