

Carmarthenshire Cuckoo Survey 2025



Clwb Adar Sir Gaerfyrddin
Carmarthenshire Bird Club



WEST WALES
BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION CENTRE
CANOLFAN WYBODAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH
GORLLEWIN CYMRU

The Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership would like your help to find out where you hear Cuckoos in the county in 2025

The Significance of the Cuckoo's Return

As spring arrives in Carmarthenshire, we are greeted by the iconic call of the Cuckoo, marking its return from wintering grounds in Africa. Your participation in this survey will help us track these migratory birds and understand more about how they are faring now.

Who Are We?

The [Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership](#), a collaboration between local government, wildlife organizations, charities, and volunteer groups, is dedicated to conserving and enhancing our county's biodiversity. Together, we want to understand and protect species like the Cuckoo.

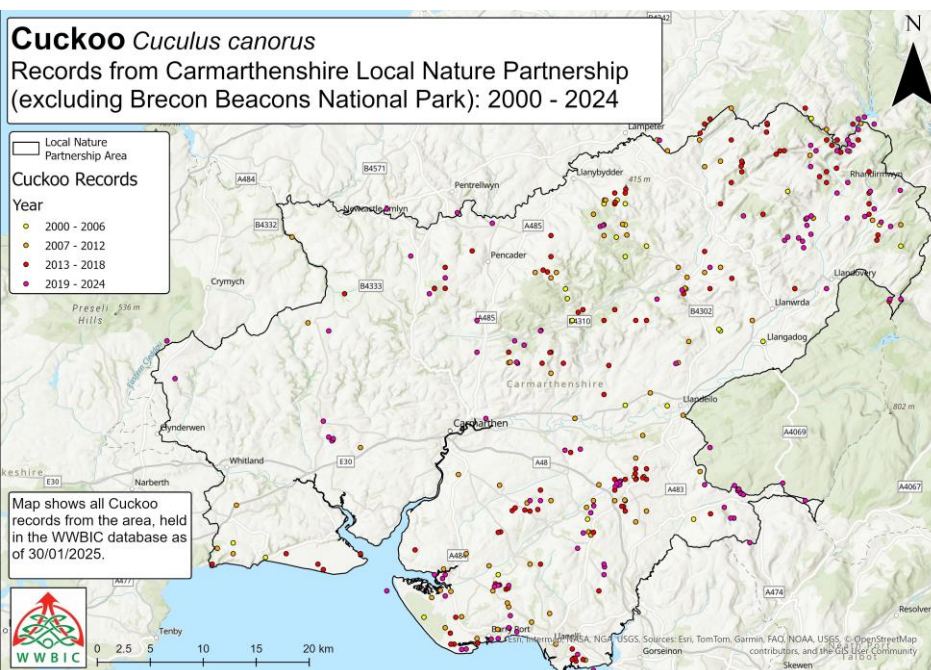
Why is this Survey Important?

Recent reports from the [British Bird Survey \(2019\)](#) show worrying declines in Cuckoo populations:

- England: 71% decline
- Scotland: 54% decline
- Wales: 29% decline
- The Cuckoo is now listed as a priority species in Wales and has been designated as a Red species of Conservation Concern, indicating the highest level of threat. Although Cuckoos are still seen in Carmarthenshire, they are declining, and we need your help to monitor their numbers and breeding habitat.

Cuckoo facts

- **Arrival:** Cuckoos return from Africa around the third week of April.
- **Departure:** They usually leave by the end of July.
- **Call:** The male Cuckoo makes a distinctive "Cuc-oo" call, while the female has a bubbling call.



© Adam Dare

Absence of a species record does not necessarily mean absence of that species - simply that no records are held.

We need your help to fill the gaps and also update existing records.

- **Nesting:** Cuckoos don't build their own nests but lay their eggs in the nests of other birds, particularly Meadow Pipits.
- **Appearance:** Dove-sized with a slim body and pointed wings, similar to a Kestrel or Sparrowhawk.

Why Are Cuckoos Declining?

Several factors may contribute to the decline of the Cuckoo, including:

- Migration and African wintering grounds: tracking studies show that migration patterns may impact their survival.
- Habitat loss: changes in land use are reducing wetlands and other key habitats.
- Prey scarcity: declines in moth caterpillars and Meadow Pipits, the Cuckoo's primary host species, are affecting their numbers.

How You Can Help

We need your help to record sightings and calls of Cuckoos. By sharing your observations, you will help us build a clearer picture of where they return to and nest in Carmarthenshire.

How to Participate:

Recording: Simply note when and where you see or hear a Cuckoo.

Submit: Record your sightings through:

- West Wales Biodiversity Recording Centre: [Wildlife recording & biodiversity recording in West Wales](#)
- iRecord (search for Carmarthenshire Cuckoo Survey 2025 in Activities [Activities | iRecord](#))
- Email: biodiversity@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

What Happens Next?

All records will be compiled into a map and shared with the Carmarthenshire Bird Club and West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre.

GDPR Notice

Your records will be kept confidential and used solely for the purposes of this survey. Any personal data collected will be handled in accordance with privacy regulations:

[WWBIC](#)

[iRecord](#)

Thank You for Your Help!

By participating, you are contributing to the protection of the Cuckoo and helping us understand what we can do to support them. Let's work together to ensure the Cuckoo's call continues to be heard across Carmarthenshire for years to come!