

# Scare and rare birds in Wales 2013



**WELSH  
RECORDS  
PANEL**



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# Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2013



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## Introduction

This is the sixteenth annual report of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce species in Wales in 2013.

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2013	2	11	5	12	13	38	45	126
2012	0	5	4	17	37	49	35	147
2011	0	4	9	10	30	26	72	151
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	70	137
2009	1	4	1	19	50	8	25	108
2008	0	6	8	17	32	13	34	110
2007	2	6	7	5	10	5	3	39
2006	1	5	4	5	18	12	12	57

The table above suggests that 2013 was a little down on the previous three years but the quality of rarities were second to none. There were the first Welsh records of Pallid Harrier (well overdue) on Skomer and Western Orphean Warbler at Dale. There were a supporting cast of 2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh records for Indigo Bunting (on a bird table) on Anglesey), Blyth's Reed Warbler on Skokholm and Iberian Chiffchaff near Llanelli. Added to this, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Welsh Pied Wheatear, 4<sup>th</sup> Black-headed Wagtail, Paddyfield Warbler and Fea's Petrel, the 5<sup>th</sup> Welsh Isabelline Wheatear & Penduline Tit, 6<sup>th</sup> Citrine Wagtail & Booted Warbler, 7<sup>th</sup> Semi-palmated Sandpiper, 9<sup>th</sup> Blue-winged Teal and the 11<sup>th</sup> Siberian Stonechat. Then there were the host of other rarities including a total of 19 Glossy Ibis and at least 12 Great White Egrets.

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new BOU British List (2011) 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, all the photographers, 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 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	Glossy Ibis
Black Kite	Montagu's Harrier	Rough-legged Buzzard	White-tailed Eagle
Golden Eagle	Red-footed Falcon	Corncrake	Spotted Crane
Crane	Stone-Curlew	American Golden Plover	Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint	White-rumped Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope	Ring-billed Gull	Caspian Gull	White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift	Bee-eater	Golden Oriole	Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike	Bearded Tit	Short-toed Lark	Shore Lark
Red-rumped Swallow	Greenish Warbler	Dusky Warbler	Radde's Warbler
Pallas's Warbler	Barred Warbler	Subalpine Warbler	Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler	Aquatic Warbler	Marsh Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling
Nightingale	Bluethroat	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Red-throated Pipit
Tawny Pipit	Olive-backed Pipit	Serin	Common Redpoll
Arctic Redpoll	Common Rosefinch	Corn Bunting	Girl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting	Rustic Bunting	Little Bunting	

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 – <i>nigricans</i>	Iceland Gull – <i>kumlieni</i>	Common Guillemot – <i>hyperborea</i>
Razorbill – <i>torda</i>	Little Auk – <i>polaris</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker – <i>major</i>
Grey-headed Wagtail - <i>thunbergi</i>	Siberian Chiffchaff – <i>tristis</i>	Treecreeper – <i>familiaris</i>
Coal Tit – <i>ater</i>	Jay – <i>glandarius</i>	Jackdaw – <i>monedula</i>
Redpolls – <i>islandica</i> / <i>rostrata</i>	Bullfinch – <i>pyrrhula</i>	

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 2013 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 2013 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 2013

### Green-winged Teal ( 10, 32, 1)

*Anas carolinensis*

*Corhwyaden Asgell - Werdd*

Breeds in North America. Males.

2013 Pembroke: Sprinkle Pill 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. (DJ Astins).  
Marloes Mere 17<sup>th</sup> June (B. Southern).  
Milton, 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. (B. Haycock).  
Newgale Marsh, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec onwards (DJ Astins).

2012 Denbigh: Conwy RSPB 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. (J. Hughes).

There has been a single bird wintering in Pembroke for the last few years and some of the above records probably relate to this returning bird (interestingly two were together at Newgale later in the winter), however the June individual is presumably a new bird.

### Blue-winged Teal ( 4, 4, 1)

*Anas discors*

*Corhwyaden Asgell-las*

Breeds North America.

Flint: male, Inner Marsh Farm, 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Apr (photo KJ Smith).

### Ring-necked Duck (12, 26, 1)

*Aythya collaris*

*Hwyaden Dorchog*

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.

Pembroke: immature male, at Marloes Mere since 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2012 until 26<sup>th</sup> Apr.

Montgomery: female, Llyn Ebyr, 30<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> Mar (O. Selly).

### Lesser Scaup ( 0, 3, 2)

*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, 25<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2012 until 20<sup>th</sup> Apr, (A. Bevan, G. Pryce, J. Wilson et al).  
returning 30<sup>th</sup> Sept (G. Stamp et al per County Recorder).

Flint: 1<sup>st</sup> w male, Cophole Pool, Shotwick Fields, 31<sup>st</sup> Jan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. and  
4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Mar (Photo S. Skelton et al).

Gwent: male, Bryn Bach Country Park, 27<sup>th</sup> Mar – 27<sup>th</sup> Apr. (T. Chinnick et al).

### Surf Scoter ( 22, 31, 5)

*Melanitta perspicillata*

*Mor-hwyaden yr Ewyrn*

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

Denbigh: three males & a female, Llanddulas, north Wales coast, from 1<sup>st</sup> Aug  
2012 until March.

three males + one female, north Wales coast from 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct until March  
2014 (increasing to six males & a female in 2014).

Pembroke: female, Broad Haven, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. until 20<sup>th</sup> Mar. (DJ Astins et al).

Montgomery: male, Lake Vyrnwy, 2<sup>nd</sup> July (G. Chambers).

Meirionnydd: male, Shell Island, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. (AG Goodwin).

Caernarfon: female, Morfa Bychan, from 15<sup>th</sup> Nov onwards (per County Recorder).

Gower: male, Rhossili, 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. (B. Stewart).

The three males have been wintering off the north Wales coast for the last four years.

The male at Lake Vyrnwy proves anything can happen, photos below.



**Fea's / Zino's Petrel ( 0, 3, 1)**

*Pterodroma feae / madeira*

Breeding Zino's confined to C mountains of Madeira. Fea's breeds on Bugio, Desertas, & Cape Verde Islands.)

Caernarfon: off Bardsey, 15<sup>th</sup> Sept (SD Stansfield et al).

The second record for the island, the 1<sup>st</sup> was the 1<sup>st</sup> for Wales in 1994.

**Cory's Shearwater ( 34, 64, 2)**

*Calonectris diomedea*

*Aderyn Drycin Cory*

A temperate to tropical species, nesting in colonies and rocky islands in the Canaries, Madeira and Azores and through the Mediterranean.

Pembroke: Strumble Head, 23<sup>rd</sup> June (A. Rogers).

Strumble Head, 24<sup>th</sup> Aug. (M. Hipkin, R. Jones et al).

**Great White Egret ( 5, 44, 11+)**

*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.

Brecon: Llangorse, from 2012 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2013 (M. Williams, VA King et al).

Dan yr Ogolf, 6<sup>th</sup> Mar. (A. Reid).

Llangorse, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Llangorse, 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. – 2014.

Brec/Radnor: Lowes, Glasbury, 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Carm/Gower: two on the Burry Inlet from 2011 into 2013, seen at Llanrhidian Marsh 1<sup>st</sup> Jan – 11<sup>th</sup> Apr (B. Stewart, M & J Piercey) & 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – 29<sup>th</sup> Dec (D. Jenkins-Jones), probably the same at Loughor 1<sup>st</sup> Oct and below at Penclacwydd.

Carmarthen: Penclacwydd, 7<sup>th</sup> Mar. (L. Jeffrey).

Pembroke: Marloes Mere, 6<sup>th</sup> June (B. Southern).

Over Fishguard, 30<sup>th</sup> Oct (A. Rogers).

Montgomery: Llyn Coed y Dinas, 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. – 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. (W. Evans, per County Recorder).

Ceredigion: RSPB Ynyshir, one 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June, with two there on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June (R. Jones, photos T. Kistruck, R. Thatcher).

Gwent: Sudbrook, 25<sup>th</sup> May (E. Stevens).

Peterstone, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. (A. Plant).

This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and since then numbers have increased dramatically, with some individuals remaining in the area for several years, as in the Burry, and others perhaps come back to winter in the same places, as in the Brecon birds. Photo below left by R. Thatcher of the two at Ynyshir and right at Llyn coed y Dinas by M. Haigh.



**Cattle Egret ( 5, 34, 1)**

Bubulcus ibis

Creyr 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.

Anglesey: Llanfachraeth, 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May (M. Ahmed), photo S. Culley.



**Purple Heron ( 38, 20, 3)**

Ardea purpurea

Creyr Porffor

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

E. Glam/Gower: Kenfig, 25<sup>th</sup> Apr – 10<sup>th</sup> July (R. Thomas, M. Hnatiuk, I. Lambert et al).

Pembroke: Penally/Ritec, Tenby, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June (A. Collens).

Gwent: near Abergavenny, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. (P. Harris).

**Night Heron ( 32, 14, 1)**

Nycticorax nycticorax

Creyr y Nos

Rare visitor to Wales from southern Europe.

Pembroke: adult, Ritac, Tenby, 25<sup>th</sup> May (A. Collens).

**Black Stork ( 5, 5, 1)**

Ciconia nigra

Ciconia Du

*A vagrant.*

Denbigh: Merddyn, Gwytherin, 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May (P & R Leonard per County Recorder).

**White Stork ( - , 27, 7)**

*Ciconia ciconia*

*Ciconia Gwyn*

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

Flint: six, Bagillt, 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr

(J. Pierce).

Gwent: NWR 30<sup>th</sup> Apr (K.Thomas).



**Glossy Ibis ( 11, 75, 19)**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

*Crymanbig Ddu*

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

2013 Pembroke: at Marloes Mere, from 2012 until 20<sup>th</sup> Aug. (per County Recorder).  
St. Florence, Tenby, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. (R. Crossen).

2013 Denbigh: River Clwyd, 28<sup>th</sup> Sept – 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (R. Sandham – photo below).

2013 Anglesey: Valley & Malltraeth, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept – 10<sup>th</sup> Oct (J. Parry et al).

2013 Flint: ten, Bagillt Bank, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. (G. Pelper).

2013 Carmarthen: five, Machynys, 4<sup>th</sup> Oct (I. Evans), then at WWT Penclacwydd 6<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Oct, photo below by B. Stewart.

2013 Gwent: Goldcliff, 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. (M. Broome).

2012 E. Glam.: Sully Moors & Cosmeston, 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. (R. Francis et al)

Cosmeston & Flat Holm, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. (JD Wilson, S. Whitfield).

Llancadle, near River Kenson, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb (SP Hinton et al).





**Pallid Harrier ( 0, 0, 1)**

Circus macrourus

*Bod Llwydwy*

Breeds from Ukraine E through Russia to c. 100°E, & S to Kazakhstan & NW China. Occasionally breeds Finland. Migratory, wintering throughout much of E & C Africa, & Indian subcontinent.

Pembroke: 1<sup>st</sup> summer male, Skomer, 20<sup>th</sup> Apr – 1<sup>st</sup> May (D. Boyle, L. Yates et al).



Photos left by A. Haycock, above by L. Yates.

**Montagu's Harrier ( - , 13 , 1)**

Circus pygargus

*Bod Montagu*

Rare visitor and passage migrant which formerly bred in small numbers.

Pembroke: female, Skomer 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. – 1<sup>st</sup> May (D. Boyle, L. Yates et al) then on Ramsey 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> May (G. Morgan).



Photo above left by A. Haycock and right by C. Hurford.

**Corn Crane ( - , 46, 3)**

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: Bardsey, 24<sup>th</sup> Apr. (S. Hinde et al). Photo by B. Porter.

Pembroke: St. David's Head, 25<sup>th</sup> Apr. (M. Young-Powell).

Skomer, 8<sup>th</sup> Sept.

(E. Stubbings).



**Spotted Crane ( - , 34+, 2)**

Porzana porzana

Rhegen Fraith

Rare visitor and occasional breeder.

Brecon: site withheld, 29<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Ceredigion: Ynysir, 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May, then 30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 5<sup>th</sup> Oct (J. Turner, R. Jones et al).

**Black-winged Stilt ( 11, 7, 2)**

Himantopus himantopus

Hirgoes

Breeds along Atlantic coast of France and locally throughout Mediterranean basin to Black Sea. To E, breeds from S Siberia and C Asia to NW China. Most European birds winter in sub-Saharan Africa and, increasingly, in SW Iberia. Asian breeders winter across S and SE Asia and S China. Other races occur in Australasia, the Americas and Hawaii.

Gwent: two (male & female), Goldcliff, NWR, 26<sup>th</sup> Apr. (R. Ruston et al).

**Pectoral Sandpiper ( 65, 59, 5)**

Calidris melanotos

Pibydd Cain

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

Pembroke: Skokholm, 15<sup>th</sup> May (photo J. Moore).

Gwent: NWR, 8<sup>th</sup> July (T. Chinnick).

With a different individual, 30<sup>th</sup> July (T. Chinnick).

Brecon: Brechfa, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.

(J. Trowel et al), photo right by K. Noble.

Carmarthen: Penclacwydd, 30<sup>th</sup> Oct (W. Thomas, G. Charlton, M. Holding, photo D. Williams).



**Semi-palmated Sandpiper ( 2, 4, 1)**

Calidris pusilla

Pibydd y Tywod

Breeds on tundra of W Alaska, E across Arctic Canada to S Baffin Island & coastal Labrador. Has bred extreme NE Siberia. Migrates across Great Plains & E seaboard of USA to winter C America & coasts of tropical South America to Brazil & Peru.

Pembroke: Gann, Dale, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sept (DJ Astins, D. Grimwood, R. Dobbins et al).

Photo by R. Crossen.



**Lesser Yellowlegs ( 9, 7, 2)**

Tringa flavipes

Melyngoes Bach

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

Carmarthen: Penclacwydd WWT, 7<sup>th</sup> July – 29<sup>th</sup> Oct (L. Evans, R. Hunt, W. Thomas).

Pembroke: juv. Gann, Dale, 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. (M. Powell, photo DJ Astins per county recorder).



Photo above: Lesser Yellowlegs Penclacwydd, A. Morrison.

**Long-billed Dowitcher ( 5, 9, 2)**

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.

Pembroke: Gann, Dale, 1<sup>st</sup> Jan – 13<sup>th</sup> Apr (C. Hurford et al), photo below DJ Astins

Carmarthen: presumed same returning bird at Penclacwydd 28<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. (W. Thomas et al).

E. Glamorgan: juv. Rhaslas Pond, near Merthyr Tydfil, 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Oct (MT Hogan et al).



**Red-necked Phalarope (37,15,1)**

*Phalaropus lobatus*

*Llydandroed Gyfgoch*

2013 E. Glamorgan: Kenfig, 15<sup>th</sup>  
June (G. Roblin, M. Hipkin – photo  
right).

2012 Radnor: Llyn Heilyn,  
30<sup>th</sup> Apr. – 2<sup>nd</sup> May at least  
(R. Pitts), 1<sup>st</sup> county record.



**Bonaparte's Gull ( 3, 15, 1)**

*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.

E. Glamorgan: Ogmore Estuary 5<sup>th</sup> Jan – 13<sup>th</sup> Mar. (PG Lansdown et al, per County Recorder) & 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Apr (photo P. Roberts), photos below by RG Smith. presumed returning adult, Cardiff Bay / Foreshore, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. – 5<sup>th</sup> Apr (P. Bristow, M. Powell, GN Smith per County Recorder).



**Ring-billed Gull ( - , - , 1)**

*Larus delawarensis*

*Gwylan Fodrwybig*

Pembroke: adult, Llys y fran Res. 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>  
Feb, and 1<sup>st</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.

(DJ Astins, PK Grennard, C. Hurford,  
B. Southern).

Gower: 1<sup>st</sup> w, Neath, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Mar. (M.  
Hipkin et al, photo opposite).

The Pembroke bird has been returning to  
the same reservoir for the last three years.



**Golden Oriole ( -, 17+, 2)**

*Oriolus oriolus*

Euryn

Rare visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

2013 Anglesey: male, Cemlyn, 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr. (C. Lloyd et al), photo opposite by T. White.

2013 Caernarfon: female / 1<sup>st</sup> year, Bardsey, 23<sup>rd</sup> May (SD Stansfield et al).

2011 Pembroke: pair on Skomer, 7<sup>th</sup> May (T. Birkhead).



**Red-backed Shrike ( - , 68, 3)**

*Lanius collurio*

*Cigydd Cefngoch*

Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe.

Gower: Mewslade, 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. (AW Flannagan et al), photo below left.

Pembroke: female, Preseili Mountains, 2<sup>nd</sup> June (P. Jenks), photo below right.  
Juv., Skokholm, 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. (L. Robertson).



**Woodchat ( 67, 37, 5)**

*Lanius senator*

*Cigydd Pengoch*

Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Caernarfon: male, Aberdaron, 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Apr. (A. Wallbank et al).

Gwent: male, Newport Wetlands, 28<sup>th</sup> May (photo D. Spittle).

Pembroke: female, St. David's Head, 21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. (B. Stevens et al).

Male. Ramsey, 26<sup>th</sup> May (G. Morgan).

Gower: male, Kenfig saltmarsh, 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May (R. Jones, photo J. Slocombe et al).



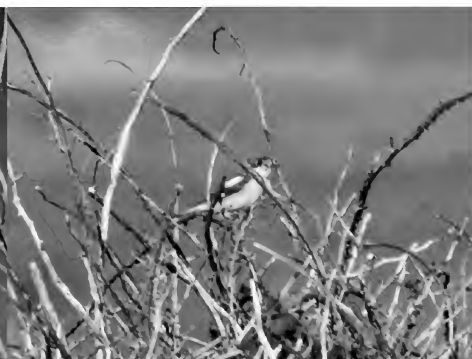
Above at Aberdaron by P. Brewster.



Above at St. David's by S. Hinton.



Above at Kenfig by J. Slocombe.



Above on Ramsey by G. Morgan.

### **Jackdaw ( - , 2, 8)**

*Corvus monedula*

*Jac y do*

Individuals showing characteristics of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula*, include:

Pembroke: Haverfordwest for the last four years (DJ Astins).

Nine Wells, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. until the end of the year (M. Young-Powell).

Monkton, 7<sup>th</sup> Jan & 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. (C. Hurford).

Denbigh: at least 3, Llandudno Junction, 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. (R. Hughes).

Anglesey: Pentraeth, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb (S. Culley).

Llandona, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. (S. Culley).

The panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether the plumage characteristics they show are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. Therefore the panel requests and many photographed records as possible to try to solve this dilemma.

### **Bearded Tit ( - , - , - )**

*Panurus biarmicus*

*Titw Barfog*

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

Individuals have bred for the last five years at the Uskmouth reed-beds of the Newport Wetland Reserve. Due to annual dispersals, descriptions are only required for records away from Gwent & E. Glamorgan. No records were received away from these areas in 2014.

**Penduline Tit ( 1, 4, 1)**

Remiz pendulinus

Titw Pendil

Widely but locally distributed throughout C & E Europe, from Denmark, Germany & Italy NE to C Sweden & Estonia. Absent from much of NW Europe but locally numerous Spain. To E, breeds from S Russia to Volga River. Largely resident or dispersive Europe. Other races, sometimes regarded as separate species, occur C Asia & from S Siberia to NE China, & winter NW Indian subcontinent, S China & S Japan.

Gwent: male, Uskmouth NWR, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.

(R. de Borde, M. Meehan et al).

Photo opposite by G. Thoburn.



**Short-toed Lark ( 12, 20, 1)**

Calandrella brachydactyla

Ehedydd Llwyd

Rare visitor. Breeds from Iberia, southern France and NW Africa east to Manchuria.

Ceredigion: Llanon, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. (A. Williams).

**Greenish Warbler**

**( 8, 10, 1)**

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Telwr Gwyrdd

A vagrant.

Pembroke:

Skokholm, 18<sup>th</sup> June (G. Eagle,

R. Brown), photo opposite.



**Dusky Warbler ( 3, 2, 1)**

Phylloscopus fuscatus

Telwr Tywyll

Breeds in Siberia, Russia,

Mongolia and NE China.

Winters in Nepal, China and SE Asia.

Caernarfon: Rhostryfan, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Oct (RI Thorpe), trapped on 17<sup>th</sup>, photo opposite.

Of the other five records, two from Bardsey and one each from Strumble Head, Point of Air, and Porth Clais.



**Western Bonelli's Warbler ( 6, 4, 1)**

Phylloscopus bonelli

Telor Bonelli

Breeding range centred on SW Europe from Iberia to N France, S Germany, Italy, Austria, and locally in mountains of N Africa. Winters along S edge of Sahara, from Senegal and S Mauritania to N Cameroon.

Pembroke: Ramsey Island, 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. (G. Morgan et al), photos L. Lomax.



**Iberian Chiffchaff ( 0 , 1, 1)**

Phylloscopus ibericus

Siff-saff Iberiea

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

Carmarthen: Pwll, Llanelli, 17<sup>th</sup> Apr – 8<sup>th</sup> July (IK Morgan, B. Stewart et al).

**Barred Warbler ( 40, 45, 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: 1<sup>st</sup> w, Soldier's Point 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. (KG Croft).

Pembroke: 1<sup>st</sup> w, Skokholm, 8<sup>th</sup> Sept (R. Brown), photo opposite.

1<sup>st</sup> w, Skomer, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct – 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (E. Stubbings).



**Western Orphean Warbler ( 0 , 0, 1)**

Sylvia hortensis

Telor Orffeaiddy Gorllewin

Breeds N Africa from Morocco to NW Libya, N through Iberian Peninsula to S France, S Switzerland & Italy. Winters sub-Saharan Africa from S Mauritania & N Senegal to Chad.

Pembroke: 1<sup>st</sup> winter, Orlandon Kilns, Dale, 10<sup>th</sup> Nov – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. (RC. Brown, P. & R. Royle, M. Young-Powell et al).





**Western Subalpine Warbler ( 18, 35, 6)**

*Sylvia cantillans*

*Telor Brongoch*

Rare migrant from Europe.

Caernarfon: 1<sup>st</sup> summer female, Bardsey, 7<sup>th</sup> May (S. Hinde et al).

Male, Bardsey, 3<sup>rd</sup> June (S. Hinde et al).

Male, Uwchmynydd, 19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. (A. Clarke).

Female, Great Orme, 8<sup>th</sup> June (M. Hughes).

Pembroke: 2<sup>nd</sup> year male, St. David's Head, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. (W. James, M. Young-Powell, K. Meatyard).

1<sup>st</sup> s female, Skokholm, 16<sup>th</sup> May (R. Brown).

As BOU has now split Sublapine Warbler into three species, all records from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2015 need to be sent to BBRC.



Subalpine Warblers, left at Skokholm by R. Brown and right at St. David's by S. Hinton.

**Booted Warbler ( 0, 4, 2)**

*Iduna caligata*

*Telor Baccsiog*

Breeds E Finland, E to C Russia & W Siberia to Yenisey valley, C & N Kazakhstan to Mongolia & W Xinjiang province, China. Winters N & peninsular India, S to Karnataka.

Pembroke: 1<sup>st</sup> winter, Ramsey 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept (G & L Morgan et al), photo below left.

1<sup>st</sup> winter, Skokholm, 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. (R. Brown, S. Westerberg et al), photo below right.



**Melodious Warbler ( 142, 69, 1)**

*Hippolais polyglotta*

*Telor Per*

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

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. (S. Hinde et al). Photo opposite by B. Porter.



**Marsh Warbler ( 11, 10, 1)**

*Acrocephalus palustris*

*Telor y Gwerni*

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

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 3<sup>rd</sup> June (P. Massey, SD Stansfield).

**Paddyfield Warbler ( 0, 3, 1)**

*Acrocephalus agricola*

Breeds Black Sea coast from N Bulgaria & Danube delta E to Ukraine. To E, breeds widely across steppes of S Russia & SW Siberia, Kazakhstan, NW China & W Mongolia, S to Uzbekistan & N Pakistan. Winters throughout Indian subcontinent.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 7<sup>th</sup> June, (P. Massey et al).

The third record for Bardsey, with the only other Welsh record coming from Llangorse in 2004.

**Blyth's Reed Warbler ( 0, 1, 1)**

Acrocephalus dumetorum

*Telor y Cyrs Blyth*

Breeds S Finland, Baltic countries & European Russia E through C Siberia to Lake Baikal & upper Lena River, & S through W Mongolia & NW China, Kazakhstan & Tajikistan to N Pakistan. Winters throughout Indian subcontinent S to Sri Lanka & E to NW Burma.

Pembroke: 1<sup>st</sup> winter, Skokholm 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (R. Brown, S. Westerberg et al).

The only previous record in Wales was on Bardsey in October 2001, photo below by R. Brown.



**Rose-coloured Starling ( 26, 69, 3)**

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 area, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Aug (J & M Best, M. Young-Powell).

Gwent: juv. Uskmouth 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct (E. Wright, photo J. Marsh).

Carmarthen: juv. Llandysul, 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. (M. Wilson).



**Red-breasted Flycatcher ( 126, 49, 6)**

*Ficedula parva*

*Gwybedog Brongoch*

Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia. Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.

Caernarfon: Male, Bardsey, 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. (S. Hinde et al).

1<sup>st</sup> w, Bardsey, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept, another 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, and a third 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Oct (SD Stansfield, D. Wright, B. Porter, S. Hinde et al).

Anglesey: near Inland Sea, 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. (G. Morgan).

Pembroke: 1<sup>st</sup> w, Skokholm, 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. (G.Eagle, R. Brown), photo opposite.



**Siberian Stonechat ( 5, 5, 1)**

*Saxicola maurus*

Race *maurus* breeds Russia & W Siberia E to Yenisey River and region of Irkutsk, NW Mongolia & N China, S to Tien Shan mountains, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. Winters Iran to N India. Race *stegnegeri* breeds east of *maurus* to Pacific coast of Amurland, S to N Mongolia, NE China, Sakhalin, Hokkaido & N Honshu. Winters NE India & China S of Yangtze, S to Malay Peninsula, Taiwan, Philippines & Borneo. Race *variegatus* breeds W & N Caspian Sea from Azerbaijan & Georgia, to lower reaches of Volga & Ural Rivers. Migrates SW to winter E Iraq, Arabian Peninsula, & Israel to N & E Sudan, N Ethiopia & Eritrea.) Other races occur in Caucasus region, Himalayas & W China.

Caernarfon: 1<sup>st</sup> winter male, Bardsey, 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. (E & SD Stansfield et al) photo.

Third record for the island, the other Welsh records came from Skokholm (2), Strumble Head (2), South Stack (2) and Llanfairfechan.



**Isabelline Wheatear ( 0, 4, 1)**

Oenanthe isabellina

Tinwen Isabella

Small European population restricted to E Greece, Bulgaria, Ukraine and SW Russia. In Asia, breeds widely across arid grasslands from Turkey through Kazakhstan, Mongolia and N China, S to Iran and N Pakistan. Winters from N Sahel zone to E Africa, and throughout Middle East from Arabian peninsula to S Iran, Pakistan and NW India.

Pembroke: Martin's Haven, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept – 10<sup>th</sup> Oct (DJ Astins et al). Photo J. Green.



**Pied Wheatear ( 1, 1, 1)**

Oenanthe pleschanka

Breeds E Romania & Bulgaria, E though S & E Ukraine, S Russia, S Siberia, Kazakhstan & Mongolia to N China, E to Gulf of Bohai. Winters NE & E Africa, & SW Arabian Peninsula.

Caernarfon: male, Bardsey, 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. (C. Piner et al). Photo by B. Porter.

The previous Welsh records came from Skokholm in 1968 and Ramsey in 1993.



## Nightingale ( - , 29, 1)

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

*Eos*

Rare passage migrant.

E. Glamorgan: Radyr, 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. (D. Jenkins-Jones).

## Black-headed Wagtail ( 1, 2, 1)

*Motacilla flava feldegg*

Race *feldegg* breeds Balkans & Greece E through Turkey to E Kazakhstan & Afghanistan, S to Iran. Western populations winter Nigeria to Uganda & S to Congo, eastern populations winter NW India.

Pembroke: Marloes Mere, 12<sup>th</sup> May (B. Anderson et al).

The only previously accepted records came from Skomer, Pembroke on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1986, at Conwy RSPB, 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May 1998 and at Cemlyn, Anglesey 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011.



Photo by DJ Astins.

## Citrine Wagtail ( 0, 5, 1)

*Motacilla citreola*

*Sigllan Sitraidd*

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.

Den. / Caern: Conwy RSPB, 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug. (R. Hughes et al).



## Common Rosefinch (39, 96, 7)

*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: 1<sup>st</sup> year male, Bardsey 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May (M. Carter et al).

1<sup>st</sup> year, Bardsey, 18<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. (SD Stansfield et al).

1<sup>st</sup> year, Bardsey, 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. (SD Stansfield).

Anglesey: Point Lynas, 21<sup>st</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July (P. Moore, KG Croft et al).

Radnor: male, Llangunllo, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May (C. Alderson).

Pembroke: male, Trefgarne, 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May (M. Carne).

1<sup>st</sup> summer male, Skokholm, 8<sup>th</sup> June (G. Eagle).



Rosefinch, Bardsey, SD Stansfield.

**Indigo Bunting ( 0, 1, 1)**

*Passerina cyanea*

Breeds Canada, from S Manitoba E to S Ontario and SW Quebec, and throughout E USA from South Dakota S to Gulf Coast and N Florida; winters C Mexico to C Panama, also Cuba and Bahamas.

Anglesey: male, Llandsadwm, Menai Bridge 20<sup>th</sup> May (photo S & T Booth).

The only previous record in the UK was of a 1<sup>st</sup> winter male on Ramsey Island in October 1996.

The turning up of a male on a bird table on Anglesey for one hour in spring, with no evidence of it having been in captivity or of ship assistance is an amazing occurrence and testimony to the value of feeding birds in spring.



**Little Bunting ( 11, 15, 0)**

*Emberiza pusilla*

*Bras Lleiaf*

A rare visitor to Wales.

2011 Caern.: Bardsey, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. (B. Porter).

2001 Pemb.: Skomer, 13<sup>th</sup> May (D. Boyle).

**Identification agreed – but bird likely to be escaped/falconers:****Golden Eagle** ( - , 1, 0)*Aquila chrysaetos**Eryr Euraid*

Breeds in Scotland.

Ceredigion: 5<sup>th</sup> year, summered around the north of the county (per County Recorder).**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
Surf Scoter	Wiseman's Bridge	Pembroke	14 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2013
Great White Egret	Nedern	Gwent	13 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2013
Great White Egret	Cleddau	Pemboke	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2013
Purple Heron	Castle Martin Corse	Pembroke	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
Glossy Ibis 3	Redberth	Pembroke	22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2013
Glossy Ibis	Tonfanau, Towyn	Meirionnydd	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2013
Montagu's Harrier male	Dyfi	Montgomery	12 & 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2000
Crane	Wylfa Head	Anglesey	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
Shorelark	Ynyslas	Ceredigion	13-15 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2013
Red-rumped Swallow	Aberystwyth	Ceredigion	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
Bearded Tit	Goodwick	Pembroke	30 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2013
Olive-backed Pipit	Skomer	Pembroke	21th Oct 2013

**BBRC Not-proven:**

Blue-winged Teal	Morfa Madryn Wells	Caernarfonshire	12-Aug 2013
Pallid Harrier	Beddmanarch Bay	Anglesey	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2013
Lesser Grey Shrike	Skomer Island	Pembrokeshire	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2013
Western Bonelli's Warbler	Pont-rhyd-y-groes	Ceredigion	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2013
Iberian Chiffchaff	Rhos-on-Sea	Denbigh	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
Citrine Wagtail	Lleithyr, St David's	Pembrokeshire	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2013
Black-headed Bunting	Llandeilo Graban	Radnorshire	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2013

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

Richardson's Cackling Goose	Llanishen Resr, Cardiff	East Glamorgan	22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr 2012
Cackling Goose	Llangorse Lake	Brecon	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2010
Cackling Goose	Ynys-hir RSPB	Ceredigion	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2011
Macaronesian Shearwater	Wylfa Head	Anglesey	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2006
Macaronesian Shearwater	Strumble Head	Pembroke	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2000
Royal Tern	Mumbles, Swansea	Gower	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec 1987
Red-rumped Swallow	Hensol Lake	East Glamorgan	30 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2004
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	Skomer Island	Pembroke	29-30 May 2013
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	St Davids Head	Pembroke	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2014
Grey-headed Wagtail	Aberdaron	Caernarfon	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
Common Redpoll	Llangorse	Brecon	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2013