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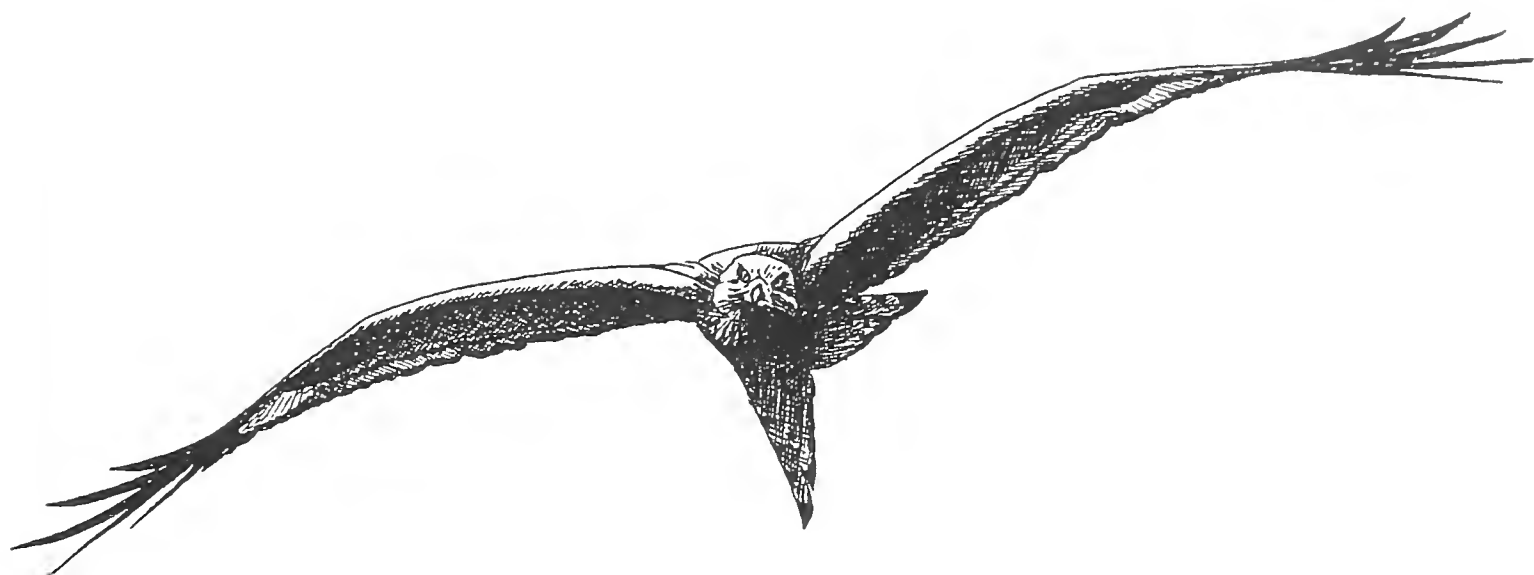
Cymdeithas Adaryddol Cymru  
Welsh Ornithological Society

# WELSH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS ADARYDDOL CYMRU

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Edited by Michael Shrubbs and Jon Green

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## Introduction

The map opposite shows the arrangement of bird recording areas for Wales used in Welsh Birds. Following the creation of Unitary Authorities as the basis of local Government, the Welsh Ornithological Society decided to switch to the Watsonian Vice-county system (see the Ray Society, publication No. 146) as the basis of bird recording in Wales. This system largely matches the pre-1974 administrative Counties used by the Society until 1996. Using the Watsonian vice-counties therefore retains historical continuity in recording. This would have been lost in any attempt to follow the Unitary Authorities, the only one of which involves no changes from the county system created in 1974, let alone its historic predecessor, being Powys, which comprises the vice-counties of Breconshire and Radnorshire (accepting the R. Wye as the county boundary between them, as it was throughout the 20th century) and Montgomeryshire. Note, however, that the name of Gwent has been retained for the vice-county of Monmouth to prevent confusion with the new Unitary Authority of Monmouth, which covers only part of the vice-county. The recording areas and Recorders names and addresses are listed below.

ANGLESEY: Vice-county (vc) 52. An annual summary of records is published in the Cambrian Bird Report, see below.

*Recorder:* S. Culley, The Flat, Dale Park, Dale Street, Menai Bridge, Anglesey LL59 5AH.

BRECON\*: Vice-county 42. This area includes a small area around Brynmawr, formerly the NW corner of Gwent. See also under Glamorgan (E).

*Recorder:* M.F. Peers, Cyffyllog, 2 Aberyscir Road, Cradoc, Brecon Powys LD3 9PB.

CAERNARFON: Vice-county 49. This vice-county corresponds to the pre-1974 administrative county of Caernarfonshire. However, the new county borough of Conwy straddles the old county boundary between Caernarfon and Denbighshire along the R. Conwy. Here records from west of the R. Conwy should be sent to the Caernarfon Recorder and from east of the river to the Denbigh Recorder, except for records for the Ormes and Llandudno which remain as Caernarfon. An annual summary of records for Caernarfon is published in the Cambrian Bird Report, see below.

*Recorder:* J. Barnes, Fach Goch, Waunfawr, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 4YS.

CARMARTHEN\*: Vice-county 44.

*Recorder:* R.O. Hunt, 9 Waun Road, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire SA15 3RS.

CEREDIGION\*: Vice-county 46.

*Recorder:* H. Roderick, 32 Prospect Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 1JJ.

DENBIGH: Vice-county 50. A small part of this vice-county is now in the recording area of Montgomery (qv). See also under Flint below.

*Recorder:* N. Hallas, 63 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AW.

FLINT: Vice-county 51.

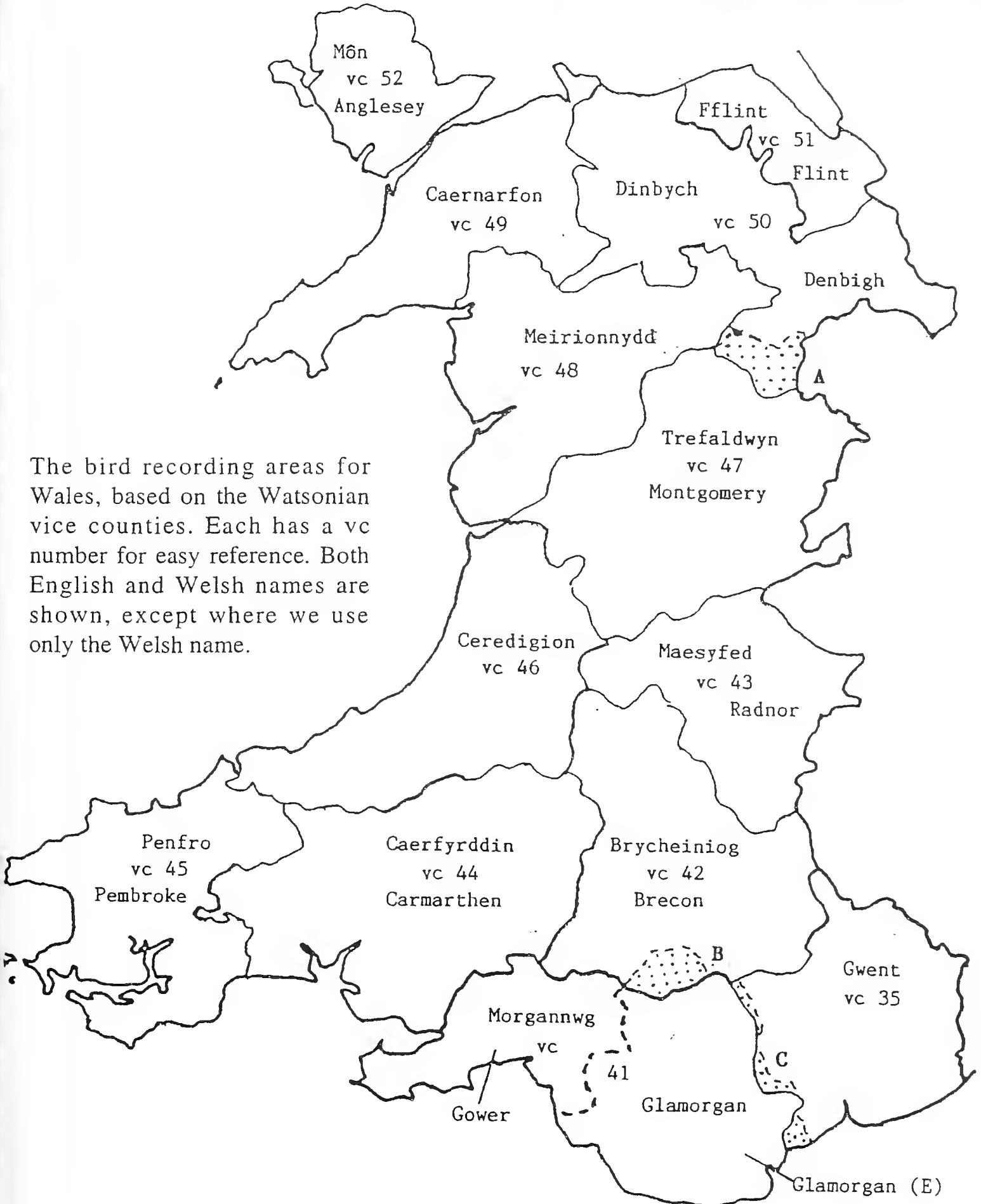
*Recorder:* N. Hallas, 63 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AW.

Denbigh and Flint comprise the area covered by the Clwyd Bird Recording Group, which continues under that title and produces the Clwyd Bird Report covering both vice-counties.

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# The Bird Recording Areas in Wales



The bird recording areas for Wales, based on the Watsonian vice counties. Each has a vc number for easy reference. Both English and Welsh names are shown, except where we use only the Welsh name.

GLAMORGAN\*: Vice-county 41. This area is divided under 2 ornithological Recorders, covering GOWER\*, comprising the Unitary Authorities of Swansea and Neath/Port Talbot (formerly the county of West Glamorgan), and E.GLAMORGAN, comprising the Unitary Authorities of Bridgend, Rhondda/Cynon/Taff, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Caerphilly (part) (formerly the counties of Mid and South Glamorgan). Records are normally published under Glamorgan. The East Glamorgan recording area also includes parts of vc 42 (Brecon) and vc 35 (Gwent), which were part of the counties of Mid and South Glamorgan and are marked B and C respectively.

Recorders; Gower: R.H.A. Taylor, 285 Llangwfelach Road, Brynhyfryd, Swansea SA5 9LB.  
E. Glamorgan: S.J. Moon, 36 Rest Bay Close, Porthcawl CF36 3UN.

GWENT\*: Vice-county 35. Vice-county 35 comprises the old county of Monmouth, and now embraces the Unitary Authorities of Monmouth, Newport, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly (part). Although the county of Gwent no longer officially exists, the Gwent Ornithological Society is retaining the name to avoid confusion between the new County Borough of Monmouth and the old county of Monmouth, of which the new Borough only comprises part.

*Recorder*: C. Jones, 22 Walnut Drive, Caerleon, Newport, NP6 1SP.

MEIRIONNYDD: Vice-county 48. An annual summary of records is published in the Cambrian Bird Report, see below.

*Recorder*: D. Smith, 3 Smithfield Lane, Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL40 1BU.

MONTGOMERY\*: Vice-county 47. The recording area also includes area A, part of vc 50 Denbigh.

*Recorder*: Brayton Holt, Scops Cottage, Pentre Bierdd, Welshpool Powys SY21 9DL.

PEMBROKE\*: Vice-county 45.

*Recorders*: J.W. Donovan, The Burren, Dingle Lane, Crundale, Haverfordwest, Pembs. SA62 4DJ.  
G.H. Rees, 22 Priory Avenue, Haverfordwest, Pembs SA61 1SQ.

RADNOR: Vice-county 43.

*Recorder*: P.P. Jennings, Penbont House, Elan Valley, Rhadader, Powys LD6 5HS.

### *Bird Reports and Publications*

Those counties marked \* in the above list produce separate Bird Reports, obtainable from the Recorders. Anglesey, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd are covered by a combined Report, the Cambrian Bird Report, published by the Cambrian Ornithological Society and obtainable from the Editor - Rhion Pritchard, Pant Afonig, Hafod Lane, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4BU.

For PEMBROKE the Wildlife Trust West Wales also publishes The Island Naturalist, which is the Journal of the Friends of Skokholm and Skomer and includes a good variety of articles on the work at these important Reserves twice annually. The Trust also produces a well illustrated and comprehensive Newsletter twice annually. Both are obtainable from their office at 7 Market Street, Haverfordwest, Pembs. An important report is published annually by the BARDSEY Observatory. It includes comprehensive reports on other groups of animals and of plants as well as the Systematic List of birds. The Wales Raptor Study Group coordinates records for raptors, owls, Raven and Chough for all Wales. Its annual Newsletter contains summaries for all these species and can be obtained from RSPB, Maesyffynnon, Penrhos Garnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd.

Birds in Wales was published by T. & A.D. Poyser in 1994 and was the first avifauna for the whole country yet attempted. Recent county avifaunas, years of publication shown in brackets, are also available for GWENT: The Birds of Gwent (1976) and The Breeding Atlas of the Birds of Gwent (1987), obtainable from J.M.S. Lewis, Y Bwthyn Gwyn, Coldbrook, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire; GLAMORGAN: Birds of Glamorgan (1995), obtainable from Dr. S. Howe, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff or leading booksellers; GOWER: An Atlas of Breeding Birds in West Glamorgan (1992) obtainable from Dr. D.K. Thomas, Laburnum Cottage, 12 Mansfield Road, Murton, Swansea SA3 3AR; PEMBROKE: Birds of Pembrokeshire: Status and Atlas of

Pembrokeshire Birds (1994), obtainable from Wildlife Trust West Wales; CAERNARFON: The Birds of Caernarfonshire (1998), obtainable from J. Barnes, Fach Goch, Waunfawr, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 4YS.

### *SUBMISSION OF RECORDS*

It is the policy of the Society **NOT TO PUBLISH** in this Report any records of species regarded as British rarities on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) unless that record has been considered and accepted by BBRC. All such records should, therefore, be submitted to BBRC, preferably through County Recorders. The secretary of BBRC is M.J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, St. Ives. Cornwall TR26 3AZ.

### *WELSH RECORDS PANEL*

The Welsh Records Panel considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring 5 times or fewer per year on average. The current list is shown below. Only records of these species adjudicated and accepted by the Panel are published in the Welsh Bird Report. As not all records of species on this list always reach the Panel, the non-appearance of such records must not automatically be assumed to mean that the Panel has rejected them; the Panel may not have seen them.

It is helpful if descriptions of WRP species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting, either via County Recorders or direct to the Panel's Secretary and description forms are available from County Recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the Panel can see their deliberations on the record on request. The Panel consists of 5 voting members and a non-voting Secretary and membership in 1999 comprised:

R.I. Thorpe (Chairman) - Caernarfon

M. Hughes - Caernarfon

S.J. Moon - E.Glamorgan

I. Higginson - Caernarfon

D. Astins - Pembroke

J. Green (non-voting Secretary) - Ceredigion; address:

Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR.

E-mail: JGREEN@sirthomaspicton.haverfordwest.sch.uk

The species considered by the Welsh Records Panel in 1999 were:

Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Purple Heron, White Stork, Bean Goose, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Surf Scoter, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Crane, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Iceland Gull of race *kumlieni*, Bee-eater, Short-toed Lark, Woodlark, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, Yellow Wagtail races except *flava* and *flavissima*, Bluethroat, Nightingale, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Barred Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Serin, Common Rosefinch, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Little Bunting.

### *TREATMENT OF RECORDS IN THE WELSH BIRD REPORT*

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 1999 unless otherwise indicated. Additions and corrections for previous years are recorded in the main List, with the relevant year shown.

For wildfowl and waders monthly maximum counts for the main Welsh sites are tabulated as available. It should be noted that these figures do not represent coordinated counts covering all Welsh sites on a single day or short period of days. They are simply the peak count noted for each species in each site in each month counts were available. Some overlap may therefore occur in the figures within large sites, because birds may shift between count areas during the month, and over the winter, with movement between sites. Thus conclusions about total numbers in Wales should be drawn with caution from these figures. Nevertheless they show clearly the comparative importance of sites, the scale of populations involved and the seasonal pattern of occurrence.

The records for many scarcer migrants have been summarised to show the total recorded in spring and/or autumn, the spread of dates on which recorded, the monthly totals to show the pattern of occurrence and the total number seen in each county. Where a bird stays into 2 or more months it is recorded for each in the monthly totals.

For species marked \* in the Systematic List all records received are given or have been summarised. Otherwise only selected records are given. That some regularly occurring species thus have no entry means neither that they did not occur nor that we are not interested in them. We hope such gaps will encourage observers to provide systematic information about them.

Note also that breeding counts for many of these species are shown on p 357.

For 1999 information is published for all Welsh vice-counties, although passerines in many counties remain rather poorly documented.

### *ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

This report cannot appear without the ready cooperation of County Recorders and of the many observers who supply them with records. Thanks are due to all Recorders and observers for the data upon which the Systematic List is based and to Recorders also for their help with all the Editors' additional queries. Particular thanks are due also to R.J. Howells for his comprehensive tables detailing the monthly maxima of wildfowl, waders and gulls in the Burry Inlet, to Colin Wells for records from Inner Marsh Farm RSPB on the Dee Estuary and to Alastair Moralee for breeding sea-bird records from South Stack. Individual species summaries covering all Wales were provided by Peter Davis and the Welsh Kite Trust (Red Kite) and Reg Thorpe (Hen Harrier, Black Grouse, Spotted Crake, terns, Ring Ouzel and Chough). Tony Pickup and Dick Squires provided details of the RSPB Lapwing Team's surveys and details of the wader survey of the Dyfi NNR. Mr. and Mrs Elvet Jones, Mr. & Mrs R. Bagguley, D.F. Richardson and J.L. Roberts sent their personal records for Denbigh & Flint. For Radnorshire, Mr. and Mrs. John Port, Douglas Welch, Richard Knight, Andrew Ferguson and Andy Harris supplied records. The counts from which the table of counts of common birds was compiled were provided by The Pembrokeshire Bird Report (Pembs. Islands and Teifi Marshes NR), Bardsey Bird Observatory Report, M. Bailey (Goldcliff), R. Hadfield (Dowrog), D.M. Hanford (Langlands GC), E.E & Z.L Jones (Llanasa), P. Marshman (Ytrad/Llwynpia), M.F. Peers (Epynt), Dick Squires (Coed Penrhyn-mawr, Ynys-hir), John Roberts (Worlds End Estate). Bob Mitchell, Steve Roberts and Colin Richards have each supplied some excellent sketches to embellish the text and the photographs have been kindly supplied by Gary Bellingham, John Jackson, Steve Young, David Anning, Steve Stansfield, Iain Leach, and Colin Richards. Our thanks to all for their help.

Finally the Editor wishes to acknowledge the enormous amount of help provided by Jon Green. Jon has been responsible for writing the species accounts for divers to swans and Honey Buzzard to waders (except Kestrel) and has taken over the basic editorial work of getting the Report through the printer. Very many thanks.

### **RINGING REPORT; an editorial notice**

Following the pattern introduced for the 1998 Report, the Ringing Report for 1999 will appear in the June 2001 issue. As noted last year, this change has been made to make room for the annual Monitoring Review of bird populations in Wales. The intention is to make this monitoring review of the health of Welsh bird populations an annual publication and it undoubtedly fits best with the Systematic List of the Bird Report. The Ringing Report can happily stand alone and moving it to June, which has been largely a matter of expense, will also give the opportunity to expand the analysis side of these Reports as we wish. Dr. Peter Howlett is continuing to handle all matters pertaining to the Ringing Report, for which our grateful thanks.

## CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1999

The following abbreviations are used in this List: county names are used as shown on the map on page 00, printed in capitals to distinguish them from towns of the same name; months are abbreviated to the first 3 letters, except June and July (in full) and September (Sept.); S,N,E,W etc, cardinal points of the compass, max. and min., maximum/maxima and minimum/minima; Est. estuary; Res. reservoir; R. river; NNR, LNR, NR, nature reserves of various designations; GC golfcourse; A/F airfield; CP Country Park; GP gravel pits; S/F sewage works; s/p summer plumage; w/p winter plumage; pr/prs pair/pairs; c/s clutch size, b/s brood size. In wader and wildfowl tables the following abbreviations of place names are used: PW/SF, part of the coastal area of the Wentlooge Levels in Gwent, Burry (S), the south side of the Burry Inlet, Burry (N), the north side of the Burry Inlet; T/T/G, the Taf/Tywi/Gwendraeth complex in Carmarthen; D'Glas., the Dwyryd/Glaslyn estuary in Meirionnydd; PoA, Point of Ayr at the seaward end of the Dee Est.; IMF, Inner Marsh Farm RSPB reserve in Flint.

### RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

### TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Noted off all coasts until late April with a scattering of individuals on passage in May & June and from Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. The only counts from Cardigan Bay were of 270 off Borth / Dyfi Est. on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> and 141 there on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 82+ around the PEMBROKE coast, January – March, with 20 at Amroth and 40 at Goulthrop Roads. Numbers built up through autumn with a max. of 35 at Amroth on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Large counts on the north Wales coast from CAERNARFON included 54 at Llanfairfechan on Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>, 74 there on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 75 at Pontllyfni on Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 53 at Dinas Dinlle on Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>. In the second winter period: 49 at Llanfairfechan on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and 53 at the Great Orme on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Late individuals were recorded at Borth/Dyfi Est., CEREDIGION until May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Aberdysynni, MEIRIONNYDD on May 1<sup>st</sup> with 2 there on the 11<sup>th</sup>, in CAERNARFON at Llanfairfechan on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Black Rock on July 29<sup>th</sup>, on ANGLESEY in Friars Bay, Beaumaris on May 14<sup>th</sup> and at Cemaes / Skerries on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Autumn passage off Strumble Head, PEMBROKE noted from Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> until Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> with 155 individuals logged, max 26 on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Point Lynas, ANGLESEY from Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> until Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> with 142 logged, max. 54 on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. One seen at Bardsey, CAERNARFON on Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> had had its legs severed by mono-filament fishing line.

Four inland records, an individual at Llangorse Lake, BRECON Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> was the 8<sup>th</sup> county record, one at Morfa Dyfi MONTGOMERY on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, with 2 there on the 28<sup>th</sup> and at Llyn Coron, ANGLESEY on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

### BLACK-THROATED DIVER *G. arctica*\*

### TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

A total of 47 recorded, 37 in the early months until April 2<sup>nd</sup> (when one was seen St. Ann's Head, PEMBROKE and one at Black Rock, CAERNARFON) and 10 at the end of the year, from Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> (when one past Strumble Head, PEMBROKE). There were no inland or summer records received.

Monthly totals (excluding passage listed below) were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.
17	12	6	2	6	4

Passage noted at Strumble Head, PEMBROKE where a total of 21 were logged, Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, mainly singles but 5 passed on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>; in CAERNARFON 3 off the Little Orme on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and one off Bardsey on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>; off Point Lynas, ANGLESEY 2 on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and one on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.



**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *G. immer*\*

TROCHYDD MAWR

1997: Additional record of an individual at Morfa Dyfi, MONTGOMERY Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25th.

1999: County Totals (excluding passage listed below):

E. GLAMORGAN		4 in December
GOWER	7+ until Apr. 14 <sup>th</sup>	5+ from Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> .
CARMARTHEN	1 until Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup>	6 from Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup> .
PEMBROKE	14+ until April.	1-4 at 10 sites, max. 6 at Gann, Oct. – Dec.
CEREDIGION	Up to 9 until April.	none
MEIRIONNYDD	2 Morfa Harlech Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup> .	1 Afon Glaslyn Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> .
CAERNARFON	1-2 at 5 sites	Total of 23 at 12 sites from mid September
ANGLESEY	11 until Mar. 8 <sup>th</sup>	1-2 at 9 sites

Max. counts were 6 at Gann PEMBROKE Oct. – Dec., in CAERNARFON 9 at Llanfairfechan Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup> and 12 at Pontllyfni Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Late spring records of singles in GLAMORGAN at Porthcawl May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Blackpill May 24<sup>th</sup> & June 15<sup>th</sup>; at Ramsey, PEMBROKE May 6<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage recorded at Strumble Head, PEMBROKE where 71 logged, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> with a max. 7 on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>; at Bardsey CAERNARFON 15 logged, late Sept. – Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, max. 7 on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>; 18 logged Point Lynas ANGLESEY Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> – Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, max. 5 on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Inland individuals at Eglwys Nunydd Res. GLAMORGAN Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> and an adult there Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>; at Llys-y-fran PEMBROKE Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 7th.

**WHITE-BILLED DIVER** *G. adamsii*

TROCHYDD PIGWEN

An adult past Strumble Head, PEMBROKE on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Welsh record.**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

GWYACH FACH

Breeding records received were: GWENT 8 prs. at 7 sites; E. GLAMORGAN 9 prs. at 7 sites plus summering at 7 other sites; GOWER 4 prs. plus summering at 2 other sites; CARMARTHEN 7 prs. which reared a total of 15+ young; PEMBROKE at 3 sites; CEREDIGION incomplete survey but 3 prs. at Cors Caron plus breeding at 2 other sites; BRECON 7 prs. rearing 11 young (2 others failed Talybont); RADNOR 4 prs. reared 7 young; MEIRIONNYDD possibly 2 prs.; CAERNARFON 6 prs. reared 15 young at RSPB Conwy plus breeding at 6 other sites; ANGLESEY 11 pairs at 8 sites and DENBIGH 3 prs. These are not complete surveys.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE** *Podilymbus podiceps*

GWYACH YLFINFRAITH

One at Llangorse Lake, BRECON Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> was the first county record, while another at Cosmeston lakes, GLAMORGAN Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> – Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> was the second county record.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Breeding records were: GWENT at 2 sites, a total of 14 young from 6 broods; E. GLAMORGAN 4 prs. at 2 sites plus breeding attempted at one other and present at 7 other sites; GOWER 6 prs. at Eglwys Nunydd Res. reared 16+ young plus 2 other sites; CARMARTHEN 1 pr. reared 3 young; summered at one site in PEMBROKE but no evidence of breeding; BRECON 6 prs. at Llangorse, 3 of which were successful fledging 5 young, elsewhere 2 successful pairs, while 4 prs. failed Talybont; RADNOR 5 prs. reared 6 young in total (cf. 5 prs. reared 10 young in 1998); MONTGOMERY 5 prs. reared a total of 8 young; MEIRIONNYDD possibly 2 prs.; CAERNARFON at 6 sites; ANGLESEY bred at 6 sites; FLINT 1 pair at Llyn Helyg.

The only large counts from the main wintering flock in Cardigan Bay were 106 off Borth, CEREDIGION on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, with lower numbers in the second winter period, max. 23 on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Off the GLAMORGAN coast 85 at Aberavon on the Jan. 11th, 80 there on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 102 on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 44 off Blackpill in January & February, with 30 in November and 51 in December, 41 at Wernffrawd Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 41 at Whiteford Point Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. Counts from Bagillt Bank, FLINT were 35 in February, 6 in April, 23 in September, 147 in October, 30 in November and 15 in December.

Inland 30 were at Llandegfedd Res. GWENT in January, 48 in July and 23 in November, at Llangorse Lake BRECON 24 on Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> and 40 on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.



**RED-NECKED GREBE** *P. grisegena*\*

GWYACH YDDFGOC

All records were of singles except where stated: GOWER: adults at Eglwys Nunydd Res Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, Whiteford Point Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and Rhosili Bay Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE at Broad Haven Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>; CAERNARFON: at Penrhyn Bay Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> & Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 at Llanfairfechan Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY at Inland Sea Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Cemlyn Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> & Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, Llyn Penrhyn Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – end of the year and 2 Beddmanarch Bay Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**SLAVONIAN GREBE** *P. auritus*\*

GWYACH GORNIOG

Approximate totals for each county for each winter period were:

GWENT	2	1
E. GLAMORGAN	2	2
GOWER	14	10
CARMARTHEN	1	0
PEMBROKE	3	3
CEREDIGION	3	1
MEIRIONNYDD	5	10
CAERNARFON	16	7
ANGLESEY	5	8

Large congregations were: at Whiteford Point, GOWER with 14 on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> decreasing to 6 on Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 there on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>; at Morfa Harlech MEIRIONNYDD with 4 in January & March and 10 on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>; in CAERNARFON 3-4 off Llanfairfechan increasing to 5 on Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 at Borth y Gest Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, then in the second winter period 4 at Llanfairfechan on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>; in ANGLESEY at least 4 Inland Sea/Beddmanarch Bay February – April and at least 5 there in the second winter period.

Inland records from Llandegfedd Res. GWENT, 2 different birds Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> and one Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> until the end of the year; single at Llangorse Lake, BRECON on Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *P. nigricollis*\*

GWYACH YDDFDDU

All records received were of singles except where stated: Llandegfedd Res. GWENT Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>; in GLAMORGAN at Cosmeston Lakes Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, at Blackpill, on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> and Kenfig from Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> until the end of the year; at Penclacwydd, CARMARTHEN Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>; on the Dyfi CEREDIGION Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>; at Morfa Harlech, MEIRIONNYDD Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> with 2 on the 11<sup>th</sup>; in CAERNARFON Borth y Gest Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, off Bangor Pier Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, Llanfairfechan Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> and one Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, a summer plumaged bird at Aber Ogwen Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile at RSPB Conwy Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>; at Llyn Penrhyn ANGLESEY Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> – Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*

ADERYN-DRYGIN Y GRAIG

Counts of apparently occupied sites are as follows: GOWER 4; PEMBROKE: 581 Skomer (c9% decrease on 1998), 285 Ramsey rearing 116 young, 147 Skokholm (averaging 0.49 young/pr.), 101 Caldey and 18 St. Margarets; MEIRIONNYDD 2 prs. Barmouth Quarry; CAERNARFON: Bardsey 28 reared 26 young (0.92 young/pr.), 47 Great Orme, 3 Nant-y-Gamer, Llandudno; 13 at South Stack, ANGLESEY; DENBIGH 4 at Prestatyn Quarry.

Counts of large movements included 211 off Bardsey on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 238 there the 9<sup>th</sup> with 172 also logged passing Porth Ysgaden, both CAERNARFON, 320 logged off Point Lynas in 3.5 hrs. on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A single “blue” fulmar at Bardsey mid April with an additional record for 1998 of one off Point Lynas, ANGLESEY July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris diomedea*\*

ADERYN-DRYGIN CORY

1995 Additional records from Skokholm, PEMBROKE singles Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (not 2 as published) & 28<sup>th</sup>.  
 1996 Additional records from Strumble Head, PEMBROKE, singles July 9<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.  
 1997 Additional records from Strumble Head, PEMBROKE, singles Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.  
 1998 Additional records from Strumble Head, PEMBROKE, singles Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>.  
 1999 was an exceptional year for the occurrence of this species in Welsh waters, with at least 22 individuals recorded. In PEMBROKE pelagic trips to the Celtic Deep recorded 2 on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and

singles on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Seawatching off Strumble Head produced singles on July 21<sup>st</sup>, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> with 7 on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and 2 on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Two other records both of singles, at Point Lynas, ANGLESEY Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> and off Gronant, FLINT June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis*\*

ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR

1994 Additional record Skomer, PEMBROKE Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.

1995 Additional records from Strumble Head, PEMBROKE Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

1997 Additional records from Strumble Head, PEMBROKE, 2 on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

1999 as with Cory's and Mediterranean Shearwaters, this was an exceptional year for this species. All records came from PEMBROKE, where pelagic trips to the Celtic Deep recorded 20 on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 25<sup>th</sup>, a single on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. 3 were also seen from the Fishguard to Rosslare ferry on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Off Strumble Head, singles Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> with 4 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *P. griseus*\*

ADERYN-DRYCIN DU

1998 Additional record from Point Lynas, ANGLESEY July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

1999 All records were of singles unless stated: PEMBROKE at Skokholm Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, from the Fishguard-Rosslare Ferry Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, St. David's Head on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, Celtic Deep Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> with 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Strumble Head where 51 logged on 21 dates between July 21<sup>st</sup> and Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, max. 16 on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>; Mwnt CEREDIGION on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>; in CAERNARFON at Bardsey on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> with 2 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and off Porth Ysgaden on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>; ANGLESEY at the Range July 20<sup>th</sup>, Point Lynas & Cemlyn on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and a late individual at Traeth Llugwy on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

**MANX SHEARWATER** *P. puffinus*

ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

Breeding data: PEMBROKE: arrived back on Skomer from Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>, a study plot there produced 0.67 young/pr. A chick ringed on Skokholm in 1967 was found breeding on Skomer – 32 years old. c900 prs. Ramsey; At Bardsey, CAERNARFON the earliest return was on Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, a sample plot produced 0.84 young/pr., 13,000 seen rafting on Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Summer movements off the GLAMORGAN coast included 18,000 off Port Eynon on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2,152 in 3 hrs. on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2,463 off Porthcawl in 3 hrs. on June 28<sup>th</sup>. In CEREDIGION 1,100 per hour passed Aberystwyth June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1,500 per hour off Mwnt on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 3,000 off Ynyslas on the 30<sup>th</sup>. 1,439 passed Porth Ysgaden, CAERNARFON in 90 mins. on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 1,200 in 3 hrs. passed Point Lynas ANGLESEY on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER** *P. mauretanicus*\* ADERYN-DRYCIN MOR Y CANOLDIR

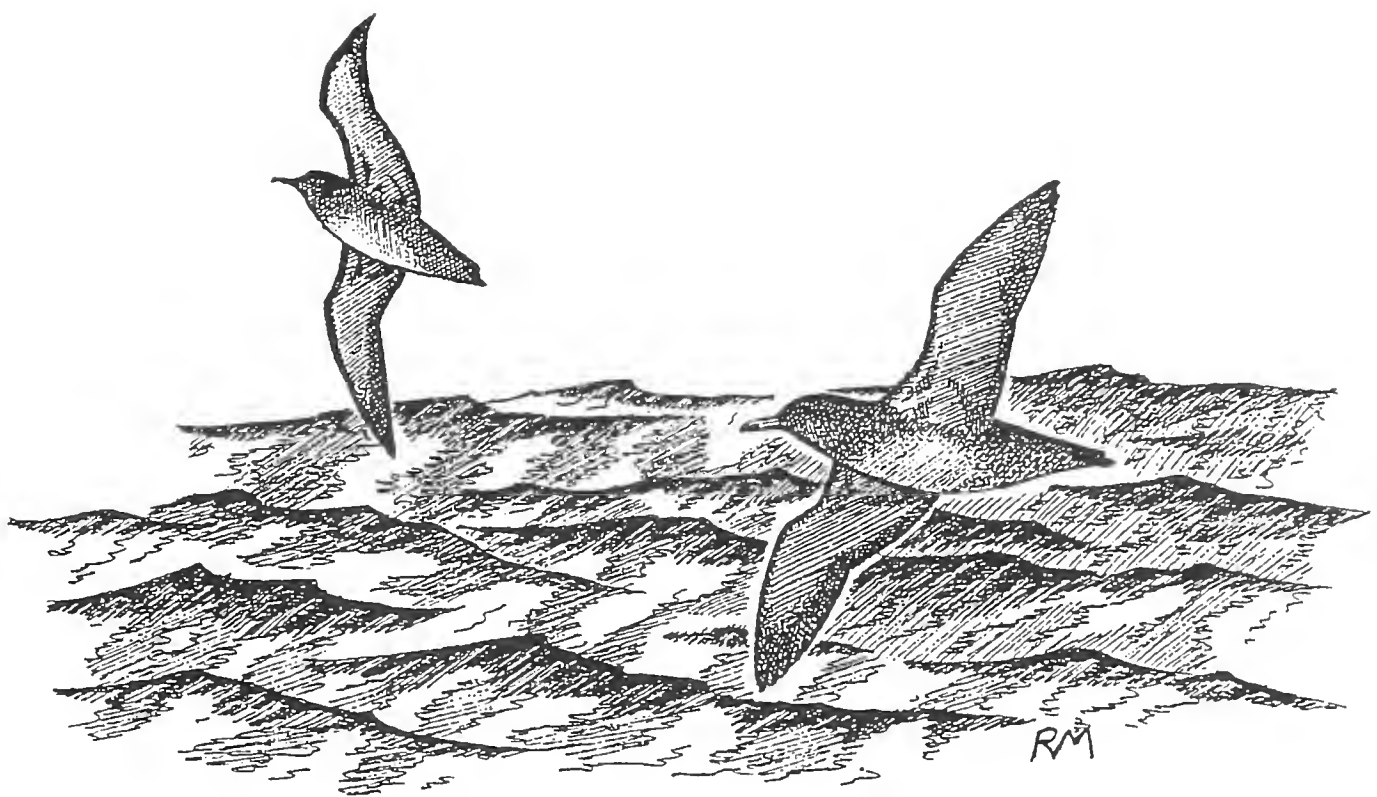
1998 Additional records from ANGLESEY individuals at Point Lynas on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and one on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, at Cemlyn on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

1999 proved to be an exceptional year for this species in Wales with 567 individuals recorded, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. All records were singles unless stated: off GLAMORGAN at Porthcawl on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 off Port Eynon Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and one on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 3 off Rhosilli on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; in PEMBROKE at Skokholm on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, at Ramsey on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, off St. David's Head on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, Celtic Deep on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, a record 402 logged passing Strumble Head, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, max. 36 on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>; off CEREDIGION 5 at Mwnt on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Ynyslas on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> with 2 there on the 21<sup>st</sup>; off CAERNARFON at least 91 recorded at Bardsey, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> with a max. of 35 on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, at Porth Ysgaden 13 logged, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> with a max. of 7 on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, at Uwchmynydd Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> and at Porth Colmon on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>; off ANGLESEY 25 logged passing Point Lynas, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, max. 10 on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 at Cemlyn on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> with a single there Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**WILSON'S PETREL** *Oceanies oceanicus*\*

PEDRYN WILSON

The Celtic Deep pelagic trips off PEMBROKE attracted a single on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> and at least 3 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



**STORM PETREL** *Hydrobates pelagicus*\*

PEDRYN DRYCIN

1998 Additional record of 19 off Point Lynas, ANGLESEY on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

1999 No breeding information received. 66 trapped at Bardsey CAERNARFON including 16 on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 18 on Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>. An immature was attracted to the light there on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Smaller numbers than in recent years seen off GLAMORGAN, max. 3 off Porthcawl Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> and 15 off Pwll Du Head on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Recorded off Strumble Head, PEMBROKE until Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 16 passed Point Lynas ANGLESEY on July 21<sup>st</sup> with 11 the next day.

**LEACH'S PETREL** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*\*

PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG

1998 Additional records from ANGLESEY, 2 off Point Lynas on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> and 3 there on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 22 off Cemlyn on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

1999 All records received were: singles off Porthcawl, GLAMORGAN Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Strumble Head, PEMBROKE on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 31 there on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, off ANGLESEY 3 at Point Lynas on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> with 7 on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one off Cemlyn / Amlwch on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 3 at the latter on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

The only breeding data received was of 10 on ledges at Thurba Head, GLAMORGAN, 11 prs. Skomer, PEMBROKE, in CEREDIGION 69 at Penderi and 14 at Graig Ddu, in CAERNARFON 13 at the Great Orme and 171 on the Little Orme. The first definite breeding in GWENT was also observed at Denny Island.

Systematic counts from the main estuarine and inland sites are tabulated as available:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Taff/Ely	16	17	36	32	-	27	20	34	-	33	9	12
Llan./Lis.	26	19	6	7	7	7	7	10	15	11	10	15
Whiteford Point	78	48	25	16	14	49	49	82	78	89	58	48
Port Talbot Docks	33	31	9	8	6	9	22	38	36	27	17	24
Swansea Dock's	42	73	122	35	30	24	30	43	55	-	-	44
Blue Pool Bay	46	32	36	-	-	-	-	-	50	65	64	56
Eglwys Nunydd Res	19	28	12	8	4	6	18	3	1	5	2	2
CARMARTHEN												
T/T/G	2	9	15	31	31	-	91	-	-	44	29	20
Burry (N)	52	12	11	11	11	8	12	17	12	14	10	18
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	18	32	15	-	-	-	-	-	32	41	28	21
DENBIGH												
Rhyl Beach	6	17	-	6	18	-	-	8	45	220	108	40

Maximum counts elsewhere included 127 at Broadwater on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> and 40 at Morfa Mawddach on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, both MEIRIONNYDD and in BRECON 66 at Llangorse Lake in February and 45 in December, with 20 at Talybont Res. in September.

**SHAG *P. aristotelis***

*MULFRAN WERDD*

Bred Thurba Head, GOWER 3 juveniles seen on a ledge on June 16<sup>th</sup>. In PEMBROKE an incomplete survey found 3 pairs Skomer, 6 St. Margaret's Island, 6 at Caldey, 10 at Ramsey, 8 at Grassholm, 29 on the Bishops and 29 at Middleholm. In CEREDIGION 7 nests Penderi; 33 pairs Bardsey CAERNARFON producing 66+ young.

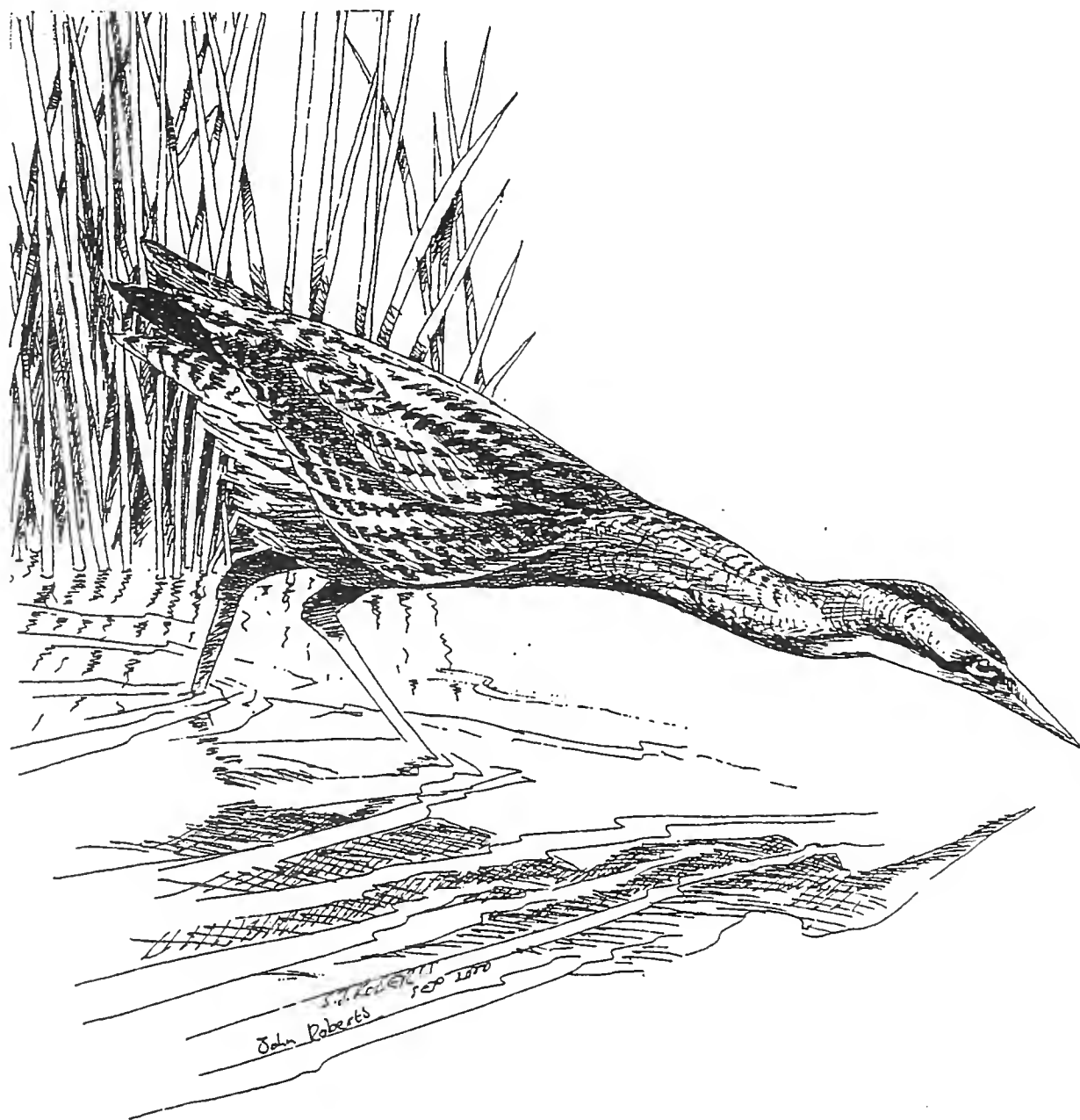
Large counts included 167 logged passing Strumble Head, PEMBROKE Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, max. 27 on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 79 off Aberystwyth, CEREDIGION on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, c100 on the Dyfi Bar, MEIRIONNYDD / CEREDIGION on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, with 74 there on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

**BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*\***

*ADERYN Y BWN*

1998 Additional record at Malltraeth, ANGLESEY Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> makes a total of 15 individuals reported that year.

1999 At least 18 individuals reported, with a record of a booming male. All records were: In GLAMORGAN singles at Kenfig on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> - Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> with 2 birds there on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Cosmeston Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>; at Bosherton, PEMBROKE Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>; Ynyshir CEREDIGION on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>; at Llangorse, BRECON Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>, with a booming male on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>; in RADNOR at Elan Valley Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Glasbury Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> until the end of the year; in CAERNARFON at RSPB Conwy on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>; on ANGLESEY at Llyn Maelog on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, Cors Eerddreiniog Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, Malltraeth Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> and at Llyn Cerrig Bach on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.



**GREAT WHITE EGRET** *Ardea alba*\*

CREYR MAWR GWYN

An individual at Llangorse Lake on Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> was the first record for BRECON and only the eleventh for Wales.

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*\*

CREYR BACH

1998 Additional record at Talybont Res., BRECON Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> was the 4<sup>th</sup> county record.

1999 Occurrence continues to increase, particularly in south Wales, with a distinct influx in autumn but still no successful breeding. Five inland records, at Llowes, RADNOR on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 at Dolydd Hafren, MONTGOMERY Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.

County summaries:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	1	1	1	1	2		1+	4+	4+	7		
E. GLAMORGAN			1	1				1	5+	2	1	
GOWER		1				1	1	3				
(excluding Burry)												
GOWER /	6	17	25	5	4	5	38	56	55	41	23	21
CARMARTHEN												
Burry / Penclacwydd												
CARMARTHEN	4							1	2	1		
(excluding Burry)												
PEMBROKE (Cleddau)	16	21	13	7			1	2	5	5	21	12
PEMBROKE	1	1						1			1	
(excluding Cleddau)												
CEREDIGION	1							3	1			1
RADNOR												1
MONTGOMERY								1	3			1
MEIRIONNYDD	3	1			1			1	2	1		
CAERNARFON	3	3	3	2	1			3	3	3	4	
ANGLESEY					2	1	5	4	4		1	
DENBIGH												
FLINT		1					1	3	2			1

The main congregation was on the Burry estuary, with the roost site being at Penclacwydd. The August count of 56 was a new Welsh record. During the day these birds dispersed out onto both sides of the estuary, with 23 seen together at Loughor Bridge on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20 at Wernffrwd on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, both in GOWER.

The other main wintering area was on the Cleddau estuary PEMBROKE.

**HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

CREYR GLAS

Colony counts were received as follows: GWENT 152 nests at 9 sites (cf. 162 in 1998)); GLAMORGAN: 1 nest at Lower Garnwen, possibly bred at 2 other sites; GOWER: 70 nests in nine colonies; CARMARTHEN: 65 nests in 16 colonies; PEMBROKE: 26 nests in four colonies (a 20% decrease on 1998); CEREDIGION: 102 nests in 12 colonies; BRECON: 82 nests in five colonies; RADNOR 11 nests in two colonies; MONTGOMERY 59 nests in seven colonies; MEIRIONNYDD bred at Glas/Dwryd; CAERNARFON: 66 nests in eight colonies; ANGLESEY: 62 nests in nine colonies. Max. counts were on the Upper Loughor, GOWER 24 on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 31 there on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> and 18 on Nov. 10th.

**SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia*\*

LLWYBIG

At least 9 different individuals, all of which were highly mobile.

At least 4 on the Dee, FLINT Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> probably account for the north Wales records at Aber Ogwen Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4 at Fforyd Bay Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, both CAERNARFON. Two new immature birds arrived at RSPB Dee / Inner Marsh Farm on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, remaining until Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Singles at Flint Point / Connah's Quay in October probably relate to one of these birds. In south Wales there were singles at Penclacwydd, CARMARTHEN May 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> and Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, presumably all relating to different individuals.

An adult of the Mauritanian race *P. l. bulsaci* that travelled to the UK via a boat in 1998, was present at Inland Sea ANGLESEY Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 1998 until Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> then at Inner Marsh Farm, FLINT Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>, returning Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> until the end of the year.

**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*

ALARCH DOF

Breeding counts were received as follows: GWENT 12 pairs at 10 sites, total of 47 young; E. GLAMORGAN: 10 pairs at 5 sites, total of 45 young reared, 2 pairs failed; GOWER: 8 pairs at 8 sites, a total of 18 young reared, 2 pairs failed; CARMARTHEN: 11 pairs, 7 of which reared a total of 27 young; BRECON: 11 pairs reared a total of 51 young at 7 sites, with 3 pairs failing; RADNOR 10 pairs; MONTGOMERY 14 pairs plus 3 failed on the Montgomery canal; CAERNARFON: bred at 7 sites; ANGLESEY bred at 8 sites; DENBIGH 4 pairs at 4 sites.

Systematic counts made at five sites are tabulated as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GLAMORGAN												
Knapp	-	-	56	40	-	-	-	-	30	48	76	85
Cosmeston	38	38	40	39	56	-	78	110	-	51	-	44
Ogmore/Watermill	14	10	15	25	40	43	29	3	12	62	58	43
CARMARTHEN												
Cilsarn Br		49	55									35
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	25	21	15						29	25	35	38
PEMB/CERE Teifi	6	8	8						29	31	21	12
MEIRIONNYDD												
D/Glas.	13	11	8	24	24	24	25	25	35	10	15	25
CAERNARFON												
Aber Ogwen	3	3	2	2	18	72	64	26	7	5	3	3
FLINT												
Inner Marsh Farm	14	6	1	7	5	51	0	0	9	1	11	12

Max. flocks were 47 at St. Dogmaels, River Teifi CEREDIGION / PEMBROKE on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 38 there Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, 82 at Glasbury BRECON / RADNOR on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 155 there on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, 105 at Llangorse Lake BRECON on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 50 at Welshpool airport, MONTGOMERY at the end of the year. Five at the Knapp in November had been colour ringed at Llandrindod Wells Lake in 1998 and had also been seen on the Ogmore estuary on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**BEWICK'S SWAN** *C. columbianus*\*

ALARCH BEWICK

Very few records this year compared to previous years. At the main wintering sites in GWENT there were up to 2 at Llandegfedd Res. January – Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, with 4 on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and 24 at Nedern Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> increasing to 36 on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and 2 in December. In FLINT at Inner Marsh Farm, there were monthly max. of 18 in January, 44 in February, 13 in October, 40 in November and 37 in December (records of 25 at Shotwick on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> with 23 there Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> decreasing to 12 on the 13<sup>th</sup> presumably relate to these birds).

Records from elsewhere: in GWENT 17 at Gout, Peterstone Wentloog Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 Panteg Steel works Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3 at Llangybi Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and 4 at Llansulais, near Usk on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>; in CARMARTHEN 2 at Coedbach marsh Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>; 2 at Landshipping PEMBROKE on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>; 3 at Ynyshir CEREDIGION on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> presumably were the same birds from Morfa Dyfi MONTGOMERY on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>; a single at Llangorse BRECON Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>; 2 at Pwll Patti RADNOR on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>; 4 on the D/Glas. estuary CAERNARFON / MEIRIONNYDD in December.

30 Bewick's / Whooper's flew over the Llandegla forest, DENBIGH on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**WHOOPEE SWAN** *C. cygnus*

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

The monthly max. counts of the major flocks were:

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
CEREDIGION	Cors Caron		6	2		14	20	12
MEIRIONNYDD	Dwyrhyd/Glaslyn	33	26	42	17	2	32	42
MONTGOMERY	Penstowed			28				27
ANGLESEY	Llanerchymedd	59	58	60	20		23	42

Otherwise, county totals in each winter period:

GWENT	1
E. GLAMORGAN	1 4
CARMARTHEN	6 4
PEMBROKE	3 14
CAERNARFON	3 7
ANGLESEY	Small parties of up to 5 probably relate to individuals from the main flock
FLINT	2 6



**BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis*\*

GWYDD Y LLAFUR

1997 Additional record of 5 *fabalis* at Trefeiddan, St. David's PEMBROKE Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *A. brachyrhynchus*\*

GWYDD DROED-BINC

All records were: a single on the Teifi Est. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> – May was probably a feral bird, one on the Dyfi Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, both CEREDIGION; 2 Pwll Patti RADNOR Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>; in MEIRIONNYDD singles at Ffridd Fawr Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 possibly feral individuals at Glaslyn Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> – Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> as was one at Hir Ynys, Minffordd on Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>; 2 at Prenteg, CAERNARFON Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> – Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>, with one remaining until Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> and 8 at Morfa Madryn on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>; on ANGLESEY 6 at Llyn Alaw Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> with 9 on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 4 at Bodgylchel on Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> with 2 remaining until the May 5<sup>th</sup> were probably feral as were 2 at Llyn Llygerian on June 4<sup>th</sup>; in DENBIGH 4 on the River Clwyd on Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>, with 1 remaining until May 29<sup>th</sup> were probably feral; small wintering flock at Inner Marsh Farm, FLINT numbered 2 in January, 70 in February, 14 in March (64 at Shotwick on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> presumably relates to these birds) with a single turning up on May 13<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. First returning individuals arrived Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, with 2 by the end of the month, one in November and 21 in December.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *A. albifrons*\*

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

The wintering flock of the race *flavirostris* in the Dyfi Est. CEREDIGION was present until Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> and from Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, with max. of 167 in the early months and 88 at the end of the year. Other counts of this race include 1 at Ro-fawr Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4 at Ginst in November, both CARMARTHEN; 2 at Pwll Patti RADNOR on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>; 1 at Hir Ynys MEIRIONNYDD on Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>; 140 at Morfa Dyfi MONTGOMERY on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> which were presumably from the Dyfi flock and on ANGLESEY 2 at Llyn Alaw Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Llyn Coron Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> then at Llyn Alaw 9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. Nine passed over Bardsey CAERNARFON on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> were not sub-specifically separated, neither were 3 that flew west over Inner Marsh Farm, FLINT on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**GREYLAG GOOSE** *A. anser*

GWYDD WYLLT

Feral populations are well established in Wales and breed. Counts of the main flocks included 20 at Caerphilly Castle GLAMORGAN in March and 45 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> winter period, 52 at Ynyshir CEREDIGION on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> and c80 flew into the Dyfi on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 70 at Ffridd Fawr, MEIRIONNYDD on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, in CAERNARFON 497 at Aber Ogwen on Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, 81 over Llanrag on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and 45 at Prenteg in March; on ANGLESEY 95 at Llyn Maelog in January, 114 in June, 205 in August and 223 in November; 100 at Llweni Hall, River Clwyd DENBIGH on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, with 80 there on Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>.

**CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

GWYDD CANADA

Monthly max. for the main sites are tabulated as available:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau	20	64	3						7	760	698	740
CEREDIGION												
Teifi	22	32	38	16					58			3
Newcastle Emlyn	20	16	19	34						68	82	216
Dyfi	899	825	541	178	129	1543	-	898	1358	1293	1558	790
BRECON												
Llangorse	720							435				560
MEIRIONNYDD												
D/Glas	50	90	2	12	13	35	45	179	244	63	93	178
FLINT												
Inner Marsh Fm.	950	800	135	21	98	27	164	692	1148	80	1200	1150

Other large flocks reported were: in BRECON 200 at Llyswen on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and 200 at Glasbury on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>; 280 at Pwll Patti RADNOR on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>; in MONTGOMERY 470 at Dolydd Hafren on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BARNACLE GOOSE** *B. leucopsis*\*

GWYDD WYRAN

A genuine wild flock on the Dyfi Est. CEREDIGION numbered 36 on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> with 44 returning on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> until the end of the year. Elsewhere 2 Roath Park Lake, GLAMORGAN Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> until the

end of the year were probably feral; in PEMBROKE singles Daugleddau Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> and Heathfield G.P. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 4 passed Strumble Head Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and a presumably feral bird at Gelly Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>; 2 feral birds on the Dyfi all year; 17 at Pwll Patti RADNOR Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, before moving to Llangorse BRECON were thought to be feral; single on Dwyryd/Glaslyn estuary MEIRIONNYDD in December; in CAERNARFON a single passed Bardsey on Apr. 26<sup>th</sup> and 4 similarly so on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> (same as the Strumble birds ?), a feral bird at RSPB Conwy on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; on ANGLESEY up to 7 Llyn Alaw Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, singles at Llyn Llywen Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, Llyn Bodgylchel Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>, Llyn Alaw May 5<sup>th</sup> (feral), Malltraeth Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, Llyn Coron on the 15<sup>th</sup>, at Llyn Alaw in November with 2 on the 30<sup>th</sup>; in FLINT singles at Flint Marsh Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Shotwick Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> was presumably feral.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
46	1	0	2	2	69	49	48

### BRENT GOOSE *B. bernicla*

GWYDD DDU

Monthly max. of *B.b. bernicla* at the main site, Burry Inlet GLAMORGAN were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
970	1520	535	-	5	765	1095	750

Elsewhere a scatter of small flocks around the coast, max. Light-breasted (*B.b. hrota*): 24 Gann PEMBROKE on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>; 36 at Foryd Bay CAERNARFON Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> with 31 there on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>; on ANGLESEY 22 on the Inland Sea Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, with 33 there Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>, 22 Beddmanarch Bay Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 26 Penrhos Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>, 63 Traeth Abermenai Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 31 Beddmanarch Bay Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dark-breasted (*B.b. bernicla*): wintering flock at Traeth Abermenai, ANGLESEY numbered 10 in January, 19 in February and 21 on Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> with 14 returning in November and 15 there on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. One summered Angle Bay PEMBROKE, presumably an injured individual.

Inland at Pwll Patti RADNOR on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and at Dolydd Hafren, MONTGOMERY Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.

Approximate monthly totals are tabulated:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<i>bernicla</i>	65	30	21	3			3	4	21	30
<i>hrota</i>	38	46	56	0	0	2	46	19	4	16
race unknown	9	43	20				24	0	3	42

### SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Present in all Welsh estuaries but monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 400 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT PW/SF	1055	435	416	250	30		16	3	10	120	1370	400
GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney Est.	150		220	84	7	17		5		573	997	250
Rumney Gt. Wharf	700	400	350	10						7	120	1503
Burry S.	1250	1060	885	270	75	55	50	30	40	450	990	1400
CARMARTHEN												
Burry N.	313	407	626	199	168	102	29	56	38	51	533	311
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	654	921	441						3	19	586	690
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	236	435	208	301	212	185	113	24	32	19	312	311
FLINT												
Dee Est. POA												1900

Breeding reports indicate a poorer season than 1998. In GWENT a complete coastal survey on Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> recorded 187 pairs but adults with young were eventually only seen in 6 sites, 3 broods or creches totalling 20 young; 8 pairs were counted on R. Wye between Chepstow and Wycliff. Adults with young were noted in 9 coastal sites in GLAMORGAN, creches totalling at least 70 ducklings or juveniles, with max. counts of 24 at Llanrhidian and 17 at Weobley in August. In CARMARTHEN 9 pairs reared at least 32 young at Penclacwydd WWT. In PEMBROKE 16 broods totalling 102 ducklings were counted in the Cleddau Est., 15 in 3 in the Teifi Est. and 13 in 3 in the Nevern Est. In CAERNARFON there were 55 young in 3 creches at Aber Ogwen and a pair reared 8 young at Bardsey, the island's first breeding record; 2 pairs bred at Foryd Bay and at Pwllheli Harbour. In



ANGLESEY several broods hatched at Cemlyn NR were heavily predated. Eight pairs held territory at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT but no broods recorded.

**WIGEON** *Anas penelope*

CHWIWELL

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (holding counts of 200 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	Undy		90		172	368	130	231
	Mathern	188	300	37			68	305
	Llandegfedd Res.		150	265	5			180
GLAMORGAN	Burry (S)	3020	1385	240	735	2275	2735	1600
CARMARTHEN	Burry (N)	566	478	78	347	537	447	855
	Upper Loughor	228	62		9	81	214	221
	T/T/G		187	24	294	208	483	681
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est.	861	896	129	1004	209	4078	3670
CEREDIGION	Teifi Est.	261	118	1		171	316	164
	Dyfi Est.	2366	1832	343	361	1234	2105	2984
	Cors Caron	190	261	116		62	266	337
MEIRIONNYDD	D'Glas.	633	690	57	300	280	700	1198
	Arthro	104	130		80	54	147	195
CAERNARFON	Conwy RSPB	60	45	20	149	150	200	60
	Morfa Madryn					359	320	282
	Foryd Bay	400	271	255	722	1740	1330	1640
ANGLESEY	Red Wharf Bay	194	116			40	185	152
FLINT	Dee Est. IMF	1400	1350	150	60	65	1000	480

The October count in the Cleddau Est was incomplete. Other significant counts were of 600 at Dryslwyn CARMARTHEN on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 270 at Pwll Patti RADNOR on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, 200 in the Clwyd Est. FLINT in January and 350+ on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Single males summered in the Teifi marshes PEMBROKE and Cemlyn ANGLESEY and 7-8 did so at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT but none nested.

**AMERICAN WIGEON** *A. americana*\*

CHWIWELL AMERICA

In GWENT a first winter male at Peterstone/Wentlooge from Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> -Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and Goldcliff NR on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. The male wintering in CAERNARFON/FLINT at end 1998 was present at Morfa Madryn until Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> but did not reappear in the autumn after spending 5 winters there.

**GADWALL** *A. strepera*

HWYADEN LWYD

In GWENT a pair at Greenmoor/Llanwern between Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> and Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> and 3 birds there on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Four pairs bred at Penclacwydd WWT CARMARTHEN and one reared 5 young at Machynys Pond there. A pair fledged one young from 6 hatched on Skomer PEMBROKE, the first breeding of wild birds in the county. In ANGLESEY bred at Llyn Alaw, a pair at Valley Lakes RSPB on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 at Llyn Maelog in June. In FLINT 11 drakes and 3 ducks present in April and May at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB with much display; broods of 9 and 6 eventually emerged.

Once again small wintering or passage groups recorded through much of Wales. The table summarises counts from the main sites recorded but it is incomplete. In addition, in GWENT, 10 at Goldcliff NR on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>, in PEMBROKE, there were parties totalling 65 in January and 53 in December and, in FLINT, there were 24 at Llyn Helyg on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN	Kenfig Pool	32	6	10	12	18	34	26
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	40	37	18	15	18	38	28
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	16	2	0		3	19	15
ANGLESEY	Llyn Alaw				60			
	Llyn Llygeirian	8	2			8	10	9
	Llyn Maelog	3	2	10	2	0	11	4
FLINT	Dec Est. IMF	10	8	4	6	11	2	9

**EURASIAN TEAL *A. crecca***
**CORHWYADEN**

The monthly max. at the main wintering sites (holding counts of 200 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	Peterstone/Wentloog	370	400	190	120	370	370	300
	Goldcliff	115			221	595	250	
	Llandegfedd Res.		200		11	15		
GLAMORGAN	Burry (S)	775	990	100	135	290	195	980
CARMARTHEN	Burry (N)	874	478	85	198	400	410	990
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est.	1344	1630	630	333	337*	1525	2384
CEREDIGION	Dyfi Est.	417	298	18	343	290	545	978
	Teifi Est.	370	95	84	72	75	222	463
	Cors Caron	252	240	186		600	455	492
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	150	180	135	60	20	100	100
	Talybont Res.	200			24	13	70	230
MEIRIONNYDD	D/Glas.	250	260	6	130	200	150	173
CAERNARFON	Conwy RSPB	75	100	25	160	200	200	100
ANGLESEY	Llyn Alaw	268			162		183	
	Llyn Rhos Ddu	188	76	29		14	101	219
	Malltraeth RSPB	900		369	250	554	230	
FLINT	Dee Est. IMF	770	320	245	3000	2000	2300	3500
	Dee Est. Oakenholt				180	300	433	250
	Dee Est. PoA	208	101	54	191	119	200	174

Other significant counts were: GWENT: max. of 225 at Nash Pools in November and 207 at St. Brides and 305 at Mathern in December; CARMARTHEN: 200 at Dryslwyn on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON; 480 on Llanfairfechan saltings on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> and 229 at Morfa Madryn in December; ANGLESEY: 565 at Llyn Llyngeirian; FLINT: 255 in the Clwyd Est. on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding season records received were; CEREDIGION: at least 17 pairs bred at Cors Fochno/Aberleri NNR, 5 broods at Cors Caron NNR and bred Ynys-hir RSPB; BRECON: 2 pairs with a total of 12 young at Brechfa Pool and single pairs with 5 young each at Pentrebach and Talybont Res.; RADNOR: 8 pairs bred on the Elan Valley Estate; CAERNARFON: a pair with 3 young at Conwy RSPB; ANGLESEY: 2 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL *A. carolinensis*\***

A drake at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. Formerly regarded as the American race of Teal, the BOURC decided in August 2000 that the species should be separated into 2, Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* and Green-winged Teal *A. carolinensis*.

**MALLARD *A. platyrhynchos***
**HWYADEN WYLLT**

Winter flocks of this common resident and winter visitor remain widespread in Wales. Monthly max. for the main sites (holding counts of 400 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	PW/SF	250	400	100	850	460	560	300
	St. Brides	620		21		91	145	224
	R. Wye, Tintern/Biblins	278	286	145	421	302	335	299
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est.	178	150	70	347	656	255	353
CEREDIGION	Dyfi Est.	254	270	134	409	673	336	578

There were also max. of 523 on the north Burry and 543 on the Taf Est. CARMARTHEN in September and 400 at Uskmouth GWENT in October. Systematic breeding counts for this very common Welsh species were of at least 10 pairs at Llanwern steelworks GWENT, 38 pairs at Penclacwydd WWT CARMARTHEN, 29 young in 8 broods along R. Usk from Talybont to Pencelli BRECON, 20 breeding pairs at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON and 8 at Malltraeth RSPB ANGLESEY. A pair with 13 young were seen in the childrens' paddling pool on Rhyl promenade FLINT on Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> but only 3 remained by the 25<sup>th</sup>, clearly a very dangerous site! In the same county 11 broods were seen at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB.

**PINTAIL *A. acuta***

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	PW/SF	55	300	230	18	50	180	25
GLAMORGAN	Rhymney Est	240	415	9	155	228	500	210
	Burry (S)	3265	1435	50	405	2945	3600	1925
CARMARTHEN	Burry (N)	1342	1135	57	5	442	1755	1545
CEREDIGION	Dyfi Est.	61	51	37	42	153	203	266
MEIRIONNYDD	D/Glas.	162		2		140	205	153
ANGLESEY	Braint Est.	31	204	3	25	11	10	13
	Malltraeth	31	177	8	30	100	200	
FLINT	Dee Est. PoA					150		
	Dee Est. IMF	35	300	90	800	8	35	75

There were also max. of 300 at Uskmouth and 172 at St. Brides in GWENT in January and of 105 in the Taf Est. CARMARTHEN in December.

Did not breed at Skomer PEMBROKE, although a female there in June. Birds also summered without nesting at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT.

**GARGANEY *A. querquedula*\***

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

A pair bred at Dyfi NNR CEREDIGION, the first recorded breeding in Wales since 1996. Otherwise a total of 41-42 recorded between Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, in GWENT (5), GLAMORGAN (4-5), CARMARTHEN (7), PEMBROKE (4), CEREDIGION (1), MONTGOMERY (1), CAERNARFON (5), ANGLESEY (12) and FLINT (2). Monthly totals excluding breeding birds are shown below. It is also worth noting a series of records from Inner Marsh Farm RSPB, involving c.20 birds, but all from the Cheshire part of the reserve.

Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
0	5	7	1	0	24	12

**SHOVELER *A. clypeata***

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated as available. Small groups were widely distributed elsewhere.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	PW/SF	100	50	5	12	141	160	140
GLAMORGAN	Burry (S)	550	450		280	250	520	370
CARMARTHEN	Burry (N)	348	291	75	72	148	255	312
ANGLESEY	Malltraeth RSPB	60		58	19	109	92	
FLINT	Dee Est. IMF	61	51	70	112	121	139	60

There were also 200 at Rush Bog Bryngwran ANGLESEY on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding season records came from CARMARTHEN, where 3 pairs bred at Penclacwydd WWT, PEMBROKE, where single pairs hatched 3 but fledged none at Skokholm and also failed at Skomer and Marloes, BRECON, with a male at Brechfa Pool on July 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 juveniles on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, ANGLESEY, where 5 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB and pairs bred at Llyn Alaw and Llyn Cefni, and FLINT, where present in the breeding season at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB but without any evidence of nesting.

**RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*\***

HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

A female at Sluice Farm GWENT on Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**POCHARD *Aythya ferina***

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

Small groups winter on many Welsh waters but monthly max. at the main wintering sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	PW/SF	125	33	85	74	145	125
GLAMORGAN	Kenfig Pool	200	14	7	41	28	32
	Eglwys Nunydd Res.	281	208	29	135	125	111
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	87	79	61	65	55	103
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	114	34	15	20	110	125

There were also 320 off St. Brides GWENT on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> and, in GLAMORGAN, 210 off Cardiff heliport on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and 139 on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 105 in the Rhymney Est. on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and 100 off Rumney Great Wharf on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

In the breeding season a female with 7 young on Roath Park Lake and a pair fledged 3 young at Llanishen/Lisvane Res., both GLAMORGAN, in CARMARTHEN at least 14 pairs bred at Penclacwydd WWT and, in ANGLESEY, there were 2 broods on Llyn Penrhyn and a pair bred at Llyn Cefni. Birds were present in June and July without any evidence of breeding at Oxwich GOWER, Talybont Res. BRECON and Llyn Alaw and Llyn Maelog ANGLESEY.

**RINGED-NECKED DUCK** *A. collaris*\*

*HWYADEN DORCHAG*

Single males at Lisvane Res. GLAMORGAN on Apr. 26<sup>th</sup> and Llyn Bach Porthmadog Harbour CAERNARFON from May 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>.

**FERRUGINOUS DUCK** *A. nyroca*

*HWYADEN LYGADWEN*

Two males at Kenfig Pool GLAMORGAN on Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> and one at Ivor's Pond PEMBROKE on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, which moved to Heathfield GP from 21<sup>st</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>.

**TUFTED DUCK** *A. fuligula*

*HWYADEN GOPOG*

As usual small groups wintering on waters throughout Wales. The monthly max. in the main wintering sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated as available.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT	PW/SF	380	39	26	10		171	425	275
GLAMORGAN	Kenfig Pool	33	26	30	15	101	222	89	42
	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	102	53	41	132	42	30	54	50
	Eglwys Nunydd Res.	143	96	46	160	242	234	183	170
BRECON	Llangorse Lake		65				220		
ANGLESEY	Llyn Cefni	134			132	279	384	96	

There were also 460 off St. Brides GWENT on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 418 at Llyn Alaw ANGLESEY on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 110 at Talybont Res. BRECON on 29<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding was noted as follows: GWENT: breeding was confirmed at Peterstone/Wentlooge (2 pairs), Skirrid Fach, Chain Bridge and Celtic Manor pools, all single pairs; GLAMORGAN: a pair bred successfully at St. Fagans Castle Lake, a female with 6 ducklings at Margam Park on July 25<sup>th</sup>, one with 5 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 with 12 at Hen Eglwys on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: at least 15 pairs bred at Penclacwydd WWT and 4 at Machynys Ponds; PEMBROKE: a pair fledged 2 young at Marloes Mere; BRECON: single pairs bred at Llangorse Lake (2 young) and Ty Mawr Pool (5 young), 2 pairs had 12 young on Battle Pool Cradoc and 2 pairs were present on Dderw Pool Llysven where juveniles were seen on July 24<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 3 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB and bred at Llyn Alaw, Llyn Llygeirian, Llanfaelog and Cors Erddreiniog; DENBIGH: a pair bred at Pen-y-Cae Res.; FLINT: 4 broods at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB but few fledged due to gull predation.

**SCAUP** *A. marila*\*

*HWYADEN BENDDU*

A total of c.137 recorded at the coast and inland up to May 3<sup>rd</sup> and c.82 similarly from Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. The main flocks were a max. of 30 in the Burry Inlet GLAMORGAN in February, 17 at Penclacwydd WWT CARMARTHEN in December, a max. of 31 off Black Rock and the Dwyryd/Glaslyn Est. CAERNARFON/MEIRIONNYDD during January and February, 20 off Rhos-on-Sea DENBIGH on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, 12 off Rhyl-Prestatyn FLINT in January and 20 there in December. Otherwise no party of more than 8 noted. In summer one in Foryd Bay CAERNARFON on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Inland only in GLAMORGAN, where 5 on inland waters in the early months and one at the end of the year, and ANGLESEY, with 9 in the early months and 3 at the end of the year.

**EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*\*

*HWYADEN FWYTHBLU*

Small numbers offshore throughout the year. The monthly max. in the Burry Inlet GLAMORGAN were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
40	65	90	45	10	1	10	10	10	25	60	100

Off the Aberdysynni area MEIRIONNYDD the max. count was 102 off Llangelynnin on Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>. Numbers still appear to be increasing with at least 310 birds recorded altogether around the coast. The largest groups away from the Burry Inlet and Aberdysynni were 10 off the Dwyryd/Glaslyn Est. CAERNARFON/MEIRIONNYDD in May, 11 in Ramsey Sound PEMBROKE on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and 13 off Strumble Head there on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 15 off Aber Ogwen CAERNARFON on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and 10 off Criccieth on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>.

None bred, although a pair on Puffin Island ANGLESEY from Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> - Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis*\*

*HWYADEN GYNFFON HIR*

All records were: GWENT: an immature male at Uskmouth NR from Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> to the end of the year; GLAMORGAN: a female at Blackpill on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, another at Eglwys Nunydd Res. from Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> to end year, which was also seen at Kenfig NNR on 6<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, one E off Gilestone on 24<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: 3 off Marros on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and 2 on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, presumably the Amroth birds below and a male at Machynys Ponds on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: one at Broadhaven from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>-Feb.15<sup>th</sup>, 3 off Amroth on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> and one on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, one at Aberbach Dinas on June 12<sup>th</sup> and singles at Bosherton from Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - Dec.31<sup>st</sup>, the Gann on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, Amroth on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> and Strumble Head on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, with 2 on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: one off Borth on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>; MERIONNYDD: one off Talybont on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON/MEIRIONNYDD: 14-15 off the Dwyryd/Glaslyn Est. until Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7-8 there from Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>; CAERNARFON: singles off Conwy over Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and perhaps the same off Penmaenmawr on 24<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: a male at Cemlyn on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 at Llyn Alaw on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and one on 19<sup>th</sup> and one at Llyn Cefni from 7<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

*MOR-HWYADEN DDU*

Recorded off all coastal counties, with records for every month but no systematic counts covering the main areas were supplied, except for Borth Bay. At the end of the year numbers seemed to be low everywhere. The main individual counts recorded were as follows; GOWER: c.200 in Oxwich Bay on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> but only 50+ there at the end of the year; a max. of 228 in Rhossili Bay on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: a max. of 3000 off Amroth in January but few at the end of the year, max. only 190 in December; 350 in St. Brides Bay in January and 120 in December; CEREDIGION: monthly max. in Borth Bay were Jan. 80, Feb. 150, Mar. 93, July 4, Sept. 75, Oct. 53, Nov. 80 and Dec. 40; CAERNARFON: a max. of 2000 off Black Rock in February, 800 in Conwy Bay on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> and 150 there on May 2<sup>nd</sup>; ANGLESEY: 150 off Malltraeth in January; DENBIGH: 1200+ off Pensarn on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> and 200 there and 150 off Llanddullas on Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> and 120 off Pensarn on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Inland there was a male at Llandegfedd Res. GWENT on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 males and a female there on July 4<sup>th</sup> and a female on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, and 5 males on Llangorse Lake BRECON on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Autumn passage off Strumble Head PEMBROKE involved 4392 birds on 110 dates between June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, max. 166 on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**SURF SCOTER** *M. perspicillata*\*

*MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN*

A male off Amroth PEMBROKE from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> until April and again from Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> to end year was also seen off the CARMARTHEN side of the Bay.

**VELVET SCOTER** *M. fusca*\*

*MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD*

All records were: GLAMORGAN: singles in Rhossili Bay on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> and off Porthcawl on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: one off Morfa Bychan on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> and off Cefn Sidan on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, see also Amroth below; PEMBROKE: 1-5 off Amroth from Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>, one there on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 1-2 Broad Haven from Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and one at Strumble Head on 17<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON/ MEIRIONNYDD: 10-15 in the Black Rock-Morfa Harlech area until March, 14 on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> and 6 on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>; CAERNARFON: 1-2 regularly off Llanfairfechan until May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5 off Penmaenmawr on Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> and one S off Bardsey on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 4 off Point Lynas on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and one off Cemlyn on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>.

**GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUG

Singles or small parties occur in winter on many inland and coastal waters in Wales and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 20 at least once) are tabulated as available. Other significant counts were of a max. of 100 off Aber Ogwen CAERNARFON in the early months and 25+ off Spinnies Bangor there on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> and a max. of 30 at Llyn Alaw ANGLESEY on Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were up to 9 on Llyn Coron there in May but no evidence of breeding. There was also a summer bird off Caernarfon on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN	Ogmore Est.	47	34	5		7	41
	Kenfig Pool	5	20	20	1	10	6
	Eglwys Nunydd Res.	40	28	31	13	44	33
PEMBROKE	Cleddau Est.	49	59	3	0	34	36
CEREDIGION	Dyfi Est.	9	12	6		20	12
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	10	34	30	2	12	17
	Talybont Res.	14	16	20	1	9	10

**SMEW** *Mergellus albellus*\*

LLEIAN WEN

Only 14 noted altogether, 10 in the early months until Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> and 5 at the end of the year from Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> (Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT, a very early record) in GLAMORGAN (6), CARMARTHEN (1), PEMBROKE (2), BRECON (1), CAERNARFON (1), ANGLESEY (1) and FLINT (3). Most were seen at Eglwys Nunydd Res. GLAMORGAN, with a max. of 6 on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Six adult males were seen altogether. Monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
10	7	6	1	1	1	5

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites for which systematic counts are available are tabulated.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Burry (S)	20	20	35	35						5	10	15
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	3	9	12	3		2					7	6
T/T/G	6	10	15								3	3
PEMBROKE												
Amroth	8	14									11	8
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	26	43	56	69	12	34	26	14	39	25	13	39
MEIRIONNYDD												
D/Glas.	9	7	11							29	45	8
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan / Aber Ogwen				75			178	255	136			

In addition there was a total of 26 off Towyn-Llanddullas DENBIGH on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, in CAERNARFON 18 off Llanfairfechan on Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>, 16 at Conwy RSPB on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 at Spinnies Bangor on 16<sup>th</sup> and a max. of 20 at Rhyl FLINT in late November and December.

Rather little breeding season information received but a female at Blackpill GOWER from June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>, bred at Ynys-hir RSPB CEREDIGION, a pair present but without proof of breeding at Talybont Res. BRECON, possibly bred at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB and Cwm Llinau MONTGOMERY, in MEIRIONNYDD bred at the Dwyryd/Glaslyn Est., females with 12 and 3 ducklings at Penmaenpool and one with 4 at Llyn Tegid on July 19<sup>th</sup>, several broods or creches at Aber Ogwen CAERNARFON and bred at Cemlyn ANGLESEY.

**GOOSANDER** *M. merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Small parties are widespread in winter in Wales, being recorded in every county. Parties of more than 12 were noted, as follows: GWENT: max. of 23 on R. Wye between Tintern and Biblings in February and 16 in December and of 24 at Llandegfedd Res. in January; GLAMORGAN: a max. of 12 on the R. Neath on Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>, 15 on the Upper Lliw Res. on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: 14 at Llyn Rhosrhydd on Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: max. of 27 on Talybont Res. on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> and a roost of 60 there on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>,



which probably included Llangorse Lake birds, 36 at Dderw Pool on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 44 at Llangorse Lake on 24<sup>th</sup>. Such flocks were certainly under-recorded.

Systematic breeding counts received were: GWENT: at least 44 ducklings on R. Usk in the Gobion-Abergavenny area; GOWER: 3 pairs bred on R. Neath, all being seen with young, and 2 pairs had young on R. Tawe; CEREDIGION: 2 broods on the R. Ystwyth in June; BRECON: 6 broods noted along R. Usk from Aberbran to Talybont, 5 broods along R. Wye from Llyswen to Hay and one at the Usk Res.; RADNOR: 6 pairs bred on the Elan Valley Estate; MONTGOMERY: 7 pairs reared 31 young at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB; CAERNARFON: up to 3 pairs bred on R. Ogwen, 2 broods on R. Conwy between Llanwrst and Betws y Coed, where there was also a brood on the R. Llynwy and broods on Llyn Padarn and R. Seiont; DENBIGH: females with 4 young seen either side of Llangollen in late June; FLINT: one brood of 12 young seen on 4 km of R. Clwyd between Pont Glan y Wern and Lleweni Hall on Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> and perhaps the same brood reduced to 9 young on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **RUDDY DUCK** *Oxyura jamaicensis*\*

*HWYADEN GOCH*

In view of the decision to undertake an official cull of this species in Wales, all records are given. GLAMORGAN: a male and 2 females at Hensol Lake from Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> but did not breed, present at Kenfig NNR until Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> and from Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, max. 6 on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, a male at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on June 26<sup>th</sup>, one at Eglwys Nynydd Res. on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3 next day; BRECON: up to 7 at Llangorse Lake Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>-Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>, a pair displaying there on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>; RADNOR: single males at Llyn Heilyn on May 25<sup>th</sup>, Llanbwchllyn on June 19<sup>th</sup> and Begwns Pool on July 3<sup>rd</sup>; MONTGOMERY: a pair with one young at Llyn Coed y Dinas NR; CAERNARFON: 6 pairs bred at Conwy RSPB and 6 at Afonwen Pools on Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> and 4 on 29<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 2 pairs bred at Cors Erddreiniog NNR, 52 birds at Llyn Penrhyn on Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>, max. of 221 on Llyn Alaw in January, 35 in October, 147 in November and 105 in December and small numbers, usually <5 on many waters, with 12 at Malltraeth RSPB in April and 15 in May; FLINT: present from March to October at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB, with a max. of 6 drakes and 4 ducks on May 18<sup>th</sup>; no evidence of successful breeding.

### **HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*\*

*BOD Y MEL*

This species continues to breed in Wales. Passage birds noted in PEMBROKE at Ramsey Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> and going east passed Strumble Head on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>; in CAERNARFON at Trefriw on July 30<sup>th</sup> and at the Great Orme Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>; one flew SE over Inner Marsh Farm, FLINT on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

*BARCUD COCH*

A very healthy increase from 200 known pairs in 1998 to 228 in 1999 was recorded. Of these 181 certainly bred, 14 more than in 1998, and it is very probable that some of the remaining 47 pairs either laid eggs and quickly failed or that their nests were not found. One pair bred successfully at the second attempt, after an early nest failure, and one male bred twice, losing his first mate on eggs and rearing a chick with the new female in the same nest. From both these nests the single youngsters did not fly until August, exceptionally late. Besides mated pairs about 155 'spare birds' were recorded, making the April population at least 610 birds and it may have been a good deal higher.

The outcome at 4 of the 182 known nests with eggs was not recorded. Of the remaining 178 nests, 118 were successful. Of the 60 nest failures at least 8, an unprecedented number, were due to the nest collapsing, 4 in the heavy snowfall of mid April. Four nests were apparently predated by crows, 3 failed after casual human disturbance, at least one was robbed by eggers, 2 clutches failed to hatch and 3 nests were deserted after one of the pair died. The others had no obvious cause of failure although, as usual, wet weather was probably the main cause, but 7 nests failed with eggs, 21 around or soon after hatching and 5 certainly lost small young. For 6 nests the cause and timing of loss was unknown. Of successful nests, 77 had broods of one, 35 broods of 2 and 6 broods of 3. The total of 165 fledged was 9 fewer than in 1998.

The area occupied by territorial Kites in Wales showed several very satisfactory extensions to the SW, SE and E of the main range, as well as the more usual infilling. There was, however, little sign of the range extending N or NE and some ground has been lost in the NE (mainly Montgomery) in recent years. We hope that this rather worrying trend is not due to persecution. Nine Kites were reported

dead or permanently injured, at least 4 being members of territorial pairs. Besides accidents and similar causes, one of these had been poisoned with Fenthion, a discontinued warble-fly treatment commonly used in illicit baits in Wales; c.19 Ravens, several crows, a Buzzard and a Fox died in the same incident. One bird certainly and probably 2 more died from ingesting rat poison and, outside the breeding season, one bird was found poisoned by Carbofuron, another agricultural insecticide widely misused on poisoned baits.

Some 142 of the 1999 chicks were ringed at the nest. There were no reports of Welsh ringed Kites outside Wales but one Scottish-reared bird was reported in Radnorshire during the winter and early spring. The table gives revised figures for the population for the past 5 years:

	Breeding pairs	Other pairs	Total pairs	Unmated birds	Successful pairs	Young reared	Total birds	
							April	August
1995	127	19	146	106	79	117	398	514
1996	130	31	161	122	90	119	444	556
1997	152	28	180	135	99	129	495	618
1998	167	33	200	132	112	174	536	700
1999	184	47	231	155	120	167	610	766

### MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*\*

BOD Y GWERNI

Two over-wintering males on ANGLESEY plus 13 spring and 11 autumn passage records.

Spring passage: females at Sluice farm, GWENT May 1<sup>st</sup>, at Teifi Marshes, PEMBROKE / CEREDIGION Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>, St. David's airfield May 11<sup>th</sup> and Marloes Mere May 18<sup>th</sup>, both PEMBROKE. A female at Cors Fochno CEREDIGION on May 19<sup>th</sup> and a male there the next day. One in MEIRIONNYDD at Morfa Harlech Apr. 12<sup>th</sup> and at Llanelltyd June 6<sup>th</sup>; in CAERNARFON a female at RSPB Conwy on May 18<sup>th</sup>. On ANGLESEY there were many records, probably all relating to 2 roving individuals plus one immature male. A male was present Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> and as observed displaying at Ger-y-Parc, Brynteg Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> – May 29<sup>th</sup>, a female May 11<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> and an immature male at Rhoscolyn Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. A female visited Inner Marsh Farm, FLINT Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, an immature male there on May 5<sup>th</sup> and another female on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Autumn passage at Gileston, GLAMORGAN Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, in PEMBROKE one at Teifi Marshes and Ramsey July 30<sup>th</sup> was possibly the same individual, being joined by a second at the latter site the next day, with one remaining until Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, single at Skomer Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>; in CEREDIGION at Ynyshir Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, at Cors Fochno Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>; a male at Bardsey, CAERNARFON Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> and a female/imm. on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>; a cream-crown Inner Marsh Farm, FLINT Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> probably accounts for one at Connah's Quay on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>.

### MONTAGU'S HARRIER *C. pygargus*\*

BOD MONTAGU

1998 Additional record from PEMBROKE, a ring-tail at Porthmynawyd May 26<sup>th</sup>.

### HEN HARRIER *C. cyaneus*\*

BOD TINWEN

Coverage was not as complete as in previous years. The number of territorial pairs found was c20. Details of breeding success are not available.

Widely recorded outside the breeding season and range. Breakdown of records for each county, separated by sex and winter period:

	1 <sup>st</sup> winter period		2 <sup>nd</sup> winter period	
	males	females	males	females/imm.
GWENT	2+	1+		
E. GLAMORGAN	1	1	2+	
GOWER	1	1	2+	1
CARMARTHEN	1	1		2
PEMBROKE	3	6	4	6
CEREDIGION	3	4	1	2
BRECON	1	2	1	3
MONTGOMERY				3
CAERNARFON	1		1	1
ANGLESEY	2-4	3	1	3
DENBIGH	1		1	2
FLINT		1	1	



Max. at the main roosts: PEMBROKE at Dowrog 2 males + 3 females until Apr. 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 males + 2 females from Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, at Marloes one female until Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 males + a female from Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION at Cors Fochno a male + 2 females until Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> and from Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> onwards and at Cors Caron 2 males + 2 females until March. A wing-tagged individual which had been ringed as a nestling in the Forest of Bowland, Lancashire in June, was seen at Stackpole Warren, PEMBROKE Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.

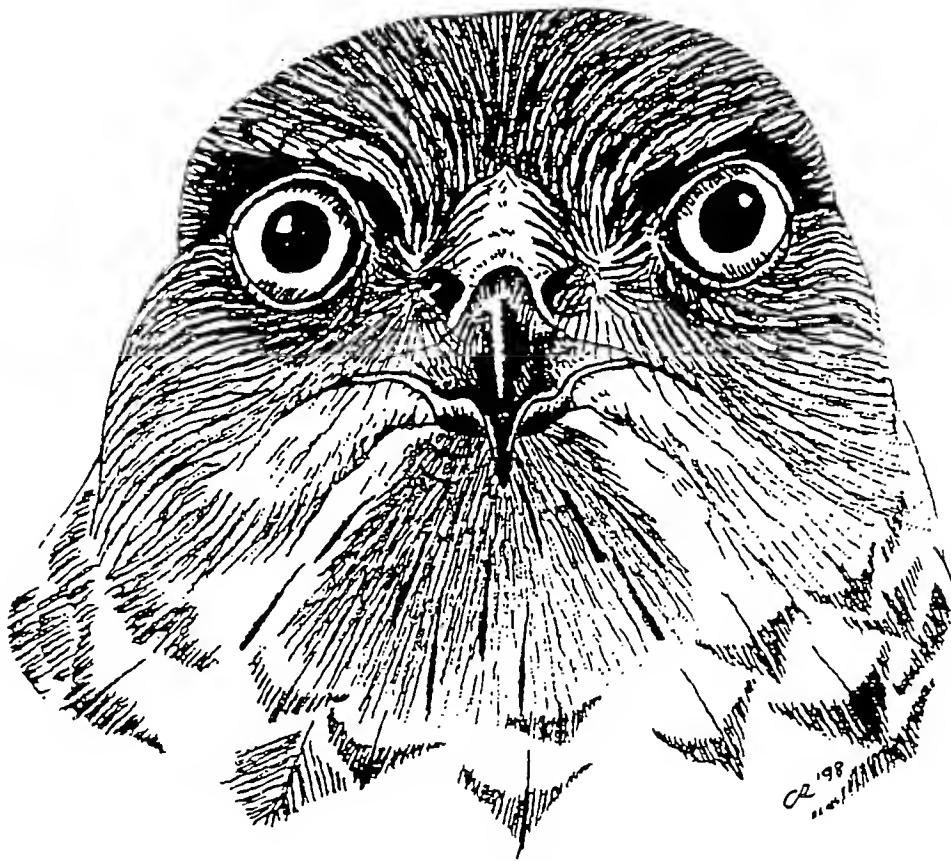
Approximate monthly totals for the dated records:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
16	15	24	14	2	2	7	16	20	20

**GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*

GWALCH MARTH

Breeding records received were as follows: 9 pairs failed in GWENT; GLAMORGAN: one pair fledged 2 young, 2-4 sites where breeding suspected and birds present at 6 other sites in spring; GOWER: bred at 2 sites; BRECON: minimum of 18 pairs; MONTGOMERY 4 pairs; bred in MEIRIONNYDD; CAERNARFON: no proof of breeding; a pair on Ruabon Moors, DENBIGH but no proof of breeding.. These figures do not represent a complete Welsh census.



**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

GWALCH GLAS

42 pairs reported in BRECON.

**BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

BWNCATH

On Ruabon Moor / Horseshoe Pass DENBIGH 16 territorial pairs, of which 2.42 was the mean clutch size and mean young fledged per brood was 1.4, with 4 failures. Survey of south BRECON found 106 pairs in 6 10-km squares, 54 bred successfully rearing 68 young. In north BRECON a 51% increase in occupied tetrads (71 compared to 47 in 1983), a 115% increase in the number of birds (228 compared with 106 in 1983) [*Welsh Birds* 2:251-256].

In CAERNARFON a survey found 14 pairs in 10 1-km squares in the Llandegai area, at least 4 pairs in 13 1-km squares Tal-y-bont / Llanfairfechan, 6 pairs in Nant Ffrancon & Coed Aber areas.

A pure white bird was seen at Pontypool Park, GWENT Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Max. autumn/winter congregations were: over 40 near Newcastle Emlyn, CEREDIGION mid October to the end of the year, with a max. of 57 on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> [see *Welsh Birds* 2:292], 30 worming near Llanfilo, BRECON Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and 23 Pant-y-Goch, PEMBROKE Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *B. lagopus*\***

BOD BACSIOG

Single at Bardsey, CAERNARFON Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and an immature at Trichrug, CEREDIGION Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.**OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*\***

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Spring passage Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> - June 6<sup>th</sup> and autumn passage July 25<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, with one individual summering in MONTGOMERY June 8<sup>th</sup> - July 28<sup>th</sup> (bird had a dark green ring on its left leg, so far untraceable).

County totals: GWENT (3), GLAMORGAN (2), GOWER (2/3), CARMARTHEN (5+), PEMBROKE (9+), CEREDIGION (2), BRECON (1-2), RADNOR (8+), MONTGOMERY (1), MEIRIONNYDD (3+), CAERNARFON (12), ANGLESEY (1) and DENBIGH (2). Approximate monthly totals:

Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1	7	5	2	5	7	15	7

**KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus***

CUDYLL COCH

The monitoring survey started in 1997 continued in 1999, with satisfactory results. Altogether 230 sites were checked and 203 (88%) were found occupied by at least one bird; known pairs were present in 121 sites (60%). These figures are based on all records received. Occupation rates are better examined by looking only at sites more systematically searched. Here 77 (81%) of 96 sites checked held at least one bird, indicating that the occupation rate was genuinely higher in 1999. Within this sample 46 sites (48%) certainly held pairs, a slightly lower proportion than in 1998 but not significantly so. Breeding success remained good. In 11 nests average c/s was 4.82 and fledged b/s 3.27, only one of these pairs failing. Based on all records of fledged broods, 57 broods totalling 127 young were noted, with 8 pairs failing, giving an overall productivity rate of at least 1.95 per pair that bred, a somewhat poorer result than 1998. The table summarises the results for 1999.

Sites checked	Sites occupied	Single birds	Pair present	Pair bred	Young raised	x pairs	Pairs failed	Productivity
230	203 (59)	25	39	82	127	x 57	8	1.95

Notes: Under sites occupied (59) denotes territories where birds were known to be present but no more.  
 Single birds denotes sites where it was known that only one bird was present.  
 Pair present denotes sites where a pair was known to be present but no more.  
 Pair bred includes 17 pairs for which the actual result was not recorded.

The importance of the cliff coastlines as a stronghold for this species in Wales continues to be emphasised by the results. The species was much more patchily distributed inland, although it is becoming clear that there are more Kestrels in many inland areas than thought when this exercise started. Nevertheless further indications of the species decline in lowland farmland areas came from CARMARTHEN, where Julian Friese noted that it had now disappeared from the Tywi valley around Drisllwyn and Broad Oak. Altogether birds were recorded at inland sites in 62 10-Km squares but only 11 of those squares are known to have more than 3 pairs/sites. The species is better represented in upland areas but in some, such as Mynydd Epynt BRECON, a lack of good nesting crags may be a limiting factor.

There was little evidence of any marked autumn movement.

**MERLIN *F. columbarius***

CUDYLL BACH

1998 Additional breeding record in CEREDIGION.

1999 Breeding reports received from: BRECON, a poor breeding season with 7 pairs of which one was proved to breed producing 2 young; 5 pairs MONTGOMERY produced 10 young; at 10 sites in RADNOR; 1 pair in CEREDIGION plus possibly one other; one pair E. GLAMORGAN produced 2 young; 2 pairs in trees DENBIGH / FLINT produced 9 young; summering in CARMARTHEN but no proof of breeding; possibly bred in PEMBROKE, where a plucking site found in spring; bred in MEIRIONNYDD. These figures do not represent a complete Welsh census. Widely reported from all Counties in the winter months.

**HOBBY *F. subbuteo***

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Breeding information received comprised: in GWENT bred at 6 sites, with 7 young fledged from 4, a fourth failed and fledged young observed at the other two; BRECON located at 2 traditional areas, mid May onwards, breeding may have taken place in the Wye and Usk valleys; bred at 6 sites RADNOR; MONTGOMERY two in the Welshpool area throughout the breeding season although breeding is not known to have taken place; 8 sightings in June – August DENBIGH but no proof of breeding.

Non-breeding birds: in GWENT (26), GLAMORGAN (15), CARMARTHEN (5), PEMBROKE (8), CEREDIGION (2), BRECON (2), MEIRIONNYDD (1), CAERNARFON (1), ANGLESEY (1), FLINT (4) and 4 DENBIGH / FLINT. Approximate monthly totals of non-breeding individuals were:

Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
2	12	4	16	18	8	7	1

**PEREGRINE *F. peregrinus***

EBOG TRAMOR

Breeding summaries received were as follows:

	Sites occupied	Pairs bred	Young raised by pairs
GWENT	13	13	
E. GLAMORGAN	24+	18	32 by 12, 2.67 young/pr.
GOWER	4-5	4-5	4 from one, 2 from another
CARMARTHEN	6	3	2
PEMBROKE	43	30	58
CEREDIGION (inland)	8		
BRECON	17	13	23
RADNOR	18	6	
MONTGOMERY	20		
CAERNARFON		4	4
ANGLESEY		2	

A site is defined as including all alternative eyries of the same pair. These counts do not comprise a complete survey for Wales but figures for GLAMORGAN, PEMBROKE and BRECON are reasonably comprehensive.

7 pairs were found in one study area in DENBIGH, of which 4 were successful, with an average of 3.3 chicks / nest and an overall average 1.3 fledged / nest.

In GWENT 5 pairs failed, in one the female had been poisoned, GLAMORGAN there were two cases where the eggs were stolen and one where the young disappeared, in MONTGOMERY 2 young were taken and eggs in another nest.

**RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*\***

GRUGIAR

In GWENT reported from 5 main sites, Blorenge, Sugar Loaf, Blaenavon – Abersychan, Mynydd-garn-clochdy and Waen Wen, max. 7 at Blorenge in May & July. In BRECON reported from 5 main sites, Black Mountains, Cefn Crewe, Craig Cerrig Gleisiad, Drum yr Eira and Gorllwyn. In MONTGOMERY 122 pairs Lake Vyrnwy. In MEIRIONNYDD pairs bred at Foel Ddu, Rhydymain, Cadair Idris, Mynydd Moel Cadair, Waen y Feidiog, Moel Ysgyfarnogod, Rhinogau, Migneint and Berwyns. In CAERNARFON reported at 2 sites, max. 5 on Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>; one record in CEREDIGION; in DENBIGH nesting was late but autumn numbers higher than 1997 & 1998; reported at Llyn Bran FLINT.

**BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix***

GRUGIAR DDU

Within the RSPB Black Grouse Recovery Project Area (consisting of six key areas; Ruabon/Llandegla Moor, North Berwyn, Clocaenog Forest, Migneint/Dduallt, Llanbryn-mair Moor and Pale/North Berwyn covering parts of MEIRIONNYDD, DENBIGH and MONTGOMERY) a total of 151-152 males were recorded lekking in spring 1999. This compares to 143 males in 1998 and 108 males in 1997. Productivity was estimated to be 2.58 chicks per female (compared to 0.96 in 1998 and 1.28 in 1997).

Additional information was that in CEREDIGION there were small numbers in the north east; MONTGOMERY 10-11 lekking males at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB; 2 adults with chicks seen at 2 sites in CARMARTHEN and in MEIRIONNYDD 2 males in Dyfi forest.

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*\*

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Population maintained by releases in St. David's, PEMBROKE, Ruabon, DENBIGH and ANGLESEY, where 5,000 put down on the Dulas estate. Elsewhere small numbers in scattered localities, GWENT at 2 sites, E. GLAMORGAN at 3 sites, CEREDIGION at 2, BRECON at 3 sites and one in FLINT.

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*\*

PETRISEN

Population maintained by releases at St. David's, PEMBROKE and ANGLESEY, where 500 put down on the Dulas estate. Elsewhere small numbers in GWENT at 4 sites, max. 9 at Garn Lakes, Blaenavon in November; in GLAMORGAN at 4 coastal and 2 inland sites, max. 5 at Llanmihangel July 15<sup>th</sup> and 7 at Boverton Place Farm Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>; on ANGLESEY thought to be more plentiful than in recent years, bred at Llantisant and recorded at 9 other sites, Max. 10 Braint estuary on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>; in DENBIGH one at Kinmel Bay but none on Ruabon Moor; in FLINT 4 records all of singles except for 13 near Inner Marsh Farm on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*\*

SOFLIAR

1998 Additional record from Malltraeth, ANGLESEY May 29<sup>th</sup>.

1999 All records of calling males were: at the Paddocks, E. GLAMORGAN May 5<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, with 2 calling on July 19<sup>th</sup>; at Mewslade, GOWER June 10<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> with 3 calling on July 26<sup>th</sup>; singles in PEMBROKE at Marloes May 5<sup>th</sup>, St. David's Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> and Rhosgranog on the 21<sup>st</sup>; at Llyn Blaenmelindur, CEREDIGION July 9<sup>th</sup>; Clyro, RADNOR May 9<sup>th</sup>; in CAERNARFON at Bardsey May 9<sup>th</sup> and Dolgarrog on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; on ANGLESEY at Malltraeth on May 11<sup>th</sup>, Brynteg on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Llanfaelog on the 25<sup>th</sup>; in DENBIGH on the moors July 4<sup>th</sup> and at Bodelwyddan, May – June.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGAN Y DWR

Breeding records received were: possibly bred at Uskmouth, GWENT, none in E. GLAMORGAN, in GOWER: 5 at Crymlyn Bogs with another on the Burrows and 4 at Neath Abbey; in PEMBROKE 2 pairs Skomer and 7 on the Teifi Marshes (also CEREDIGION); CEREDIGION bred at Ynyshir, Aberleri and Cors Caron; at Llangorse BRECON; at 4 sites in RADNOR; probably bred at Dolydd Hafren MONTGOMERY; juvenile seen at RSPB Conwy CAERNARFON; on ANGLESEY present at Cors Goch and Malltraeth but breeding not proven.

Maximum winter concentrations were 14 at Kenfig, GLAMORGAN in the first winter period and up to 30 at the Teifi Marshes in both winter periods. 18 individuals passed through Bardsey CAERNARFON from Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> until the end of the season.

**SPOTTED CRAKE** *Porzana porzana*\*

RHEGEN FRAITH

Males were heard at Cors Caron, CEREDIGION May 20<sup>th</sup> and at Gwenfro Isaf, ANGLESEY May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile was seen at Lisvane Res. E. GLAMORGAN Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CORNCRAKE** *Crex crex*\*

SOFLAIR

1998 Additional record of one found dead at Boduan, CAERNARFON Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

1999 An adult was seen at Skokholm, PEMBROKE May 26<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile there Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, the only other record was of one at the Braint estuary, ANGLESEY Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DDWR

Breeding records received were: in GWENT 35-37 pairs at 16 sites, in E. GLAMORGAN at 18 sites; in GOWER 18+ pairs at 13 sites; in PEMBROKE 19 pairs at 9 sites; in BRECON 26 pairs reared 40 young in the south of the county; in CAERNARFON at 7 sites of which 5 pairs on RSPB Conwy and 9 broods reared on Bardsey; on ANGLESEY 14 broods at 5 sites.

Monthly counts at Penclacwydd, CARMARTHEN were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
192	195	190	170	170	135	160	169	175	181	190	190

**COOT *Fulica atra***

CWTIAR

Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated as available:

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
GWENT										
Llandegfedd Res.		114		21	73	47				30
GLAMORGAN										
Kenfig	38	16	14			94	172	285	354	470
CARMARTHEN										
Penclacwydd	92	101	80	40	45	41	61	80	94	90
Sandy Water Park	67	53	17	7		148	182		59	70
BRECON										
Llangorse	680	170	170			300	500	570	600	520
ANGLESEY										
Cemlyn	57	74	36	26	118	206	225	213	64	55
Llyn Cefni					322	317	104			
Llyn Alaw					319	670	1046	278		
FLINT										
Inner Marsh Farm	103	150	52	40	25	5	10	20	30	95

Elsewhere there were max. 93 at Ynysfro Res. In January and 85 at Dunlop Semtex Pond in August, both GWENT and 210 at Sandy Water Park, CARMARTHEN on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> with 135 there on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

Only breeding records received were: GWENT: bred at 14 sites, at least 35 pairs; GLAMORGAN: bred at 10 locations; GOWER: bred at 8 sites, total of 18 pairs/broods; PEMBROKE: 9 pairs at 5 sites; BRECON: 11 pairs reared 17 young at Llangorse, 40 failed completely, elsewhere 14 pairs reared 27 young and 10 others failed; RADNOR 20 pairs at 8 sites, 25+ young reared; CAERNARFON: 40 pairs RSPB Conwy plus 7 at 4 other sites; ANGLESEY: 10 pairs Malltraeth, 5 pairs Cemlyn, 3 pairs Llyn Pas Mar and pairs at 4 other sites.

**CRANE**

1994 Additional record at Marloes Mere, PEMBROKE Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

1999 A single on the River Ely at Hensol, E. GLAMORGAN Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> was the 2<sup>nd</sup> record for that county. Two near St. David's PEMBROKE Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

**OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus***

PIODEN Y MOR

Sizable flocks of this species occur all round the Welsh coast and the monthly max. for the main sites (holding counts of 1000 at least once) are tabulated as known.

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore Est	550	1000	37	30			15		405	696	200	5
Blackpill	2620	1930	1430	263	248	182	400	2180	2156	3106	3120	3180
Jersey Marine	82	700	325	250	250		133	702	2250	1200	306	900
Burry (S)	15950	22355	6440	600	465	235	2790	14520	14340	25310	23300	1675
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	8677	9253	2784				68	2633	2820	5540	6895	7755
T/T/G	1891	1285	2881	1533	1221	1	1161	388	140	6284	1717	2461
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	1317	988	371	24	7	258	379	493	1075	1520	1150	503
FLINT												
Dee Est. PoA	3240	2290	1800	975	1125	685	2500	6795	8340	3755	6030	3216
Dee Oakenholt		141		240	1200	783	24		6000	3600	156	535

In CAERNARFON there were also 2000 roosting on the west side of the Great Orme on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> and counts of 3300 at Madryn Spit and 1500 at Aber Ogwen in December, when there was also a roost of 2100 on Gallows Point ANGLESEY. These counts all presumably refer to the Traeth Lafan population

Systematic breeding counts were: GWENT: single pairs bred at St. Brides and Goldcliff NR and probably did so at the Ebbw Est.; GLAMORGAN: none bred; PEMBROKE: 94 territories counted at Skomer and 38 at Skokholm; CEREDIGION: 8 pairs bred on the Dyfi NNR (see note under Lapwing); BRECON/RADNOR: 2 pairs raised a total of 3 young on R. Wye in the Glasbury area; MERIONNYDD: 3 pairs bred at Dwyrdd/Glaslyn Est. and bred at Penmaenpool and Trawsfynydd;

CAERNARFON: 76 pairs held territory at Bardsey but had poor breeding success, 3 pairs bred at Conwy RSPB; ANGLESEY: 2 pairs bred at Cemlyn, 6 at Llyn Alaw, 2-3 at Llyn Parc Mawr and 4 at Llanddwyn Island; DENBIGH: a pair with 2 young at Llyn Brenig in June and 2 birds at Pen y Cae Res. on June 1<sup>st</sup>; FLINT: 2 pairs bred at Rhyl Marine Lake and one on the Clwyd Est. just upstream, 2 pairs reared a total of 2 young at Point of Ayr, 4 pairs bred at Oakenholt, one pair held territory at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB and one bred on arable nearby.

**AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avosetta*\*

CAMBIG

All records were; one at the Gann PEMBROKE on Apr. 26<sup>th</sup> and one at Picton Point there on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and one at Pontllyfni CAERNARFON on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*\*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Breeding counts received were: GWENT: single pairs bred at St. Brides and Uskmouth NR, 3 pairs did so at Goldcliff NR and one had 3 young at Gobion on June 19<sup>th</sup>; GOWER: a pair raised 4 young at Margam; CARMARTHEN: a pair bred at Penclacwydd WWT, rearing one young and 26 pairs found in a partial survey of R. Tywi between Manordeilo and Whitemill. Breeding success unknown except that one pair fledged 4 young from 4 eggs, only the first time this recorded in over 400 clutches in 10 years; CEREDIGION: one pair bred; BRECON: a pair at Scethrog on R. Usk from April to June were unsuccessful if actually nested; BRECON/RADNOR: 4 pairs bred on R. Wye in the Glasbury, area, raising a total of 6 young; MONTGOMERY: 3-4 pairs at Dolydd Hafren were apparently all unsuccessful, 2 reared one young each at Llyn Coed y Dinas and a pair bred at Pwll Penarth; CAERNARFON: although a pair present at Conwy RSPB breeding was not confirmed. It was also suspected at Llandudno Junction industrial park; DENBIGH: a pair had 2 chicks in Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope, 2 pairs at Borrás Quarry and one at Cefn Mawr Quarry, and a pair acting as though with chicks at Wrexham Industrial Estate on July 2<sup>nd</sup>; FLINT: a pair present at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB but no evidence of successful breeding.

**RINGED PLOVER** *C. hiaticula*

CWTIAD TORCHOG

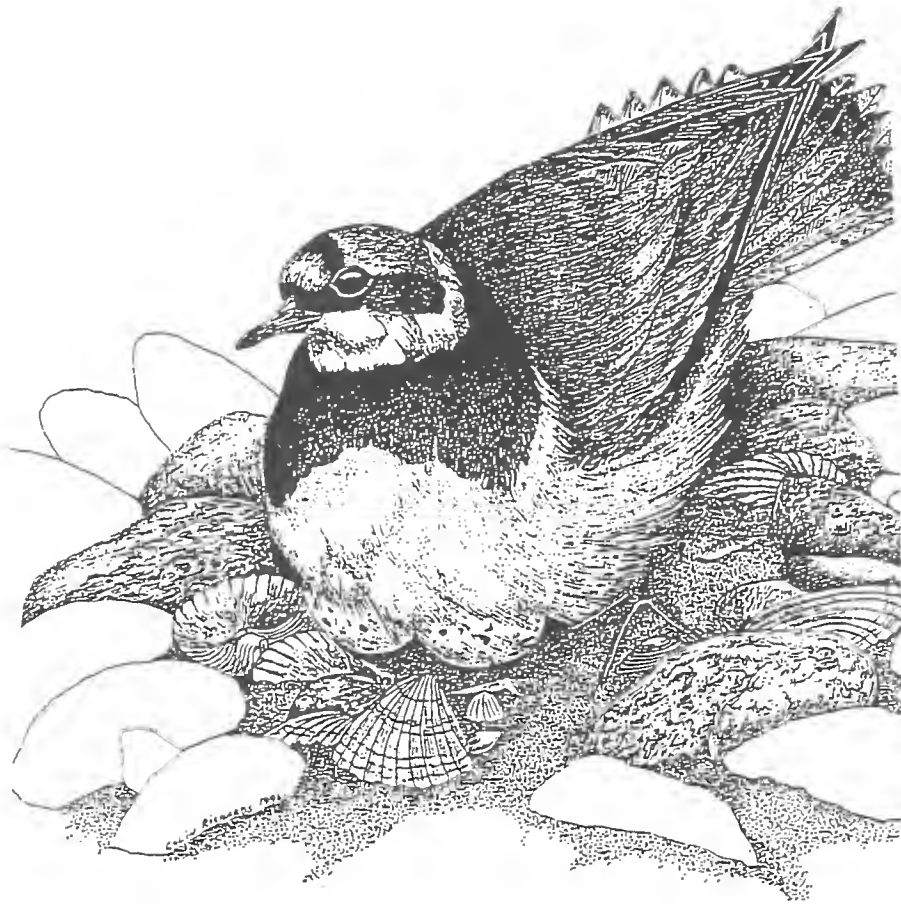
Widespread around the Welsh coast. The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 100 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT PW/SF			2	6	16		1	33	15	34	130	40
GLAMORGAN												
Blackpill	84	190	100	4	23		3	216	199	303	244	247
Jersey Marine		89	13	43	10		3	77	63	87	81	236
Port Talbot	15	15	3	4	4	5	4	100	41	30	26	12
Burry (S)	60	70	70	80	15			480		60		
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	22	18	6	39	73	19	2	12	55	5	122	41
Upper Loughor		38							9	145	64	
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas				193			307					
FLINT												
Dee Est. PoA	20	28	29	46	6	110	46	415	13	48	121	27

In GLAMORGAN there were passage max. of 95 at Gilestone on Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> and similar numbers at the Taff/Ely Est. on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Breeding records were incomplete but those received were: GWENT: a pair had at least one chick at St. Brides in early June, when pairs were also present at Goldcliff NR and Uskmouth; GLAMORGAN: bred at the Taff/Ely Est., Sker Point (2 pairs), Aberthaw (1-2 pairs), Whiteford Point (at least 3 pairs), Horton Beach, Baglan Bay, Port Talbot Harbour (2-3 pairs), Margam Sidings (2 pairs) and present or probably bred at Swansea Docks, Three Cliffs Bay (2 pairs) and Crumlyn Burrows; PEMBROKE: 1-2 pairs nested at Castlemartin Ranges and at least some young reared; CEREDIGION: 5 pairs bred at Ynyslas and one at Aberystwyth; MEIRIONNYDD: one pair bred at Aberdyfi; CAERNARFON: a pair bred a Morfa Madryn; ANGLESEY: 2 pairs bred at Llanddwyn Island and bred at Llanddona Beach, Rhosneigr, Cemlyn (failed) and Hen Borth; FLINT: a total of 6 pairs bred at Point of Ayr.





**DOTTEREL** *C. morinellus* \*

*HUTAN Y MYNYDD*

All records were: CARMARTHEN: 7 at Garreg Lwyd on Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 3 on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: one at Dale A/F on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 at St Davids A/F on 6<sup>th</sup> and one from from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 2 at Drygarn Fawr (with 5 northern type Golden Plover) on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and one on 18<sup>th</sup>; RADNOR: 6 at Ireland Pools from May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2 there on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 on Beacon Hill the same day; MEIRIONNYDD: 3 on Aran Benllyn on May 2<sup>nd</sup>; CAERNARFON: a long run of records starting with 3 at the Great Orme on Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>. Then on Foel Fras there were 3 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 13 on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 29 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 7<sup>th</sup>, whilst there were 11 on Foel Grach on 26<sup>th</sup>. In the autumn 2 on the Great Orme on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> and singles on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 2 on Foel Fras on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, one at Uwchmynydd on 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 there on 19<sup>th</sup> and an exceptional party of 35 on Nantlle Ridge on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

**GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

*CWTLAD AUR*

Records are rather incomplete but monthly max. at 6 major wintering areas are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN Burry (S)	400	70	110	1615	500	1060
CARMARTHEN Ginst Point	8955	5500	66	779	5734	6916
Gwendraeth	461					300
PEMBROKE St. Davids A/F	700			1000	1000	
CEREDIGION Ynys-Ias	490				850	
CAERNARFON Dinas Dinlle	1000	657	369	200	300	140

Other major winter flocks in coastal counties were: GLAMORGAN: 600 at Norton Farm Ogmere on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> and 250 at Sker on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> increasing to 1000 on 29<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: 750 at Mynydd Llanllwni on Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Lleithyr in January and February and 800 at Gupton on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: 1000 at Blaenporth on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 500+ at Tywyn Aberffraw on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. Inland in BRECON there were 150-200 on the west side of Mynydd Epynt MoD from January to March and 100 there from Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 140 s/p northern type at Pantyllyn on Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 500 there on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> declining to 175 from 21<sup>st</sup>; there were also 42 at Mynydd Illtyd on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> and 60 at Llyn Traeth Bach on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. In MONTGOMERY there were 120 at Llyn y Tarw on Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Very little breeding information received but, in CARMARTHEN, a pair bred at Mynydd Rhosycorn, in BRECON only 2 breeding pairs could be found on Abergwesyn Common (8-9 in 1998) but 5 territories were located in the Black Mountains where 9 adults and 5 juveniles were seen on June 30<sup>th</sup>. In RADNOR a continued decline noted on the Elan Valley Estate where 15-18 pairs were found at 4 sites.

### GREY PLOVER *P. squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 75 at least once) are tabulated as available. There were also max. of 100 at Undy GWENT in October and 87 in the Taf Est. CARMARTHEN in December.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT PW/SF	100	40	1		3			1	1		18	40
St. Brides/ Uskmouth	104		8	1						3	20	26
GLAMORGAN												
Burry(S)	740	340	205	20	1			40	155	220	195	205
Blackpill	27	74	13	1	1		1	1		5	14	33
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	307	7	7		1				3	3	89	65
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	77	16	0						12	4	161	221
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Abermenai	72	76	41							54	12	35
FLINT Dee Est. PoA											100	100

### LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

Regular counts at the main wintering areas are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT Nedern	300	1000	28	3	97	690	483
GLAMORGAN Burry (S)	2855	3220	5	85	290	1510	1870
CARMARTHEN Burry (N)	1255	891	109	62	309	883	1473
Upper Loughor	336	310			248	591	465
Gwendraeth	266	141				93	1163
Ginst Point	3150	1421			441	935	2002
PEMBROKE Cleddau Est.	1498	473	0	0	5	1840	2976
CEREDIGION Dyfi Est.	470	518	46	29	54	304	2180
CAERNARFON Foryd Bay	1500	290		183	70		100
ANGLESEY Cemlyn	600	400	1	20	77	231	550
Braint Est.	527	350					700
Llyn Coron	1000	1300			180	170	2000
FLINT Dee Est. Oakenholt	220	280		450	295	319	540
Dee Est. Inner Marsh Farm	2000	1300	47	120	51	1300	2500
Rhyl/Ciwyd Est.	1250					1500	1000

Other major flocks were; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Gupton on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at Lleithyr on 28<sup>th</sup>, 1000 at Carnhedryn on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1000 at Croesgoch on 29<sup>th</sup> and 3000 in the Angle-Castlemartin area in December; CEREDIGION: 450 in The Teifi Est. in January and February; MEIRIONNYDD: 527 at Morfa Harlech on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 1000 at Fourmile Bridge on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1000 in the Cefni Est. on 19<sup>th</sup>, 1300 at Aberffraw on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1000 at Llyn Traffwll on 21<sup>st</sup>; and 550 at Malltraeth on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. In inland counties no flock >80 was recorded.

In the breeding season at least 800 pairs recorded. The RSPB Lapwing Team continued its Key Sites survey and the results are summarised in Table 1. Where counts were done in both years the population showed a decline of 44 pairs (7%) but this was entirely due to the loss of 3 sites in GWENT to industrial development; the population was otherwise stable. Breeding productivity remained low at 0.30 young per pair. A substantial proportion of these sites were in the Dee flood plain, where a detailed survey found a total of 308 pairs (248 in Wales and 60 in Cheshire) and many pairs were breeding in forage maize. Here productivity was particularly low, at 0.14 young/pair; elsewhere productivity was a more satisfactory 0.49 young/pair. Whilst it should be remembered that productivity in this species is very difficult to assess accurately, this result is worrying and is being investigated in 2000. It is interesting to note, however, that no obvious relationship could be observed between breeding productivity at these sites in 1998 and numbers and changes in these in 1999.



**Table 1. Breeding pairs of Lapwing at key sites in Wales in 1999**

County & site	Pairs	Young	County & site	Pairs	Young
CAERNARFON					
Rhyd y Blew	0		Dinas Dinlle	28	9
Waun y Pound	0		Madryn	21	12
Cefn Manmoel	0		Tremorfa	14	0
Newton Farm	6	3	Conwy RSPB	9	7
GLAMORGAN					
Fochriw	17	7	Penrhyn Bay	9	1
Parc Slip	8	0	ANGLESEY		
Tyle Coch	8	6	Bodorgan Estate	3	?
DENBIGH					
CARMARTHEN			Kilford Farm*	28	0
Penclacwydd	28	17	Sarffle Farm*	8	?
PEMBROKE					
Castlemartin/Broomhill	4	4	Banhadla Farm* <sup>2</sup>	10	?
Ramsey	13	3	Pulford/Trevalyn*	27	?
CEREDIGION/					
MEIRIONNYDD					
Dyfi Est. NNR	110	c.60	Mwdwl Eithiný	9	0
BRECON					
Mynydd Illtyd	10	7	Holt*	20	?
Llangasty	7	7	FLINT		
RADNOR					
Dyfnant	1	0	Shotton Tip	0	
MEIRIONNYDD					
Morfa Harlech	12	?	Sealand Ranges*	22	4
Glaslyn Marsh	0		Beeches Farm*	50	2
			Burton Meadows* <sup>2</sup>	20	6
			Shotwick fields*	15	?
			Willow Farm* <sup>1</sup>	10	?
			Maes Gwyn Farm* <sup>2</sup>	14	8
			Inner Marsh Farm*	34	5
			Saugall Sealand* <sup>2</sup>	27	?

NOTES: The Dyfi Est. NNR covers the whole estuary in the counties of Ceredigion, Meirionnydd and Montgomery.

<sup>2</sup> indicates a site new to the survey. \* indicates a site within the Dee floodplain (see text).

Breeding records received outside this survey are summarised under counties, as follows: GWENT: a total of 65 pairs in 5 areas, including 15+ around Peterstone/Wentlooge, c.10 pairs at St. Brides and 8 in the Llanwern steelworks complex; E. GLAMORGAN: 11 pairs found in 5 sites not included in Table 1. These were highly successful, 9 rearing young, with a mean of 1.75 by 4 pairs; GOWER: a total of 41-42 pairs in 12 sites, with 8 pairs at Llansamlet and 11 at BP Llandaray as the most important. Industrial complexes were the most important breeding sites, holding 84% of pairs, and only 6 pairs were found on the Gower Peninsula proper; CARMARTHEN: 2 pairs bred at Bynea and 4 at Broad Oak, where only one juvenile noted; PEMBROKE: a pair at Skokholm lost all 4 chicks it hatched but again none bred Skomer; CEREDIGION: away from sites in Table 1 one pair attempted to breed at Cors Caron and 3 bred at Ty'n Graig; BRECON: away from sites in Table 1 50-60 pairs were found in the county, 25 of which reared 33 young; RADNOR: the county population was estimated at 90-100 pairs and a continued decline noted; MONTGOMERY: breeding at Morfa Dyfi is included in Table 1 under Dyfi Est. Elsewhere the Wildlife Trust made a farmland survey and found birds at 38 sites, with breeding confirmed in 14; CAERNARFON; away from sites in Table 1 17-19 pairs bred in 5 sites, of which 11 pairs reared 10 young; ANGLESEY: 3 pairs reared 5 young at Malltraeth RSPB; CLWYD: away from sites in Denbigh and Flint listed in Table 1 a further 16 pairs found in 3 sites. No breeding success data except for a record of 33 birds in one flock between Pont Glan y Wern and Lleweni Hall on R. Clwyd on July 11<sup>th</sup> which included 16 juveniles. Overall breeding success from all sources worked out at 0.46 young/pair (240 young by 527 pairs) but excluding the Dee flood plain population it was 0.61, which may be just about sufficient to maintain the population.

### KNOT *Calidris canutus*

### PIBYDD YR ABER

The monthly max. at the main sites are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Burry (S)	5270	1600	280	5				200	175	400	2280	2200
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	450		1	3	8	2	1	3	50	54	1	1
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Abermenai	620	1020	420	4					20	33	0	600
FLINT												
Dee Est. PoA	720	1090	505	1	20		1	80	300	90	90	305

There were also max. of 600 at Cefn Sidan CARMARTHEN in November and 450 at Traeth Lafan CAERNARFON on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>. At Strumble Head PEMBROKE 578 passed on 19 dates between Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> and Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, max. 142 on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and 160 on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>.

### SANDERLING *C. alba*

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

The monthly max. at the main sites are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Blackpill	393	407	520	5	63	11	4	20	4	248	297	320
Port Talbot/	86	151	209	6				184	141	40	180	104
Aberavon												
Jersey Marine	39	318	165	5	13					159	230	11
FLINT Gronant	55										300	
Dee Est. PoA	67	1	5		8	19	3	17	20	26	33	159

Other significant counts were an exceptional 550 on Weobley saltings GLAMORGAN on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 250 at Cefn Sidan CARMARTHEN on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 50 at Black Rock sands CAERNARFON on Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> and 80 at Kinmel Bay DENBIGH on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Passage max. at Ynys-las CEREDIGION were 107 on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 37 on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, a very low figure.

### LITTLE STINT *C. minuta*\*

PIBYDD BACH

A poor year with only 79 recorded, singles in winter at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT at each end of the year, 2 in spring only and 75 in autumn between July 31<sup>st</sup> and Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, in GWENT (12), GLAMORGAN (12), CARMARTHEN (4), PEMBROKE (10), CEREDIGION (6), MONTGOMERY (4), CAERNARFON (9), ANGLESEY (6), DENBIGH (1) and FLINT (15). Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
0	1	1	1	2	0	3	39	31	6	0	1

### TEMMINCK'S STINT *C. temminckii*\*

PIBYDD TEMMINCK

1995: One at Dale PEMBROKE on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.

1999: One at Goldcliff NR GWENT from Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

### WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *C. fuscicollis*\*

PIBYDD TINWEN

An adult at Goldcliff NR GWENT from Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

### PECTORAL SANDPIPER *C. melanotos*\*

PIBYDD CAIN

1998: One at Herbrandston PEMBROKE on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

1999: One at Goldcliff NR GWENT from Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. One at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON from Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> and another there on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>; one at Cemlyn ANGLESEY from May 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> and one at Malltraeth there on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### CURLEW SANDPIPER *C. ferruginea*\*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

A total of c.374 recorded altogether, including an exceptional flock of 100 at Ynys-las CEREDIGION on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, which had gone by the end of the month. There were 4 in spring between Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> and c.370 in autumn between July 24<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, in GWENT (35), GLAMORGAN (16), CARMARTHEN (c.50), PEMBROKE (26), CEREDIGION (120), MONTGOMERY (1), MEIRIONNYDD (18), CAERNARFON (30), ANGLESEY (46) and FLINT (32). Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
0	0	1	1	2	2	3	188	181	18	2	0

### PURPLE SANDPIPER *C. maritima*

PIBYDD DU

Widely scattered in all coastal counties except GWENT at both ends of the year, usually as single birds or small groups. As noted previously, however, it is doubtful, if more than 140-150 winter in Wales but there was quite a marked spring passage. There were records up to May 16<sup>th</sup> and from July 3<sup>rd</sup>, when there was one at Ramsey PEMBROKE. The main groups were: GLAMORGAN: max. of 15 at Port Eynon and 22 at Crabart Rhossili in January and February, 16 at Rhossili on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> and

max. of 18 at Port Talbot Harbour on Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> and 14 on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: a max. of 14 at Skomer in the early months; CEREDIGION: up to 14 in the first winter period at Aberystwyth and 11 at the end of the year; CAERNARFON: monthly max. at Bardsey of Feb. (28), Mar. (33), Apr. (90), May (100), Aug. (4), Sept. (16) and Oct. (64). The spring max. of 100 of May 9<sup>th</sup> was the highest ever count there; ANGLESEY: significant counts at 3 sites are tabulated:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cemlyn	9	8	16	5	3	10	6	4
Penmon Point	10		12				9*	2
Trearddur Bay	1	15				10		24

\*there were also 16 at Puffin Island on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.

## DUNLIN *C. alpina*

## PIBYDD Y MAWN

Occurs in all Welsh estuaries and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 1000 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT PW/SF	2500	2800	150	25	175		53	39	3	50	800	1000
St. Brides/	4470			30	630				40	400	50	1000
Uskmouth												
Goldcliff/5000				100		28	25	80	1000	1000		
Redwick												
Undy	2500	3000		4			20	28	120	700	2000	2500
GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney Est.	1050	800		75	100			30	6		800	450
Taff/Ely Est	4050	2200	1		9			5	10	2		70
Blackpill 2820	3790	2800	38	431	1	13	135	94	234	1006	1212	
Burry (S) 8440	8200	445	4	220	5		4005	620	2630	8410	8510	
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N) 3515	2400	30	32	1408	7	27	24	38	36	631	355	
T/T/G	3093	425			267		30			131	382	1537
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	5973	3425	61						42	130	2374	4884
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est. 80	197	228	30	587		28	538	35	615	150	1060	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1000*				80						690	2395
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Abermenai	1050	950	390	9	14					205	120	800
FLINT												
Dec Est. IMF	350	150	85	28	29	5	17	7	3	1200	80	230

The max. count for the Dwyryd/Glaslyn Est. MEIRIONNYDD was only 400 in November. Again virtually no breeding information but presence in the breeding season was noted in NE CEREDIGION, the Black Mountains BRECON and the Berwyn MONTGOMERY.

## BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*\*

## PIBYDD LLYDANBIG

One Conwy RSPB on May 24<sup>th</sup>, the fifth Welsh record.

## RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*\*

## PIBYDD TORCHOG

Recorded in every month, with 6 wintering at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT in the early months and 2 at the end of the year and single birds at Ginst Point CARMARTHEN in January, February and November and 3 in December, singles at Gupton PEMBROKE on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, in CEREDIGION in January, Morfa Harlech MEIRIONNYDD on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> and Malltraeth ANGLESEY in December. Altogether c.138 recorded in GWENT (4), GLAMORGAN (10), CARMARTHEN (c.16), PEMBROKE (14), CEREDIGION (10-15), MONTGOMERY (2), MEIRIONNYDD (7), CAERNARFON (12), ANGLESEY (19) and FLINT (c.39). Monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
8	9	9	26	5	3	18	31	54	11	5	7

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

GIACH FACH

As usual a wide scatter of singles and small groups at both ends of the year, with c.70 birds recorded in the early months up to Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> and 89 at the end of the year from Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>. The main groups were a max. of 25 in the Burry Inlet GLAMORGAN in February and up to 10 at Forest Farm NR there in the early months and 14 at the end of the year and 30 at Gronant FLINT on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere several groups of 4 to 5 were noted and there were 7 at Llangorse Lake BRECON on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

GIACH GYFFREDIN

Monthly max. at sites with significant winter counts are tabulated as available, mainly as peak counts for each winter period.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT Llanwern	125	85	52	154	78	106
GLAMORGAN Forest Farm NR	35	28	5	1	14	20
Burry (S)	5	20				
CARMARTHEN						
Burry (N)	60	43	35	16	16	21
Ginst Point	55		32		47	66
PEMBROKE Cleddau Est.	19	189	16	18	68	35
CEREDIGION Cors Caron				99	95	
BRECON Llangorse Lake			29		85	
MEIRIONNYDD D'Glas.	37	4	26	7	15	37
CAERNAFON Glanrafon Waunfawr	38				40	
ANGLESEY Malltraeth RSPB			40		23	
FLINT Gronant shore	60				80	150

Other significant counts were 40 at Aberthaw GLAMORGAN in February, in PEMBROKE 50 at Castle Martin Corse on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 86 at the Esso Refinery on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and a max. of 59 at the Teifi Marshes on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, in BRECON counts of 30 at Llyn Traeth Bach and Llandefalle Hill on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 50 at Glasbury RADNOR on 20<sup>th</sup> and, in ANGLESEY, 92 at Red Wharf Bay on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 60 at Aberffraw on 19<sup>th</sup> and 40 at Llyn Rhos Ddu on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. There were 82 at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Rather little systematic breeding information received but in CEREDIGION a survey of Cors Caron recorded 35 'drummers' and there were 17 pairs at Dyfi NNR (see note under Lapwing breeding table), in BRECON a total of 60+ 'drummers' for the county included counts of 27-30 on Mynydd Epynt MoD, 8-9 at Mynydd Illtyd and 14-15 at Rhos Saint Maen Llanwrthwl and, in MONTGOMERY, 4 pairs at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB, 3 on Trannon Moor and 12 at Morfa Dyfi.

**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

All records of roding birds are given and all would be welcome, as the breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood. GWENT: 2 roding at Mynydd Ddu on Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> and roding noted at Trelleck. In addition 3 in a territorial dispute at Broad Meend on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 2 in Wentwood on June 18<sup>th</sup>; E. GLAMORGAN: roding noted at Mynydd Rudry on May 14<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 2-3 roding Llanwrthwl June 26<sup>th</sup>; MONTGOMERY: bred at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB; CAERNARFON: roding noted at Llyn Bodgynydd; DENBIGH: 6-8 roding in Nercwys Forest on May 20<sup>th</sup> but none found in the Worlds End and Horseshoe Pass woods; FLINT: 4 roding at Penmynydd on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Hawarden.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

The monthly max. at the main sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	14	44	42	76	40	39	42	101	91	91	99	63
FLINT												
Dec Est. IMF	235	100	280	1360	700	344	70	45	515	150	350	600

Otherwise a scatter of mainly passage groups around the coast in spring and autumn, the largest in GWENT, with 53 at Peterstone/Wentlooge in March and 56 in April, GLAMORGAN, with 60 at Rumney Great Wharf on Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> and 49 in the Taff/Ely Est. on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a max. of 40 in the Burry Inlet in September, and in ANGLESEY, with 42 at Malltraeth in late June. Inland in BRECON there

was one at Llangorse Lake on Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>, 5 there on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> and one at Brechfa Pool on Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> and there was one at Dinefwr Ponds CARMARTHEN on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *L. lapponica*

*RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH*

Small numbers occur in most coastal counties but the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 70 at least once) are tabulated as available.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Burry (S)		180	50	3	1		1	2	115	315	35	4
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)		96	38	6			1	22	1			
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch Bay* 200							9			12		
FLINT												
Dee Est. PoA										200		

\*also known as the Inland Sea.

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

*COEGLFNIR*

As noted last year wintering birds are possibly becoming more frequent and there was one at Skokholm PEMBROKE on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, when the island was reoccupied, and one or two there throughout November and one on Skomer until Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, one wintered at Bardsey CAERNARFON at each end of the year and one in Foryd Bay there on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 at Octel Amlwch ANGLESEY on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> and one at Flint Castle FLINT on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Spring passage was noted between Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> and autumn passage from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, when there was one at Point of Ayr FLINT. Monthly max. at the most important site, the Burry Inlet, are tabulated:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
GLAMORGAN Burry (S)	2	10	175	100	190	35	2
CARMARTHEN Burry (N)	1	160	4	6	6	7	

Elsewhere passage max. were, in GWENT, 50 at Mathern in April and 140 at 3 sites along the Severn shore in May, in GLAMORGAN, 75 at Porthcawl on Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>, 45 at Rumney Great Wharf on 30<sup>th</sup>, 80 at Sker on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 50 at Kenfig NNR on 5<sup>th</sup> and 54 at Blackpill on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, in PEMBROKE 50+ at Ramsey on 3 dates between mid April and mid May, in CEREDIGION 40 at Borth on Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>, in CAERNARFON 40 at Bardsey on May 7<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, in ANGLESEY 60 at Llyn Alaw on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 30 at Rhosneigr on July 30<sup>th</sup> and in FLINT 44 at Point of Ayr on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the autumn at Strumble Head PEMBROKE only 180, passed on 26 dates, with max. of 65 on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Inland only in GWENT, with 5 at Llandegfedd Res. on Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup> and one at Garnlydan Res. on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and BRECON where singles at Llangorse Lake on Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and Brechfa Pool on Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> and heard calling over Llangynidr over July 30/31<sup>st</sup>.

**CURLEW** *N. arquatus*

*GYLFINIR*

Occurs in all Welsh estuaries and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 500 at least once) are tabulated.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT PW/SF	230	414	430	400	20		3	400	435	250	295	303
Undy	600	490					500	500	1	450	328	304
GLAMORGAN												
Burry (S)	920	1005	480	270	30	410	1195	2185	2055	1830	1230	750
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	648	1370	610	278	269	362	1033	2481	1467	1136	268	396
T/T/G	399	180	115	46	3	184	64	813	476	372	297	766
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	1169	1139	259			210		2745	1155	943	917	1401
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	421	595	588	117	34	40	881	828	728	958	381	568
CAERNARFON												
Conwy Est.	101	120	50	61	15	180	450	674	518	150	100	113
Traeth Lafan								4000	2410			1136
FLINT												
Dee Est PoA	474	731	890	698	86	218	1695	1778	1297	760	1070	139

There were also 700+ in the Clwyd Est. CLWYD on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> but the max. count for the Dwyryd/Glaslyn Est. MEIRIONNYDD was only 250 in February. Inland the flock at Glasbury BRECON held max. 49 on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and 47 on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 120 at Dolydd Hafren NR MONTGOMERY in March was the max. there.

Systematic breeding reports were: GWENT: birds noted on territory at 10 sites, including up to 3 pairs at Pysgodlyn farm Abergavenny and possibly several at Trelleck; GLAMORGAN: birds present in 9 sites, with breeding confirmed in 3; PEMBROKE: 8 pairs nested on Skomer, the only breeding site remaining in the county; CEREDIGION: 12-13 pairs bred at Cors Caron NNR and 13 at Cors Fochno NNR. Ten other pairs reported but not a complete survey by any means; BRECON: a total of 75+ breeding pairs located, the main concentrations being on Mynydd Epynt MoD, with 16 pairs, Pantyllyn-Llaneglwys Wood with 10 and Cwm Crogau-Blaenglyn Olwyn behind Newbridge with 10; RADNOR: an estimated county total of c.130 pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding season records from 12 sites, with 'several' pairs at Trawsfynydd and 4 at Mynydd Mynyllod; ANGLESEY: bred at Malltraeth RSPB and Cors Erddreiniog.

### SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*\*

### PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Rather few recorded, with little spring passage and a total of c.105 altogether. In winter in CARMARTHEN up to 5 at Penclacwydd in the early months and 3 in December; in PEMBROKE singles at Angle Bay on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, Sandy Haven from 20<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> and Hook on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, with 3 at Millin Pill on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>; 2 at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON in January and February, one staying to March, and one there in December, when there was also one at Aber Ogwen; in FLINT, one at Oakenholt in January and up to 14 at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB in the early months and 7 in December. Autumn passage was noted from June 25<sup>th</sup>. In inland counties one at Dolydd Hafren MONTGOMERY on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> was the only record. Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
15	25	17	19	6	5	8	24	47	28	13	12

### REDSHANK *T. totanus*

### PIBYDD COESGOCH

Occurs in all Welsh estuaries and the monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 300 at least once) were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT PW/SF	120	86	145	400	14		170	20	175	300	300	70
Mathern	157	84	63		1			350	359		100	26
GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney Est.	750	310	250	130	2		320	550	500	400	380	280
Taff/Ely Est.	340	253	352	264		4	253	472	450	300		
Burry (S)	400	635	145	2		1	120	510	315	435	450	235
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	261	481	465	311	35	249	446	540	858	610	268	211
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	599	559	105					789	174	296	659	559
CAERNARFON												
Conwy Est.	100	150	100	7	6	15	156	234	501	250	300	200
Aber Ogwen	200	100	610				9			600	350	260
FLINT												
Dee Est. PoA	20	40	195	238		2	112	146	180	30	569	117
Dee Est. Oakenholt				75			110		1550	145	350	20
Dee Est. IMF	100	500	350	350	4	31	5	3	12	71	55	150
Marine Lake Rhyl	200		400								200	50

All breeding records received are listed. They are incomplete: GWENT: 8 pairs on the Levels in the Peterstone/Wentlooge area, 2 having young, and a pair with young at Goldcliff Pill; GOWER: 2 pairs at Whiteford Point and one at Crumlyn Burrows; CARMARTHEN: 11 pairs bred at Penclacwydd, rearing at least 7 young, and 2 pairs at Penrhylgwyn possibly had young; CEREDIGION: 88 pairs bred at Dyfi NNR. (see note to Lapwing table) of which 39 were on the Penmaen Isa/Ynys saltmarsh on the Meirionnydd side; 7 pairs bred at Cors Caron; RADNOR: single pairs bred at 4 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Dwyryd/Glaslyn Est. and Penmaenpool; CAERNARFON: 2 pairs bred at Conwy RSPB and 2 territories Morfa Madryn NR; ANGLESEY: a pair reared 3 young at Aberffraw; FLINT: 2 displaying pairs at Inner Marsh Farm but no evidence of nesting.

**GREENSHANK** *T. nebularia*

PIBYDD COESWERDD

Recorded in every month, with winter records as follows: GLAMORGAN: 10 in the Taff/Ely Est. on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and one wintering at Whiteford Point; CARMARTHEN: singles at Penclacwydd and the Gwendraeth in January, Taf Est./Ginst Point in February and December and 3 at Penclacwydd in December; PEMBROKE: 11 in the Cleddau Est. in January, 22 in February and 14 in December and one at Wiseman's Bridge on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: 8 at Aber Ogwen and 7 in Foryd Bay in January and February and a total of 7 in these sites in December, when there was also one in Pwllheli Harbour; ANGLESEY: one in the Braint Est. in January and December, 2 in Red Wharf Bay similarly and one at Cymyran in December. Passage max. were 54 at Penclacwydd CARMARTHEN in August and 61 in September, up to 43 in the Cleddau Est. PEMBROKE in August and 41 there in September, and 22 in Foryd Bay CAERNARFON in September. As usual quite widely recorded inland, particularly in autumn. Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
26	39	33	17	12	4	87	304	328	124	39	42

**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** *T. flavipes*\*

MELYNGOES BACH

One at Cemlyn ANGLESEY from May 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, apparently the first spring record for Wales.

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *T. ochropus*

PIBYDD GWYRDD

There were 15-17 wintering in the early months and 23-25 at the end of the year, in GWENT (1 & 2), GLAMORGAN (7 & 14), CARMARTHEN (0 & 2) PEMBROKE (1 & 1), CEREDIGION (2 & 0), BRECON (2-3 & 2-3), BRECON/RADNOR (1-2 & 1-2), CAERNARFON (1 & 1). A bird at Llanddewi Brefi, CEREDIGION which had wintered for 9 consecutive winters did not reappear at the end of the year. Otherwise a scatter on passage, mainly in autumn, in all counties but numbers everywhere small.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *T. glareola*\*

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

A total of c.35 recorded, in GWENT (4), GLAMORGAN (1), CARMARTHEN (3), PEMBROKE (4), CEREDIGION (5), MONTGOMERY (2), CAERNARFON (3), ANGLESEY (3) and FLINT (c.10). There were 6 in spring between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> and c.29 in autumn between July 15<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Approximate monthly totals were:

May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
4	2	2	21	6

**TEREK SANDPIPER** *Xenus cinereus*\*

PIBYDD TEREK

One at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON from Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup> was the first record for Wales. See note on page 378.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Few wintering but singles on the tidal R. Afan GOWER at both ends of the year, at the Taf Est. CARMARTHEN in December, at Llandrindod Lake RADNOR on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, Porthmadog Cob CAERNARFON on 11<sup>th</sup> and Bangor Harbour there on 19<sup>th</sup> and, in PEMBROKE, 3 wintering in January and 2 in December.

Systematic breeding counts for this widespread species of Welsh rivers were, 2 pairs at Penclacwydd WWT CARMARTHEN, 4 pairs at Dyfi NNR CEREDIGION (see note to Lapwing breeding table), in BRECON, 9 pairs along R. Usk from Pencelli to Talybont and 7 territories along R. Wye from Llyswen to Glasbury, with only 3 successful pairs, in RADNOR, 25 pairs on the Elan Valley Estate, which also had poor breeding success, and, in MONTGOMERY, 4-5 pairs at Dolydd Hafren NR, 2-3 pairs at Llyn Coed y Dinas and 3 at Morfa Dyfi NR, 2 at Pwll Penarth, 2 at Llanerfyl and 2 at Cwm Linau. A bird at Llyn Coed y Dinas was twice seen to incubate or cover a Lapwing's clutch when the latter was off to feed.



**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

The monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once) are tabulated below as available. There were also max. of 50 at Sker GLAMORGAN in May, 80 at the Gann PEMBROKE on Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 61 at Aberaeron CEREDIGION on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 65 there on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 83 at Caernarfon GC on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> and 30 or so regularly there, 45 at Foel Ferry ANGLESEY on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 100 at Rhos on Sea DENBIGH on Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> and 51 on Llanddulas beach on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GWENT Goldcliff			50	14				50	30			
GLAMORGAN												
Taff/Ely Est.	37	48	27	4	2			2	1	19	7	25
Gilestone/Aberthaw 30		5			9			80		30	15	
Blackpill 121	128	123	73	27					4	64	86	
Swansea Docks	12	145	45									
Burry (S)	17*	159*	11*					2	20	210	140	95*
Port Talbot	41	42	29	19	2	14	13	35	29	21	26	28
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	136	95	129	31	6						241	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	91	61	36						24	22	65	48

\*Whiteford Point only

**GREY PHALAROPE** *P. fulicarius*\*

LLYDANDROED LLWYD

All records were from PEMBROKE where there were singles past Strumble Head on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, with 3 on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. One at Skomer on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.

There was an unidentified phalarope at Ynys-hir RSPB, CEREDIGION on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus*\*

SGIWEN FRECH

1998: Singles off Point Lynas ANGLESEY on July 14<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and Cemlyn on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

1999: All records were: GLAMORGAN: an immature off Tutt Head on May 30<sup>th</sup>, an adult there on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, one off Nash Point on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and singles off Port Eynon Point on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and Kenfig beach on 24<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: one passed Strumble Head on Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> and a total of 149 there on 31 dates between Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, max. 27 on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 11 passed St. David's Head on 5<sup>th</sup> and one there on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and singles at Amroth on 16<sup>th</sup> and Newgale on 25<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: single adults passed Bardsey on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, with an immature on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. Seven others offshore elsewhere in the county between Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 2 off Point Lynas on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and singles on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ARCTIC SKUA** *S. parasiticus*

SGIWEN GOGLEDD

An early bird at Penmon ANGLESEY on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise a total of 11 only around the coast in spring, between Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>, when there were 3 off Aberystwyth CEREDIGION and June 28<sup>th</sup>. Noted all round the coast in autumn between July 5<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Altogether c.356 were noted and, as usual, the largest movements were off Strumble Head PEMBROKE, with 221 noted during the period and a max. of 22 on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. There were also 10 off St. David's Head on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Off Bardsey CAERNARFON there were 42 between Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, max. 10 on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and 22 passed Point Lynas ANGLESEY on 13 dates between July 16<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, max. 5 on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. For Point of Ayr FLINT 7 passing on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> was the only significant count received.

Inland there was one at Eglwys Nunydd Res. GOWER on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**LONG-TAILED SKUA** *S. longicaudus*\*

SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

1998: 2 immatures passed Point Lynas ANGLESEY on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>.

1999: All records were: PEMBROKE: a total of 52 passed Strumble Head on 19 dates between Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, max. 13 on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, when there were also 2 off St. David's Head, with 2 also there on 30<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile off Strumble Head on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> was the latest date for the county; CAERNARFON: single immatures off Bardsey on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>; ANGLESEY: single immatures off Point Lynas on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, which may be the latest Welsh record.

**GREAT SKUA** *Catharacta skua*\*

SGIWEN FAWR

1998: One off Point Lynas ANGLESEY on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

1999: There were no winter records, the first being one off Penllech CAERNARFON on Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>. There were only 3 other spring records, singles off PEMBROKE on Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and one off the Mumbles GOWER on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage was noted all round the coast and from July 24<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and involved c.298 individuals. As usual the bulk were noted off Strumble Head PEMBROKE, where 197 were logged in the period, with a max. of 24 on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. There were also 8 off St. David's Head on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and 10 offshore in the Celtic Deep on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere 27 passed Bardsey CAERNARFON between Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, max. 5 on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, and 19 passed Point Lynas ANGLESEY between Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, max. 11 on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*\*

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

1998: A pair were displaying in the Black-headed Gull colony at Cemlyn ANGLESEY on Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

1999: Again large numbers reported. Recorded in every month with a total of at least 257 altogether, in GLAMORGAN (c.100), CARMARTHEN (12), PEMBROKE (not more than 67), CEREDIGION (c. 20), MEIRIONNYDD (9), CAERNARFON (c.29), ANGLESEY (5), DENBIGH (c.5) and FLINT (c.10). As usual the most important single site was Blackpill GOWER, where birds were present until Apr. 25<sup>th</sup> and from June 16<sup>th</sup>, the records involving at least 43 birds; the max. counts of each age group were 16 adults on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 second year birds on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> and 6 first year on July 3<sup>rd</sup>; single juveniles were noted on 9 dates between July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, with 3 on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Again none was seen in inland counties but small numbers continue to be recorded on inland waters not far from the coast. These included one with breeding Black-headed Gulls at Llyn Helyg FLINT on Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximate monthly totals away from Blackpill and other GOWER sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
adults	12	25	6	0	0	5	12	15	9	19	18	19
immatures	6	11	4	10	2	2	13	16	16	23	4	6
unaged	2	5					1	1	1	2	1	1
Total	20	41	10	10	2	7	26	32	26	44	23	26

One at Blackpill GOWER on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> was ringed as pullus at Newtown Isle of Wight on June 17<sup>th</sup> 1998. Finally not less than 25 were noted in GWENT but accurate monthly analysis of the records is not possible.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** *L. pipixcan*\*

GWYLAN FRANKLIN

An adult at Blackpill GOWER from July 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> was the third for Wales.

**LITTLE GULL** *L. minutus*\*

GWYLAN FECHAN

A total of 160 recorded altogether and seen in every month, in GWENT (8), GLAMORGAN (7), PEMBROKE (38), CEREDIGION (15), BRECON (2), BRECON/RADNOR (2), MEIRIONNYDD (6), CAERNARFON (6), MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON (65), ANGLESEY (2) and FLINT (c.9). Where aged virtually none of these birds was adult. The records included an exceptional flock of 65 in the Dwyrd/Glaslyn Est-Black Rock area over Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, all immatures. This follows similar large winter/early spring flocks in 1997 (*Welsh Bird Report* 11:41). At Strumble Head PEMBROKE a total of 36 recorded on 22 dates between Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, max. 10 on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Approximate monthly totals away from Strumble Head were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
4	2	67	9	3	1	2	2	20	6	3	19

**SABINE'S GULL** *L. sabini*\*

GWYLAN SABINE

1998: A juvenile west off Cemlyn ANGLESEY on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

1999: A poor year and all records for Strumble Head PEMBROKE, where a first winter bird on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> was the first January record for Wales and there was one on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 30<sup>th</sup>, and 3 on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL *L. ridibundus***

GWYLAN PENDDU

Systematic counts from 14 sites indicate the pattern of occurrence of this very common species:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>GLAMORGAN</b>												
Ogmore Est.	2000	1600	22	6	30	12	530	1376	583	945	1600	1000
Taff/Ely Est.		4000		83		6		250	1000	326		
Rhymney Est.	1600	900	500	35			100	4000	1000			
Blackpill	3581	3900	1466	26	18	211	2100	2595	2424	3047	1811	3934
Port Talbot	600	513	203	1	6	8	216	190	152	341	233	213
Burry (S)	2395	650	55	10	80	855	6465	7725	4785	2090	1935	485
<b>CARMARTHEN</b>												
Burry (N)	89	60	64	4	11	1070	1804	2095	1156	130	175	103
Upper Loughor	736	452	68		34	173	2138	1008	748	850	752	588
T/T/G	162	388	36	79	22	147	914	480	1104	1239	745	866
<b>PEMBROKE</b>												
Cleddau Est.	4100	1250	100						4214	2504	1152	1243
<b>CEREDIGION</b>												
Dyfi Est.	925	672	140	323	1	94	976	656	2608	329	989	670
<b>MEIRIONNYDD</b>												
D/Glas.	113	125	500	150			200	200	100	331	40	200
<b>CAERNARFON</b>												
Conwy Est.	250	800	100	55	15	66	420	461	6	50	30	50
FLINT Clwyd Est.	210	280		40		40		50			1250	700

Breeding information was received as follows: GWENT: a pair bred near Garnlydan Res.; GOWER: 60 adults and 72 juveniles at the Seven Sisters on July 4<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: 3 pairs bred at Penclacwydd WWT fledging 4 young; CEREDIGION: a full county survey recorded 200 breeding pairs altogether in 8 colonies. This represents a decline of 90% since the last full census in 1973; BRECON: 80 adults and 32 young at Brechfa Pool on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 nests and 5 young at Llyn Dwr in June, 3 adults and 6 young at Cefn Lechid in July and 25 pairs nested at Llyn Login; RADNOR: 210 pairs raised 60+ young at the Elan Valley colonies and 6 nests all failed at Begwns Pool; MONTGOMERY: 200 pairs at Llyn y Tarw, 15 at Llyn Mawr, 35 at Hirras Hall pool and 2 at Llyn Coed y Dinas, the first for that site; MEIRIONNYDD: a colony noted at Llyn Conglog-mawr; CAERNARFON: 100+ birds at the colony at Llyn Conwy on May 20<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 360 nests at Cemlyn on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 450 chicks in late June, and 863 birds at the Llyn Alaw colony on June 24<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: 200 at the Llyn Helyg colony on Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> and 2000 present at the Inner Marsh Farm RSPB colony on Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>, suggesting a population of c.1000 pairs. A mass desertion occurred at this site when an escaped Eagle Owl was found on the reserve and eventually only 10 young fledged.

**RING-BILLED GULL *L. delawarensis*\***

GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

At Blackpill GLAMORGAN a total of at least 7 individuals seen but many fewer records, with birds noted until May 4<sup>th</sup>, on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> and between Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in GLAMORGAN there was an adult in the Taff/Ely Est. on Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> and an immature there on 18<sup>th</sup> and single adults at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, West Cross on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and Swansea Beach on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. In PEMBROKE, a first winter at Sprinkle Pill on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, an adult at Heathfield on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and a first winter at Fishguard Harbour on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. In CAERNARFON an adult at Conwy RSPB from Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>-Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> and immatures at Llanfairfechan from July 16<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> and Morfa Aber from July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.

**COMMON GULL *L. canus***

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

Systematic counts from 8 sites give some indication of the pattern of occurrence of this common Welsh species:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>GLAMORGAN</b>												
Blackpill	1870	2220	1210	378	88	2	115	336	250	790	521	1290
Burry (S)	490	850	350	100	1	3	2220	2700	1590	630	445	75
<b>CARMARTHEN</b>												
Burry (N)	21		3			41	90	123	3			
Upper Loughor	242	499	92	8	2		6	121	2	101	527	113
T/T/G	60		270	238	148		418		12	76	22	10
<b>MEIRIONNYDD</b>												
D/Glas.	30	30	20				1	26	10	10	13	20

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
CAERNARFON												
Conwy Est.	281	800	30	1			6	10	23	50	30	50
Morfa Aber							264	450	567			

There were also 9000 in the roost at Llandegfedd Res. and 2500 on flooded fields at Dingestow GWENT in January. The Llandegfedd roost had declined to c.600 in February, when there were also 800 near Monmouth. In PEMBROKE 1000 at Amroth were attracted by large shoals of small fish on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and 250 in Fishguard Harbour on 21<sup>st</sup>, in DENBIGH, 350+ in Kinmel Bay on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and 470 there on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, and 1200 at Dyserth FLINT on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>.

### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *L. fuscus*

### GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

Systematic counts at 7 sites indicate the pattern of occurrence of this common species at the coast:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Blackpill	27	45	54	28	28	82	56	70	50	54	23	18
Port Talbot	32	58	105	88	98	86	97	99	49	51	45	36
Burry (S)	35	15	25	45	70	180	90	150	275	80	40	15
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	31	85	37	15	61	81	52	42	46	20	6	24
Upper Loughor	25	54	87	86	198	231	283	281	192	545	90	49
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	315	260	145						185	402	531	44
CAERNARFON												
Conwy RSPB	1	12	14	2	9	20	20	15	6	5	1	1

Elsewhere the Llandegfedd Res. roost in GWENT had 650 in January and 550 in February, and, in GLAMORGAN, there were max. of 1000 in the Taff/Ely Est. in February and 2500 in the Rhymney Est. in August. Significant inland counts were a max. of 1489 at Rhaslas Pond GLAMORGAN in August, a max. of 12,000 at the roost at Llys y fran Res. PEMBROKE on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and, in BRECON, max. of 1100 at Llangorse Lake on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and 360 at Pontsticill Res. on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding counts received as follows: GWENT: 16 nests on the roof of the Dunlop Semtex factory and 8 at Whitehead steelworks Newport; GLAMORGAN: 6 pairs bred at BP Baglan Bay and 9 at Port Talbot railway station; PEMBROKE: Skomer 12,028 pairs bred, with 0.16 young fledged per pair, Skokholm 2894 pairs with 0.14 young/pair, 22 pairs at the Esso Jetty, 587 at Caldey, 50 at St. Margaret' Island, 19 on the Angle Peninsula, 40 from Linney Head to Stackpole, 20 at Grassholm, 72 on the Bishops and 315 at Ramsey; CEREDIGION: 2763 nests on Cardigan Island and a pair nested on an Aberystwyth roof-top; CAERNARFON: 478 apparently incubating adults fledged only 123 chicks at Bardsey; ANGLESEY: 132 adults on nests at South Stack and 6 at the Range

### HERRING GULL *L. argentatus*

### GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Systematic counts from 13 sites indicate the pattern of occurrence for this very common species:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore Est.	650	178			100		211	150	4000	3252	2500	50
Blackpill	1062	1316	942	673	221	417	1451	1774	1332	1223	1133	2787
Port Talbot	160	166	257	390	556	247	404	398	336	278	219	179
Burry (S)	6385	170	215	320	1140	720	1065	1140	2390	1210	240	195
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	6700	264	39	44	100	476	67	65	81	37	21	70
Upper Loughor	376	15	25	9	48	49	30	86	90	384	81	78
T/T/G	472	23	162	77	454		1273		5	147	43	5
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau Est.	100	280	105						421	339	208	162
MEIRIONNYDD												
Artro	140	9	52	191	133	52	101	153			110	21
D/Glas	61	62	152				120	80	80	100	70	54
CAERNARFON												
Conwy Est.	230	300	80	45	85	4	170	100	50	100	70	50
Nefyn						75	170	65	30	40	50	
FLINT												
Rhyl/Kinmel Bay	51	5000		50		30		35		1000	1800	

There were also 2200 off Pensarn/Abergele DENBIGH on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> and 1550 on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7500 off Amroth PEMBROKE in December, attracted by large shoals of small fish.

Breeding counts received were: GWENT: bred at Dunlop Semtex and a single nest at Whitehead steelworks Newport, a pair apparently holding territory in Monmouth and breeding probable at Llanwern steelworks; GLAMORGAN: single pairs at Sketty Park Swansea and Eversley Road Sketty, 2 pairs at BP Baglan Bay, 9 pairs at Port Talbot railway station and 65 pairs at Port Talbot Steelworks in June. On the Gower coast 2 pairs on The Knave, 8 at Thurba Head and 2 at the Devil's Truck; PEMBROKE: 374 pairs bred Skomer, 330 at Skokholm had 0.87 young/pair in a sample, 1637 at Caldey, 353 at St. Margaret's Island, 218 on the Angle Peninsula, 276 from Linney Head to Stackpole, 170 from Barafundle to Gilton, 133 on the Bishops, 250 at Ramsey and 33 at Grassholm; CEREDIGION: c.50 pairs nesting on rooftops in Aberystwyth, 4 at Borth and 85 nests along the coast from Borth to Llanrhysted; CAERNARFON: 508 nests at Bardsey fledged 485 young, 2 pairs bred at Conwy RSPB and 2 at Manweb Caernarfon: ANGLESEY: 485 adults on nests at South Stack and 58 at the Range. No other Welsh colonies reported on.

A total of about 41 Yellow-legged Gulls (either *L. a. micahelis* or *L.a. cachinnans*) were recorded in GWENT (12), GLAMORGAN (c.16), PEMBROKE (3), CAERNARFON (7), and inland in BRECON (3). There were records for every month and several birds made long stays. Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
7	7	2	3	5	4	5	17	4	6	11	5

Note that BOURC has not yet pronounced on the specific status of these forms.

**ICELAND GULL *L. glaucoides*\*** *GWYLAN YR ARCTIG*

Recorded in every month except June, July and August, with a total of c.22 birds in GLAMORGAN (c.11), PEMBROKE (4), CEREDIGION (3), CAERNARFON (3) and ANGLESEY (1). Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3	4	10	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	4

There were 2 records of the Nearctic race *kumleini* at Blackpill GLAMORGAN, of an adult from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>-Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> and again, presumed the same, from Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> to the end of the year.

**GLAUCOUS GULL *L. hyperboreus*\*** *GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD*

Recorded until Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> and from Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, with a total of 17 birds altogether in GWENT (1), GLAMORGAN (5), PEMBROKE (4), CEREDIGION (4), CAERNARFON (1), ANGLESEY (1) and FLINT (1). Monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
5	4	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *L. marinus*** *GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF*

Systematic counts from 7 areas indicate the general pattern of occurrence of this common Welsh species:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
GLAMORGAN												
Blackpill	19	11	9	13	30	106	95	30	17	39	37	35
Burry (S)	95	15	25	30	20	50	45	120	160	75	60	25
CARMARTHEN												
Burry (N)	4	5	5	2	6	3	2	3	3	2	3	6
Upper Loughor	3	5	2	3	7	6	3	6	2	8	7	5
T/T/G	6	38	47	31	48	1	21	2	44	78	23	1
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi Est.	17	24	14	21	19	3	24	22	14	19	34	29
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey		5	10	8	10	11	6	16	69	30		

There were also 120 off Pensarn/Abergele/Towyn DENBIGH on Oct.6th and 200 off Rhyl/Kinmel FLINT on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Breeding colony counts received were: PEMBROKE: St. Margarets Island 65 pairs, Caldey 10, Skokholm 49 and Skomer 65, these sites together rearing 0.96 young/pair, Ramsey 8, Bishops 34 and Grassholm 10; CAERNARFON: 3 pairs fledged a total of 5 young at Bardsey; ANGLESEY: a pair bred at Ynys Llanddwyn, 2 at South Stack and one at the Range. No other Welsh colonies reported on.





Wilson's Petrel, Celtic Deep

*John Jackson*



Roseate Terns, Inner Marsh Farm

*Gary Bellingham*



Pectoral Sandpiper, Conwy RSPB

*Gary Bellingham*



Lesser Yellowlegs, Cemlyn

*Gary Bellingham*





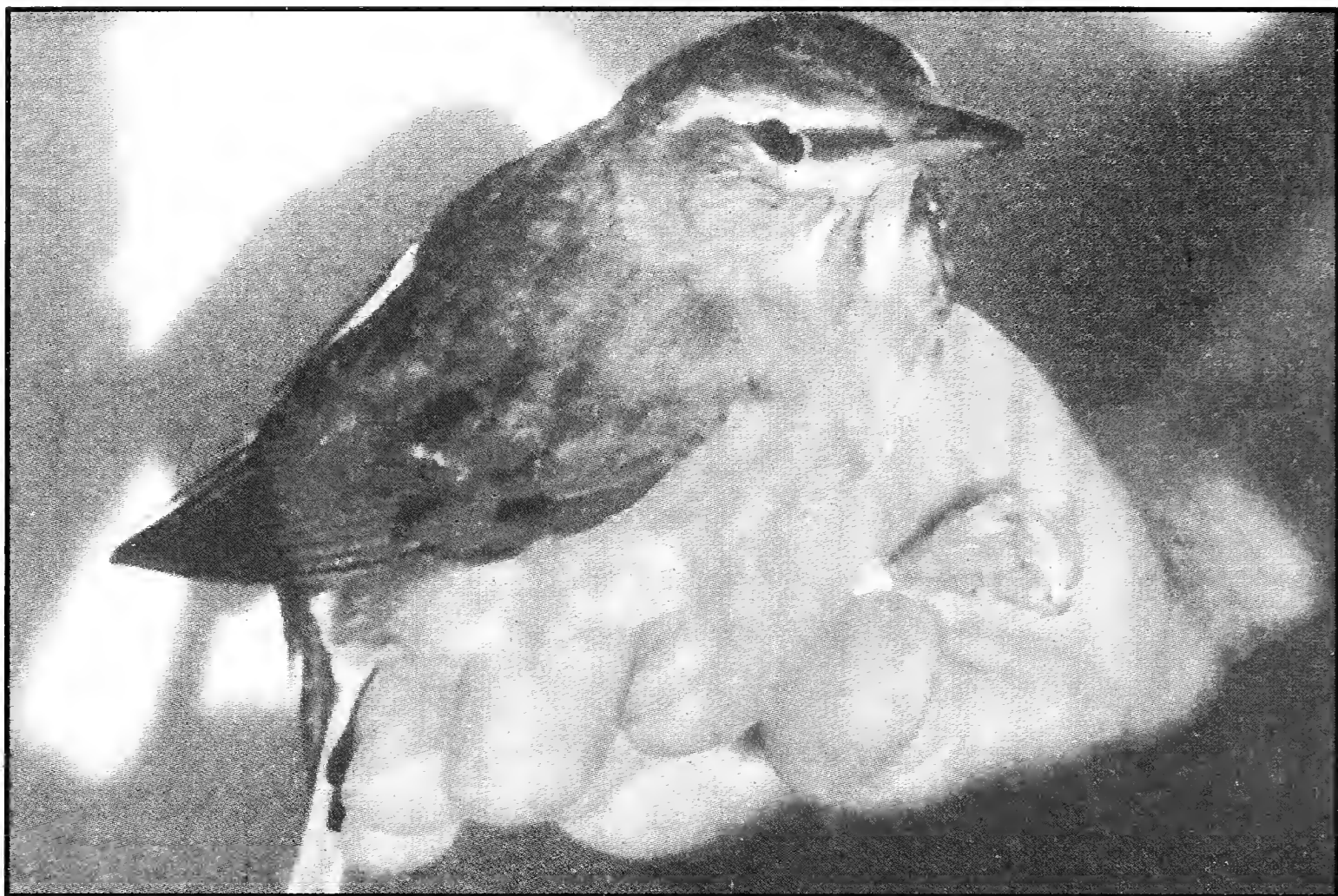
Terek Sandpiper, Conwy RSPB

*Steve Young*



Northern Golden Plover, Garreg Lwyd

*Colin Richards*



Eye-browed Thrush, Bardsey

*Steven Stansfield*



Bobolink, Skokholm

*Iain Leach*

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

GWYLAN GOESDDU

Breeding colony counts received were: GLAMORGAN: 81 nests with eggs and chicks on Mumbles Pier on June 10th had poor final breeding success, and a max. of 27 apparently incubating birds at Devil's Truck on June 14<sup>th</sup>. There were also 94 on the outer Worms Head on Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: Skomer 2156 pairs reared 0.95 young/pair, the best breeding result for a decade, Ramsey 471 pairs, Grassholm 22, Elegug Stacks 147, St. Margaret's Island 39, the lowest count for 30 years; CAERNARFON: 243 nests fledged 304 young at Bardsey, the best result for over 20 years, 652 nests on Great Orme and 661 on Little Orme; ANGLESEY: 28 adults on ledges at Ynys Moelfre and just one at South Stack. No other Welsh colonies reported on.

At the end of the year some very large offshore movements noted, with 6000 passing Bardsey CAERNARFON on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3000 Point Lynas ANGLESEY on 6<sup>th</sup> and 10,000 in 4 hours passing Strumble Head PEMBROKE on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**SANDWICH TERN** *S. sandvicensis*

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

The single Welsh colony held 604 nests on June 6<sup>th</sup>, an increase of 33% with 550 young fledging. Autumn max. were of 300 at Point of Ayr FLINT on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 550 at the mouth of the Dyfi CEREDIGION on Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> and 200 at Aberdysynni MEIRIONNYDD on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. At Strumble Head PEMBROKE 1183 passed on 58 dates from June 27<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, max. 131 on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Other November records were one at Penmon ANGLESEY on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 off Llanfairfechan CAERNARFON on 5<sup>th</sup>. Inland 2 in the Elan Valley RADNOR on Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**ROSEATE TERN** *S. dougalli*\*

MORWENNOL WRIDOG

3 pairs at one site on ANGLESEY fledged 2 young. Apart from breeding, all records were of singles at Llangorse Lake BRECON on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, a pair at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB FLINT on 14<sup>th</sup>, singles at Point Lynas ANGLESEY on July 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and Strumble Head PEMBROKE on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMON TERN** *S. hirundo*

MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN

On ANGLESEY a total of 205 pairs at 3 sites fledging between 291 and 321 young. A further colony of 25-30 pairs of mixed Common & Arctic fledged 10+ young. In FLINT the colony at Shotton held 433 pairs which fledged 552 young. A total of 1045 eggs were laid, but many pairs failed at the small young/late incubation stage due to June storms. Many relayed, but the late young were very thin and probably did not survive (information from Merseyside Ringing Group). At Skomer PEMBROKE 150 on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> was an unusual gathering.

**ARCTIC TERN** *S. paradisea*

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

On ANGLESEY the population continues to increase with 3 colonies holding 1430 pairs, fledging a total of between 1828 and 1958 young.

**LITTLE TERN** *S. albifrons*

MORWENNOL FECHAN

The colony at Gronant, FLINT had an excellent season, 86 pairs fledged 111 young. Inland there was one at Llangorse Lake BRECON on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger*\*

CORSWENNOL DDU

1998: Off Point Lynas ANGLESEY 2 passed on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 3 on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> and 2 on 14<sup>th</sup>.

1999: Three only in spring, 2 at Llandegfedd Res. GWENT over Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> and one at Blackpill GLAMORGAN on Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>. About 194 altogether in autumn between July 21<sup>st</sup> and Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, the majority by far off Strumble Head PEMBROKE, where 147 passed on 22 dates between Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, max. 51 on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere there were records from GWENT (9), GLAMORGAN (10), CARMARTHEN (6), PEMBROKE (5), CEREDIGION (1), BRECON (6), MEIRIONNYDD (1), CAERNARFON (6) and FLINT (3). Approximate monthly totals for these records were:

Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
3	0	0	3	16	19	9



**WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** *C. leucopterus*\*

CORSWENNOL ADEINWEN

1998: A juvenile at Aberaeron CEREDIGION on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.1999: A juvenile off Strumble Head PEMBROKE on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

GWYLOG

Breeding counts were received as follows: GLAMORGAN: 47 at Outer Worms Head on Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: counts at 7 major colonies showed an overall increase of 9% compared to 1998; CAERNARFON: 399 birds on ledges at Bardsey and 70 chicks noted on the east side of the island, 622 birds at Great Orme and 444 at Little Orme; ANGLESEY: the breeding total at South Stack was 3414 birds. Other Welsh breeding sites not reported on.

Large autumn movements at Strumble Head PEMBROKE involved at least 34,000 birds on 5 dates between Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

LLURS

Breeding counts were received as follows: GLAMORGAN: 83 at Outer Worms Head on Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 2938 birds on ledges at Skomer, 1180 at Skokholm, 1731 at Ramsey, 1005 from Linney Head - Stackpole, 115 at St. Margaret's Island and 21 at Grassholm. Overall these counts represent a small decline of 3% compared with 1998, mainly at Skomer where the decline was 12%; CAERNARFON: 800 adults noted around the colonies at Bardsey and 126 young at the 2 largest, 196 birds at Great Orme and 47 at Little Orme; ANGLESEY: the breeding total at South Stack was 527 birds and one or two pairs nested at Porth Wen. No other Welsh breeding sites reported on.

A total of 2500 passed Bardsey CAERNARFON on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4000 passed Strumble Head PEMBROKE in 4 hours on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cephus grylle*\*

GWYLOG DDU

In ANGLESEY the max. count at the Fedw Fawr colony was 8 on Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>. There were also up to 4 all the year at Penmon and a max. on 8 there on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> and 3 pairs at Porth Eilian on Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2 adults and 4 juveniles on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere noted off the north coast of CAERNARFON all year, with a max. of 3 off Penmaenmawr on Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> and records of 1-2 from Bangor, Llanfairfechan, Great and Little Orme and Penrhyn Bay. These birds were perhaps those also recorded at Penmon Anglesey; one at Porth Dinllaen on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. In PEMBROKE singles passed Strumble Head on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle*\*

CARFIL BACH

1998: Five flew W at Cemlyn ANGLESEY on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

1999: All records were: PEMBROKE: singles passed Strumble Head on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>; CAERNARFON: one at Black Rock beach on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 past Bardsey on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 likewise on 27<sup>th</sup>.

**PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica*

PAL

In GLAMORGAN 4 off Worms Head on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 26<sup>th</sup>; in PEMBROKE the max. spring count at Skomer was 9213 birds and mean productivity was 0.7 young/pair; the mean spring count at Skokholm was 3083 birds and there were 27 occupied burrows on North Bishop and at least 6 on the south coast; in CAERNARFON 524 apparently occupied burrows at Ynys Gwylan Fawr in May with up to 800 rafting offshore there in July; in ANGLESEY the max. breeding season count at South Stack was only 17 on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and there was a max. of 4 at Penmon Point/Puffin Island on Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

COLOMEN WYLLT

Some sizable winter flocks were noted and flocks of 20 or more birds were recorded as follows: GWENT: 80-100 near Dingestow on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Peterstone/Wentlooge on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31 on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>; E. GLAMORGAN: a max. of 96 at Leckwith on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Sker on Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 50 at Blackpool Mill on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 40 at Oakhill on 11<sup>th</sup>, 27 at St. David's on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 22 at Porthclais on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 30 at Penlan on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 46 at Llanfilo on Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 50 on partly harvested oil-seed rape at Llechfaen on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 107 at Great Porthamel Talgarth on

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>; RADNOR: 50 on arable ground at Llowes on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Whilst these records are probably incomplete, other counties recorded only very small numbers and the distribution of significant flocks shown suggests a strong link with remaining areas of arable or mixed farming in Wales. At Inner Marsh Farm FLINT it was specifically noted that wintering numbers had fallen sharply with the conversion of arable to pasture; the max. count was 24 on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Little breeding information received but only one bird was recorded at Skokholm PEMBROKE during the year, where 60 pairs bred in the 1970s and, in BRECON, 47 pairs were found in mixed farming areas in the SE but only 5 north of Mynydd Epynt.

**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*\*

TURTUR

All records were: GWENT: as in 1998 there were no confirmed reports of breeding in this, the last Welsh county to hold breeding birds, but purring birds heard at Trelleck Common, in the Cleddon area, at Cicelyford, Broad Meend, Wet Meadow Wood Trelleck and Lloysey Wood. Birds were also seen at Beacon Hill in April and June; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Kenfig NNR on May 15<sup>th</sup> and Aug.22<sup>nd</sup>; PEMBROKE: single birds at Skokholm on Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>, an early date, and May 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, Dale on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Porthlyshi Farm on 7<sup>th</sup>, Bosherton on 12<sup>th</sup>, Trewent on 14<sup>th</sup>, Flimston on 28<sup>th</sup> and Ramsey from 28<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>. The only autumn records were singles at Skokholm on July 10<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: one at Blaenporth on May 10<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: one near Llanwrtyd Wells in June was the first county record since 1989; CAERNARFON: singles at Bardsey on Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and Porth Meudwy from May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> and, in autumn, at Bardsey on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, perhaps the same as one at Porth Meudwy over 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: singles at Penmon on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cemlyn on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>; CLWYD: one at Borrass Quarry on June 10<sup>th</sup> and flying over Burton Rossett on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*\*

TYLLUAN WEN

Breeding season records received as follows: GWENT: no confirmed breeding and only one breeding season record; E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding but recorded in 13-14 sites, 3 of which known to hold pairs; GOWER: 8 pairs were found present and single birds noted in 14 localities; CARMARTHEN: reported from 9 sites; PEMBROKE: recorded in 31 localities with breeding proved in 6; BRECON: reported from 20 localities, with breeding confirmed in one and probable in 3 more; RADNOR: 22-25 occupied sites located, the highest number for at least 15 years; MONTGOMERY: 36 pairs fledged a total of 83 young, 4 pairs failed and one did not breed; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding noted in traditional sites (5 in 1998); CAERNARFON: a pair fledged 2 young at Waunfawr, 2 pairs bred at Pantglas, a pair present at Rhoshirwaen and recorded at other 8 other sites; ANGLESEY: 2 pairs bred at Llanfaelog and birds recorded at 19 other sites; DENBIGH: 2 pairs reared 4 young each in the Dee valley at Cynwyd and Llangollen, 5 other records of singles in the same area and 2 calling in Clocaenog Forest on June 26<sup>th</sup>. These records do not represent a complete census for Wales but, taken with the table published in the 1998 Report, they do suggest a reasonably healthy population.

**LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

TYLLUAN FACH

This species is greatly under-recorded and breeding season records would be welcome. Such as we have are summarised: GWENT: breeding confirmed at one site and probable at 5; E.GLAMORGAN: breeding confirmed at 4 sites, where a total of 4 young fledged and birds present in the breeding season at 7 more; GOWER: no records received; CARMARTHEN: reported from 3 sites; PEMBROKE: 3 pairs bred at Skomer, rearing 4 young, and a pair thought to have bred at Ramsey; present in 5 mainland sites; BRECON: recorded in 10 sites but no confirmed report of breeding; MONTGOMERY: a pair bred at Llandrinio (and in 1998, making 5 sites that year); MEIRIONNYDD: Pandy woods Dolgellau was the only site reported; CAERNARFON: 3 pairs bred on Bardsey, one did so at Llican Isa Ty'n y Groes, a pair present at Great Orme and birds present in 5 other sites; ANGLESEY: a pair reared 3 young at Cemlyn and present in 11 other sites; CLWYD: single birds noted in 11 sites and 2 pairs at Burton Point Farm but no confirmed breeding. As with Barn Owl, these records do not represent a complete census for Wales but the overall flavour of the reports is of a declining species.

**LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*\***

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

All records received are given: GWENT: bred again at Mynydd Ddu Forest, with at least 2 young, and 2 other pairs found in the north of the county with at least 2 young reared; GLAMORGAN: singles at Kenfig NNR on Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> and Felindre NR on 1<sup>st</sup>; PEMBROKE: singles at Skokholm on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> and Porthclais on 19<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: one pair bred successfully in the county; RADNOR: 5 positive breeding records for the north of the county; MONTGOMERY: a pair raised 2 broods, a rare occurrence, at Dylife and singles at Dol Gau on June 5<sup>th</sup> and Cwm Nant yr Eira on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>; CAERNARFON: a pair bred at Bardsey, the first breeding record for the island; ANGLESEY: one at Brynteg on Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> and an exhausted migrant at Malltraeth on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>; DENBIGH: one bird at least on the traditional territory on the edge of Ruabon Moor (*Welsh Birds* 2(5):264-273) until early March and also Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and a nest in a different part of the moor fledged 2 young from 5 eggs; FLINT: one at Inner Marsh farm RSPB from July 29<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> and one in Gronant dunes on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**SHORT-EARED OWL *A. flammeus*\***

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Breeding season records were: CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd WWT in May and June and at Machynys Pond on July 25<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 4 pairs bred at Skomer, fledging 4 young; the autumn max. there was 8 on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: one pair present on Mynydd Epynt MoD failed if actually nested; RADNOR: noted in 6 sites in the breeding season; MONTGOMERY: 2 pairs bred at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB; DENBIGH: a bird seen on Ruabon Moor on Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> and perhaps heard on Apr. 9<sup>th</sup> but no subsequent records. Outside the breeding season a total of 71 recorded, with records up to May 12<sup>th</sup> and from Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> in GWENT (13), GLAMORGAN (11), CARMARTHEN (10), PEMBROKE (17), CEREDIGION (3), BRECON (1), CAERNARFON (10), ANGLESEY (4), DENBIGH (1) and FLINT (1). Approximate monthly totals from these records were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
17	16	13	2	5	0	0	0	0	15	10	9

**NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*\***

TROELLWR MAWR

Breeding season counts received are listed. They do not represent a complete survey of the Welsh population. GWENT: 3 males in the Beacon Hill/Cleddon area, 3 in the Nant Carn valley, one at Gwyddon and breeding proved (2 young) at Five Paths Wentwood; GLAMORGAN: a total of 18 singing males in 13 upland forest sites; CARMARTHEN: 6 or 7 males in Caio Forest and 3 pairs in the Crychan; PEMBROKE: one at Mynydd Morfa on Apr.30<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: 2 males noted at one site; BRECON: 2 males in Crychan Forest, were the only ones found; RADNOR: found in 2 sites in the north of the county; MONTGOMERY: 3 males at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB, 3 in Dyfnant Forest, 2 at Cors Dyfi and 5 at Dol Gau; CAERNARFON: 2 birds in Gwydyr Forest near Llyn Bodgynydd from June 1<sup>st</sup>-Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>; DENBIGH: 3 pairs raised 6 young in Nercwys Forest, up to 5 males in the Clocaenog Forest area and one at Pen y Cae Res. on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**SWIFT *Apus apus***

GWENNOL DDU

A very early bird at Penclacwydd WWT CARMARTHEN on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. Passage max. for this common Welsh summer visitor were, in GLAMORGAN, 200 at Kenfig NNR on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1600 at Eglwys Nynydd Res on 13<sup>th</sup> and 500 there on 26<sup>th</sup>, 600 at Port Talbot Docks on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1000 at Ogmores Est. on 25<sup>th</sup> and 400 at Eglwys Nynydd Res. on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>; in PEMBROKE max. were only 80 at Skokholm on July 7<sup>th</sup> and 75 at St. David's on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>; in BRECON 350 at Llangorse Lake over May 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and 120 at Hay-on-Wye on June 27<sup>th</sup>; in ANGLESEY, 120 at Llyn Penrhyn on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 'hundreds' at Llyn Alaw on July 16<sup>th</sup> and, in FLINT, 150 at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The last was one at Llangefni ANGLESEY on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**ALPINE SWIFT *A. melba*\***

GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU

Single birds in PEMBROKE at St David's on May 30<sup>th</sup> and Dinas Cross on Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> and at Rhuddlan DENBIGH on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*\***

GWYBEDOG Y GWENYN

1993: One at Pen-y-Sarn ANGLESEY from May 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

**HOOPOE** *Upupa epops*\*

1998: One at Rhosneigr ANGLESEY on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

1999: Very few records as follows: RADNOR: singles at New Radnor on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> and the Elan Valley on May 7<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: singles at Conwy RSPB on May 4<sup>th</sup> and Fort Belan on the late date of Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*\*

PENGAM

1998: The CARMARTHEN records listed in the 1998 Report referred to 2 separate individuals.

1999: All records were: GWENT: one at Uskmouth NR on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>; GLAMORGAN: one at Aberthaw on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: singles at Strumble Head on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, Ramsey over Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and Goodwick on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: one at Bardsey on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> was trapped on 31<sup>st</sup> and a second trapped on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>; ANGLESEY: singles at Red Wharf Bay on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rhosneigr on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

The Society continued to gather records to build up a picture of present distribution. All records would be most welcome. Those for 1999 are summarised briefly here and a more detailed report will be published in the future. GWENT: breeding confirmed in 6 sites and 15 pairs noted in 6 other sites, including 4 territories in Newport. Birds present in the breeding season at 11 further sites and at at least 15 more at other times; E.GLAMORGAN: 9 pairs at Ystrad/ Llwynypia (see page 357), 12-15 in Cwm Llynfi, breeding proved elsewhere in 7 sites and birds present in 31 more; GOWER: bred or probably bred in 8 localities, including 3 pairs in Clyne Woods, and present in another 15; CARMARTHEN: reported from 8 sites in the breeding season; PEMBROKE: reported from 11 sites with breeding proved in 2; CEREDIGION: a juvenile at Bangor Teifi in August, probably bred at Llandewi Brefi and singles noted in the spring in 5 or 6 other sites; BRECON: located in 48 sites throughout the county, with once again a marked preference for areas of unimproved grassland and common; MONTGOMERY: 3 pairs noted at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB and present in the breeding season in 5 other localities; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded in 4 sites in the breeding season; CAERNARFON: probable breeding noted at Pensychnant and Nantmor and present in 8-9 other sites; ANGLESEY: bred at Penmon Priory and present near Beaumaris; CLWYD: recorded in 11 sites Dee valley between Glyndyfrdwy and Pen y Cae and in 13 other sites in the county.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *D. minor*\*

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

This rather scarce species is probably under-recorded and all records received are listed. GWENT: no confirmed breeding but birds calling at 6 sites in the breeding season and seen at 2 other sites in winter; GLAMORGAN: breeding proved only at Cwm Clydach but recorded from 8 other sites during the year; CARMARTHEN: greatly under-recorded with one at Broad Oak in spring as the only record; PEMBROKE: reported from 8 sites; BRECON: noted in 8 localities in the breeding season with breeding confirmed in 3; MONTGOMERY: noted at 2 sites in the breeding season; MEIRIONNYDD: noted in 7 sites in all with breeding proved in one and probable in 2; CAERNARFON: noted in 3 sites, with breeding probable in one; DENBIGH: a pair and 2 other females along R. Clwyd between Pont Glan y Wern and Lleweni Hall in March and breeding presumed; FLINT: adult feeding a juvenile at Burton Point Farm on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella brachydactyla*\*

EHEYDD LLWYD

1995: 2 at Skokholm PEMBROKE from Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>.

**WOODLARK** *Lullula arborea*\*

EHEDYDD Y COED

1998: One at Porthclais PEMBROKE on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

1999: In GWENT one at Dingestow on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>; in GOWER singles at Rhiw Tor Cymru Garn on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> and Middleton on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>; in PEMBROKE one at Porthclais over Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.



**SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis***

EHEDYDD

Significant winter flocks were quite widely recorded as follows: GLAMORGAN: 70 at Pennard on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 90 in stubble near Berry Wood on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 130 at Cwm Nash on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 85 at Rhossili on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> and 75 on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, when there were also 140 at Wernffrwd; CARMAR-THEN; 100 at Penrhylgwyn on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 400 at Talbenny on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, 100 at Newgale on 30<sup>th</sup>, 500 at Freshwater West in maize stubbles in November and December and 100 at Crug Glas on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: 75 at Gwbert on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 150 on stubble at Ffostyll on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>; MONTGOMERY: 30 at Llanbrynmair on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: 50+ at Edern on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 80 on saltmarsh in the Braint Est. on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> and 200 at Abermenai Point on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

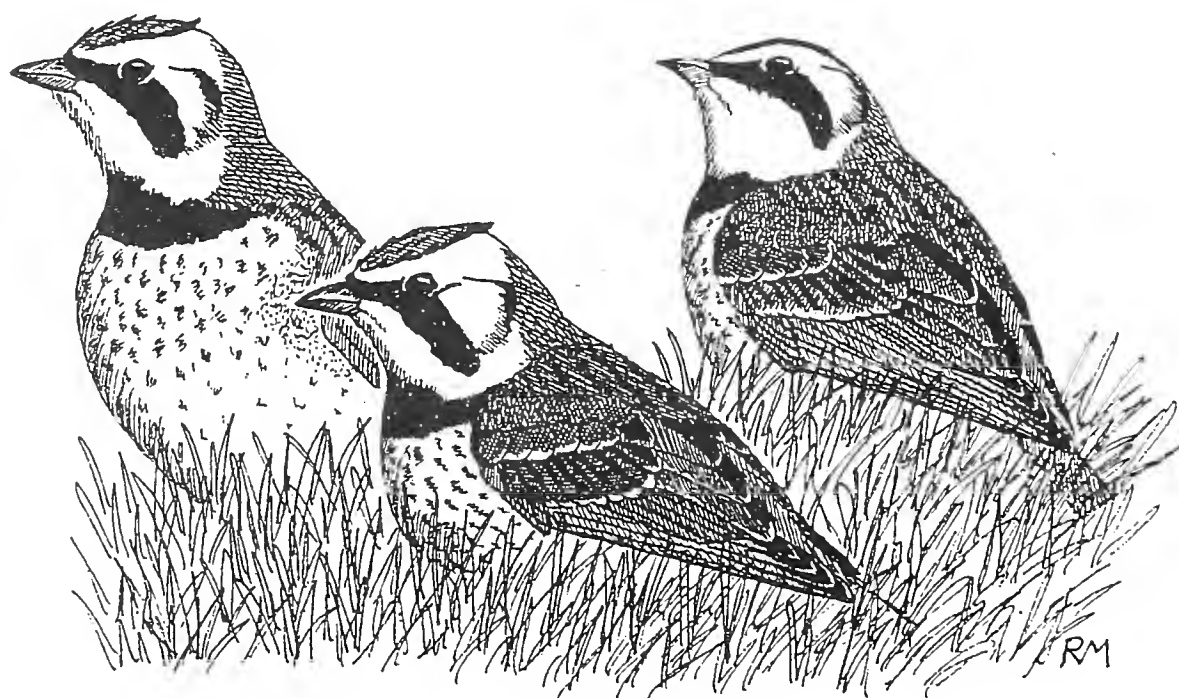
Some systematic counts of breeding birds for this very common species were made and, as this species is regarded as of some conservation concern, all are given: GLAMORGAN: 40 pairs in the Llynfi valley, 28 pairs on Penallta tip and 9 in a survey of unenclosed clifftop land from Mumbles Head to Rhossili; a drastic decline noted at Whiteford Point; PEMBROKE: 25 territories at Stackpole and 43 on St. David's A/F; CEREDIGION: 17, 23 and 9-10 singing males on 3 transects at Dyfi NNR; BRECON: 334 singing males on Mynydd Epynt MoD (see page 357), 60 on 5 km<sup>2</sup> of grass moorland at Llyn Dwr and 37 on 6 km<sup>2</sup> of similar habitat at Llandefalle Hill, a decline of 43% since 1996, and a 27% decline noted on sites monitored at Llanwrtyd Wells in 1998 and 1999; RADNOR an estimate based on sample counts of 1-Km squares gave 620-900 pairs on the Elan Valley Estate, with densities of up to 30 singing males per km<sup>2</sup> recorded; MONTGOMERY: 80 singing males were counted during a survey of grouse numbers at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB, a low density typical of heather moorland. By contrast a BBS on grass moorland at Trannon Moor recorded 79 singing males in May; CAERNARFON: 8 pairs bred at Conwy RSPB; ANGLESEY: 33 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB, 45 singing males on Newborough Warren, one pair only on South Stack RSPB (coastal heath) but 9 on the Range there. See also page 357.

**SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*\***

EHEDYDD Y TRAETH

1998: One at Castle Martin PEMBROKE from Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>-Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>.

1999: All records were: PEMBROKE 3 at Castle Martin until Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: 2 at Ynys-las from Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: one at Abermenai Point over Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: up to 35 wintering at Point of Ayr/Gronant, some birds staying into March.



**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Systematic counts of breeding birds for this widespread species of Welsh rivers were made as follows: GWENT: 120 nest holes at Abergavenny, 110 at Gobion and 25 at Monmouth, were birds were still using pipe holes in the Monnow Bridge; GOWER: 487 pairs, a 43% increase cf 1998, distributed on R. Loughor 368 (338 above Pontardulais, a 109% increase), R. Tawe 57 in 5 colonies, 3 being abandoned, R. Clydach 7, R. Neath 27 in 2 colonies, R. Afan 20 in 2 groups and R. Llan 8; BRECON: 70 pairs only in the colony on R. Wye at Glasbury with poor breeding success, 40 pairs along R. Irfon below Cefn Gast, 20 pairs in a colony at the tail-end of Talybont Res. and, on R. Usk, 200 pairs from Aberbran to Ashford; at the colony at Scethrog a third of nests were dug out by Mink; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 pairs bred in sandy cliffs at Tonfannau beach with good success; CAERNARFON: 13 pairs at Conwy RSPB, a new site, all failed due to erosion, 20 nests at Traeth Nefyn and 30 at Porth Dinllaen; ANGLESEY: 15 pairs at Newborough Warren, a new site. Spring arrival was noted from Mar. 4th (GOWER) but no spring concentration of more than 200 noted. In autumn passage max. were 2000 at Llangorse Lake BRECON on June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> and 800 there on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, and, in GLAMORGAN, 700 at Eglwys Nunnydd Res. on Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> and 600 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 325 at Lavernock Point on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

1997/98: At Malltraeth ANGLESEY 1-2 present up to Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> 1997 and one from Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 1998, 3 present in November 1998 and 1-2 throughout December.

1998: 10,000 roosting in reeds at Malltraeth RSPB ANGLESEY on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

1999: A widespread arrival between Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> and Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>. Spring passage max. were 600 at Kenfig NNR GLAMORGAN on Apr. 25<sup>th</sup> and 2000 at Ramsey PEMBROKE on 28<sup>th</sup>, whilst counts of up to 350 during mid April to mid May were made in several sites.

At a study site at Dinbren Isa DENBIGH 9 pairs bred, 5 having full clutches by early May but breeding success poorer than 1998, with 5.11 young/pair. For other breeding counts see page 357. Autumn passage max. involved, in GLAMORGAN, 6000 at Kenfig NNR on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> and 1500 at Eglwys Nunnydd Res. on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 1100 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 1000 at Lavernock Point on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, in PEMBROKE, 3000 at Castle Martin on Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5200 at Strumble Head on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and, in CAERNARFON, 5000 at Porth Meudwy on Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> and 1008 at Bardsey on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.

**HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbica*

GWENNOL Y BONDO

For systematic breeding counts see tables on page 357. There were also 50+ pairs breeding at Mamhilad Park estate GWENT. The largest spring passage gatherings were 300 at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON on May 17<sup>th</sup> and similar counts at Kenfig NNR GLAMORGAN on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Margam there on June 10<sup>th</sup>. At 3 sites at Worlds End valley DENBIGH breeding birds did not arrive to nest until early June. Passage max. in autumn were 2000 at Eglwys Nunnydd Res. GLAMORGAN on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, 700 at Cwm Clydach there on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> and 370 in the Llynnfi valley on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and birds moving W over Mynydd Epynt MoD BRECON at 1000 per hour on the morning of Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere no count of more than 250.

**RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*\*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

1997: One at Angle Bay PEMBROKE on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

1998: One at Carreg y Defaid Llanbedrog CAERNARFON on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

1999: Four singles noted in CAERNARFON, at Bardsey over Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, at Great Orme over Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and Dinas Dinlle over Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. In FLINT singles at Oakenholt from Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>-Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> and Greenfield Dock from Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>.

**TREE PIPIT** *A. trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

Two systematic breeding counts for this common Welsh species were of 8 territories on 40 ha at Coedydd Afon Gwynant and 6 on 50 at Coed Garth Gell, both part of Mawddach RSPB holdings in MEIRIONNYDD. See also page 357.

**MEADOW PIPIT** *A. pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Systematic breeding counts for this very common Welsh species were, in BRECON, 380 pairs on Mynydd Epynt MoD, 70 on 5 km<sup>2</sup> of moorland at Llyn Dwr and 60 on 6 km<sup>2</sup> of similar habitat at Llandefalle Hill. On areas monitored at Llanwrtyd Wells a 28% decline noted cf 1998. See also page 357.

**ROCK PIPIT** *A. petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

For breeding counts see page 357. Birds showing the characters of the race *littoralis* were singles at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**WATER PIPIT** *A. spinoletta*\*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

1998: One at Malltraeth RSPB ANGLESEY on Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>.

1999: All records were: GWENT: one at Gobion on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 at Sluice Farm Peterstone on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and one on Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> and one at Collister Pill on 13<sup>th</sup>; GLAMORGAN: one at the Ogmere Est. from Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>; CARMARTHEN: one at Frwd Fen on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> increasing to a max. of 14 in March; CEREDIGION: singles at Aberleri on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and then until Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>, at Ynys-las on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, Tanybwllch on Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dyfi Est. on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>; BRECON/RADNOR: 2 in the Glasbury area from Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Porthmadog Cob from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>-Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>, with 2 from Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>-Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>. Birds returned on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1-2 wintering until the end of the year; CAERNARFON: 2 at Foryd Bay on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>; FLINT: one at Oakenholt on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*\*

SIGLEN FELEN

1998: a male of the race *thunbergi* at Flimston PEMBROKE on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

1999: Breeding records received were: GWENT: pairs or birds noted at 7 sites in the breeding season. Four tetrads in the Goldcliff/Whitson area were searched for breeding pairs without result, despite presence of suitable breeding habitat; BRECON: in the Wye valley from Ffordd Fawr near Glasbury to Dderw pool 6-7 pairs in grass and 8 pairs in arable crops, 3 pairs at Llangorse sailing club and 2 in the Usk valley at Scethrog; MONTGOMERY: 4-5 pairs bred at Dolydd Hafren NR; FLINT: 3 territories at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB. Other Welsh breeding areas not reported on.

Birds showing the characters of the race *flava* were noted in CEREDIGION, one at Mwnt on May 11<sup>th</sup>, BRECON, 2 *flava* type variants with an influx of 25+ Yellow Wagtails at Llangorse Lake on Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>, in CAERNARFON, with one at Conwy RSPB over May 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, one at Bardsey over Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and one over 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and in ANGLESEY, singles at Cemlyn on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

One showing the characters of the race *thunbergi* at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**GREY WAGTAIL** *M. cinerea*

SIGLEN LWYD

See table on page 357 for breeding counts of this common species of Welsh rivers. The count of 16 pairs at Mynydd Epynt MoD was a record for the site.

**PIED WAGTAIL** *M. alba*

SIGLEN FRAITH

Systematic breeding counts are listed on page 00. Passage of birds showing the characters of the race *alba* (White Wagtail) was widely noted and particularly marked in mid April. The largest count was of 100 at Cemlyn ANGLESEY on Apr. 19<sup>th</sup> and at least 300 were noted altogether in that month and 130 in September, the peak month for autumn movement.

**WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*\*

CYNFFON SIDAN

In RADNOR 2 groups of 3 in Llandrindod Wells from Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and over Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.

**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus*

BRONWEN Y DWR

Systematic breeding counts of this widespread species of Welsh rivers received as follows: GWENT: 5 pairs on Afon Lwyd between Abersychan and Cwmavon, 4 pairs on Gwent stretch of R. Clydach and 11 pairs in the Grwyne Fawr valley; GLAMORGAN: 4 pairs bred at Cwm Clydach RSPB. Among other sites reported a pair bred in Maesteg town centre; BRECON: 7 pairs bred on streams on Mynydd Epynt MoD, a record for the site; MONTGOMERY: 6 pairs bred on Lake Vyrnwy RSPB;

CAERNARFON: 12 pairs on Afon Ogwen from Halfway Bridge to Aber Ogwen; ANGLESEY: regularly seen at The Dingle Llangefni, included juveniles. See also page 357.

**NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*\*

EOS

1998: One at Great Orme CAERNARFON on Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia svecica*\*

BRONLAS

1995: A male of the race *svecica* (Red-spotted) at Skokholm PEMBROKE on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

1999: One at Uskmouth NR GWENT on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochropus*\*

TINGOCH DU

C.31 were apparently wintering in the early months in GWENT (2), GLAMORGAN (6), PEMBROKE (14, including 6 at Bosherton in January), CEREDIGION (2), MEIRIONNYDD (2), CAERNARFON (2) and ANGLESEY (3). A small spring passage was noted between Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>, involving only 20 birds and a very small autumn passage involved c.32 birds between Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. Nine were present in December.

**REDSTART** *P. phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

Some systematic breeding counts for this common Welsh species are given in the tables on page 357. There were also 15 pairs at Cwm Clydach RSPB GLAMORGAN, 8 territories on 40 ha of Coedydd Afon Gwynant and 6 on 50 ha of Coed Garth Gell, both part of Mawddach RSPB MEIRIONNYDD and 10 pairs fledged 13 young at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB MONTGOMERY. One at Abercastle PEMBROKE on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> was the latest for the county.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

CREC YR EITHIN

See page 357 for breeding counts for this common Welsh summer visitor. Systematic counts elsewhere were, in GWENT, 40 pairs on the Blorenge, 14 on Mynydd-y-Garn-Fawr and 32 on Mynydd Garn Clochdy and in BRECON, 38 pairs on 200 ha at Cwm Onneu and 10 pairs on 5 km<sup>2</sup> of moorland habitat at Llyn Dwr. At Llanwrtyd Wells a 21% decline in areas monitored in 1998 and 1999 but a marked increase on Mynydd Epynt MoD (see page 357).

**STONECHAT** *S. torquata*

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

1998: 17 pairs bred in the Pembrey/Burry Port area of CARMARTHEN and records from another 9 sites, 8 of them inland.

1999: A significant increase in the breeding population, particularly inland, appears to be taking place. Systematic counts of breeding birds were: GWENT: 7 pairs each on the Blorenge and Mynydd-y-Garn-Fawr, 5 on Mynydd Garn Clochdy and 3 at Varteg; GLAMORGAN: 10-12 pairs bred in the Llynfi valley and 58 pairs found in an GOS/RSPB breeding survey of unenclosed cliff land from Mumbles Head to Rhossili. Bred in at least 24 other sites in the county; CARMARTHEN: a reduction to 12 pairs in the Pembrey area to development; BRECON: 7 pairs on Mynydd Epynt MoD and at least 15 other pairs noted; RADNOR: 13 pairs bred on the Elan Valley Estate and an estimated 55+ for the whole county; CAERNARFON: 8 pairs bred at Great Orme and 4 at Moel y Ci; ANGLESEY: at least 7 pairs bred at Cemlyn, 6 along 500m of track at Newborough Warren, 6 at South Stack RSPB and 9 at the Range there; DENBIGH: at least 13 pairs in the Horseshoe Pass/Ruabon Moor area but not a complete census. More casual records recorded a wide scatter of breeding pairs in 27 sites and further systematic counts are given on page 357.

**WHEATEAR** *O. oenanthe*

TINWEN Y GARN

For systematic counts of breeding birds see page 357. There were 7 pairs at over 3000 feet (916m) on the summit plateau of Foel Fras CAERNARFON on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. In PEMBROKE spring passage max. were 500 at Ramsey on Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>, 165 at Skokholm on 29<sup>th</sup> and 100 at Skomer on 30<sup>th</sup>. The last recorded was on the late date of Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> at Llanrhidian GOWER.

**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

As part of a UK survey of this species a total of 35 tetrads were surveyed. This gives a population estimate of 293-392 pairs in Wales.

All breeding counts are given: GWENT: not recorded from Trefil quarries; GLAMORGAN: none bred; CARMARTHEN: in April a pair at SN8023 and males at Foel Fawr and Cefn Carnfadog; BRECON: 10-11 breeding territories located; RADNOR: 13 singing males found in 8 sites; MONTGOMERY: 2 pairs bred at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB and single birds in 2 sites in May; MEIRIONNYDD: an RSPB tetrad breeding survey found a total of 49-67 territories in 13 localities, only 2 of which held no birds. The main sites were Cader Idris (the bulk of the mountain from Gau Craig to Carnedd Lwyd) with 21-31 territories, Moelwyn SH6745 with probably 7 territories, Diffwys Rhinogau with 5-8 territories and Arenig Fawr with 4. A full list of the results is given in the Cambrian Bird Report; CAERNARFON: probably 15 pairs altogether in the Llanberis area, an increase noted at Cwm Idwal with a reduction of sheep grazing pressure, a pair reared 2 young at Cwm Pennant and present in 4 other sites in the breeding season. DENBIGH: only one pair proved to breed in the Horseshoe Pass/Ruabon Moor area but 1-2 birds seen in 4 other sites.

**EYE-BROWED THRUSH** *T. obscurus*\*

BRYCH AELIOG

A first winter bird trapped at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> was the first Welsh record. See note on page 379.

**FIELDFARE** *T. pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

Few wintering with only 2 flocks of more than 300 noted in the early months, of 500 at Glasbury BRECON on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 400+ at Llanwenarth GWENT on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. The only other sizable winter flocks in this period were c.200 at Dingestow GWENT on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> and similar numbers at Llandevaud there on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. After 400 at Pentwyn Farm GWENT in October, there was a sizable return movement in November, with 1000 at Goldcliff GWENT on 4<sup>th</sup> and 750 there on 7<sup>th</sup>, 2000 N over Mynydd Epynt BRECON on 5<sup>th</sup>, 410 at Kenfig GLAMORGAN on 7<sup>th</sup>, 200 at Llanbister RADNOR on 9<sup>th</sup>, similar numbers at Rhyl and Llyn Brenig FLINT on 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and 300 at Llyn Alaw ANGLESEY on 29<sup>th</sup>. In GLAMORGAN 250 at Merthyr Mawr on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> increased to 2000 on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**SONG THRUSH** *T. philomelos*

BRONFRAITH

General observations suggest that the species is in little difficulty as a breeding bird in Wales, despite recent media comment. Systematic counts will be found on page 00 and it is worth noting that the count of 145 singing males on Mynydd Epynt MoD represents an increase of 61% on 1998. Other useful counts included 19 singing males at Fforest Fawr/Castell Coch GLAMORGAN, 12 on a one mile transect at Slebech PEMBROKE and 49 in the Cradoc/Battle/Aberyscir area BRECON.

**REDWING** *T. iliacus*

COCH DAN-ADEN

The only flocks of 300 or more in the early months were of 350 at Llandegfedd Res. and 300+ at New Inn GWENT on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and a roost of 300 at Longridge woods PEMBROKE from January to March, which was reestablished in November and December. Elsewhere the only large flocks were 250 at Aberaman GLAMORGAN on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> and a similar number at Brooksgrove PEMBROKE on 13<sup>th</sup>. Some substantial autumn movements, with 5500 at Bardsey Lighthouse CAERNARFON over the night of Oct. 15/16<sup>th</sup> and 2900 the following night, 528 at Cwm bach GLAMORGAN on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 400+ at Kenfig there on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1000+ at Glan y Mor Elias CAERNARFON on 7<sup>th</sup>. In December a total of 2890 recorded over Taibach GOWER on 5 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere only small numbers seen.

**CETTI'S WARBLER** *Cettia cetti*\*

TELOR CETTI

All records are listed: GWENT: at Uskmouth NR singles on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and singles again at intervals to November; 2 at Llanwern steelworks during March/April, one at Greenmoor pool during March-May and one in Newport during March and June; E.GLAMORGAN: a singing male at St. Mellons Cardiff from Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</sup> and small numbers at Kenfig NNR all



year, with 2, possibly 3, territories around the pool. Five singing males on Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> represented a small influx and at least one pair bred successfully. GOWER: bred at Oxwich and Red Jacket Pill and present at Llanrhidian marsh and at Pant-y-Sais fen. The max. counts were 4 at Oxwich and 7 at Pant-y-Sais; CARMARTHEN: at least 16 singing males in the fens of the coastal south-east of the county; PEMBROKE: 3 singing males and 4 colour-ringed females in the Teifi marshes NR, with 4 juveniles trapped during July-September. One at Westfield Pill on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>; BRECON: one seen and heard at Llangorse Lake on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: birds present at Valley Lakes RSPB all year, with up to 5 recorded and at least one pair was proved to breed. A bird at Cors Goch NWWT during the breeding season.

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *L. naevia*

*TROELLWR BACH*

1998: An early record at Cemlyn ANGLESEY on Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>.

1999: A sizable autumn influx of 65 at Bardsey Lighthouse CAERNARFON on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, a very late date. Fairly widespread in the breeding season and all records are given: GLAMORGAN: singing males in 4 sites at Kenfig NNR and present in the breeding season at Pant-y-Sais fen, Tonmawr, Pelenna forest and Margam Moors. Considered to be under-recorded in upland forest clear-fells; CEREDIGION: in transect surveys 28 territories found at Cors Caron NNR and 16 at Cors Fochno NNR. There were also 4 territories at Ynys-hir RSPB and 3 at the Teifi Marshes NR; BRECON: a very poor year with only 9 territories located in the county; MONTGOMERY: a pair bred at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB and 4-6 pairs at Morfa Dyfi, which may overlap with Ynys-hir above; MEIRIONNYDD: good numbers stated now to breed in upland habitats and records from 8-9 sites this year; CAERNARFON: 3 singing males at Conwy RSPB on Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> and found in 4 other sites; ANGLESEY: 4 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB and also bred at Gronant. Probably bred at Llyn Alaw and Llyn Cefni and singing males noted at Gadfa windfarm (3), Llyn Rhos Ddu (3), Cemlyn (6) and 8 other sites; DENBIGH: song heard in 10 sites on Ruabon Moors.

**AQUATIC WARBLER** *Acrocephalus paludicola*\*

*TELOR Y DWR*

Singles at Penclacwydd CARMARTHEN on Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Kenfig Pool GLAMORGAN on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *A. schoenobanus*

*TELOR YR HESG*

Systematic breeding counts for this widespread Welsh summer visitor were: GLAMORGAN: 12 singing males at Kenfig NNR, 46+ at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Margam Moors on 15<sup>th</sup>, 50+ at Pant-y-Sais fen and 20+ at Port Tennant canal basin on June 17<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: 20 singing males at Penclacwydd WWT in July; CEREDIGION: transect surveys found 110 territories at Cors Caron NNR and 48 at Aberleri/Cors Fochno NNR; MONTGOMERY: 12 pairs at Dolydd Hafren NR; CAERNARFON: 14 pairs bred Conwy RSPB, 8 singing males at Morfa Madryn and 7 at Porth Meudwy; ANGLESEY: 20 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB, 9-12 pairs at Rhosneigr, c.31 at Cors Goch NWWT, 9 singing males at Cemlyn and 7 at Penmon Point. See also page 00. During August 219 ringed at Uskmouth NR Gwent.

**REED WARBLER** *A. scirpaceus*

*TELOR Y CYRS*

A few systematic counts of breeding birds were: GLAMORGAN: 20+ singing males at Kenfig NNR and 25+ at Port Tennant canal basin and 50+ at Pant-y-Sais fen on June 17<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: transect surveys found 12 territories at Aberleri (Dyfi NNR); CAERNARFON: 10 pairs bred at Conwy RSPB; ANGLESEY: 17 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB.

One at Broad Haven PEMBROKE on Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> was the earliest record for the county. During August nearly 200 ringed at Uskmouth NR.

**BOOTED WARBLER** *Hippolais caligata*\*

*TELOR BACSIOG*

1998: a first winter bird at Bardsey CAERNARFON over Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, the second for Wales.

**ICTERINE WARBLER *H. icterina*\***

TELOR AUR

1995: singles at Skokholm PEMBROKE over Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>-Nov.1<sup>st</sup>.

1996: One Skokholm PEMBROKE on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

1997: In Pembroke one at Skomer on May 30<sup>th</sup> and singles there over Aug.19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. The above records bring the record for Wales for this species fully up to date.

1999: singles at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**MELODIOUS WARBLER *H. polyglotta*\***

TELOR PER

1995: One at Skokholm PEMBROKE on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>.

1999: One at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*\***

TELOR DARTFORD

A male at the 1998 breeding site on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> did not stay to breed. Elsewhere singles in GLAMORGAN at Kenfig NNR on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, at Port Eynon Point on Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> and Nash Point on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**BARRED WARBLER *S. nisoria*\***

TELOR RHESOG

Singles at Angle village PEMBROKE on Nov.26th, the latest record for Wales, and at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Aug.30th.

**WHITETHROAT *S. communis***

LLWYDFRON

A survey of unenclosed cliff-top land in GOWER from Mumbles Head to Rhossili found 28 pairs. Other systematic counts for this common Welsh species are listed on page 357.

**BLACKCAP *S. atricapilla***

TELOR PENDDU

Wintering records only are given for this common breeding summer visitor. Altogether c.27 were noted in January and February and 48 in November and December, although not all November birds were necessarily wintering. Birds were noted in GWENT (6 & 7), GLAMORGAN (8 & 16 including 5 males at Llanederyn on Dec.5th), CARMARTHEN (1 & 1), PEMBROKE (3 & 9), CEREDIGION (5 & 5), CAERNARFON (2 & 7), ANGLESEY (2 & 2) and FLINT (0 & 1). For breeding counts see page 357.

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*\***

TELOR AELFELYN

Singles in October at Nantyllyllon Maesteg GLAMORGAN from 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, the second year running one has been seen there, in CAERNARFON at Llican Isa Ty'n y Groes on 11<sup>th</sup> and Llanfairfechan on 28<sup>th</sup> and at Soldiers Point ANGLESEY over 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

**WOOD WARBLER *Ph. sibilatrix***

TELOR Y COED

One at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> was the island's latest record. Some systematic breeding counts were: GLAMORGAN: 15 singing males in Darren Maesteg and 24 at Cwm Clydach RSPB; MEIRIONNYDD: 7 territories on 40 ha of Coedydd Afon Gwynant and 10 on 50 ha at Coed Garth Gell, both Mawddach RSPB. Other counts are given on page 357.

**CHIFFCHAFF *Ph. collybita***

SIFF-SAFF

Systematic breeding counts are listed on page 357. Wintering birds were recorded as follows: GWENT: total of 4 in January/February; GLAMORGAN: totals of 19 in January and February, included 4 at Kenfig NNR and at Cheriton, 8 at the end of the year; CARMARTHEN: up to 6 at Cydweli S/F in January, 2 elsewhere in December; PEMBROKE: 18 in January/February, including 11 at St. Ishmael's S/F, and 15 in November/December, with 4 at St. Ishmael's; CEREDIGION: none in the early months and one in December; BRECON: 2 in December; CAERNARFON: 3 in January/February and 4 in December; FLINT: one in January. Settling beds at sewage works are particularly favoured sites.



Birds considered to show the characters of the race *tristis* were trapped at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Apr. 29<sup>th</sup> (2) and 30<sup>th</sup> and birds considered to show the characters of either this race or *abietinus* were seen at Kenfig NNR on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> and Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, St. Mellons Cardiff on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and Llandudno CAERNARFON on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>.

**WILLOW WARBLER** *Ph. trochilus*

TELOR Y HELYG

Systematic breeding counts are listed on page 357. In PEMBROKE passage max. were 800 at Ramsey on Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> and 300 at Skokholm on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, at Bardsey CAERNARFON were 500 on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 450 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 200 on Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapillus*\*

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Recorded in every month except July and August, in GLAMORGAN (17), CARMARTHEN (3), PEMBROKE (28, including 6 at Bosherton in January), BRECON (1), CAERNARFON (16), ANGLESEY (1) and FLINT (2). About 28 were wintering in the early months and 8 at the end of the year and passage was rather sparse but noted until June 1<sup>st</sup> and from Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximate monthly totals were

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
22	10	13	2	1	2	0	0	3	9	13	7

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Spring passage max. at Skomer PEMBROKE was 20 on May 15<sup>th</sup>, at Bardsey CAERNARFON was 40 on 17<sup>th</sup> but a autumn max. of only 9 there, on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Systematic breeding counts are listed on page 357.

**RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula parva*\*

GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH

Singles at Skomer PEMBROKE on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and at Soldiers Point ANGLESEY on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Systematic counts for this common Welsh summer visitor were: GLAMORGAN: Cwm Clydach RSPB 101 pairs bred in boxes and averaged 4.2 young fledged per box; CARMARTHEN: 160 pairs bred in boxes at Gwenffrwyd/Dinas RSPB and 489 *pulli* were ringed; MONTGOMERY: 66 pairs fledged 164 young at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB, 20 pairs bred at Coed Gwernafon and 9 at Moel y Garth; MEIRIONNYDD: 28 territories in 40 ha at Coedydd Afon Gwynant and 13 on 50 at Coed Garth Gell, both Mawddach RSPB; DENBIGH: of 60 boxes at the Llangollen study site 23 (39%) were occupied, mean first egg date was May 11<sup>th</sup>, mean c/s was 7.3 and mean fledged b/s 3.5, at Worlds End 11 of 23 boxes occupied, with a mean c/s of 7.0 and fledged brood size of 4.9. See also page 357.

**BEARDED TIT** *Panurus biamicus*\*

TITW BARFOG

One at the Teifi marshes NR, CEREDIGION on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**WILLOW TIT** *Parus montanus*\*

TITW PENDDU

All records for this declining species are summarised: GWENT: pairs in 3 sites in the breeding season and birds in 5 other sites outside that period; GLAMORGAN: bred at Cwm Clydach, in the Cynon valley and in one other site and present in 12 further sites; CARMARTHEN: recorded at 6 sites, with breeding by 5 pairs confirmed at 4; PEMBROKE: breeding season records for 3 sites and recorded in 6 more outside that period; BRECON: noted in 15 sites in the breeding season, with breeding proved in 10; MEIRIONNYDD; found in 4 sites but breeding not proved; CAERNARFON: noted in 5 sites but breeding not proved; ANGLESEY: a family party of 4 at Cors Erddreiniog in July and 1-2 birds present there all year and one at Llyn Gefni on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>; DENBIGH: found in 4 sites in the Worlds End/Llangollen area.

**GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus*\*

EURYN

A male singing at Llanfarian CEREDIGION on May 11<sup>th</sup> and a female trapped at Bardsey CAERNARFON on 17<sup>th</sup> and a young male there on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio*\*

CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

1996: A male at Carno MONTGOMERY in June.

1999: Single males at Bardsey CAERNARFON on May 28<sup>th</sup> and Tregaron CEREDIGION June 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.**GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *L. excubitor*\*

CIGYDD MAWR

All records were: GOWER: one at Mynydd Bach near Bryn from December 1998 until Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> and another at Cwm Gwenffrwd on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and again at Mynydd Bach from Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> into 2000; CARMARTHEN: singles in Brechfa Forest in January, the Gwenffrwd RSPB in February, near Llandeilo on Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> and at Cynnant Cynghordy on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: one at Blackpool Mill from Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: the bird at Cors Fochno at end 1998 remained until Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> and one near Cellan on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: one in Glas-fynydd forest on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and one at Blaen Talar in late October; RADNOR: one in Radnor Forest from Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> into 2000; MONTGOMERY: one near Lake Vyrnwy from February to April; DENBIGH: one in Clocaenog Forest on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> and Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CHOUGH** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

BRAN GOESGOCH

1998: A pair reared 5 young at Great Orme CAERNARFON.

1999: All records were: GLAMORGAN: 2-3 in the Ogmore area all year were seen as far east as Monkash but never more than a mile inland. In Gower 2 pairs bred along the south coast, rearing 2 and one young and a third pair were present up to Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>; PEMBROKE: 55 occupied territories were located in which a min. of 45 pairs nested, rearing at least 120 young, an overall productivity of 2.16 young/occupied territory. There were between 79-98 non-breeders; CEREDIGION: no breeding census but a non-breeding flock of 22 at Llangranog in April; MONTGOMERY: one pair bred, rearing 3 young; MEIRIONNYDD: no breeding census but 16 at Craig Aderyn on Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> and 9 Trefeddian on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>; CAERNARFON: did not breed at Great Orme. At Bardsey 4 pairs reared 15 young. Elsewhere max. counts were 40 at Aber mountain gate on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 42 at Nant Ffrancon on Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> and 36 at Aberdaron on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 10 at Aberffraw on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, a max. of 38 at South Stack on July 12<sup>th</sup> and up to 6 from many other coastal locations.

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

YDFRAN

In GWENT 10 colonies counted held a total of 317 nests. In E.GLAMORGAN 14 colonies counted held 184 nests. In GOWER a complete census found a total of 1036 nests in 55 colonies, 627 in 36 on the Gower peninsula and 409 in 19 elsewhere in the recording area. The largest colony was of 143 nests at Stouthall, which also had a satellite colony of 10 nests; BRECON: 1123 nests were counted in 32 colonies south and east of Mynydd Epynt. In 1980 these colonies had held 1286 nests.

**CARRION CROW** *C. corone*

BRAN DYDDYN

For systematic breeding counts see page 00.

Hooded Crows were recorded as follows: PEMBROKE: singles at Ramsey on Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> and from June 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> and a hybrid at Sealyham on Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: singles at Bardsey on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, at Foryd Bay in October and Aber Ogwen on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>; ANGLESEY: 1-2 at South Stack all year and singles at Nebo on July 29<sup>th</sup>, Llaneilian from Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> to end year and Cemlyn on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Single hybrids were noted at Llyn Traffwll on July 4<sup>th</sup>, Llyn Alaw on 13<sup>th</sup> and Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> and South Stack on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**RAVEN** *C. corax*

CIGFRAN

Systematic breeding records were: E.GLAMORGAN: breeding at 9 sites produced 17 young at least and at 4 other sites the outcome was unknown. Two nests were noted in Cardiff, on the Clock Tower of City Hall and the Law Courts spire but whether eggs were laid was not confirmed; GOWER: 4 pairs nesting along the cliffs from Mumbles Head to Rhossili. Urban nests were one on a floodlight stanchion at St. Helens rugby ground Swansea and one at Port Talbot steelworks; PEMBROKE: 21 pairs nesting round the coast and islands averaged 2.18 young fledged per pair; DENBIGH: at the

Ruabon moors/Horseshoe Pass study area 10 pairs bred, one failed when its nest blew down, 7 nests had mean c/s of 5.6 and the 10 pairs averaged 3.4 young/pair

The largest post breeding/non-breeding flocks noted were, in GLAMORGAN, a max. of 80+ at Mynydd Aberdare on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 72 on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, CARMARTHEN, 62 at Carn Goch on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, PEMBROKE, 70 at Ffynnon Druidion, BRECON, 55 at The Allt on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and 30+ at the Pentrefelin roost on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> and ANGLESEY, a max. of 1250 at the Newborough Warren roost on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and 300 at a roost in Pentraeth Forest on 14<sup>th</sup>.

### STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

Some major roost counts for this very common Welsh species were: GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Roath Park on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Leckwith on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2500 at Glyntaff on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1000 at Lamby Way Cardiff on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and a max. of 10,000 at Kenfig NNR in November and December; BRECON: max. of 6500 at Llangorse Lake on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> and 20,000+ on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> and a max. of 20,000+ at Ffrwdgrech on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>; CAERNARFON: max. of 10,000 at Conwy RSPB in January/February and November/December, 40,000 at Ystymlyn on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and 3 other roosts of 1-2000 at the end of the year; ANGLESEY: 2000 roosting at Malltraeth RSPB on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and max. of 15,000 at Rhyd Wen on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> and 15-20,000 at Llanfaelog on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>; DENBIGH: 5000 at Kinmel Bay on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: 5-6000 at Rhyl Harbour in January and 1000+ on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>.

### ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *S. roseus*\*

DRUDWEN WRIDOG

In PEMBROKE an adult at St. David's from May 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and a juvenile at Strumble Head from Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>-Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, an adult at Newquay CEREDIGION on June 12<sup>th</sup> and one at Bardsey CAERNARFON over July 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.



### TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*\*

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

All records received are summarised for this declining species: GWENT: at least one pair bred at Dingestow, where 16-18 birds in the early months, a new breeding colony of 5-6 pairs at Trelleck, one rearing 3 young, and adults with 2 juveniles seen at Magor Pill on Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> and West Pill next day. Otherwise a scatter of records from coastal sites during the year, mainly singles or small groups but including 18+ at St. Pierre GC on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>; E.GLAMORGAN: a pair bred at Monkton, having young on Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Otherwise single birds or groups of up to 5 in 10 sites; GOWER: one at Cwm Ivy marsh on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 at Hunts farm Pennard on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> were the only records; CARMARTHEN: a total of 38 pairs located in an incomplete survey of the Tywi valley, with 6 in nest boxes fledging 18 young. Flocks were 11 at Pendine on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> and, in the Tywi valley, 14 at Dryslwyn on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Ffairfach on 16<sup>th</sup>, with 18 at feeders there in December; PEMBROKE: one at Skomer on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5 or 6 noted at a nest-box scheme near Castle Morris in June and 3 X House Sparrows at Walwyn's Castle on May 9<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: 2 at Blaenporth on June 6<sup>th</sup> but no evidence of breeding; BRECON: a total of 80 pairs found in the breeding season, of which 18 were at Tredomen, where there were 14 feeding at sheep troughs on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. On 21<sup>st</sup> c.150 were found in weedy roots at Pipton and, at the end of the year, 4 flocks of 6-12 noted, 30 at Dderw pool on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> and 40+ at

Dolmenyn in weedy roots in December; RADNOR: winter flocks of 15 at Pwll Patti on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> and 20 on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>; MONTGOMERY: 2-3 pairs bred at Pwll Penarth, 9 pairs in a nest-box scheme at Bishop's Castle, one pair at Dolydd Hafren NR and 13 in a nest-box scheme at Newtown (there were 12 here in 1998). In winter at Dolydd Hafren, on sacrifice crops grown on the reserve of cereals and sunflowers, a flock started to gather in August and reached 100 birds by end September, remaining at that level to end year; MEIRIONNYDD: not recorded; CAERNARFON: 2 at Bardsey from May 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> was the only record; ANGLESEY: 2 near Llyn Alaw on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 at Cemlyn on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and a small flock in the Braint Est. at the end of the year reached 10 birds on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Also noted at Gronant but no other details; DENBIGH: one in a garden at Pen y Cae Res. on Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: 4 near Rhyl on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and 5 there on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 5 at Connah's Quay NR on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> and 6 on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> and 10 at Llyn Helyg on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>; 2 pairs bred in boxes at Burton Point Farm but only one fledged young.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

*JI-BINC*

Significant winter flocks only are listed: GWENT: 100 at Coed y Fedw on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 70 on tilled ground at Skirrid Fach on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 100 at Llanllowell on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 90 at Magor on 25<sup>th</sup> and 400+ at Monmouth on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>; GLAMORGAN: 200 at Margam on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and similar numbers at Hensol Forest on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Leckwith on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, 110 on Pennard cliffs on 15<sup>th</sup>, 270 at Margam on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> and 139 at Kingsbridge on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>; PEMBROKE: 200 at Lawrenny on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 150 on linseed stubble at Oakhill on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 200 at Newgale on 30<sup>th</sup>, 200 at Penfeider Farm on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 100 at sheep troughs at Blackpool Mill on 21<sup>st</sup>, 200 on linseed stubble at Sodston on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and 200 in roots at Marloes in December; BRECON: 150 in roots at Bwlch on Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, 200 on reseeded grass at Garthbreny on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 500 in roots at Talybont on 29<sup>th</sup> and flocks of 200 in 2 root fields at Cantref on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>; RADNOR: 200 at Llanbwchlyn on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: 105 at Porth Meudwy on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and 2000+ at Glan-y-Mor Elias on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: 140 at Wylfa on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 200 at Aberffraw on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> and 270 roosting at Newborough Warren on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: 48 near Rhyl on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and 70 at Shotwick fields on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. On Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> a flock of 1000 finches at Llanasa comprised this species and Greenfinches. Breeding counts are given on page 357.

**BRAMBLING** *F. montifringilla*

*PINC Y MYNYDD*

1998: a flock of 200+ present at Penyfan Industrial Estate Oakdale GWENT from Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> to Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, with some remaining to 27<sup>th</sup>. This was by far the largest flock recorded for the year.

1999: Although small groups recorded in every county, significant flocks were very few, as follows: 20 at Cwmystwyth CEREDIGION on Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>, 30 at Aberhiraant Bala MEIRION-NYDD on 26<sup>th</sup>, 80+ in roots at Mynydd Llangattock BRECON on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> and 100+ at Loggerheads CLWYD on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. The autumn max. at Bardsey CAERNARFON was 59 S on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> and 50 flew S at South Stack ANGLESEY in an hour on 29<sup>th</sup>.

**SERIN** *Serinus serinus*\*

*LLINOS FRECH*

1998: A male at Porthclais PEMBROKE on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

*LLINOS WERDD*

Winter flocks only are listed. Such flocks of this species are often smaller than for other finches and we rarely hear of gatherings at garden feeding stations, where the bulk of the population may now winter. GWENT: a pre-roost gathering of 80 at Caerleon on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, max. of 65-70 feeding on stubble at Skirrid Fach on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and 40 on spring oil-seed rape at St. Maughans on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>; GLAMORGAN: 100-110 roosting at Treforest in the early months and 175 at end year, 46 at Cwm Ivy marsh on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 80 in Margam Park on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 150 at Hendre Lake on 11<sup>th</sup> and 200 at Sker farm on 28<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: 250 at Broad Oak in August; PEMBROKE: 100 at Carnhedryn on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and 50 in maize at Milton on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 50 in linseed stubble at Courtyplyfyn on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 50+ in cereal stubble at Battle Hill on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 220 at the Ffrwdgrech roost on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: 30 at Caernarfon on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> was the largest flock; ANGLESEY: 40 in a garden at Traffwll in the early months and 25 at the end of the year, 58 at Wylfa on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 79 at Cemlyn on

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Foel Ferry on 27<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: 40 in Gronant dunes on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and 1000 finches at Llanasa on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> comprised this species and Chaffinch. See also page 357 for breeding counts.

**GOLDFINCH** *C. carduelis*

NICO

Autumn/post-breeding and winter flocks noted are listed: GWENT: 30+ at Llandegfedd Res. in September/October, 200 at Llandevaud in the same period and 50+ at Penygarn. As in other counties widely recorded visiting garden feeders and taking nuts; E.GLAMORGAN: at least 8 post-breeding flocks of >50 noted and increasingly recorded visiting garden feeders for peanuts; GOWER: the largest flocks were 44 at Ashleigh Road GC on Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>, 53 on Margam moors on Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> and 30 at Mynydd Emroch on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Also noted coming to garden feeding stations; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Pembrey on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 200 on linseed stubble at Rhodiad y Brenin in January and 40 at Newgale on 30<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 70 along the R. Wye at Glasbury in February and 30 in December, flocks of 100 at Brechfa Pool on Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, Llangorse Lake on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and Llanwrtyd on 20<sup>th</sup>, 50 at Cradoc on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and 30 at Bronydd Mawr on 6<sup>th</sup>; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 at Llanegryn on July 9<sup>th</sup>. One record of birds taking peanuts; CAERNARFON the peak count of 410 at Bardsey on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> was the highest count yet made there, 70 at Glanrafon on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> and 60 at Aber Ogwen then. Also recorded taking peanuts at garden feeders at 2 sites; ANGLESEY: 108 at Penmom Point on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and 60 at Ger-y-Parc Panteg on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>; FLINT: a max. of 60 on sacrificial arable crop grown at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>. See also page 357 for breeding counts.

**SISKIN** *C. spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

Autumn and winter flocks of up to 50 were widespread and larger flocks are listed: GWENT: 200+ near Abergavenny on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>; GLAMORGAN: 50 at Abercwmboi on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> and 60 at Ystrad/Llwynypia on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: 60 at Broad Oak in January; BRECON: 80 at Slwch farm Brecon on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 100 at Llangorse Lake on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 80 at Talybont on 23<sup>rd</sup>; FLINT: 60 along R. Clwyd between Pont Glan y Wern and Lleweni Hall on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> and a max. of 150 in alders at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**LINNET** *C. cannabina*

LLINOS

Sizable autumn and winter flocks are listed. The numbers of birds involved suggests that this species is doing reasonably well in Wales at present: GWENT: 120 at St. Brides on July 30<sup>th</sup>; GLAMORGAN: 120 at Rhossili on Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>, 220 at Port Talbot Harbour on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and 175 at Rhossili on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 200 at Rhodiad y Brenin on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 120 at Lleithyr and 200 at Treleidi on Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 110 at Pigscot farm from Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>-Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, 100 at Dale A/F on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and in maize at Milton on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> and 300 in roots at West Blockhouse on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and in maize stubble at Freshwater West in November and December; CEREDIGION: 70 at Dyfi Est. on Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> and 200 roosting at Wallog on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 150 in roots at Bwlch on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 150 at Ffyonnanau on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 100 at Courtyplyfyn on Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>, 75 at Trecastle on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, 80 at Hendre quarry on 19<sup>th</sup>, 300+ at Bronydd Mawr on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 300 in partly harvested oil-seed rape at Llechfaen on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 100 in roots at Cantref on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>; CAERNARFON: 350+ in stubble between Garn and Botwnnog on Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>, 62 at Morfa Conwy on Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>, 73 at Glan-y-Mor Elias on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 75 at Porth Meudwy on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and 100+ at Sarn Mellteyrn on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>; ANGLESEY: 100 at Amlwch on Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>, 120 at Cemlyn on July 21<sup>st</sup> and 60 on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 110 at Porth Dafarch on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 flocks of 100 at Rhosneigr on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> and 60 at Brynteg on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: 40 at Rhyl GC on Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> and Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>, 50 near Rhyl on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>, a max. of 300 at Point of Ayr on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> and a max. of 85 using the sacrificial crop at Inner Marsh Farm in September.

Systematic breeding records are tabulated on page 357. In addition a survey of clifftop land from Mumbles Head to Rhossili GOWER found 112 pairs and there were 36 in total at the Range/South Stack RSPB.

**TWITE** *C. flavirostris*\*

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

A marked increase in records and all are given: PEMBROKE: 18 at St. David's Head on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: one at Ynys-las on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 at the Dyfi Est. on 24<sup>th</sup> and one there on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>; MEIRIONNYDD: 3 traditional breeding sites on the Migneint were checked but held no birds;



CAERNARFON: up to 38 wintering at Llanfairfechan until Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> and 30 at the end of the year and up to 7 wintering at Dinas Dinlle and 5 at Aber Ogwen in the early months. A remarkable series of records at Nant Ffrancon in the autumn, with 40 on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, 70 on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and an exceptional 200 on 26<sup>th</sup>. Twenty at Foryd Bay on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>, one in the Braint Est and 4 at Abermenai Point on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15 at the latter on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: monthly max. at Flint Castle were Jan. (70), Feb. (87), Mar. (70), Oct. (7), Nov. (40) and Dec. (20). Elsewhere 2 at the Clwyd Est. on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, up to 17 at Mostyn Dock in January, up to 20 at Point of Ayr/Gronant until March and 2 at Connah's Quay NR on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

**LESSER REDPOLL** *C. cabaret*

LLINOS BENGGOCH

Few significant winter flocks recorded as follows: GLAMORGAN: 50 at Cwmglo on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, 70 at Blaencanaid on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 40 at Aberdare on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 30 at Abercwmboi on 7<sup>th</sup>; CEREDIGION: a max. of 80 at Ynys-hir in September; BRECON: up to 40 at Glasbury in February and March; CAERNARFON: 100 at Parc Padarn on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Systematic breeding counts are shown on page 357.

**COMMON REDPOLL** *C. flammea*

At Bardsey CAERNARFON many, if not all, of the peak spring passage of 29 Redpolls on May 6<sup>th</sup> showed the characters of *flammea*, as did one at Glasbury BRECON from Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Formerly considered a race of the Redpoll, Mealy Redpoll, the BOURC decided in August 2000 that they should be treated as 2 species, Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* and Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*.

**CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFIN GROES

By far the largest numbers were seen in GLAMORGAN. Breeding records as follows: GLAMORGAN: a pair with one juvenile at Ystrad/Llwynypia, one with 2 juveniles at Fforest Fawr and a party of 18 adults and juveniles at Cwm Gau Fechan on Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, 5 singing males and 5 females in the Crynant Forest at Creunant on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, singing males in Pelenna Forest on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> and 4 also on Mynydd Margam on 29<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: juveniles seen on several occasions in Pembrey Forest in late summer; BRECON: 2 pairs in Crychan Forest, one perhaps rearing one young and a pair with a juvenile at Battle Hill in July; CAERNARFON: 2 pairs nesting at Llyn Elsi on Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> and young seen there on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Otherwise small parties throughout the year in all counties but the only large flocks were, in GWENT, 30+ at Skirrid Fach from July 14<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>, in GLAMORGAN, 42 at Fforest Fawr on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 54 on larch cones in Rheola Forest at Abergarwed on 21<sup>st</sup> and 94 at Foel Fynyddau on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, CARMARTHEN, 25-32 in Pembrey Forest in the last 3 months and, in ANGLESEY, a max. of 30+ in Newborough Forest on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus*\*

LLINOS GOCH

In PEMBROKE singles at Strumble Head on May 30<sup>th</sup> (male) and Skokholm on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> (juv.) and one at Bardsey CAERNARFON over Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

**HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*\*

GYLFINBRAFF

All records were: GWENT: a singing male at Wentwood on Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>, one at Lady Park Wood on 24<sup>th</sup> and 4 nests found at Chepstow on May 5<sup>th</sup>; GLAMORGAN: a female with nesting material at Whitchurch Cardiff on May 3<sup>rd</sup>; CARMARTHEN: a pair at Penybanc in spring and a pair near Pontynyswen in late summer; MEIRIONNYDD: a study started in the Dolgellau area by Dave Smith found 10 breeding territories. One roost monitored there all the year held a max. of 40 birds on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. A second roost found in summer held c.40 in the late summer. Movement between these roosts seems likely but is not well understood; CAERNARFON: 2 at Bangor GC on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> and 2 in the Caerhun churchyard from Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>-May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**LAPLAND BUNTING** *Calcarius lapponicus*\*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

All records were, in PEMBROKE, singles at St. David's A/F on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, Skomer on 25<sup>th</sup> and Strumble Head on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with 3 on 14<sup>th</sup>, in CAERNARFON, 2 at Bardsey on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and one on 27<sup>th</sup>, up to 3 at Great Orme over Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and one at Foryd Bay on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and ANGLESEY, with a male at Cemlyn from Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>-Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> and one at Holyhead on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*\*

BRAS YR EIRA

Another exceptional year with records from every county except GWENT and MONTGOMERY and widely recorded inland. Altogether a total of c.344 recorded, with records up to Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> and from Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, in GLAMORGAN (21), CARMARTHEN (18), PEMBROKE (104), CEREDIGION (4), BRECON (6), RADNOR (1), MEIRIONNYDD (11), CAERNARFON (32), ANGLESEY (29), DENBIGH (26) and FLINT (92). The largest flocks were max. of 23 on Gronant beach FLINT in January and 34 there on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 38 at Strumble Head PEMBROKE on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

Inland records were CARMARTHEN, one at Garreg Llwyd on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> and 7 at Mynydd Du on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, CEREDIGION, one at Nant y Maen, east of Tregaron, on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, BRECON, 6 at Cefn Cwm Llwhch on Mar. 10<sup>th</sup>, RADNOR, one in the Elan valley on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, MEIRIONNYDD, 8 on Cader Idris on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and CAERNARFON, 6 at Moel Siabod on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, one at Clogwyn Station Snowdon on 10<sup>th</sup> and 2 on Foel Goch on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
32	50	12	1	3	65	56	56

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

MELYN YR EITHIN

1998: 100 in unharvested wheat at Llanigon BRECON in the early months.

1999: Systematic breeding counts for this widespread species are given in the tables on page 00. In addition a survey of unenclosed clifftop land from Mumbles Head to Rhossili GOWER found 32 pairs, singing males found in 40 localities in PEMBROKE and 160 territories found in BRECON on mixed farmland and commons south and east of Mynydd Epynt. Winter flocks were everywhere small and are listed in full: GWENT: 11 feeding on spilt grain at Common-y-coed on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30+ at Monmouth on Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>; GLAMORGAN: 25 at Norton farm Ogmere on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, 26 at the Knave on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and 30 on Common Cliff on Mar. 10<sup>th</sup>, 13 at Maes y Bryn farm Llanmaes on Apr. 17<sup>th</sup> and 40 at Ewenny on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Burry Port on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>; PEMBROKE: 10 at Goulthrop on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9 at Sutton on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 12 at Marloes on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>; BRECON: 25 at Tredomen and 20 on stubbles at Courtyplyfyn on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> and 16-20 at sheep troughs at Tredomen on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>; MONTGOMERY: 18 at Dolydd Hafren NR on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> and 30 at Morfa Dyfi on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>; CAERNARFON: 11 at Porth Meudwy on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, 20 in potato stubble at Nefyn on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 12 at Glanrafon on 24<sup>th</sup>; ANGLESEY: up to 10 at a bird table at Cemmaes until Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10, perhaps the same, in the Cemmaes valley on Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>; FLINT: 50 at Llanasa on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. In DENBIGH John Roberts had only one record during the year in the Ruabon area, at Britannia Inn on Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**ORTOLAN BUNTING** *E. hortulana*\*

BRAS Y GERDDI

1998: A first winter bird at Skokholm PEMBROKE on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and a second bird there on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**LITTLE BUNTING** *E. pusilla*\*

BRAS LLEIAF

Singles at Skomer PEMBROKE on May 7<sup>th</sup> and trapped at Bardsey CAERNARFON on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**REED BUNTING** *E. schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

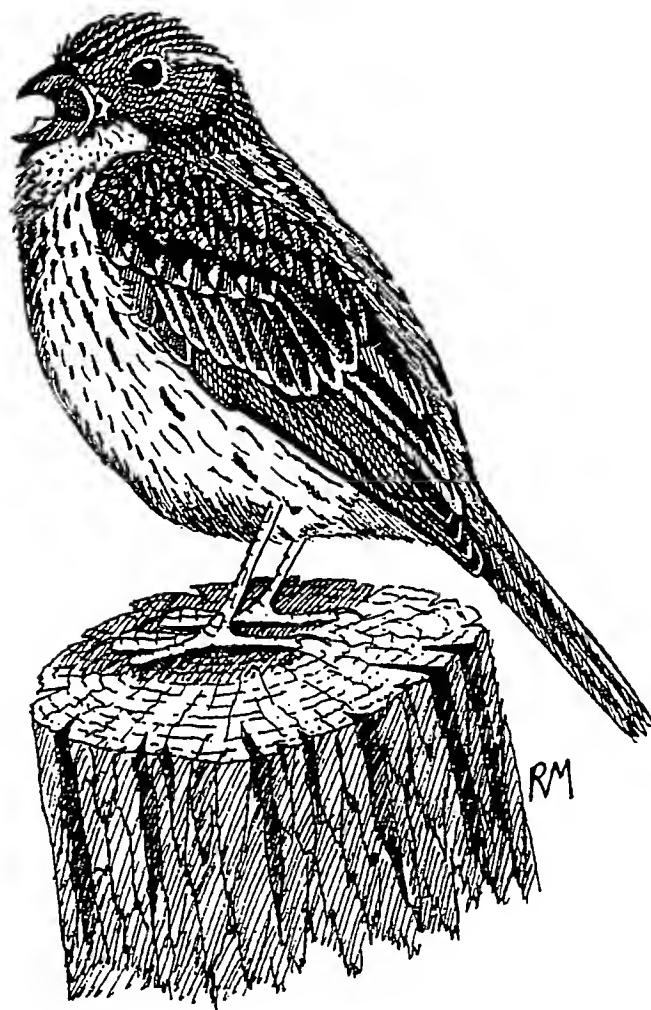
Systematic breeding counts are listed in the tables on page 00. In addition there were 12 pairs at Mynydd Garn Clochdy GWENT, 6 territories at Kenfig NNR GLAMORGAN, 16 at Penclacwydd WWT CARMARTHEN, in CEREDIGION 16 pairs at Ynys-hir RSPB, 71 territories at Cors Caron NNR, 24 on 2 transects at Aberleri/Cors Fochno NNR and 27 at Teifi marshes NR, a total of 105 territories noted in BRECON, reported as widespread in upland habitats in MEIRIONNYDD, 4 pairs bred at Conwy RSPB CAERNARFON and, in ANGLESEY 12 pairs bred at Malltraeth RSPB and 17 at Cors Goch NWWT.



**CORN BUNTING** *Miliaria calandra*\*

*BRAS YR YD*

The Welsh population is now reduced to 4 singing males at Shotwick fields FLINT.



**BOBOLINK** *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*\*

*BOBOLINC*

A first winter bird at Skokholm PEMBROKE over Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> was the first for Wales.

## COUNTS OF COMMON BREEDING BIRDS IN WALES IN 1999

One of the difficulties publications such as the Welsh Bird Report always face is to give any idea either of the numbers of common and widespread birds in an area as large and diverse as Wales or of changes in their populations. For some species, such as hirundines, thrushes or finches, it is possible to give some indication of continuing status by giving regular summaries of winter or passage flocks, although changes in these may not reflect local conditions. Ringing totals also provide some clues. But for many common species these sources have little to say. Table 1 therefore lists some counts of breeding numbers, based largely on singing males, in defined areas. The sites are numbered in the table and are listed below. They are in the same order and have the same numbers as in 1998 but 2 sites have dropped out and 2 new ones have been added, with new numbers.

2. GWENT Goldcliff. 68.8 ha. Mixed farmland, mainly grass grazed cattle/sheep, with hay/silage. Some arable crops. CBC. 3. FLINT Llanasa. 87.7 ha. Mixed farmland, mainly grass with cattle and sheep. Some arable crops and one small plantation. CBC. 4. CEREDIGION Coed Penrhyn-mawr. 13.8 ha. Sessile oak woodland, ungrazed, some larch. CBC. 6. BRECON Mynydd Epynt MoD. c.12,000 ha. Open grass moorland with wooded stream valleys, scattered plantations and one substantial area of forest. Only part can be covered. 7. E. GLAMORGAN Ystrad/Llwynypia. 143 ha. Open hill (40%), hill farmland (17%), woodland (26%) and riverside and suburban habitats (17%). 8. PEMBROKE Dowrog NR. 80 ha. Damp heathland. 9. GOWER Langland Bay GC. 35.5 ha. Golfcourse with mature boundary hedges, small copses and cliff-top with rough grass. 10. PEMBROKE Skokholm NR. 106 ha. Offshore island, grassland/bracken, not recently stocked; 11. PEMBROKE Skomer NR. 289 ha. Offshore island, grassland/bracken and some heather, not recently stocked; 12. PEMBROKE Ramsey NR. 254 ha. Offshore island, grassland with bracken, recently stocked (sheep and deer); 13. CAERNARFON Bardsey NR. 178 ha. Offshore island, grassland, scrub and heath, recently stocked (sheep and ponies). 14. PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION. Teifi Marshes NR. Extensive reed swamp and pools managed by West Wales Trust as a reserve and wildlife centre; 15. DENBIGH. Worlds End Estate. CBC indicates that the site is a census area for this long-running national survey.

These tables have now been compiled for 5 years and it is worth looking at some of the emerging trends. These are shown in Table 2 for a selection of species, some of conservation concern, some very common and some summer visitors. They are mainly passerines as species such as waders are better monitored by individual surveys. It is not really possible to construct species indices for these data, so comparisons are of the total number recorded on all sites counted each year. The samples used include the 4 offshore islands and the Mynydd Epynt MoD training area and to that extent, therefore, they are not, perhaps, strictly representative of Wales. In addition some of the very large increases shown are partly a reflection of indifferent sample sizes. Thus the trends illustrated should be treated cautiously.

Table 1. counts of common breeding birds at selected welsh sites in 1999

	2.	3.	4.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10	11	12.	13.	14.	15.
Grey Heron	p	-	-	p	p	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Mallard	25	p	-	4	2	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	-
Sparrowhawk	1	-	-	3	p	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buzzard	1	1	1	35	p	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kestrel	1	p	-	4	1	-	0	-	0	1	-	-	-
Moorhen	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Stock Dove	1	2	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woodpigeon	14	5*	2	30	15	2	5	-	-	-	5	-	45
Collared Dove	4	1	-	3	7	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cuckoo	1	-	p	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tawny Owl	-	p	-	4	1	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Green Woodpecker	-	-	-	6	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gt. Sp. Woodpecker	p	p	2	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skylark	8	4	-	334	19	9	0	14	9	24	0	-	-
Swallow	5	p	-	60	3	-	2	-	-	-	9	-	3
House Martin	1	p	-	30	3-4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Tree Pipit	-	-	-	80	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Meadow Pipit	5	4	-	400	26	15	4	23	68	p	47	-	-
Rock Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	32	30	24	-	-
Pied Wagtail	1	2	-	38	5	1	2	2	1	3	9	-	2-3
Wren	56	12	27	206	119	14	16	16	86	13	84	41	122
Duncock	9	15	3	17	24	2	11	-	12	3	10	19	17
Robin	22	11	18	205	110	3	6	-	-	-	7	16	129
Redstart	-	p	9	91	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Whinchat	-	-	-	37	7-8	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stonechat	-	-	-	7	7	4	1	-	1	12	6	-	-
Wheatear	-	p	-	36	5	-	-	5	38	79	8	-	-
Blackbird	26	12	15	140	69	6	15	-	14	5	-	7	47
Song Thrush	3	3	8	145	23	1	8	-	-	-	-	9	31
Mistle Thrush	1	1	2	30	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Sedge Warbler	5	-	-	5	-	16	-	4	29	-	1	69	-
Lesr Whitethroat	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitethroat	1	5	-	17	7	12	4	-	9	-	-	8	-
Garden Warbler	-	p	7	95	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14
Blackcap	5	1	10	28	23	0	2	-	-	-	-	10	16
Wood Warbler	-	-	9	36	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Chiffchaff	10	2	-	18	7	1	3	-	-	-	3	9	4
Willow Warbler	5	2	-	400	48	15	2	-	-	-	-	8	60
Goldcrest	4	2	-	140	3-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
Spotted Flycatcher	-	-	-	8	2	-	0	-	-	-	-	2	3
Pied Flycatcher	-	-	-	43	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Long-tailed Tit	2	1	2	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Coal Tit	-	1	2	5	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Blue Tit	14	9	18	65	p	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	14
Great Tit	11	5	13	70	34	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	9
Nuthatch	-	1	4	11	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Treecreeper	-	1	7	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Jay	-	p	1	17	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Magpie	7	4*	p	79#	12	4	4	-	-	3	10	-	6
Jackdaw	15	3*	-	500#	p	-	3	-	-	-	15-20	-	-
Carrion Crow	9	3*	2	250#	33	3	4	3	6	5	11	-	13
Raven	p	1	p	6	2	-	1	p	p	p	2	-	-
Starling	-	p	-	53#	12	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	-	p	-	10	24	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chaffinch	28	21	23	500	34	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	115
Greenfinch	14	2	p	3	7	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goldfinch	8	1	-	11	2-3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Linnet	5	6	-	20	5	4	5	p	p	p	40	-	-
Bullfinch	1	-	-	7	6	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	7
Yellowhammer	-	13	-	6	-	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reed Bunting	5	-	-	17	6	5	-	-	2	-	-	27	-

Note: A dash indicates that none was counted, 0 that the species was absent but has bred, p that the species was present but no clear territories were established, \* that counts are of nests and # that counts are of birds not pairs or territories.

Table 2. Trends in breeding populations of selected species in Wales 1994-1999.

Species	% Change 1998-1999	% Change 1997-1999	% Change 1994-1999#
Cuckoo	+10	stable	+24
Green Woodpecker	-33	+23	stable
Skylark	+50	+57	+68
Swallow	+14	+37	+173
Tree Pipit	+79	?	+247*
Wren	+41	+78	?y
Dunnock	+13	+25	+32
Robin	+28	+79	?y
Stonechat	-5	+375	stable
Wheatear	+24	-8	stable
Blackbird	+21	+36	+153*
Song Thrush	+45	+96	+174*
Mistle Thrush	+47	+33	+152
Chiffchaff	-18	-25	+557
Willow Warbler	+47	+28	?y
Spotted Flycatcher	+63	+160	+44
Linnet	-15	+37	?y
Bullfinch	+50	+47	+144
Yellowhammer	+24	-13	+425

Notes: # counts for 2 sites, Epynt and Goldcliff obtained retrospectively.

\* the count area on Epynt has been expanded with the Training Area since 1994 which particularly affects these species.

y no figures were gathered on Epynt.

Nevertheless the overall picture the trends present is a surprisingly optimistic one. We hear so much gloom these days but these figures, for all their limitations, provide no support for any idea that passerine birds are in serious general trouble in Wales today. One or two flagship conservation species, such as Song Thrush, are clearly doing well and the picture shown in the table for that species is supported by anecdotal evidence and reports. The change in Skylark numbers is heavily biased by the counts on Mynydd Epynt, where it is increasing in an area that has had no agricultural development or improvement for 60 years. Over the 5 years elsewhere the trend was to a decline of 37%. Other counts show that densities of this species vary very widely, even in the uplands (see page 342). One or two species are barely represented in the counts. Two significant ones are Spotted Flycatcher and Yellowhammer. Their scarcity probably reflects a decline over the past 2-3 decades, in the case of the Yellowhammer almost certainly the result of the contraction of arable and mixed farming in Wales. Nevertheless these counts suggest that populations of these species may now be stabilising or recovering. And it is encouraging to see that Linnets are doing quite well, an impression supported by counts elsewhere. Away from the Epynt the counts over 5 years showed an increase of over 300%.

Above all these results provide a useful counterblast to the pernicious rubbish now being so assiduously and widely promoted, particularly by land owners, that our song-birds are being decimated by the 'increase' (for which read recovery) in raptors.

*Michael Shrubbs*

## **Bird populations in Wales 1994-1999: A monitoring review - Scarce breeding species.**

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### INTRODUCTION

Following on from the report on important species in Wales 1994-1998 (*Welsh Birds 2 (4) 216-226*) this report provides a summary of available information on those species considered scarce breeding species in Wales during the period 1994 to 1999. For this report, a scarce breeding species is defined as one that has a current population of less than 100 pairs in Wales.

Apart from just general interest, there are two main purposes behind collating the monitoring information on scarce breeding species in Wales:

- to assess the population trends of individual species and identify what effect conservation action has had to date. At a UK level at least, it is considered that all the major conservation successes involve rare or scarce species (Gregory et al 1999).
- to identify any species that may require conservation action in the near future

The essential part of any long term monitoring is that methods used are comparable between years. Unfortunately for many scarce species in Wales, information on numbers and distribution has not been collected in a systematic way or by using a standardised method. In preparing this report, I have used the "Bird Monitoring Methods Manual" (Gilbert, Gibbons and Evans 1998) to standardise as much of the available information as possible. Where no method has been described, I have used criteria from Gibbons et al (1993) to establish what constitutes a breeding attempt. In some cases, I have only been able to report presence in suitable habitat in the breeding season, where this is of interest. This approach is obviously subject to error, especially when attempting to interpret incomplete information over a six-year period, but is considered to be the best interpretation of limited data. It is hoped that by identifying those species considered scarce, and their appropriate survey method, observers will be encouraged to provide more complete information to county recorders, allowing more accurate monitoring in the future.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

As usual, the main reference for information on scarce breeding birds in Wales has been the Welsh Bird Reports, with reference back to county reports when necessary. Other information has been obtained from Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Wales Raptor Study Group (WRSG) files and unpublished reports, and the reports of the Rare Breeding Bird Panel (RBBP).

### MONITORING METHODS

For each species, an indication of the main type of monitoring information available is summarised in Table 1 and further details are included in the report along with brief details of the survey method. Full details of the appropriate survey method can be found for all species marked \* in "Bird Monitoring Methods" and for all species the criteria for counting breeding pairs etc are given.

#### **Table 1: Types of monitoring for scarce species in Wales**

**Majority of records are from defined sites, usually nature reserves, which receive annual, or at least regular, surveys.**

Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveler, Pochard, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Roseate Tern, Little Tern

**Majority of records are from individual enthusiasts/WRSG members, who either intensively cover small areas, or less intensively cover large areas, or only check known sites or restricted areas of suitable habitat.**

Honey Buzzard, Hobby, Little Ringed Plover, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl

Majority of records are casual reports/ records, received by county recorders from many sources. In some years, the species listed here are the subject of organised surveys, but this is not the norm.

Black-necked Grebe, Bittern, Little Egret, Mandarin, Garganey, Scaup, Eider, Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Marsh Harrier, Montagu's Harrier, Osprey, Quail, Spotted Crake, Corncrake, Golden Pheasant, Lady Amhurst's Pheasant, Golden Plover, Dunlin, Yellow-legged Gull, Black Guillemot, Turtle Dove, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Black Redstart, Cetti's Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Firecrest, Bearded Tir, Golden OrioleTwite, Corn Bunting

### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Abbreviations used: s/p: summer plumage; BiW: "Birds in Wales"; WBR: Welsh Bird Report; RSPB: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Res: Reservoir; WWT: Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; WRSB: Wales Raptor Study Group.

#### Black-necked Grebe\*

A count of the maximum number of adults seen on any one visit (and ideally the number of breeding pairs) between mid May and the end of June.

Information for this species obtained from the WBR and the RSPB Valley Lakes Reserve Annual Reports.

This species was not proved to have bred in Wales during the period under consideration, but single individuals in suitable habitat and were recorded in two years. Additional records are included which are of interest, but fall outside of the survey period for this species.

**Table 2: Spring/summer records of Black-necked Grebe in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Details</i>
Gwent	Llandegfedd Res	1994	Single in s/p 27 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June.
Radnor	Llanbwchyllyn	1997	Single 19 <sup>th</sup> May
Anglesey	Llyn Penrhyn	1995	Two from 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> May
Anglesey	Llyn Penrhyn	1997	2 s/p from 29 <sup>th</sup> March – 3 <sup>rd</sup> April with display noted 1 <sup>st</sup> April; then single until 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Anglesey	Llyn Penrhyn	1999	1 s/p until at least 30 <sup>th</sup> March
Clwyd	Gresford Flash	1994	Two in s/p on 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Glamorgan	Kenfig	1997	Single s/p 6 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2 <sup>nd</sup> on 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Glamorgan	Kenfig	1998	Single 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Gwent	Ynysyfro Res	1996	Single in s/p 25-26 <sup>th</sup> April

#### Bittern\*

A booming male over a period of more than one week.

Information for this species obtained from the WBR.

Although it does not satisfy the criteria the record of a male booming at Llangorse Lake (Brecon) on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1999 is the first record of a booming bittern in Wales since the mid 1980's.

#### Little Egret

This species is not covered by the BMM. All reports of birds showing signs of breeding activity are included, even if it is minimal.

Information for this species obtained from the WBR and from individual observers.

Although this species has not been reported breeding successfully in Wales to date, there have been at least three breeding attempts at two sites, tabulated below:



**Table 3: Records of Little Egrets showing signs of breeding activity in Wales 1994-1999**

County	Site	Year	Details
County A	Site 1	1995	Birds seen displaying in heronry in March, but nesting not attempted.
County A	Site 1	1996	6 displaying in Heronry in March, 2 pairs appeared to have built nests, one of which may have incubated eggs.
County B	Site 1	1996	Single collecting twigs.

**Wildfowl**

The BMM includes the presence of pairs, lone males, males in groups of less than 5 and lone females (if their total is larger than the number of recorded males) between mid April and mid June, as evidence of breeding pairs, with the maximum number recorded on one visit giving the number of “pairs” for Wigeon, Gadwall, Shoveler, Garganey and Pochard. I have included Mandarin and Ruddy Duck in this category, as they are not specifically mentioned in BMM. For goldeneye, all records of adult males or pairs count as breeding pairs and I have used this for Scaup and Eider as well, due to these species not being covered by BMM. This is a difficult group for which to establish trends in breeding numbers, due to many recorders not adopting the standard method of deriving the total number of breeding “pairs”. The main reason for not doing so is to avoid exaggerating the number of breeding pairs where it is known that no females were present or that the behaviour of the males did not indicate that they were involved in a breeding attempt. However, to be consistent to allow comparison between sites throughout the UK, I have adopted the BMM method in this report and would encourage all observers to do the same in the future. The resulting figure should be regarded as an index of the number of breeding pairs rather than the actual number.

**Mandarin**

No recent reports have been published in the WBR.

The population was estimated as “unlikely to exceed 30 pairs” (BiW) and “probably numbering less than 50 pairs” by Williams (2000). As there is no new information available, the current Welsh population is judged to be between 25-50 “pairs”.

**Wigeon\***

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and also from the RSPB Reserves Annual Reports.

**Table 4: Number of “pairs” of Wigeon reported in Wales 1994 to 1999**

County	Site	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Anglesey	Llyn Coron	3	0	0	0	0	0
Anglesey	Malltraeth	0	2	0	0	0	0
Anglesey	Llyn Trawfll	0	0	0	0	2	1
Anglesey	Llyn Alaw	0	0	1	0	0	0
Anglesey	Cemlyn Lagoon	0	0	0	0	0	1
Meirionnydd	Broadwater	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ceredigion/Pembs	Teifi Marshes	0	0	1	0	0	1
County A	Site 1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total		4	2	1	0	3	2

It should be noted that in only one instance (County A, Site 1) was it considered that a breeding attempt might have taken place. All other records were reported as summering males. Current Welsh population is between 0-4 “pairs”.

### **Gadwall\***

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and also from the RSPB Reserves Annual Reports.

It is difficult to establish a clear picture of the numbers breeding each year or trends, due to incomplete reporting and changes in recording area boundaries. Only one site provides reasonably complete records throughout the period and the value of these has been enhanced by further counts undertaken since 1998 on other lakes in the Valley Wetlands complex (Anglesey).

**Table 5: Number of “pairs” of Gadwall reported from two recording areas 1994 to 1999**

County	Site	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Anglesey	Llyn Penrhyn, Treflesg and Dinam	11	7+	8+	10	18	16
Anglesey	Other Valley Wetlands complex sites	NC	NC	NC	NC	30	21

+ Llyn Dinam not counted in 1995 or 1996

The reports from 1998 provide the best estimate of the current number of breeding “pairs” in Wales, with a minimum of 56 pairs reported from the Valley Wetlands Complex and Llyn Alaw (Anglesey), Penclacwydd WWT reserve and Machynys Pond (Carmarthen) and Llangorse Lake (Brecon).

### **Pintail\***

Information on this species obtained from WBR.

Following the first confirmed breeding in Wales on Skomer (Pembs) in 1988, this site has continued to be the most regular breeding site in Wales.

**Table 6: Number of “pairs” of Pintail and breeding success on Skomer (Pembs) 1994 to 1999**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. of “pairs”	4-5	2	2	1	0	1
No. of young fledged	7	2	0	1		0

In 1997, the female of the pair appeared to be a hybrid mallard x pintail and in 1999, only a female was present (during June) and did not breed.

The only other reports were summer records from 3 sites on Anglesey in 1994. The population has declined during the period, with no successful breeding of pure pairs since 1996.

### **Garganey\***

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and also from the RSPB Reserves Annual Reports.

Unfortunately, it has proved impossible to present information on Garganey in a similar way to the other duck species, as the WBR does not list individual sites for birds recorded during the spring/summer period. The number of individuals recorded in spring provides some indication of the size of the breeding population.

**Table 7: Number of Garganey reported during spring/early summer in Wales 1994-1999**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number in spring	16	20	17-18	17-19	14	14

### Shoveler\*

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and also from the RSPB Reserves Annual Reports.

Breeding has been reported from a total of 12 sites in 4 counties. The numbers at the main sites (i.e. those holding more than 3 pairs in any one year) are tabulated below, but otherwise 1-2 pairs bred, in at least one year at: Llyn Alaw and Llyn Cefni (Anglesey), Cors Fochno and Ynyshir RSPB (Ceredigion), and Llangorse Lake and Brechfa Pool (Brecon). The counts for the whole Valley Lakes complex are difficult to interpret and those for 1994 and 1995 could well be over estimates compared to later years. This is due to the drake count information on file not distinguishing group size. However, counts in 1999 (and 2000) suggest that groups of more than 5 drakes would be unusual at this site, within the survey period.

**Table 8: Number of “pairs” of Shoveler at the main sites for this in Wales 1994 to 1999**

<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Anglesey	Llyn Penrhyn, Treflesg and Dinam	35	29+	7+	8	20	13
Anglesey	Other Valley Wetlands complex sites	NC	NC	NC	NC	8	10
Anglesey	Malltraeth RSPB	4	3	4	6	5	5
Ceredigion	Aber Leri	3	1	1	0	0	0
Carmarthen	Penclacwydd WWT					6	3
Pembs	Marloes Mere	3	0	1	0		
Pembs	Skokholm	3	3	1	0		1
Pembs	Skomer	2-4	2-3	3-5	3	2	1

+ Llyn Dinam not counted in 1995 or 1996

### Pochard\*

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and also from the RSPB Reserves Annual Reports. Where summering or breeding birds are reported without figures, it has been assumed that this involves only 1 “pair”.

Breeding has been reported from a total of 11 sites in 6 counties. The numbers at the main sites (i.e. those holding more than 3 pairs in any one year) are tabulated below, but otherwise 1-2 pairs bred in at least one year at Llandegfedd Res (Gwent), Llanishen/Lisvane Res and Oxwich (Glamorgan), Llyn Alaw, Llyn Cefni, Llyn Maelog and Malltraeth (Anglesey), Machynys Pond and Witchett Pool (Carmarthen), Marloes Mere (Pembs) and Talybont Res (Brecon).

**Table 9: Number of “pairs” of Pochard breeding at the main sites in Wales during 1994-1999**

<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Anglesey	Llyn Penrhyn, Treflesg and Dinam	10	12+	8+	16	17	9
Anglesey	Other Valley Wetlands complex sites	NC	NC	NC	NC	6	1
Carmarthen	Penclacwydd WWT				5	25	14*
Glamorgan	Roath Park Lake	3		1	3	1	

+ Llyn Dinam not counted in 1995 or 1996

\* A minimum figure

Although complete counts in any one year are not available, the Wales totals for 1997, 1998 and 1999 are estimated to be 28, 52 and 31 “pairs” respectively (assuming that only one “pair” is involved at those sites where breeding or summering birds are reported without figures). From the table above it is clear how important the work at Penclacwydd WWT has been for this species.

## Scaup

Not specifically mentioned in BMM, but I have used the same method as for other duck species.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Although unlikely to refer to actual breeding attempts, the following reports qualify as “pairs”:

**Table 10: Spring/summer records of Scaup in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Details</i>
Ceredigion	Ynyshir	1995	Male on 13 <sup>th</sup> May
Anglesey	Llyn Alaw	1995	Male on 7 <sup>th</sup> May and probably the same individual on Llyn Trawfll 10 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> May
Brecon	Llangorse Lake	1995	Male with female tufted duck and hybrid young in August

## Eider

Not specifically mentioned in BMM, but I have used the same method as for other duck species.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Following the first record of breeding on Puffin Island, Anglesey in 1997 a single pair has bred there in each subsequent year, although it has been unsuccessful. Two pairs were also found breeding at Site 1 in Meirionnydd in 1998.

## Goldeneye\*

Information supplied by County Recorder.

Summering females have been recorded in several years during the period, but only the following record qualifies as a possible breeding attempt.

In Meirionnydd, at Site 1, a pair was recorded along a suitable stretch of river on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May 1997.

## Ruddy Duck

During the period, ruddy duck “pairs” have been recorded from the following counties (with the number of sites per county in brackets): Glamorgan (1); Brecon (1); Radnor (1); Montgomery (3); Caernarfon (2); Anglesey (6); and Flint (3). Only 3 sites (one of which was divided into two recording areas) held more than 3 “pairs” in any one of the years.

**Table 11: The numbers of “pairs” of ruddy duck at the main sites in Wales 1994 - 1999**

<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Anglesey	Llyn Dinam, Penrhyn and Treflesg	34	22+	26+	11	23	12
Anglesey	Other Valley Wetlands complex sites	NC	NC	NC	NC	10	6
Anglesey	Malltraeth RSPB	6	4	3	5	5	7
Caernarfon	Conwy RSPB				2	?	6

As all other sites only reported 1-2 “pairs” in any one year, the total Welsh population was probably between 70-90 “pairs” in the mid 1990’s with Anglesey being the stronghold. With recent conservation action to reduce numbers on Anglesey, the apparent decline since 1998 is probably genuine.

## Honey Buzzard

Adults in suitable habitat during the breeding season for more than 10 days.

Information on this species has been obtained from WRSG records.

This species was first proved breeding in 1992 and by 1999, breeding had been recorded at five different sites, with birds present sporadically at three others. Williams, I.T. (2000)

## Marsh Harrier

Adults in suitable habitat during the breeding season for more than 10 days.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Although not proved to have bred in the period there have been various records of summering/displaying birds:

**Table 12: Summering/displaying Marsh Harriers in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Details</i>
		1994	Summering birds in two areas
Anglesey		1995	Male visiting two sites and a female seen, but not with the male. Probably another female Malltraeth 9 <sup>th</sup> May – 28 <sup>th</sup> Novemeber.
Ceredigion	Cors Fochno	1995	Male summered
Ceredigion	Cors Fochno	1996	Male 4 <sup>th</sup> June-27 <sup>th</sup> July
Anglesey	Malltraeth RSPB	1996	Female 11 <sup>th</sup> May – 12 <sup>th</sup> June
Anglesey	Malltraeth RSPB	1997	Female 28 <sup>th</sup> May – 9 <sup>th</sup> August
Anglesey	Ger y Parc, Llyn Alaw and Cors Erddreiniog	1998	Male displaying at all three sites between 2 <sup>nd</sup> May and 6 <sup>th</sup> July
Anglesey	Ger y Parc	1999	Displaying male 24 <sup>th</sup> April – 29 <sup>th</sup> May
Anglesey	Malltraeth RSPB	1999	Female 11 <sup>th</sup> May – 25 <sup>th</sup> August

## Hen Harrier

All records of territorial pairs based on behaviour.

Information on this species has been obtained from WRSG files.

The population in Wales during the period has been stable. In 1994 and 1998 (the year of the UK survey of this species) CCW/RSPB employed fieldworkers to survey this species in Wales and therefore recording effort was highest in these years. Although the main areas are covered thoroughly by WRSG members it is the isolated/occasional pairs that are not recorded each year. This is probably why the numbers of territorial pairs are lower in 1995 1997 and 1999.

**Table 13: The number of territorial pairs of hen harrier in Wales 1994-1999**

	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
No. of territorial pairs	27	23	25	24	28	Ca20

## Montagu's Harrier

All records of birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Two records: a male on Fairwood Common, Glamorgan on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1994 and an immature male on Cors Fochno, Ceredigion 27<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1994.

## Osprey

All birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season for more than 10 days.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Another species that as yet to breed in Wales, but evidence suggests an increase in spring and summering records. Spring/summer totals per month are presented below:

**Table 14: Spring/summer records of Osprey in Wales 1994-1999**

	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>
1994	1	3	6	0	4
1995	2	7	7	6	6
1996	2	4	10	3	5
1997	0	9	10	4	3
1998	1	2	15	5	2
1999	1	7	5	2	5

The most intriguing records are from Montgomery, where following two being present in summer in 1997, a single individual was present 30<sup>th</sup> June – 26<sup>th</sup> August in 1998 and the same bird (identified by a dark green colour ring on its left leg) was again present 8<sup>th</sup> June – 28<sup>th</sup> July 1999.

### **Merlin**

All records of territorial pairs based on behaviour.

Information on this species has been obtained from WRSG files.

The last survey covering the whole of Wales, was undertaken in 1993 and revealed a total of 84 occupied territories (Williams and Parr 1995), however the authors considered the total to be 90-100 territories supporting 80-90 pairs. This is a species for which monitoring effort has declined in Wales and even some important sites, such as the Berwyn and Migneint in North Wales, are no longer fully covered each year. It is therefore difficult to estimate the current Welsh population, but reports from some observers suggest that numbers may be slightly lower now than in 1993. A current population estimate, based only on impressions of fieldworkers, would be 70-80 pairs.

### **Hobby**

All records of territorial pairs based on behaviour.

Information on this species has been obtained from WRSG files.

No comprehensive survey has been undertaken in Wales. Some local populations are studied in detail, but records are incomplete even at a county level. Published reports suggest a Welsh population of 20-25 pairs. Williams (2000) considered the population to be in excess of 30 pairs, which seems a reasonable assessment, based on incomplete coverage and the difficulties in surveying this species. The current population is probably in the range 25-35 pairs.

### **Quail**

Number of individuals (usually calling males) recorded at a site.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

The number of records per year in the period is tabulated below. Most reports in the WBR are of calling males, but some do not differentiate between sightings and calling individuals. Such undifferentiated records are included in the range given.

**Table 15: Records of Quail in Wales 1994-1999**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. of records	31-32+	11	18+	32	25	15-16

Details of the number of records by county for the period 1994-1998 are to be found in Thorpe (2000)



### Golden Pheasant

Number of males recorded at a site.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

The information on this species is incomplete, but the latest reports are that they are now extinct at one of the Anglesey sites and that there have been no recent records from the other. Williams (2000) considered the current population to be 30-35 individuals, but it would appear that the numbers are much lower than this and this species may already be extinct as a breeding species in Wales.

### Lady Amherst's Pheasant

Number of males recorded at a site.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

No records received. The current population at Halkyn (Flint) is thought to be no more than 10 individuals by Williams (2000), but there is no other information to support this figure.

### Spotted Crake\*

Number of calling males from 3 visits; first half of May, second half of May and first half of June.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and individual observers.

The UK survey in 1999 located only two calling males in Wales out of a total of 72 males in the UK.

Details of all calling males in the period are tabulated below:

**Table 16: Records of calling Spotted Crakes in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Details</i>
1995	Pembroke	Marloes Mere	Calling 13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May
1998	Anglesey	Cors Erddreiniog	Calling in mid June
1998	Caernarfon	Site 1	Calling in May
1999	Anglesey	Gwenfo Isaf	Calling 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> May
1999	Ceredigion	Cors Caron	Calling 20 <sup>th</sup> May

### Corncrake\*

The number of singing males, based on two visits between 20<sup>th</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

The last record of possible breeding was in 1994, when a pair almost certainly bred on Anglesey. A previously published record of a probable breeding pair at Llanfairfechan (Caernarfon) is now considered to have referred to only a single singing male (Iolo Williams pers comm). As the majority of singing birds in Wales occur outside of the survey period identified in the BMM they are considered to be of passage birds. All records are shown below:

**Table 17: Spring/summer records of Corncrake in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Record</i>
1994	Pembroke	Singles heard calling at two sites during April and May
	Anglesey	Pair almost certainly bred at one site and a bird was noted at another on 27 <sup>th</sup> June
1995	Pembroke	Singles calling at St. David's on 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> April and Nolton Haven on 27 <sup>th</sup> July
1996	Radnor	Single near Painscastle on 30 <sup>th</sup> April
	Montgomery	Single Dolydd Hafren NR on 28 <sup>th</sup> April
	Caernarfon	Singing male at Llanfairfechan and probably same male at Morfa Madryn on 19 <sup>th</sup> June
1998	Pembroke	Calling male at one site on 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> May and at another 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> June
1999	Pembroke	A single on Skokholm on 26 <sup>th</sup> May

## Little Ringed Plover

Pairs in suitable habitat during the breeding season.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

The main stronghold of this species is the River Tywi and its tributaries. In 1997, it was estimated that this river/site held 4-5% of the UK population. The minimum number of pairs estimated to be breeding in Wales during the period is tabulated below:

**Table 18: Number of breeding pairs of Little Ringed Plover in Wales 1994-1999**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. of pairs	50	64	64	63	61	47

The low figure in 1999 was due to an incomplete count of the River Tywi and tributaries and therefore, the current Welsh population is probably between 60-70 pairs. Five sites, for which reasonably complete data is available, provide a useful indication of annual fluctuations of the number of breeding pairs and productivity are tabulated below:

**Table 19: Number of breeding pairs and productivity of Little Ringed Plover at 5 sites in Wales 1994-1999**

Site	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
R. Tywi and tributaries	36-37	42	40	45	44-45	26+
(Carmarthen)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.03)	(0.5)	(0.2)	
Glasbury, R.Wye	3	4	5	3+	4	4
(Brecon/Radnor)	(1.3)	(0.8)	(0.6)	(ca1.0)	(1.0)	(1.5)
Dolydd Hafren (Montgomery)	3	4	4	2-3	3	3-4
	(2.0)	(1.5)	(2.75)		(1.0)	(0)
Llyn Coed y Dinas (Montgomery)		2	2	2	1	2
		(1.5)	(ca2.0)	(1.5)	(1.0)	(1.0)
Conwy RSPB (Caernarfon)		3	3	2	2	1
		(ca1.0)	(1.0)	(1.5)	(0)	(0)

(Bracketed figures are number of young fledged /pair.)

## Golden Plover\*

The Brown and Shepherd method, where two visits (first early April to mid May and the second mid May to late June) between 0830 and 1800 BST, to establish number of breeding pairs based on behaviour. Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and CCW/RSPB reports.

There has never been a Welsh survey of this species covering all known suitable sites, in any one year. The average breeding population was considered unlikely to be more than 100 pairs in the late 1980's/early 1990's (BiW). Surveys in the period 1994-1999 indicate that further declines have occurred in Wales. On Hiraethog (Denbigh), only 8 pairs were found in 1994 and on the Elan/Claerwen catchment (Radnor/Brecon/Ceredigion), 44 pairs were found in 1995. These figures compare to the previous estimates of 34+ pairs on Hiraethog in 1981, and 46 pairs on the Elan/Claerwen catchment in 1990. Away from these sites, 10 other sites each held between 1-10 pairs, but not all sites have been occupied (or checked) each year. Even allowing for the usual annual fluctuations, the trend appears to be still one of decline, although the Elan /Claerwen stronghold has not declined since the last survey. The current population is probably between 70-90 pairs, but as no comprehensive survey has been undertaken of the strongholds for 5 years it could well be lower.

## Dunlin\*

The Brown and Shepherd method, where two visits (first early April to mid May and the second mid May to late June) between 0830 and 1800 BST to establish number of breeding pairs based on behaviour. Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and CCW/RSPB reports.

Numbers of Dunlin within the main stronghold of the Elan/Claerwen catchment (Radnor/Brecon/Ceredigion) and other adjoining areas of Ceredigion are known to fluctuate, with estimates of 41 pairs in 1982, 28 in 1992 and 37-40 pairs in 1991 (BiW). The most up-to-date estimate is ca 44 pairs in 1995. Even though this figure is the highest estimated for this area since 1982, numbers away from this area have declined with only sporadic reports from 3 sites of 1-3 pairs per site. The total Welsh population is now probably in the range of 50-60 pairs.

### **Yellow-legged Gull**

Records of birds showing breeding behaviour.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and RSPB reports.

Following a long staying individual in the Conwy/Llandudno Junction (Caernarfon) area in spring/early summer 1997, two adults (considered to be a male and female) were present from February to August 1998. During this time, and on more than one occasion, at least one individual was seen to carry nest material from the Conwy RSPB reserve towards the roof top gull colonies in Llandudno Junction. In 1999 a single bird was present from January to mid June, with a second (smaller bird) in mid June, but only this new individual was recorded after mid June, staying until September. The evidence for 1998 indicates that a breeding attempt was made, the first such record in Wales.

### **Roseate Tern\***

Annual survey of the number of pairs nesting at the recently occupied Welsh sites.

Information from RSPB and NWWT reports.

This species continues to breed in very low numbers in Wales, whilst the numbers at the main Irish Sea colony on Rockabill increase each year. For further information on this species, see Williams, G (2000).

**Table 20 : Number of breeding pairs and productivity of roseate tern in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
No. of sites	3	1	1	2	3	1
No. of pairs	21	10	1	3-4	5-6	3
No. of young fledged/pair	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.7

### **Little Tern\***

Annual survey of the number of pairs nesting at the remaining Welsh site.

Information from RSPB reports.

The colony at Gronant (Flint) continues to thrive, but requires 24-hour wardening to deter foxes, reduce the impact of high tides and reduce public pressure. For further information on this species see the paper "Breeding Terns in Wales 1975-1999" (Williams, G.A. 2000).

**Table 21: Number of breeding pairs and productivity of Little Tern in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
No. of pairs	77	65	78	80+	35-40	86
No. of young fledged/pair	1.7	0.6	1.7	0.1	0.5	1.3

### **Black Guillemot\***

Two visits (between 0600 and 0900) a week apart during the first 3 weeks of April, though counts later in April or early May are acceptable. The maximum count is used and the count unit is the number of adults associated with a colony.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Fedw Fawr (Anglesey) is the only regular site in Wales for breeding Black Guillemots. Although no systematic counts have been made following the standard method, records are given below:

**Table 22: Number of adult Black Guillemot at Fedw Fawr (Anglesey) 1994 –1999 (figures in brackets are from just outside the accepted monitoring period).**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. of adults	(6)	(11)	12	11	8-9	8

Between 1994-1999, adults were reported from 4 other Anglesey sites, in April or early May:

Penmon: 2 adults in 1994 and 4 in 1999

Porth Eilian: 1 pair in 1998 and 3prs reported in 1999

Ynys Llanddwyn: 1 adult in 1994

Moelfre/Lligwy: 6 adults in 1994 and 1995

Further work is necessary to establish the current status of this species in North Wales.

### **Turtle Dove**

A singing male in suitable habitat.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Another difficult species for which to establish the exact status and trends. The only county with records of singing males throughout the period, was Gwent, which had six sites occupied in 1999. Otherwise, there were reports of singing males from Denbigh in 1996 and 1998.

The current Welsh population is now certainly less than 10 singing males and possible as low as 6.

### **Long-eared Owl**

Birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and WRSG records.

In the early 1990's, the Welsh population was probably less than 30 pairs (BiW) and there is no recent information to suggest that this figure requires revision. Between 1994 and 1999, breeding has been proved in the following counties, with the maximum number of pairs located in any one year given in brackets: Brecon (1); Ceredigion (2); Denbigh (3); Glamorgan (1); Gwent (3\*); Montgomery (1).

\* One of these was considered to be a pair that usually nests in Brecon.

### **Short-eared Owl\***

Birds in suitable habitat during the breeding season

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and WRSG records

In the early 1990's, the Welsh population was thought to be between 15 and 40 pairs (BiW). Based on recent records, a more realistic estimate of the current population would be in the range 15-30 pairs.

Since then, Skomer (Pemb) and the RSPB Lake Vyrnwy reserve (Montgomery) are the only two sites that have received good coverage throughout the period. Results from these two sites are tabulated below:

**Table 23: Number of breeding pairs and productivity of Short-eared Owl at two sites in Wales 1994-1999**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Skomer, Pembs	8-9 (25-30)	2 (1)	6 (13-14)	6 (13)	5 (5)	4 (4)
Lake Vyrnwy (Montgomery)	1		0	1	1	2

(Figures in brackets are number of young fledged)

Pairs have been recorded breeding from the following counties with the maximum number of pairs in any one year given in brackets: Pembroke (8-9); Brecon (1); Radnor (6); Montgomery (3); Denbigh (1); Meirionnydd (3).

### **Hoopoe**

A singing/calling male in suitable habitat.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR

A pair reared 3 young at a site in Montgomery in 1996. A single adult returned to the site in 1997.

### **Wryneck \***

A singing/calling male in suitable habitat.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and RSPB reports.

A single male was recorded calling from a small patch of 10-12 year old Larch on the moorland edge at Garnafallt (Brecon) on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 1997.

### **Nightingale**

Singing males in suitable habitat during the breeding season.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Three records of singing males in the period. These were:

Cardiff (Glamorgan) from 24<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> June 1995

Ynysir (Ceredigion) from 29<sup>th</sup> May, June 28<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> July 1995 and May 20<sup>th</sup> 1997

There were also two other records of birds in suitable breeding habitat, but it is unclear whether these were singing birds or not. These were at Goodwick Moor (Pembs) on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1995 and Penstowed (Montgomery) on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1995.

### **Black Redstart**

Singing males in suitable habitat during the breeding season.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

There was only one record in the period, of a singing male in Cardiff (Glamorgan) on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1995.

### **Cetti's Warbler\***

Number of territories based on singing males. 3 visits; end of March – mid April, mid April – mid May and mid May - early June.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR

The 1996 UK survey located 40-42 singing males at 19 sites in 5 southern counties in Wales (Wotton et al 1998). Since 1996, a population has become established on Anglesey (one male in 1997, 2 in 1998 and 6 in 1999). As South Wales has not suffered severe winter weather since 1996, it is likely

that the population there has, at the very least, been maintained and probably further increased. There are no figures to substantiate this, as adequate reports have not been received from all areas, in any single year. The current Welsh population is probably now in the range of 50-60 pairs.

### Savi's Warbler

Singing males in suitable habitat during the breeding season  
Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR

There was only one record in the period, of a singing male at Malltraeth RSPB (Anglesey) 8<sup>th</sup> –11<sup>th</sup> June 1999.

### Marsh Warbler

Singing males in suitable habitat during the breeding season.  
Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

There were two records of singing males in the period. These were:  
Llyn Cwellyn (Caernarfon) on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1995  
Peterstone (Gwent) from 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> July 1996

### Dartford Warbler\*

3 visits, early April to mid May, mid to late May and in June. Recording number of occupied territories based on evidence obtained on any one visit.  
Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

The first breeding record for Wales occurred during the period (Williams, I.T. 2000).

**Table 24: Breeding records of Dartford Warbler in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Record</i>
1998	Gwent	Site 1	One pair successfully fledged two broods, but a third brood failed
1999	Gwent	Site 1	Male on 15 <sup>th</sup> March, but did not stay to breed

Although no definite reports have been received, it is believed that breeding may have occurred in 1999, away from the original site.

### Firecrest\*

3 visits, at intervals of at least 10 days, spread between mid May and early July. To prove breeding, extra visits would be needed in July. Number of pairs based on behaviour (e.g. singing/territorial males).  
Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR and individual observer

Only 4 reports during the period indicating that currently the Welsh population is only one breeding pair:

**Table 25: Breeding records of Firecrest in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Record</i>
1994	Radnor	Radnor Forest	Singing male in June
1996	Gwent	Wentwood	A single on 7 <sup>th</sup> July
1998	Flint	Nercwys	Singing male, with presumed female, present during breeding season
1999	Flint	Nercwys	Pair with young seen



### Bearded Tit\*

A minimum of 3 visits (up to 3 hours after sunrise) in the first 3 weeks of May, preferably 6 visits, between mid April and the end of May. Count units are confirmed and probable nests based on actual nests found or behaviour of adults/juvs.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

No bearded tits have been suspected breeding in Wales since 1988. There have been 4 spring/summer records from suitable habitat in the period, all from Ceredigion:

**Table 26: Spring/summer records of Bearded Tit in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Details</i>
1994	Ynyshir RSPB	Female 14 <sup>th</sup> April – 14 <sup>th</sup> October
1995	Ynyshir RSPB	Female 11 <sup>th</sup> April – 10 <sup>th</sup> July (probably same individual as in 1994)
1997	Ynyshir RSPB	Female 4 <sup>th</sup> March
1998	Teifi Marshes	Female 6 <sup>th</sup> July

### Golden Oriole\*

Two visits, the first in the last 10 days of May, the second between mid June and the end of July. Records from suitable habitat only.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

Records that qualify as possible breeding attempts are tabulated below:

**Table 27: Spring/summer records of Golden Orioles in suitable nesting habitat in Wales 1994-1999**

<i>Year</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Record</i>
1994	Ceredigion	Ynyshir	Male on 30 <sup>th</sup> May
1995	Brecon	Llysdinam Parish (Newbridge on Wye)	Male during May
1996	Gwent	Llanfihangel Ystern Llewern	Male heard 16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> June
1996	Pembs	Hylton Wood	Single on 9 <sup>th</sup> June
1996	Flint	Connah's Quay	Single on 4 <sup>th</sup> July
1997	Gwent	Goldcliff	Male seen and heard on 6 <sup>th</sup> July
1997	Radnor	Site A	Pair from 31 <sup>st</sup> May until 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
1997	Ceredigion	Aberystwyth	Single on 26 <sup>th</sup> May

### Twite\*

3 visits between 0830 and 1800BST (one mid or late May, one early June and another early or mid July) to establish number of confirmed breeding pairs (based on behaviour) and other birds.

Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR, RSPB and National Trust reports.

This is a difficult species to monitor and the records are very incomplete. Limited fieldwork, due to weather and access problems, was undertaken as part of a UK survey in 1999. This 5 pairs at 2 sites and confirmed the species absent from one of its former sites on the Migneint (Meirionnydd). The latter area held a small population in the past, but the last records were of 1-2 pairs at two sites in 1995 and 2 pairs at one of the 1995 sites in 1996, despite known sites being checked each year since. There are also scattered reports of birds in the breeding season from sites in Ceredigion (1996) and Flint (1994), but no reports from other sites previously occupied in the 6 year period up to 1994, such as the Rhinogau (Meirionnydd), Hiraethog and Rhuabon Moors (Denbigh) and Pumlumon (Montgomery). The main stronghold for this species continues to be the Carneddau, Glyderau and adjacent slopes (Caernarfon). All the breeding reports in 1999 were from this area, and also an autumn flock peaking at 200 individuals in late September, which fed predominantly on land owned by National Trust (see WBR this issue). The size of this flock suggests a current Welsh breeding population in the range of 20-40 pairs, all in the Carneddau/Glyderau area.

### **Common Rosefinch**

Singing males in suitable habitat during the breeding season.  
Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

There was one record in the period of a male singing near Pwllheli (Caernarfon) from 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June 1995.

### **Ortolan Bunting**

Singing males in suitable habitat during the breeding season.  
Information on this species has been obtained from the WBR.

There was one record in the period of a male singing at Conwy RSPB (Caernarfon) from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> June 1998.

### **Corn Bunting\***

Maximum number of singing males recorded between May and July on any one of three visits, with one visit per month.  
Details from RSPB reports.

A full survey of the remaining Welsh breeding population on the Dee (Flint), was undertaken in 1999, with 4 singing males located. Two of these were in the Shotton/Sandycroft area and two on the Shotwick Fields. The last survey in 1993 produced a total count of 20 singing males. The only other record of a singing male holding territory was at Sker Farm (Glamorgan) between 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1994.

### COMMENT

Although it has been relatively easy to decide whether the majority of species qualify as scarce or not, for some, due to a lack of information, it has not been so straightforward. I would welcome comment on the status of any species not included in this report, for which anybody has information indicating that the population is now below 100 pairs.

I would also welcome any additional information relating to those species included in the report, either new records or clarification of existing records. Any new information will be passed on to the appropriate county recorder, to ensure the county archives are as accurate as possible.

This report has highlighted a lack of information for certain species and complete surveys of Golden Plover, Dunlin and should be undertaken as soon as is practicable.

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# NOTES

## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE WELSH LIST SINCE 1994

This note follows that in *Welsh Birds* 1(4) 78-80 and brings the Welsh List up to date to end 1999. In the intervening period 7 new species have been recorded in Wales, 3 have been upgraded and one historic record has been rejected.

### Additions:

#### 1995.

Ruppell's Warbler *Sylvia rueppelli*. Porth Meudwy Caernarfon June 21<sup>st</sup>. *Welsh Birds* 1(6):77.

#### 1996.

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas*. Bardsey Caernarfon Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. *Welsh Birds* 1(6):78.

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*. Ramsey Pembroke Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 1997. *Pembrokeshire Bird Report* 1996:52-53 and *British Birds* 92:606. This was the first record for Britain.

#### 1997.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*. Bardsey Caernarfon Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Followed by Wales' second at Skokholm Pembroke 3 days later. *Welsh Birds* 2(2):82-83.

#### 1999.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*. Conwy RSPB Caernarfon Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Welsh Birds* 2(6): 00.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*. Bardsey Caernarfon Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, trapped and ringed. *Welsh Birds* 2(6):00.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx orzyvorus*. Skokholm Pembroke Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. *Welsh Birds* 2(6):00.

### Corrections.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*. The male at Moel-y-Gest Caernarfon on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1987 was transferred from Category D of the British List to Category A in 1993. *Ibis* 135:220-222. It therefore constituted the first Welsh record and was the second for Britain.

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei*. Strumble Head Pembroke Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 1993. Once regarded as a race of Yellow-browed Warbler *Ph. inornatus*, this species was split as a distinct species in 1997. This therefore constitutes the first Welsh record.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*. Bardsey Caernarfon Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 1957. Then accepted as Category D, now transferred to Category A. *Ibis* 141:177. This now constitutes the first and only British record.

### Rejections.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*. The record at the Teifi Marshes Ceredigion/Pembroke on Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1992 is now regarded as unproven and rejected. Records of this species come once again under the aegis of BBRC

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*. The record for Skokholm Pembroke Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>-Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1951 is no longer considered acceptable. *British Birds* 92:595-596. The species thus loses its place on the Welsh List for which there are no acceptable records.

## TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* AT CONWY RSPB First Welsh record

The newly formed Conwy RSPB reserve is firmly established as a superb bird-watching site. Since it opened in 1995 over 200 species have been recorded, including American Wigeon, Broad-billed and Marsh Sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope (3) and Alpine Swift and a good selection of scarce passerines. Early on Apr.29th, Alan Davies was birding at the reserve. At 0730 hrs 2 small waders flew in off the estuary and landed on a shingle bank in front of him opposite the Benarth hide, one being a s/p Dunlin and the other a Terek Sandpiper. Quite quickly the Terek was spooked by a flock of Jackdaws and flew back out into the estuary, where it was relocated by Marc Hughes off Glan Conwy. Later in the day it was south of the reserve at Garth. The bird obliged by staying for the Bank Holiday weekend, enabling hundreds of admirers to see it. It favoured the intertidal mud on the river, mostly off Glan Conwy, for feeding but flew into the reserve (freshwater) over high tides to roost.

### **Description: general**

At a distance and on its own appeared to recall a Common Sandpiper, with a long and distinctly upturned bill. However close views revealed the Terek Sandpiper as a larger bird, with short orange legs and a distinctive feeding action. On the estuary it was very active, feeding in shallow water, sometimes with a sweeping action recalling Avocet. The whole rear end was constantly bobbed gently up and down, recalling Common Sandpiper. During the first evening the Terek fed along a muddy saltmarsh bank, pulling worms from the bank and running quickly to the water's edge to wash the prey before consuming it and running back up the bank again with constantly bobbing gait.

### **Bare parts**

Bill distinct, longer than head and distinctly upturned, blackish in colour with a bright orange base (same colour as legs). Legs short but bright orange, recalling juvenile Redshank's.

### **Plumage details**

Head greyish brown with crown slightly darker and finely streaked. Darker lores extending just behind eye. Dull supercilium. Throat and breast pale grey with fine dark streaking, recalling Common Sandpiper. Head-on the breast band was incomplete, with a white triangle in the centre. Mantle and wing coverts uniform greyish brown, with some fine dark streakings on the coverts. Distinct dark lines across scapulars, forming a broken dark line. Two or three dark lines were present below the scapular line on both sides. The dark carpal bar was hidden by underside feathers. In flight the white trailing edge to the wings was the most distinctive feature and showed generally grey-brown upperparts with darker outer wing and grey-brown rump and tail. Flight action distinct, with pointed wings and a quite quick clipping action (?like giant stint). It often called in flight, repeating the same note several times, a very distinctive 'twee twee twee'.

*Ian Higginson*

# EYE-BROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus* ON BARDSEY

## First Welsh record

The autumn of 1999 had been very slow on Bardsey. However, the October new moon period is classed by many as the best time to be on the island to see large numbers of birds moving both diurnally and nocturnally at the lighthouse. The moon was new on the 9th, although there had been no birds attracted to the lighthouse and very little passage during the day. On Oct.12th the first real arrival of migrants occurred, including 3 Buzzards and 2 Merlins. A total of 33 Robins was counted on the island and 4 Blackbirds and 28 Song Thrushes were also new. I had been up to the Nant at the island's north end counting a reasonable movement of passerines, mainly Skylarks, Meadow Pipits and finches. Movement had almost stopped by 1000 hours, so I returned to the observatory where my assistant was mist-netting in the garden. There Dave Anning told me to take a quick look in a bird bag hanging on a nearby tree, which he said contained either an aberrant Redwing or an Eye-browed Thrush. I extracted the bird and to my amazement found that it was indeed an Eye-browed Thrush. I quickly showed it to Simon Hughston Roberts, who made some comment about it looking like a 'manky Redwing'! The bird was processed and released at Cristin but soon disappeared and was not seen again until late evening, when it flew over Plas Bach and spent about an hour on the hillside giving excellent views until disturbed by 2 crows at dusk. The bird was not relocated the following morning, although a Little Bunting was a small reward for the 8 people from the mainland who hoped to see it.

The following notes were taken in the hand, with some additional notes from the field:

### **Biometrics:**

Age: first winter. Fat score: 2. Pectoral score: 1. Wing: 123mm. Tarsus: min 31.55mm, max 35.90mm. Bill: 21.7mm.

### **Description:**

Head: crown olive, centered darker. Eyestripe dark olive in front of the eye, greyish behind eye, supercilium and lower part of lores white. Orbital ring dull yellow. Ear coverts mottled olive/grey with white shaft streak on each feather. Sub-moustachial stripe and throat white, malar grey with very fine dark line at each side.

Upperparts: mantle, scapulars, back, rump and tail olive with no markings but each feather appeared lightly fringed. Outer tail feathers tipped slightly whitish.

Wings: lesser coverts as mantle with small pale tip in end of shafts. Median coverts olive. Greater coverts as median coverts with darker outer web and small triangular cream spot on tip, similar to that of immature Song Thrush. Primaries and secondaries dull olive. Tertials as secondaries with a slight pale tip similar to Redwing.

Underparts: flanks and breast peachy orange with white centre of belly and undertail coverts. The deepest peach was on the upper breast.

*Steven Stansfield*



## BOBOLINK *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* ON SKOKHOLM

### First Welsh record.

**Circumstances:** At the end of September, south-west Wales had experienced a spell of strong to gale force westerly winds, following the hurricane which east-coast North America had experienced. We on Skokholm Island knew it was inevitable that at least one “yank” of some description would be unfortunate enough to be blown across the Atlantic, but nothing appeared on Skokholm, as usual. However on the morning of Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> Theresa Purcell and I decided to have a sandwich lunch at the lighthouse and do some sea-watching at the same time. We had walked just halfway along the main track across the island, when Theresa spotted a bird on the ground in a grassy clearing amongst bracken and asked me what it was, whereupon I replied “Meadow Pipit!”. Obviously disgusted in my lack of faith in her abilities, she exclaimed “That is not a Meadow Pipit”, and I realized that I was looking at the wrong bird! The individual in question flew up onto the top of the bracken, and in the first split second that I saw it, I thought “Aquatic Warbler”. But upon seeing more than the very obvious crown and mantle streaks, it was very clear that this was no warbler. It was most obviously a Bobolink! After the initial shock, followed by taking it all in and releasing a few restrained screams of delight, I ran all of the way back to the observatory to make a few phone calls. Too out of breath to use the phone, I picked up my camera and video camera, desperate to obtain photographic evidence, and ran back. Theresa had stayed with the bird. It was extremely obliging, sitting in the top of the bracken in the sunshine, contentedly eating craneflies. Theresa made the necessary phone calls, while I took a long look at our bird! The Warden and other staff crossed from Skomer and just managed to see it before dusk.

At first, the bird was rather bold, allowing us to approach to about 3 metres distance. It was clambering about amongst the top of Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* fronds, which were mainly brown and withering at this time. It frequently flicked its rather heavy-looking tail, with a slight downward movement before a far more pronounced upward flick. It was regularly catching and eating craneflies *Tipula* sp. which were abundant amongst the foliage. Occasionally it flew away, never more than about 50 metres, and landed in other bracken patches, but inevitably returned to the original area. Each time it flew, it called with a regularly repeated (every second or so) soft metallic “picc”. As the afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> October wore on, the bird became less obvious, spending more time amongst the bracken, climbing about at half the stem height, moving from frond to frond. The moving vegetation was used to relocate the bird. On the following morning, 14<sup>th</sup> October, despite 12 people scanning the top of the bracken, it was not seen. The wind had increased somewhat, to ESE force 3-4. It was finally located by accident, as it was almost stepped on! It flew a short distance up onto the bracken, and called a few times before flying off again, to its favourite patch! It then remained hidden in the bracken for long periods, occasionally showing its head and shoulders to an appreciative audience, but did thankfully sit out in the open on occasion, particularly as the breeze decreased and it became warmer. During its periods of skulking, it would occasionally stretch its neck up and look around, and appear very Corn Crake-like. Tail-flicking was only occasionally seen.

Full field notes were taken and are published in Pembrokeshire Bird Report 1999, p. 41. The bird was also photographed.

The Bobolink was just the fifth Nearctic passerine to be recorded on Skokholm. The previous four all appeared in the same year, 1967.

Graham Thompson

## WELSH BIRDS

'Welsh Birds' is the journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society and is published twice annually, in June and December. The December issue is primarily devoted to the Welsh Bird Report and the annual Report on Bird Monitoring in Wales. The Ringing Report is now a standard feature of the June issue.

Papers for Welsh Birds are welcomed by the Editor on any aspect of Welsh Ornithology. The Society is anxious that the journal should accurately reflect present ornithological activity in Wales. Thus we hope that all workers, professional or amateur, with results of bird studies in Wales, will always consider publishing information about these here. All papers will be reviewed by the Editor and an independent referee. Authors should follow the format of papers published in the journal and guidelines for authors have been drawn up and are available from the Editor (address inside front cover). Papers are accepted and published in either Welsh or English. Papers in Welsh should be supplied with captions to tables and figures in both Welsh and English and with an English summary. This follows standard international practice.

Short notes on interesting or unusual features of behaviour recorded in Wales are also welcome. An accumulation of such items is of considerable value. Notes should be short and succinct, ideally of not more than half a page in length. Notes may also be submitted in either Welsh or English.

Each volume comprises at least 6 issues, to make more satisfactory volumes for binding, if readers so desire. A member, David Chatfield, has recommended Principal Bookbinders Ltd, Ynyscedwyn Industrial Estate, Ystradgynlais, Swansea SA9 1DT, who have done an excellent job for him. Binding will be in black buckram, with gold lettering and the Society's logo on the spine, at a price of £15 per volume.















