

CYNLLUN GWEITHREDU BIOAMRYWIAETH LLEOL SIR GAERFYRDDIN/CARMARTHENSHIRE LBAP /S42

BIRDS




Please refer to www.carmarthenshirebirds.co.uk and www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/science/sobiw.aspx for more detailed species description information


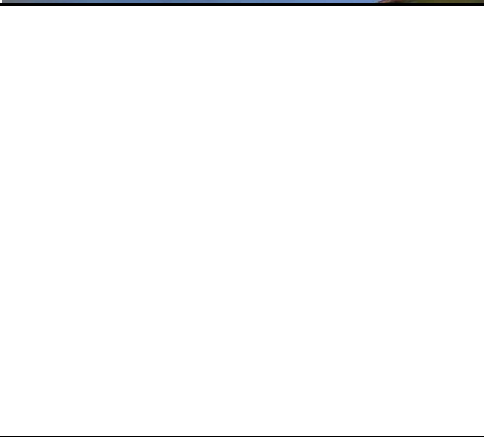




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OVERALL OBJECTIVES






- To identify new sites for survey in the county.
- Encourage volunteer interest in birds.
- To use key species as a focus for public/school engagement.
- To raise awareness of these species and the issues affecting them.



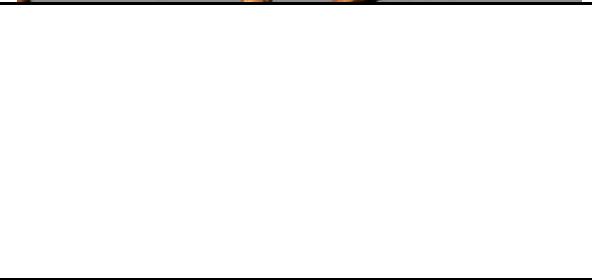



* data taken from RSPB *State of Birds in Wales 2012* report







SPECIES	PHOTO	HABITAT/CARMS SITES	ISSUES/ACTION REQUIRED
<p><i>Alauda arvensis</i> <i>arvensis/scotica</i> Skylark Ehedydd</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Coastal/Uplands • A widespread resident breeder. Also a passage migrant and winter visitor. • Breeding predominantly upland and coastal areas. Population currently reasonably stable but on the heels of large declines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995-2010: -15%* • Limited food resources in the winter is a probable cause of decline. • Potential for habitat management at key sites. Glastir may help.
<p><i>Anthus trivialis</i> Tree pipit Corhedydd y coed</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands/Uplands/Lowland Grassland and Heathland • A breeding summer visitor to most parts of the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995-2010: -26%* • Decline probably linked to habitat changes in farmland practises and forestry management.
<p><i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> European nightjar Troellwr mawr</p> <p>© Dai Rees</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland/ Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Upland • Scarce, though increasing, summer visitor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of suitable forest habitat (open and young tree age-classes) is a limiting factor for nesting. Large areas of continuous cover areas would be detrimental. • Has benefitted from forestry management. • 2013 radiotracking survey of nightjars in Brechfa forest. Predation and inclement weather impacted on breeding success.
<p><i>Carduelis cabaret</i> Lesser redpoll Llinos bengoch fach</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands • A breeding resident. Mainly found in young conifer plantations in upland regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal data suggests this species is declining. • There is a lack of data on this species – could be a target species for local survey.


<p><i>Carduelis cannabina</i> <i>autochthona/cannabina</i> Common linnet Llinos</p> <p>©</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and heathland/Coastal/Uplands/ Brownfield • A widespread breeding resident. large flocks occur along the coast in winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995-2010: -30%* • The Atlas 2008–11 suggests that numbers of this species may be stable in Carmarthen.
<p><i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> Hawfinch Gylfinbraff</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands/Farmland • A rarely recorded, presumed overlooked species, with a concentration of recent records from the mid-Tywi valley. Prefers mature broadleaved or mixed woodland, hornbeam a favourite food tree. Seen very occasionally in gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK decline but unconfirmed in Carmarthen. • There is a lack of knowledge of the limiting factors or reason for decline. • Good candidate for a poster campaign?
<p><i>Cuculus canorus</i> Common cuckoo Cog</p> <p>© Hans Kampf</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Uplands/ Wetlands • Widespread but declining summer visitor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995-2010: -34%* • BTO tracking project suggests that the migration journey and African wintering grounds may be more of a factor than realised in its decline. • Little is known about this species and its ecology – more research needed.
<p><i>Dendrocopos minor comminutus</i> Lesser spotted woodpecker Cnocell fraith leiaf</p> <p>© M.J. Clark</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland • Shy, local resident breeder in woods, copses and well-timbered areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal data suggests this species is declining. • UK declines but locally seems to be holding its own, detecting this species is always a problem. • Standing dead wood in woodland is important.
<p><i>Emberiza citrinella</i> Yellowhammer Bras melyn</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Coastal/Uplands • A declined breeding resident with a patchy distribution, being absent from large tracts of countryside. Most frequently seen on dry bracken covered hillsides and arable land in coastal areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995-2010: -40%* • Decline probably due to lack of seed food in winter because decline in arable farming. • Glastir could help this species.
<p><i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> Reed bunting Bras y cyrs</p> <p>© M.J. Clark</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands • A breeding resident. It occurs throughout the county, but is most common in the wetlands and low-lying rushy pastures of the coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in Wales 1995-2010: increase.* • Probable c.25% increase.

<p><i>Larus argentatus argenteus</i> Herring gull Gwylan y penwaig</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal/Brownfield • A common resident with small numbers breeding on western cliffs. The yellow-legged race <i>L. a. michahellis</i> has been recorded annually in recent years July/January with most July/August 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1986–2000: +33%* • General UK decline particularly in rural areas. Rooftop nesting in urban areas is perhaps worth investigating. • Significant roost in Llanelli that nests on the Pontrillas building. This is monitored annually.
<p><i>Locustella naevia</i> Common grasshopper warbler Troellwr bach</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Wetland/Woodland/Upland • A local, breeding summer visitor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems to be currently faring well in the county. • Decrease in breeding habitat and changes in wintering conditions in Africa may be factors in decline.
<p><i>Melanitta nigra</i> Common scoter Môr-hwyaden ddu</p> <p>© I. Macho</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine • Present all year round in Carmarthen Bay often in nationally important numbers. Birds generally concentrate along the five fathom line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1981/82–2006/07: +245%* • Instrumental species in the creation of Carmarthen Bay SPA. • Regularly monitored by NRW.
<p><i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i> Yellow wagtail Siglen felen</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands • Formerly a scarce breeding summer visitor. Now an uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: –40%* • Decline linked to drainage and changes in farming leading to a reduction in soil-dwelling inverts.
<p><i>Muscicapa striata</i> Spotted flycatcher Gwybedog mannog</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland/Farmland • A rather unobtrusive declining breeding summer visitor to open woodland, parkland and bushy gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: decline • Possible that nest predation and poor survival of young birds are major factors in the decline. Decline more obvious in urban areas.
<p><i>Numenius arquata</i> Eurasian curlew Gylfinir</p> <p>© M Newton</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal/Lowland and Heathland/Grassland/Upland • A much-declined, local breeder on extensive areas of pasture (preferably damp, rough grazing). It is also a passage migrant and common winter visitor to estuarine sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: –50%* • Likely too little habitat is in favourable condition for nesting and rearing chicks. • Changes in agricultural practice and patterns of grazing a factor – loss of wet grassland, and mixed farming)? • Glastir may help.
<p><i>Parus montanus kleinschimdti</i> Willow tit Titw'r helyg</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland/Wetlands • A resident breeder. It can occur in similar habitats to the Marsh Tit, but also on damper ground where rotten timber provides nesting sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in numbers from UK-wide survey. • UK-wide decline not reflected locally. With both Willow and Marsh Tits is there opportunity to study why these species are not declining like much of the rest of the country?
<p><i>Parus palustris palustris/dresseri</i> Marsh tit Titw'r wern</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland • A widespread resident breeder. Thinly distributed in open woods and copses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal data indicate a decline in numbers. • UK wide decline not reflected locally.

<p><i>Passer domesticus</i> House sparrow Aderyn y to</p> <p>© B Stewart</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland/Brownfield • An abundant resident breeder in urban situations, villages, farmyards and the like 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: +106%* • Currently seems to be doing reasonably well.
<p><i>Passer montanus</i> Eurasian tree sparrow Golfan y mynydd</p> <p>© M.J. Clark</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand alone plan (Wetlands) • A scarce resident breeder; confined to the mid Tywi valley and western coastal areas with arable farmland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal data indicate a decline in numbers. • The availability of winter and spring seed sources are limiting factors. • NRW grant-funded volunteer winter feeding project has been in place for some years in the Tywi valley, which is a Welsh stronghold. • Read more in the Carmarthenshire LBAP Tree Sparrow Action Plan
<p><i>Perdix perdix</i> Grey partridge Petrisen</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland • Rare. Most recent records probably relate to captive reared and released birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal data indicate a decline in numbers. • Decline in insect and seed resources in late summer and winter probably a factor. • Recent releases in Kidwelly area, but when does 'released' become 'wild'?
<p><i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> Wood warbler Telor y coed</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland • A breeding summer visitor. It is most common in upland woods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: decline • Europe-wide unexplained decline possibly linked to African overwintering areas.
<p><i>Prunella modularis occidentalis</i> Dunnock Llwyd y gwrych</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland/Woodland/Brownfield • A common and widespread resident breeder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: +30%* • UK decline but locally stable, polyandrous behaviour worthy of highlighting.
<p><i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata</i> Common bullfinch Coch y berllan</p> <p>© D. Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow/Woodland • A widespread, if shy and retiring, breeding resident of scrub, orchards and thick hedgerows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: +8%* • Locally, seemingly a stable species.

<p><i>Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris</i> Common starling Drudwen</p> <p>© D. Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands/Woodlands/Farmland/Brownfield • Declining resident and numerous winter visitor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: –67%* • Breeding decline possibly due to grassland management regimes leading to a reduction in invertebrates, poor survival of young birds may be adding to the decline but the cause of decline yet to be identified.
<p><i>Turdus philomelos clarkei</i> Song thrush Bronfraith</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland/Farmland/Brownfield • Widespread resident breeder with small winter influxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: +17%* • May be linked to availability of winter molluscs and insect resources, which are associated with moist soil conditions. • Grassland management and land drainage seem to be linked to breeding success. Increase is possibly linked to expanding/maturing woodlands?
<p><i>Turdus torquatus</i> Ring ouzel Mwyalchen y mynydd</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland • Rare breeding summer visitor on upland crags in the north east. Occasional coastal passage records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1972–99: –51%* • Breeding range seems to be contracting to higher altitudes especially those with denser heather growth. Breeding only a possibility in Carmarthenshire.
<p><i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Northern lapwing Cornchwiglen</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal/Brownfield/Wetlands/Farmland • Now a very rare breeder mostly confined to the coast. A regular passage/winter visitor occurring in large flocks during cold spells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1987–98: –77%* • No recent survey but further decline is certain. • Decline almost certainly linked to grassland improvement leading to food deprivation and increased predation.
<p><i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Ringed Plover Cwtiad torchog</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshwater/Brownfield • Breeds on beaches and disturbed ground along the coast. Passage birds build up at Burry Port, Cefn Sidan, Salmon Scar and Machynys, where smaller numbers winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wintering ringed plovers have declined because milder winters encourage more to spend winter farther north and east of Wales. • In Carmarthenshire there seems to be a small but stable breeding population. • Predation and human disturbance may also be factors.
<p><i>Circus cyaneus</i> Hen Harrier Boda tinwyn</p> <p>© Andy Hay (rspb-images.com)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands/Coastal • A regular winter visitor, most often recorded along the coast, but also occurring at other areas where rough semi-natural vegetation dominates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1998–2010: +111%* • Numbers have increased in Wales since 1998 - probably due to cessation in persecution. • In Carms numbers of records are lower than they are in the 1990s (<i>Carmarthenshire Birds</i> 2012) • Breeding increases in neighbouring counties will hopefully spread to Carmarthenshire; young forest seems to be favourable. • helped in winter by open farmland and good bird and mammal populations in grassland, ditches and margins.

<p><i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Kestrel Cudyll coch</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland/Lowland grassland and Heathland/Brownfield • Now a scarce resident breeder occurring extremely locally throughout the county. It is most frequent where areas of rough pasture or heath afford cover to its principal prey species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: decline. • Reductions in small mammal populations could be a limiting factor. • Predation by goshawks probably a factor in decline. • Glastir may help.
<p><i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> Pied Flycatcher Gwybedog brith</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland • Breeding summer visitor, most common in upland woods; but which has recently colonised nearly all woodland down to the coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: decline. • Boxes erected in the county. • Decline probably linked to changes in breeding times of food species, possibly influenced by changes in climate.
<p><i>Larus ridibundus</i> Black-headed Gull Gwylan benddu</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal • An abundant non-breeding visitor July to March with smaller numbers in other months. It is more common on the coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1986–2000: –34% • Reasonably healthy breeding population at Penclacwydd.
<p><i>Limosa lapponica</i> Bar-tailed Godwit Rhostog gynnffonfraith</p> <p>© Derek Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal • Regular passage and winter visitor to coasts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1995–2010: –76% • Has been recorded all year round albeit small numbers in summer in Carmarthenshire. • Declines may be due to wintering redistribution as a response to climate change.
<p><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> Golden Plover Cwtiad aur</p> <p>© B. Stewart</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upland/Coastal • A rare breeder in upland areas, with good numbers passing through on spring passage. Large numbers winter around Carmarthen Bay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Wales 1982–2007: –83% • Breeding undoubtedly linked to suitable moorland management – over/undergrazing of bogs. Winter populations, despite reducing, are still in good numbers. •
<p><i>Tyto alba</i>† Barn Owl† Tylluan wen</p> <p>© M. Newton</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand alone plan (Farmland/Lowland Grassland and Heathland) • A local resident breeding species which has declined due to habitat loss and pesticides. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postcard campaign for records has been in place for some time. • TAYO project and NRW grant funding used to put up boxes in the county. • Surveys carried out for planning applications that may impact on barn owls. • Read more on the Carmarthenshire LBAP Barn Owl Action Plan • Decline almost certainly linked to improved grasslands and intensification.

<p><i>Charadrius dubius</i>† Little Ringed Plover† Gwtiaid Torchog Bach</p> <p>© D. Moore</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand alone plan (Freshwater) • Breeding summer visitor to riverside shingle on the Tywi, Cothi and Bran. Still increasing in numbers and range. Occasional coastal records on passage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casual annual reporting along the Tywi takes place. Heavy rain during breeding season can wash nests away and trampling by anglers/cows could vbe a problem. • Read more in the Carmarthenshire LBAP Little Ringed Plover Action Plan • c.8% of UK population bred in Carmarthen in 2010. <i>British Birds</i> 106, 2013.
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† Local priority species