CARMARTHENSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY PLAN – BIRDS

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Section 7 - Biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity

The species listed in this table have been identified by Welsh Government as part of a list of species and types of habitat found in Wales that they consider are of key significance to maintain and enhance biodiversity in this country. This list (S7 list) is currently under review by WG and Natural Resources Wales.

Public authorities (e.g. WG, councils) must take reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the species and types of habitat included in Section 7, and encourage others to take such steps. By safeguarding these species and habitats, improving their management and raising awareness about them it is hoped that a resilient natural environment in Wales will be sustained into the future.

For more detailed species description information:

www.carmarthenshirebirds.co.uk

State of Birds in Wales 2018 report

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Birds

Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3: the population status of birds in Wales

* data taken from RSPB *State of Birds in Wales 2018* report – Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) trends (1995-2016) All photos used with permission.

SPECIES		HABITAT/CARMARTHENSHIRE SITES	ISSUES/ACTION REQUIRED
Alauda arvensis arvensis/scotica		Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Coastal/Uplands	• Wales Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) trend % (1995-2016): +1%*
Skylark		A widespread resident breeder. Also a passage migrant and winter visitor.	• Limited food resources in the winter is a probable cause of decline.
		Breeding predominantly upland and coastal areas. Population currently reasonably stable but on the heels of large declines.	Potential for habitat management at key sites.
© Derek Moore		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	
Anthus trivialis		Woodlands/Uplands/Lowland Grassland and Heathland	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016): -18%*
Tree pipit		 A breeding summer visitor to most parts of the county. 	Decline probably linked to habitat changes in farmland practises and
	77	Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	forestry management.
© Derek Moore			
Botaurus stellaris		Coastal reedbed and marshes	
Bittern		Irregular winter visitor, including WWT, Penclacwydd	
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	
Branta bernicla		Coastal marshes and estuaries	
Brent Goose	The second second	Regular winter visitor to the Burry Inlet	
Breint Goose		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: GREEN	
Caprimulgus europaeus		 Woodland/ Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Upland 	Lack of suitable forest habitat (open and young tree age-classes) is a limitin
European nightjar		 Scarce, though increasing, summer visitor, breeding in upland conifer plantations 	factor for nesting. Large areas of continuous cover areas would be detrimental.
© Dai Rees		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	 In Wales nightjar showed strong increases in range between 1990 and 2010 following declines in earlier Atlas periods.*
			• 2013 radiotracking survey of nightjan in Brechfa forest. Predation and inclement weather impacted on breeding success.

Carduelis cabaret		Woodlands	Informal data suggests this species is
Lesser redpoll		A breeding resident. Mainly found in young	declining.
		conifer plantations in upland regions.	 There is a lack of data on this species could be a target species for local
		Regularly seen in suitable habitat. Rives of Consequentian Consequence Welco 2.	survey.
© Derek Moore		• Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	
Carduelis cannabina autochthona/canna		Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and heathland/Coastal/Uplands/	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016): -12%*
bina		Brownfield	12/0
Common linnet		A widespread breeding resident. Large	
		flocks occur along the coast in winter	
		• Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	
© Coccothraustes		Woodlands/Farmland	UK decline but unconfirmed in Carms.
coccothraustes		A rarely recorded, presumed resident, and	There is a lack of knowledge of the
Hawfinch		doubtless overlooked species, with a	limiting factors or reason for decline.
		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.	Could be a target species for local survey.
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	
Cuculus canorus		Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Uplands/	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016): -25%*
Common cuckoo	house and the same of the same	Wetlands	BTO tracking project suggests that the
		Widespread but declining summer visitor.	migration journey and African
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3	wintering grounds may be more of a factor than realised in its decline.
@ Hana Kanani		status: RED	
© Hans Kampf			
Cygnus columbianus	DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON	Winter migrant but rarely recorded in the county now. Last record sent to local record	
Bewick's Swan		centre in 2011.	
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	
Dendrocopos minor		Woodland	The lesser spotted woodpecker has
comminutus		Shy, local resident breeder in woods,	declined by more than 25% in range over the longer term (1970–2010)*.
Lesser spotted woodpecker		copses and well-timbered areas. • Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3	
		status: RED	Detecting this species is always a problem.
			Standing dead wood in woodland is important.
© M.J. Clark			
Emberiza citrinella		Farmland/ Lowland Grassland and	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016):
Yellowhammer		Heathland/Coastal/Uplands	-58%*
		• A declining breeding resident with a patchy distribution, being absent from large tracts of	Decline probably due to lack of seed food in winter because decline in arable
	* William	countryside. Most frequently seen on dry	food in winter because decline in arable farming.
	A STATE OF THE STA	bracken covered hillsides and arable land in	
	OFF.	coastal areas.	
	The state of the s	• Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	
© Derek Moore	WET BY		

Emberiza schoeniclus Reed bunting		 Wetlands A breeding resident. It occurs throughout the county, but is most common in the wetlands and low-lying rushy pastures of the coast. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER 	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016): +49%*
© M.J. Clark			
Larus argentatus argenteus		Coastal/Brownfield	Herring gull showed strong increases in range between 1990 and 2010.
Herring gull		A common resident with small numbers breeding on western cliffs and rooftops. Bids of Common and Common in Modes 2	Rooftop nesting in urban areas is perhaps worth investigating.
© Derek Moore		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	 There was a significant roost in Llanelli nesting on the Pontrillas building but this building has been demolished.
Locustella naevia		Lowland Grassland and Heathland/ Wetland/Woodland/Upland	Seems to be currently faring well in the county.
grasshopper		A local, breeding summer visitor	Decrease in breeding habitat and
warbler		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	changes in wintering conditions in Africa may be factors in overall decline.
Melanitta nigra		Marine	Instrumental species in the creation
Common scoter		Present all year round in Carmarthen Bay often in nationally important numbers. Birds generally concentrate along the five fathom line. Product Carmaratica Carmaraic Malas 2.	of Carmarthen Bay SPA. • Regularly monitored by NRW.
© I. Macho		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	
Motacilla flava		Wetlands	Population trend in Wales: decline*
flavissima Yellow wagtail		 Formerly a scarce breeding summer visitor. Now an uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant 	Decline linked to drainage and changes in farming leading to a reduction in soil-dwelling inverts.
© Derek Moore		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	
Muscicapa striata		Woodland/Farmland	• % change in Wales 1995–2010:
Spotted flycatcher		 A rather unobtrusive declining breeding summer visitor to open woodland, parkland and bushy gardens Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 	 Possible that nest predation and poor survival of young birds are major factors in the decline. Decline more
		status: RED	obvious in urban areas.
Numenius arquata	h Wildlife tography	Coastal/Lowland and Heathland/	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016):
Eurasian curlew		Grassland/Upland	-63%*
		A much-declined, local breeder on extensive areas of pasture (preferably damp, rough grazing). It is also a passage migrant	Likely too little habitat is in favourable condition for nesting and rearing chicks.
© M Newton		and common winter visitor to estuarine sitesBirds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	 Changes in agricultural practice and patterns of grazing a factor – loss of wet grassland, and mixed farming)?
		<u> </u>	

Parus montanus		Woodland/Wetlands	The willow tit declined by more than
kleinschimdti		A resident breeder. It can occur in similar	25% in range over the longer term
Willow tit		habitats to the Marsh Tit, but also on damper	(1970–2010).
		ground where rotten timber provides nesting sites.	Wales is particularly important for
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3	resident UK willow tits in the winter.
		status: RED	• In 2019/20 the aim is to conduct county-level surveys conducted across the known range by willow tit study
			groups, county bird clubs and other organisations. The RSPB is coordinating the survey.
Parus palustris	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	Woodland	Informal data indicate a decline in
palustris/dresseri	THE PERSON NAMED IN	A widespread resident breeder. Thinly	numbers.
Marsh tit	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	distributed in open woods and copses	Between 1970 and 2010 the range of
		• Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	the marsh tit declined by more than 10%.*
© Derek Moore			
Passer domesticus		Farmland/Brownfield/Urban	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016):
House sparrow		An abundant resident breeder in urban	+75%*
		situations, villages, farmyards, etc.	Currently seems to be doing
		 Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER 	reasonably well.
		Status. AIVIDEN	
© B Stewart		a Formland	a Daglinad in range by mare than 500/
Passer montanus Eurasian tree		FarmlandA scarce resident breeder; confined to the	• Declined in range by more than 50% in Wales (1970-2010).*
sparrow		mid Tywi valley and western coastal areas	The availability of winter and spring
		with arable farmland. The Tywi valley is a	seed sources are limiting factors.
		Welsh stronghold for this species - possibly 70–80% or more of the whole Welsh	There is a volunteer monitoring and nest project in the Tywi valley.
		population.	nest project in the Tywi valley.
		• In the Tywi Valley they are virtually	
© M.J. Clark		confined to the floodplain and are very rarely observed beyond sight of the river.	
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3	
		status: RED	
Perdix perdix		• Farmland	Declined in range by more than 50% The state of
Grey partridge		Rare. Most recent records probably relate	in Wales (1970-2010).*
		to captive reared and released birds.	• Decline in insect and seed resources in late summer and winter probably a
		 Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED 	factor.
	A MARIE S		
© Derek Moore	SHELL STATE OF THE SHELL	a Maadland	a Doglingd in games have a see that 4000
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Market State of the State of th	WoodlandA breeding summer visitor. It is most	• Declined in range by more than 10% in Wales (1990-2010).*
Wood warbler		common in upland woods.	Europe-wide unexplained decline
		• Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3	possibly linked to African overwintering
		status: RED	areas.

Prunella modularis occidentalis		Farmland/Woodland/	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016): +37%*
Dunnock		BrownfieldA common and widespread resident breeder.	UK decline overall but locally stable, polyandrous behaviour worthy of
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: GREEN	highlighting [doesn't form pairs (like most birds), but breeds in groups of up to three males and three females].
© Derek Moore Pyrrhocorax		Coastal	• % population change in Wales
pyrrhocorax Chough		• Birds are moving east from Pembrokeshire and there are now records in the coastal area in the west of the county.	1982–2014: +42%*
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	
Pyrrhula pyrrhula		Hedgerow/Woodland	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016):
pileata		A widespread, if shy and retiring, breeding	+6%*
Common bullfinch		resident of scrub, orchards and thick hedgerows.	Locally, seemingly a stable species.
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: COCH	
© D. Moore			
Sterna dougallii	A STATE OF THE STA	Coastal	Ringing studies appear to show that
Roseate tern		Very rare – only one recent record off Pembrey harbour in 2013	the decline in roseate terns is due to birds deserting colonies
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	in Wales (and Northern Ireland) and emigrating to those in the Republic of Ireland.
Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris		Wetlands/Woodlands/ Farmland/Brownfield	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016): -72%*
Common starling		Although still reasonably common this is a declining resident and numerous winter	Breeding decline possibly due to grassland management regimes leading
		visitor.	to a reduction in invertebrates, poor survival of young birds may be adding
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	to the decline but the cause of decline yet to be identified.
© D. Moore			
Streptopelia turtur		Only one recent record in the county – in 2016 at WWT, Penclacwydd	• Declined in range by more than 50% in Wales (1970-2010).*
Turtle Dove		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	III Wales (1970-2010).
Turdus philomelos clarkei		Woodland/Farmland/ Drownfield	• Wales BBS trend % (1995-2016): +35%*
Song thrush		 Widespread resident breeder with small winter influxes 	May be linked to availability of winter molluscs and insect resources, which
		Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: AMBER	are associated with moist soil conditions.
© Derek Moore			

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Turdus torquatus Ring ouzel	UplandRare breeding summer visitor on upland	• % population change in Wales 1999–12: –11%*
J 11 25.	crags in the north east. No recent breeding records. Occasional coastal passage records. • Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	Breeding range seems to be contracting to higher altitudes especially those with denser heather growth. Breeding only a possibility in Carmarthenshire.
Vanellus vanellus	Coastal/Brownfield/	• % breeding distribution change (1970–2010): –46%.*
Northern lapwing	 Wetlands/Farmland Now a very rare breeder mostly confined to the coast. A regular passage/winter visitor occurring in large flocks during cold spells. 	 No recent survey but further decline is certain. Decline almost certainly linked to
	Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	grassland improvement leading to food deprivation and increased predation. • WWT have undertaken management to help lapwings and breeding success
© Derek Moore		has increased.
Charadrius hiaticula Ringed Plover	Freshwater/Brownfield Breeds on beaches and disturbed ground along the coast. Passage birds build up at Burney Bort, Cofp Sidon, Salmon Socrand	The ringed plover showed strong increases in range between 1990 and 2010, following declines in the earlier Atlas period.*
	Burry Port, Cefn Sidan, Salmon Scar and Machynys, where smaller numbers winter. • Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	 Wintering ringed plovers have declined because milder winters encourage more to spend winter farther north and east of Wales.
© Derek Moore		• In Carmarthenshire there seems to be a small but stable breeding population.
		Predation and human disturbance may also be factors.
Circus cyaneus	Wetlands/Coastal	Numbers have increased in Wales ince 1008
Hen Harrier	 A regular passage and winter visitor, most often recorded along the coast, but also 	since 1998 - probably due to cessation in persecution.
	occurring at other areas where rough seminatural vegetation dominates. • Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3	• In Carmarthenshire numbers of records are lower than they are in the 1990s (<i>Carmarthenshire Birds</i> 2012).
	status: RED	• As breeding increases in neighbouring counties will hopefully spread to Carmarthenshire; young forest seems to be favourable.
		Helped in winter by open farmland good bird and mammal populations in grassland, ditches and margins.
Falco tinnunculus Kestrel	Farmland/Lowland grassland and Heathland/Brownfield Now a scarce resident broader occurring	• Informal data indicate a decline in breeding distribution in Wales between 1970 and 2010.
	 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. 	 Reductions in small mammal populations could be a limiting factor. Predation by goshawks probably a factor in decline.
© Derek Moore	• Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED	
Ficedula hypoleuca Pied Flycatcher	 Woodland Breeding summer visitor, most common in upland woods; but which has recently colonised nearly all woodland down to the coast. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED 	 Wales hosts 69% of the UK breeding population of pied flycatchers.* Boxes erected in the county.
© Derek Moore		

Larus ridibundus Black-headed Gull © Derek Moore		 Coastal An abundant non-breeding visitor July to March with smaller numbers in other months. It is more common on the coast. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED 	 The marked decline in black-headed gulls (down by 52% between 1968–72 and 2007–11) appears to be a mainly Welsh phenomenon.* There is a healthy breeding population at WWT, Penclacwydd.
Limosa lapponica Bar-tailed Godwit © Derek Moore		 Coastal Regular passage and winter visitor to coasts. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED 	 % change in Wales (winter) 1990/91–2015/16: –74% Has been recorded all year round albeit small numbers in summer in Carmarthenshire. Declines may be dues to wintering redistribution as a response to climate change.
Pluvialis apricaria Golden Plover © B. Stewart		 Upland/Coastal A rare breeder in upland areas, with good numbers passing through on spring passage. Large numbers winter around Carmarthen Bay. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: RED 	Breeding undoubtedly linked to suitable moorland management – over/undergrazing of bogs. Winter populations, despite reducing, are still in good numbers.
Section 7 species pre	viously recorded in the county but now c	onsidered extinct here	
Black grouse Tetrao tetrix			

Corn bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Corncrake Crex crex

Greenland white-fronted goose Anser albifrons subsp. flavirostris

Twite *Linaria flavirostris* Tyto alba† • Farmland/Lowland Grassland and • Postcard campaign for records has Heathland been in place for some time. Barn Owl† • A local resident breeding species which has • A local project and NRW grant declined due to habitat loss and pesticides. funding used to put up boxes in the county. • Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: GREEN • Surveys carried out for planning applications that may impact on barn owls. © M. Newton • Decline almost certainly linked to improved grasslands and intensification. Charadrius dubius† • Breeding summer visitor to riverside • Casual annual reporting along the Tywi takes place. Heavy rain during shingle on the Tywi, Cothi and Bran. Still **Little Ringed** increasing in numbers and range. Occasional breeding season can wash nests away **Plover†** coastal records on passage. and trampling by anglers/cows could be a problem. • Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3 status: GREEN • c.8% of UK population bred in Carms in 2010. British Birds 106, 2013.

