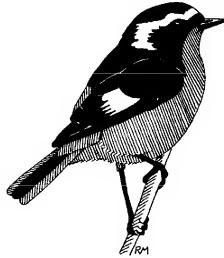


Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2010



Introduction	p 1
Systematic List of Accepted Records	p 4
Marmoras Warbler a New Bird for Wales	p 31

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Front cover photo. Marmoras Warbler by D. Hutton.

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Cymdeithas Adaregol Cymru

Introduction

This is the fourteenth annual report of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce species in Wales in 2010.

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	69	136
2009	1	4	1	19	49	8	25	107
2008	0	6	8	17	32	13	33	109
2007	2	6	7	4	10	5	3	38
2006	1	5	4	5	18	12	12	57

2010 turned out to be an outstanding year for the occurrence of Scarce and Rare birds in Wales, with record annual totals (helped along by a total of 32 Woodlarks and ten Rosefinches). Two species were recorded for the first time, both in Gwent, the Marmoras Warbler on the Blorence and the Iberian Chiffchaff in Wentwood. Added to this was Wales' second White-throated Sparrow, on Bardsey (same site as the 1st) and the second Red-flanked Bluetail, this time on Skomer (the 1st was on Bardsey). Two records of Bobolink, the one on the mainland at Eglwys Nunydd Res. was enjoyed, albeit briefly by many, whilst the one a few days later on Skomer was only seen by a lucky few – these were the 2nd and 3rd Welsh records, the previous record came from Skokholm. A good find at Cefn Sidan was Wales's 3rd Pallid Swift, in March of all months, the previous two were both from north Pembrokeshire in late autumn. Two sea-bird researchers were fortunate enough to come across a Fea's/Zino's Petrel on their way across to Grassholm in July. By chance one of them had a point & shoot camera and managed to get some reasonable shots of this extremely rare bird. There was also the 3rd record of Lesser Scaup, this time a 1st winter female at Eglwys Nunydd, while the male (2nd Welsh individual) continues to winter in the Cardiff area.

There were many other species that could be mentioned but one that stands out was the discovery of a juv. Black Kite amongst the 250 Red Kites at Gigrin Farm in January. There can't be many who didn't make the pilgrimage to get this rare bird onto their Welsh lists. It may even compensate those who have had to remove Redhead from their Welsh lists following the BBRC review deciding that the Glamorgan bird of 2002-2004 is no longer acceptable.

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new BOU British List (2010) and includes all those records assessed by the WRP along with those accepted by BBRC (shown in italics). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders of all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WRP welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence but this ideally should be accompanied by supporting evidence. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other species to assess from County Recorders and Editors. These are not detailed in this report.

WRP would like to thank everyone who submitted records, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helping in the assessment process.

Scarce species (assessed by WRP) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of Jan. 1st 2010 the full list of species which the Panel considers is as follows:

Bean Goose, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Surf Scoter, White-billed Diver, Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Wilson's Petrel, Night Heron, Great White Egret, Cattle Egret, Purple Heron, White Stork, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Crane, Stone-Curlew, American Golden Plover, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Caspian Gull, White-winged Black Tern, Alpine Swift, Short-toed Lark, Wood Lark, Shore Lark, Bee-eater, Red-rumped Swallow, Red-throated Pipit, Tawny Pipit, Nightingale, Bluethroat, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Barred Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Radde's Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Rose-coloured Starling, Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Golden Oriole, Bearded Tit, Serin, Common Redpoll, Arctic Redpoll, Common Rosefinch, Corn Bunting, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Rustic Bunting and Little Bunting.

From 1st January 2011, Ring-billed Gull and Richard's Pipit will be added to the WRP list at the request of county recorders in an attempt to review their occurrence and compare local assessment across Wales.

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (ie. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some case the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WRP welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.

BBRC have requested submission of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, *British Birds* 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WRP will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WRP would like to receive reports are Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*, Iceland Gull – *kumlienii*, Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*, Razorbill – *torda*, Little Auk – *polaris*, Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*, Grey-headed Wagtail - *thunbergi*, Siberian Chiffchaff – *tristis*, Treecreeper – *familiaris*, Coal Tit – *ater*, Jay – *glandarius*, Jackdaw – *monedula*, Redpolls – *islandica* / *rostrata*, and Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*.

In the systematic list the figures following each species / race name refer to the number of accepted individuals in Wales up to 1991 [included in *Birds in Wales* (Lovegrove et al)], since 1991 but not including 2010 and finally the number this year. Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases to improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras.

The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in italics) and are

included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and also the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.

The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2010 they were: Reg Thorpe (Chairman) – Caernarfon, Mike Powell – Glamorgan, Steve Culley – Anglesey, Marc Hughes – Caernarfon, Richard Dobbins - Pembroke, Steve Stansfield - Bardsey and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. WRP is always on the lookout for new members, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WRP Secretary.

Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WRP species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WRP description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WRP Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan, Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561)**. The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs of electronic form, either on disc or by e-mail: welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk

Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pending for information are found in appendix 1.

Systematic List of Accepted Records in 2010

Bean Goose (- , 9, 1)

Anser fabalis

Gwydd y Llafur

Breeds in the Arctic and colder boreal zones. Range has contracted in Norway and Sweden in recent times.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 18th Dec. (SDStansfield)

Bean Geese are extremely rare in Wales, the last accepted one was at Cors Caron, Ceredigion in 2005. All the post 1991 records have been of single birds, except for five of the race *fabalis* at St. David's in 1997.

Green-winged Teal (10, 30, 1)

Anas carolinensis

Corhwyaden Asgell - Werdd

Breeds in North America. Males:

Anglesey: Llyn Coron & Padrig, 11th Jan. – 4th Feb. (KG Croft per S. Culley).

Carmarthen: Penclaccwydd, 6th & 7th Feb. (J Roex, photo B. Stewart).
Dinefwr Ponds, 7th – 9th May (PK Grennard, W. James), presumed as above.

Pembroke: Marloes Mere 9th – 12th Apr. (PK Grennard, W. James).

Gwent: Gann, 25th Dec. (DJ Astins), presumed as above.

Gwent: NWR, 31st Oct. (E. Stevens).

Returning individuals are thought to be responsible for all of the above records except the Gwent bird. Single males have been seen nearly annually in Carmarthen from 2007, on the Anglesey lakes from 2006 and in SW Pembroke from 2009.

Black Duck (1, 2, 1)

Anas rubripes

Hwyaden Ddu

Breeds E North America from Labrador S to North Carolina & W to Manitoba. Most are resident or dispersive but N breeders migrate to winter in coastal SE USA.

Caern / Denbigh: immature male, Conwy Estuary, 7th – 9th Apr. (A. Davies per M. Hughes).
The first Welsh record came from nearby at Aber where there was a male February 1979 – January 1985, while the other two records were both from Pembroke, a male at Heathfield Gravel Pits in March 2001 and a female at Marloes Mere in 2008.

Ring-necked Duck (12, 25, 2)

Aythya collaris

Hwyaden Dorchog

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.

Ceredigion: Female Rhosrhydd, from December 2009 until 1st Jan. 2010 (C. Bird, J. Davis), then at Llyn Pencarreg, Carmarthen.

Carmarthen: Female, as above, Llyn Pencarreg, 6th Feb. – 26th Mar., returning 22nd Oct. until the end of the year (A. Williams).

Pembroke: Female, Bosherton, 24th Feb. – 6th Mar (L. Lomax, W. James).

E. Glamorgan: Male, Kenfig, 29th Mar. (P. Donaghy per DG Carrington).

Gower: as above, Eglwys Nunydd Res. 1st – 6th Apr. (G. Roberts).



Female Ring-necked Duck, Bosherton by L. Lomax.



Male Ring-necked Duck Kenfig by DG Carrington.

Redhead (0, 0, 0)

Aythya Americana

Hwyaden Benqoch America

Breeds in North America.

Following a review of all records in the UK by BBRC, it has been decided that all the Welsh records, which referred to the same returning individual Nov. 2002 – 2004 from several E. Glamorgan locations, are not acceptable. The review was initiated due to concerns that it was a hybrid, whose features only became apparent with prolonged observation. A fuller

justification is to be published in BB in the near future. There are therefore no longer any acceptable records of this species in Wales.

Lesser Scaup (0, 2, 1)

Aythya affinis

Hwyaden Benddu Leiaf

Breeds from C Alaska through Canada to Hudson Bay & S to Washington & South Dakota. Isolated populations E of Great Lakes. Winters along both coastlines of USA, in E from New Jersey to Mexico, W Indies, C America to N Colombia.

E. Glamorgan: male, Cosmeston Lakes / Cardiff Bay, 11th Oct. 2009 – 24th Apr. 2010, returning 7th Nov. – 2nd Apr. 2011 (per County Recorder).

Gower: 1st w female, Eglwys Nunydd Res., 1st Feb. – 1st Apr. (EA Hunter et al).

As the Cardiff bird returns again now a new bird has also arrived – this time a female, just to the west over the E. Glamorgan border.



Male Lesser Scaup, Cardiff by S. Hinton.



1st W female at Eglwys Nunydd by EA Hunter.

Surf Scoter (22, 22, 7)

Melanitta perspicillata

Mor-hwyaden yr Ewryn

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Denbigh: three males, north Wales coast, 29th Jan. – 16th Mar. (M. Hughes et al).

Carmarthen: male, Pendine, 8th Mar. (B. Beck).

Ceredigion: female, Ynyslas, 30th Oct – 9th Nov., joined by an imm. male 7th – 9th Nov. (R. Jones et al).

Pembroke: female, Fishguard Harbour, 19th – 23rd Nov. (J. Atkinson, K. Meatyard).

Great Shearwater (81, 154, 1)

Puffinus gravis

Aderyn Drycin Mawr

Late summer / autumn passage migrant that breeds in the south Atlantic.

Pembroke: off Strumble Head, 29th Aug. (R. Stonier).

Fea's/Zino's Petrel (0, 2, 1)

Pterodroma feae/madeira

Pedryn Mwythblu

Zino's confined to C
mountains of Madeira; non-
breeding range unknown.
Fea's breeds on Bugio in the
Desertas & Cape Verde
Islands. In non-breeding
season disperses throughout
N Atlantic.
Pembroke: off Grassholm, 11th
July (S. Votier et al).
The other Welsh records
came from Bardsey Sept.
1994 and off Strumble Head
Oct. 1996.



Great White Egret (5, 28, 3)

Ardea alba

Creyr Mawr Gwyn

Breeds Netherlands in small numbers and from Hungary eastwards to Japan and south
Australia, Africa south of the Sahara also southern North, Central and South America.
European population winters mostly in the north Mediterranean. This species dropped off
the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list as of Jan. 1st 2006.

E. Glamorgan: St. Mellons & Hendre, 22nd Jan. – 6th Apr. (J. Wilson et al).
Gwent: as above St. Mellons 22nd Jan (R. Hoodless), Goldcliff 19th Feb.
Peterstone Wentloog 21st Feb. & 11th Mar., then at Goldcliff 8th Apr.
Carmarthen: Gwendraeth, 24th May (A. Swann), then Penclacwydd, 26th May
(F. Cross, photo B. Stewart).
Dryslwyn, 9th Sept. (S. Montgomerie), probably the same bird at
Llandovery 23rd Oct. (R. & I. Dootson – photo below).

The E. Glamorgan / Gwent bird was ringed as a nestling on the Loire estuary on 6th May
2009 and has been seen since then in Lancashire at the Brockholes Wetlands & Crossen
Marsh, 25th Sept. – 28th Dec. 2009.



Great White Egret, E. Glamorgan.



Great White Egret, Llandovery.

Cattle Egret (5, 27, 5)

Bubulcus ibis

Crevr y Gwartheg

Common and widespread in S. Spain & Portugal with small expanding populations in France and Italy. Northern populations disperse outside the breeding season, mostly into Africa.

Ceredigion: Blaenplwf, 16th Jan. (J. Green).

Denbigh: Rhyl, mid-March (SJ Mavin).

Carmarthen: Penclacwydd, 18th Oct. (A. Jones, M. Holding, W. Thomas).

Ginst Point, 14th Nov. (N. Allen, J. Poole).

Pembroke: Haverfordwest airfield 15th Oct. – 5th Nov. (*T. Gover* per J. Green).

Another bumper crop of records of this species, following on from the five seen last year and the 13 from the year before.



Cattle Egret, Penclacwydd by B. Stewart.



Cattle Egret, Haverfordwest by J. Green.

Squacco Heron (5, 2, 1)

Ardeola ralloides

Crevr Melyn

Fragmented Western Palearctic population, centred around the Mediterranean basin. Migratory, wintering in northern tropical Africa. Pembroke: juv. Angle Bay 3rd Oct. – 15th Nov. (*T. Parry*, per County Recorder).

The only post 1990 Welsh records came from Kenfig, E. Glamorgan on 28th June 1994 and in 2003, when one was first found at Aberleri, Ceredigion 3rd – 5th June, before moving off to Goldcliff NWR on 11th June and finally Lamby Lake, Cardiff on 24th – 25th June.



Photo. above by R. Crossen.

Purple Heron (38, 15, 1)

Ardea purpurea

CREYR PORFFOR

Dispersive migrant, from warmer temperate to tropical zones, southern Europe.

Pembroke: Llanmil, near Narberth, 22nd –27th Mar. (A. Hart per County Recorder).

Photo opposite by R. Crossen.



White Stork (- , 17, 4)

Ciconia ciconia

Ciconia Gwyn

Migrant in warmer Boreal to warm temperate zones, USSR, China and central Europe.

Gwent: two, Rogerstone-High Cross, 9th Apr. (L. Duggan, D. Jones).

Pembroke: two, near Moylegrove 9th Apr. (per R. Dobbins).

two, near Brawdy, 1st Sept. (per J. Green).

Anglesey: two, Wylfa, 10th – 11th Apr. (T. White per S. Culley), also at Llyn Bran on the 11th (photo D. MacRae). Photo below by S. Culley.

It's amazing that these two travelled across Wales, and possibly back again and were missed by most local birders who would die to see them. The Pembroke records were all from farmers, who took photos of them in their fields, even following the plough !



Glossy Ibis (11 , 28, 4)

Plegadis falcinellus

Crymanbig Ddu

Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East.

Meirionnydd: Broadwater, Towyn,
17th Sept. (G. Willets) and
29th Sept. (M. Shrubbs).
Carmarthen: Penclacwydd WWT,
26th Sept. (M. Jones, W. Thomas).
E. Glamorgan: Kenfig, 28th Nov.
(A. Tilt), then Dunraven Bay
29th Nov. – 3rd Dec. (NP Roberts)
and Monkash 7th – 9th Dec.
(per County Recorder).
Anglesey: juv. / 1st w,
Cefnysgwydd Bach, RSPB Valley,
15th – 24th Oct. (JP Hughes,
R. Roberts).
2009 Caernarfon: Foryd Bay, 13th Oct.
(J. Barnes, M. Jones).



Black Kite (6, 7, 1)

Milvus migrans

Barcud du

Breeds throughout continental Europe, most in Spain, France and Germany, with smaller populations in all, except maritime NW Europe and Scandinavia. To E, breeds European Russia to Kazakhstan and C Siberia. Nominate race winters Africa and NW Indian subcontinent. Other races resident or dispersive in sub-Saharan Africa, Indian subcontinent, E and SE Asia and Australia. Radnor: juvenile, Gigrin Farm, from 1st Jan. until 15th Mar. (D. Doody et al).



Black Kite were a real "blocker" in Wales, this Radnor bird came along and now everybody has it on their Welsh list. A real performer and a star attraction at Gigrin Farm – the only difficulty was picking it out from the 250-300 Red Kites. Photo above by A. Beven.

Gyr Falcon (12, 2, 1)

Falco rusticolus

Hebog y Gogledd

Within Europe, most numerous in Iceland and Norway, with smaller populations breeding in N Sweden, Finland and Arctic Russia. To E, breeds across Arctic Siberia, and to W across Greenland, N Canada and Alaska. European birds mostly resident but high Arctic breeders from N Canada and Greenland migratory, occasionally wintering S to NW Europe
Gower: immature male, white phase, Rhossili, 27th Mar. (CD Brewer). Photo opposite



Interesting to note that only four months earlier another Gyr was reported from the same area, that time 1st w female. The only other post 1990 record in Wales was from South Stack, Anglesey on 8th Mar. 2002.

Corn Crane (-, 40, 2)

Crex crex

Rhegen yr Yd

Very rare breeding bird in Britain, mainly in north & western Scotland and Ireland. Last bred in Wales in 1994.

Caernarfon: Great Orme, 22nd Apr. (M. Hughes).

Flint: found dead at Northop, 15th Sept. (C. Aincham).
Photo opposite.



Common Crane (19, 20, 3)

Grus grus

Garan

A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa.

Ceredigion: two, Penrhyncoch, 15th Apr. (K. McGee)

Montgomery: two Dyfi, 15th Apr. (B. Holt et al).

Pembroke: Castle Martin Corse, 9th Nov. – 21st at least (per C. Hurford). Photo opposite by C. Hurford.

Gower: Llanrhidian, 3rd Dec. (M. Page), probably the same as the Pembroke bird.

The two in April were seen passing over Ceredigion then at the Dyfi Osprey Project, evidently they flew right past the osprey platform.



Stone Curlew (27, 10, 0)

Burhinus oedichemus

Rhedwr y Moelydd

Scarce breeding bird in SE England. Commoner on mainland Europe.

2008 Ceredigion: adult, Llanrhydud 8th – 9th Aug. (A. Williams).

Omitted from previous reports in error.

Kentish Plover (28, 14, 1)

Charadrius alexandrinus

Cwtiad Caint

Formerly bred in the UK. Now a scarce migrant from the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe.

Gower: Whiteford Point, 4th May (M. Hnatuik).

Temminck's Stint (26, 22, 4)

Calidris temminckii

Pibydd Temminck

Breeds northern Scandinavia eastwards across northern Siberia. Winters west and central Africa and south Asia.

Gwent: NWR, 8th May (photo D. Spittle).

Ceredigion: three, Cors Caron, 13th May (A. Williams, photo R. Dobbins).

Photo opposite of two of the three at Cors Caron by R. Dobbins.



Pectoral Sandpiper (65, 42, 4)

Calidris melanotos

Pibydd Cain

Breeds northeast Siberia and northern North America. Winters in southern South America.

Pembroke: Castle Martin Range, 4th Sept. (P. Hughes).

Ceredigion: Teifi Marshes, 19th Sept. (Dr. S. Cox).

Cors Fochno, 22nd Sept. (J. Davis).

Carmarthen: Penclacwydd, 28th Sept. – 1st Oct. (photo W. Davies, R. Davies).



Pectoral Sandpiper at Castle Martin by P. Hughes.



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Dale, DJ Astins.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (31, 16, 1)

Tryngites subruficollis

Pibydd Bronllwyd

Breeds in Alaska and North-west Canada, winters in northern Argentina and Uruguay.

Pembroke: juv. Dale airfield, 2nd – 3rd Oct. (DJ Astins).

Long-billed Dowitcher (5, 7, 1)

Limnodromus scolopaceus

Giach Gylfin-hir

Breeds primarily in Arctic Siberia where range is expanding W to Lena River delta. North American range restricted to coastal tundra of W and N Alaska, and E to Mackenzie River. Migrates through USA to winter from coastal S USA to N Central America.

Flint: adult, Connah's Quay,
28th Aug. – 11th Oct.
S. Skelton, A Wallbank et al).

Cere: juv. / 1st w, RSPB Ynyshir,
19th Oct. – 25th Nov.
(R. Jones, R. Squires).
Photo. opposite by R. Jones.

2009 Flint: two juvs. Connah's Quay,
19th Oct. – 21st Oct. (KJ Smith).



Those in Flint were considered to probably relate to the same returning individuals. These two were also at Inner Marsh Farm in late September, but on the English side.

Lesser Yellowlegs (9, 6, 1)

Tringa flavipes

Melyngoes Bach

Breeds northern North America. Winters USA south to southern South America.

Gwent: juv. NWR, 28th – 29th Sept. (N. Casburn, C. Jones et al).

The last record of this species related to the wintering one at Dale, Pembroke in 2004.

Bonaparte's Gull (3, 12, 0)

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Gwylan Bonaparte

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.

Anglesey: Traeth Lligwy, 14th Jan. – 2nd Mar. (*D. Wright* et al, per County Recorder), assumed to be the Traeth Dulas bird from September 2009.

E. Glamorgan: River Taff, Cardiff, 7th Mar. – 11th Apr. (GN Smith et al) considered as probably the returning bird from last year.



Bonaparte's Gulls: left in Cardiff by A.Bevan and above at Traeth Lligwy by H. King.

Whiskered Tern (5, 6, 2)

Chlidonias hybridus

Corswennol Fartog

Breeds in small, scattered colonies through S & E Europe from Iberia to Poland. Numerous & widespread from N Black Sea E to W Kazakhstan, with Volga/Ural River complex holding most of European population. Winters tropical W & C Africa & from Nile Delta to E Africa. Other populations in Indian subcontinent, E Asia, S Africa & Australia.

Flint: juv., Inner Marsh Farm., 18th Sept. (K. Smith et al).

Gower: juv. Eglwys Nunydd Res., 25th – 30th Sept. (D. Jenkins-Jones, W. Morris, J. Slocombe et al)

The Inner Marsh Farm individual spent a couple of days at the reserve but was only seen on the Welsh side on one day.



Whiskered Terns, above at Inner Marsh Farm by D. Kelsall. Right at Eglwys Nunydd Res. by J. Slocombe.



White-winged Black Tern
(24, 10, 1)

Chlidonias leucopterus

Corswennol Adeinwen

Breeds from Hungary and Bulgaria eastwards through Asia. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Flint: juv. Inner Marsh Farm, 15th & 16th Oct (K. Smith, photo S. Williams).



As with the Whiskered Tern a month before, this bird was usually to be found on the Cheshire side of the reserve.

Pallid Swift (1, 1, 1)

Apus pallidus

Gwennol Welw-ddu

Vagrant.

Carmarthen: Cefn Sidan, Pembrey, 20th Mar. (D. Davidson, G. Harper, R. Hunt). The only other Welsh records were from Pembroke, at Strumble Head in November 1984 and at nearby Porthgain October 2001. Photo below by G. Harper.



Bee-eater (29, 19, 5)*Merops apiaster**Gwybedog y Gwenyn*

Scarce visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

Ceredigion: Blaenporth, 22nd May (J. Green)Caernarfon: Uchmynydd, Aberdaron, 9th June (B. Porter).Meirionnydd: two, Harlech, 30th Apr. (R. Strachen).Anglesey: Cemlyn, 13th – 16th June (*D. Wright, T. White*, per S. Culley).

A bumper crop of this colourful Mediterranean migrant. Perhaps with global warming we shall see more and more of this species in Wales.



Bee-eater at Cemlyn by S. Culley.



Shore Lark on Skomer by D. Boyle.

Shore Lark (- , 75, 1)*Eremophila alpestris**Ehedydd y Traeth*

Irregular winter visitor from the northern Arctic.

2010 Pembroke: Skomer 24th Oct. (D. Boyle).2009 Flint: two, Point of Air & Gronnant 15th Nov. – mid March 2010
(P. Shelton per M. Hughes, C. Moore et al).**Woodlark (- , 146, 18)***Lullula arborea**Ehedydd y Coed*

Now widespread in Southern and Eastern England.

Denbigh: Conwy, one on 8th and two on 9th Jan. (J. Hughes, M. Hughes).Caernarfon: up to 14 Penrhyn Bay, 9th – 17th Jan (M. Hughes, R. Sandham).Bardsey, five on 18th, two in 19th one on 21st Dec. (SD Stansfield).E. Glamorgan: Southern Down, three on 9th and 8 on the 10th – 11th, last recorded on 18th Jan. (P. Roberts).Pembroke: Skomer, 1st Nov. (D. Boyle).Gower: Paviland, 21st Nov. & 22nd Dec. (C. Brewer, D. Gilmore).

A candidate to come off the WRP list in the near future.

Red-rumped Swallow (8, 7, 1)

Hirundo daurica

Gwennol Dingoch

Breeds Iberia, southern France and northwest Africa; Balkans east to Japan and south to Sri Lanka; central Africa. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.

Brecon: Llanwrthwl, 30th Apr. (R. Knight).

A county first for Brecon, watched visiting House Martin nests on the observers house.

Red-flanked Bluetail (0, 1, 1)

Tarsiger cyanurus

Cynffonlas Ystsgoch

Small population breeds NE Finland but main range extends through cool temperate forests of N Eurasia from E Russia & Siberia to Kamchatka, N Japan & NE China. Winters S China, Taiwan & S Japan through SE Asia to N Peninsula Thailand. Distinctive race *rufilatus* of Himalayas & W China, sometimes treated as distinct species, descends to lower elevations during winter.)

Pembroke: female, Skomer 25th Oct. (D. Boyle, J. Gillham). Photo by D. Boyle.

The only other Welsh record was from Bardsey on 1st Oct. 2007. 2010 turned out to be a big year for this species in the UK with a total of 30 accepted records (there had only been a total of 68 previous records in the UK).



Bluethroat (29, 17, 1)

Luscinia svecica

Bronlas

Migrant, breeding in Arctic / Alpine to cool temperate zones of Europe (white-spotted race) and Scandinavia (red-spotted race).

Pembroke: male, Skomer, 21st May (D. Boyle). Photo below.



Great Reed Warbler (7, 3, 1)

Acrocephalus arundinaceus

Telwr Mawr y Cyrs

Vagrant from North Africa and continental Europe.

Anglesey: singing male, Malltraeth RSPB, 15th – 24th June (S. Dodd et al).

This remains a great find in Wales, with only four accepted records in the last twenty years, at Skomer, Pembroke 21st May 1998 & 16th May 2002 and at RSPB Conwy 10th – 18th June 2005.



Marsh Warbler (11, 8, 1)

Acrocephalus palustris

Telwr y Gwerni

A small population breeds in south England. Main breeding grounds are in Eastern Europe.

E. Glamorgan: trapped, Cardiff Bay Wetlands, 5th June (D. Bull).



Marsh Warbler caught at Cardiff Bay Wetlands, by D. Bull.



Aquatic Warbler (41, 36, 3)

Acrocephalus paludicola

Telor y Dwr

A scarce autumn migrant from Central Europe.

Ceredigion: juv. trapped, Teifi Marshes,

16th Aug. (R. Dobbins).

Juv., trapped Teifi Marshes,

18th Aug. (A. Williams, R. Dobbins,
photo M. Hughes).

Gwent: juv., trapped NWR, 30th Aug.

(R. Clarke, D. Spittle, V. Thomas).



Aquatic Warblers, above at Teifi Marshes
by M. Hughes.



At NWR, Gwent by R. Clarke.

Melodious Warbler (142, 50, 5)

Hippolais polyglotta

Telor Per

Breeds northeast Africa, Iberia, France, Switzerland and Italy. Winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 25th July (B. Porter, RJ Else).

Singles Bardsey, 1st Sept., 4th – 7th Sept., 5th – 7th Sept. and 23rd Sept.

(SD Stansfield et al).

Icterine Warbler (65, 39, 2)

Hippolais icterina

Telor Aur

Breeds from northeast France north to Norway and Sweden and east to western Siberia, also northern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Pembroke: Skomer, 31st Aug. – 2nd Sept. (D. Boyle).

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 5th, 8th -9th & 11th Sept. (RJ Else, SD Stansfield et al).

Marmora's Warbler (0, 0, 1)

Sylvia sarda

Telor Marmora

Nominate form breeds Corsica, Sardinia & small islands off W coast of Italy & N Tunisia.

Winters in N Algeria, Tunisia & Libya. Another race resident on Balearic Islands.

Gwent: Blorenge, near Blaenavon, 3rd – 10th June (T. Hutton, A. Perry, M. Wright et al).

Sixth UK record, enjoyed by many. Photo below by M. Duffy.



Subalpine Warbler (18, 32, 1)

Sylvia cantillans

Telor Bronqoch

Four races widely but locally distributed throughout Mediterranean basin from NW Africa and Iberia N to S France, and E to Greece and W Turkey. Winters S of Sahel from Mauritania and Senegal to S Egypt and Sudan. This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list, as of Jan. 1st 2006 (although the races *albirostrata* and *moltoni* are still assessed by them).

Caernarfon:female, Bardsey
23rd – 28th May

(SD Stansfield).

Photo opposite.

This female appeared to pair up with a male of the eastern race (pending by BBRC and hence not in this report) and it was hoped that they may stay and breed. Unfortunately a change in the weather put paid to that.



Barred Warbler (40, 37, 3)

Sylvia nisoria

Telor Rhesog

Breeds from north Italy, Germany and south Sweden eastwards to Mongolia. Winters northeast Africa south to Kenya and southern Arabia.

Anglesey: Soldier's Point, 14th Sept. (KG Croft).

Pembroke: Skomer, 7th Oct. (D. Boyle).

Flint: juv., Shotwick Broken Bank, 20th Oct. (S. Skelton).

Iberian Chiffchaff (0, 0, 1)

Phylloscopus ibericus

Siff-siaff Iberia

Breeds locally in French Pyrenees & S throughout W Iberia. N African range restricted to NW Morocco & N Algeria to NW Tunisia. Wintering range poorly known.

Gwent: singing male, Wentwood Forest, 10th May – 18th June (A. Pym, C. Trott per County Recorder). Photo below by A.Slade.



Chiffchaff*Phylloscopus collybita tristis**Siff-siaff Siberia*

WRP has been reviewing past records over the last few years in light of papers in British Birds and Dutch Birds. WRP now welcomes descriptions, with photographs, of "classic types" (dull brown) and "grey-washed out" individuals. A paper on ID criteria and recent accepted records will be published in due course on the WOS – WRP website.

Greenish Warbler (8, 5, 1)*Phylloscopus trochiloides**Telor Gwyrdd*

A vagrant.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 11th June (SD Stansfield), photo below.

Although this species has dropped off the BBRC list of division one UK rarities, it remains a very rare bird in Wales. The last accepted record came from Skokholm in 1997.

Of the 14 accepted records, 8 have been on Bardsey, 4 from Skokholm and two from Skomer.

**Pallas' Warbler (9, 22, 2)***Phylloscopus prorequilus**Telor Gwyrdd*

Breeds from south central Siberia, east to Sea of Okhotsk, also Himalayas. Winters Himalayan foothills, northern southeast Asia.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 31st Oct. (R. Brown)

Bardsey 19th Nov. (B. Porter).

These represent the first Welsh records since 2006. Photo below by SD Stansfield.



Bearded Tit (- , - , -)

Panurus biarmicus

Titw Barfog

Resident in the UK (mainly the south East). Erruptive. Bred in Wales in one's or twos mid 1960's – 1980. Rare since.

Individuals have bred for the last three years at the Uskmouth reed-beds of the Newport Wetland Reserve. Records elsewhere:

E. Glamorgan: Cosmeston, 4th – 16th Oct. (J. Curtis per County Recorder).

Denbigh: Conwy RSPB, 26th Apr. – 31st Oct. (J. Wheldrake, A. Jones, J. Hughes).

Gwent: one, The Moorings 7th Apr. 2010 (K. Jones).

male, Peterstone, 17th Oct. (A. Plant).

2009 Gwent: several, The Moorings, 11th Oct. 2009 (C. Jones).

It's not surprising that as the Gwent population gets established, then birds disperse from there in the autumn, hence the October records in nearby reed beds.

Evidence suggests that this species survived the hard winter of 2010/11 [5 pairs bred at the NWR Gwent in 2011] and therefore this species has been removed from the list of species considered by WRP.



Bearded Tit, Conwy by K. Williams.



Golden Oriole, Bardsey by SD Stansfield.

Golden Oriole (-, 10+, 3)

Oriolus oriolus

Euryh

Rare visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

Anglesey: female / 1st male, Soldier's Point, 20th May (KG Croft).

Pembroke: male, Bosherton, 25th May (B. Haycock).

Caernarfon: 1st year male, Bardsey, 28th May (SD Stansfield).

This species was added to the WRP list in 2007, following concerns by various county recorders over un-substantiated claims and possible confusion with other species. Since then there have been ten accepted records in three years.

Red-backed Shrike (-, 63, 1)

Lanius collurio

Cigydd Cefngoch

Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe.

Pembroke: female, St. David's, 23rd May (J. Bennett per county recorder).

Photo below by R. Stonier.

Number of this species have been rising annually and to such a level that we predicted that this would be one of the next species to drop off our list, especially so as a pair bred successfully in Gwent in 2006, but no, only one record this year.



Rose-coloured Starling (26, 53, 2)

Sturnus roseus

Drudwen Wridog

Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally erupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.

Pembroke: adult, St. David's, 28th Apr. – 9th May (J & M Best, B. Davies per County Recorder). Photo below by B. Davies.

Ceredigion: juv. Llanon, mid-November (D. Silkin).



Rose-coloured Starlings. Above, an adult in a St. David's garden by B. Davies. Right a juv. at Llanon by D. Silkin.

Common Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

Llinos Bengoch

WRP has been reviewing this species and has finally made its stance. Photographs are preferable but not essential for acceptance. A full paper on ID criteria and recent accepted records will be published in due course on the WOS – WRP website.

Common Rosefinch (39, 76, 10)

Carpodacus erythrinus

Llinos Goch

Breeds from Germany and southern Sweden eastwards to Kamchatka and from Georgia eastwards to central China. Has bred in Britain on a few occasions. Winters in India, southeast Asia and southern China.

Caernarfon: female, Bardsey, 31st May (SD Stansfield).
Imm. Bardsey 15th – 25th Sept. (SD Stansfield).
Imm. Bardsey, 30th Nov. – 21st Dec. (R. Brown, G. Eagle).
1st year male, Porth Ysgo, 3rd June (M. Hughes).
Anglesey: 1st male, Cemlyn, 5th – 6th June (*D. Wright, M. Sutton*, per County Recorder).
Pembroke: Skomer, 15th Sept. (D. Boyle).
Female / imm. St. David's 23rd – 25th Nov. (B. Davies).
1st year male, Ramsey 10th May (G. Morgan).
Female / imm., Ramsey, 10th Oct. (G. Morgan).
Gower: female / imm. Gorseinon, 27th – 28th Nov. (C. Brewer).



Singing 1st male at Cemlyn by D. Wright.
Right: imm. on Bardsey by SD Stansfield.



Ortolan Bunting (105, 52, 2)

Emberiza hortulana

Bras y Gerdji

Breeds continental Europe and Fenno-Scandia eastwards to northern Iran and Mongolia. Winters south Arabia and Sahel zone of the south Sahara.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 4th Sept. (RJ Else).

Pembroke: Skokholm, 15th Nov.
(P. Jenks). Photo opposite.



Corn Bunting (- , -, 1)

Miliaria calandra

Bras yr Yd

Resident SE Britain and southern Europe. Population declining and no longer a breeding bird in Wales.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 13th Apr. (SD Stansfield).

The last record of this species in Wales was similarly on Bardsey in June 2006.

White-throated Sparrow (1, 0, 1)

Zonotrichia albicollis

Llwyd Gyddfwyn

A vagrant.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 11th June (R. Brown et al).

The only other Welsh record was also on Bardsey, a 1st year bird 15th Oct. – 7th Nov. (trapped 21st Oct.) 1967.



Bobolink (0, 1, 2)

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Bobolinc

A vagrant.

Gower: Eglwys Nunydd Res., 20th Sept. (P. Parsons, K. Thomas et al).

Pembroke: Skomer, 8th & 11th Oct. (D.Boyle)

To get two individuals in such a short period of time is amazing, considering that there has only been one other Welsh record came from Skokholm, a 1st winter bird, 13th – 14th Oct. 1999. Unfortunately neither of these two birds were easily watched, with the Eglwys Nunydd bird deep in cover and there were not boats to Skomer due to the weather.



Bobolinks, above at Eglwys Nunydd by NP Roberts, to the right on Skomer by D. Boyle.

Identification agreed – but bird likely to be escaped/falconers:

Golden Eagle (- , 0, 0)

Aquila chrysaetos

Eryr Euraid

Breeds in Scotland.

Cere. 3rd year, summered around Strata Florida (per J. Davis & County Recorder).

Meiri: 3rd year, Barmouth 9th Mar. (A. Pearce et al) and at Tywyn (Bryn Crug) 13th Mar. (M. Richards).

This bird summered in 2009 in the Nant Irfon area of Brecon.

Photos below, in Ceredigion by T. Hobson and at Tywyn by M. Richards.



Additional species assessed at the request of County Recorders:

Richard's Pipit (86, 154, -)

Anthus novaeseelandiae

Corhedydd Richard

Breeds from western Siberia east to Mongolia and south-east Asia, also Africa. Northern population winters in Pakistan and India, east to south-east Asia.

Pembroke: Freshwater West, 6th Dec. (C.Hurford).

Ceredigion: Aber Leri, Ynyslas, 4th – 9th Jan. (JA Davis).

This species dropped off the WRP list as of 2006, as the numbers of records of this species increased to over 5 a year, indeed there were 13 accepted records in 2005. Since dropping off the list there have been 54+ individuals reported in Wales. The above records were submitted to WRP due to their unseasonal dates.

APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of the records were not accepted because the Panel were not convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	Site	County	Date
Serin	Ramsey	Pembroke	10/05/2010
Rough-legged Buzzard	Llandow	E. Glamorgan	26/12/2010
Woodchat	Aberystwyth	Ceredigion	17/05/2010
Golden Oriole f	Abereiddy	Pembroke	05/06/2010
White Storks	M4	E. Glamorgan	30/4 & 25/5/10
Great White Egret	Dyfi Estuary	Ceredigion	28/10/2010
Woodlark	Lavernock	E. Glamorgan	16/10/2010
Rough-legged Buzzard	Llanmiloe	Carmarthen	30/12/2010
Nightingale		Ceredigion	15/07/2010

BBRC Not-proven:

Black-browed Albatross	Bardsey, Caernarfon	25/9/05
Long-billed Dowitcher	Llanon, Ceredigion	9/12/10
Laughing Gull	Porthcawl Harbour, E. Glamorgan.	13/3/10
Bonaparte's Gull	Bardsey, Caernarfon	21/10/10
American Herring Gull	Saundersfoot, Pembroke	16/2/10
Great Spotted Cuckoo	Kenfig, E. Glamorgan	25/3/10
Pallid Swift	Carmel Head, Anglesey	26/10/10
Black-throated Thrush	Nitten Field, Gower	8/1/10

APPENDIX II - List of records that have been PENDED for more information or requiring further assessment.

Caspian Gull	Llandegfedd Res.	Gwent	15-23/2/2008
Melodious Warbler	Great Orme	Caernarfon	17/5/09
Montagu's Harrier	Gresford Flash	Denbigh	28/4/10
Alpine Swift	Borris	Denbigh	7/4/10
Common Redpoll, 2	Cilcain	Denbigh	9/5/10

Marmora's Warbler a New bird for Wales

A couple of friends and I (Martin Wright and Tony Perry) were visiting the area to look for Whinchats (Martin has visited the area for over 40 years and owns a small piece of land nearby, where he has nest boxes for Pied Flycatchers). We parked in the usual lay-by car-park and on opening the car door I heard a song that was unfamiliar to me. When I heard it again a few minutes later from about 30 yards up the road, I mentioned it to the others, and within a few seconds we saw a warbler heading towards us through the vegetation on the side of the road. Our immediate instinct was Dartford warbler, as we could see it was distinctly long-tailed, and was flying in the distinctive way of a Sylvia warbler; it perched up on a small gorse bush in typical Dartford style – tail cocked, and then we quickly saw that it was all grey, with no hint of Dartford coloration. It also quickly dawned on us that it wasn't singing like a Dartford, either.

There was almost a chorus of 'it's a Marmora's', but with complete disbelief! We had a camera to hand and were able to get some adequate pictures to look at when the bird flew out of sight. I put a message on Bird Guides, as I needed someone with expertise to pinch me. Fortunately we found a national park warden, who was monitoring whinchat nests, and then someone who was doing a thesis on Dartford warblers, who was able to confirm our thoughts from the photos. About 20-30 people turned up in the following couple of hours, and I believe that some very good shots were taken.

General Description

We had excellent views through binoculars, sometimes down to 15 feet or so. The bird perched quite openly on gorse and hawthorn bushes, singing regularly. On one occasion it did a towering song flight in the style of a whitethroat – it also did several other short song flights.

The general impression was of Dark slate grey upperparts, fading to slightly darker on the head, with a slightly darker area around the cheeks. The eye was red, and stood out clearly. The bill was orange-yellow and the gape was a similar coloration. Underparts were also grey, although slightly paler than the back. Subsequently, through a telescope, I saw a hint of a grey brown tinge to the wing coverts.



Photo by R. Stonier.

The song was Sylvia warbler style – and rather on one note (Dartford style) – but after a few scratchy notes it developed into a strident, dry trill. It was very distinctive, and made location of the bird easy.

T. Hutton

