

Birds in Wales Online

news from the Welsh Ornithological Society

Wales' wildlife heroes



Nominations have opened for the WOS Lifetime Achievement Award, to be made at our 2015 Conference in November. Any WOS member can nominate an individual (or group) to receive the award - details of how to do so are [on our website](#).

Previous [recipients](#) include David Saunders, Roger Lovegrove and Mike Shrubbs. Nominations must be received by 15 September 2015.

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enews

keeps you in touch with news of Birds in Wales between the journal landing on your doormat and the annual conference. Visit the [website](#) for news on the latest rare birds, media coverage of birds in Wales, and lots of other information for



WOS backs Hen Harriers

We are again backing a national day to raise



Newswatch

The [Newswatch](#) page

awareness of the plight of Hen Harriers, missing from large areas of suitable moorland in England and Scotland. Read [our statement](#) here.

With no intensive management for driven grouse shooting nor any reported killing or interference of Hen Harriers in Wales this century, our concern is that Welsh-fledged chicks perish when they cross the border. We hope that WOS members who use social media will support the Hen Harrier Day [Thunderclap](#) organised by Birders Against Wildlife Crime.



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru National Assembly for Wales

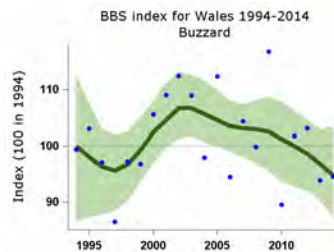
Tell your politicians

The National Assembly for Wales is consulting on the Environment (Wales) Bill, with a simple online survey to gauge the public's views on the priorities.

It's a great opportunity to show our elected politicians that people care about wildlife in Wales, and we urge WOS members to participate by [going to](#)

links to the stories making the news in Wales.

Among the news featured recently:
> [Western Mail](#) - Gull numbers may have quadrupled
> [Western Mail](#) - Consider tidal lagoon impacts says NRW
> [Daily Post](#) - Osprey death triggers design change by ScotPower



Ups and downs of breeding birds

The 2014 [Breeding Bird Survey report](#), published last week showed big increases in Stonechat, Linnet and Bullfinch numbers in Wales compared to 2013, but long-term declines of more than 50% for Starling, Curlew and Yellowhammer.

In Wales, 331 one-kilometre squares were surveyed in 2014, the joint highest coverage, and 54 species have been sufficiently well monitored to create trend graphs back to

birdwatchers in Wales

Key dates

21-23 August: [Birdfair 2015](#), Rutland Water

3 October: [Unknown Wales Conference](#), Cardiff (WTSWW)

7 November: [Annual Conference](#), Carno, Powys (WOS)



Bird Club affiliates

[Cambrian Orn Society](#)
[Carmarthenshire Bird Club](#)
[Clwyd Bird Record Group](#)
[Deeside Naturalists Soc](#)
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[Merseyside Ringing Group](#)
[Glamorgan Bird Club](#)
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Is your local Club affiliated? Contact our [treasurer](#) to find out more.



Member Zone

The Members' Area on the website contains exclusive

[this website](#) right now!

The Welsh Government has also launched a Green Paper to consult on proposals to alter public access to land in Wales, including extending the definition of access land to include woodland, cliffs and lakes. More details [here](#) - the deadline for comments is 2 October.



Secrets of our Twite revealed

Sightings of ringed Twites in North Wales suggest that the region's shoreline is a regular wintering area for Twite that breed in western Scotland.

Birders in the region are asked to pay close attention to the legs of any Twite seen in the coming winter. See the [BTO Cymru blog](#) for more details.

1994.

You can view the graphs for Wales on the [BTO website](#), selecting Wales in the 'Area' drop-down menu.

The Breeding Bird Survey is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is funded jointly by the BTO, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage), and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).



The rare and the scarce

July proved to be typically quiet for rarities, though an adult Rose-coloured Starling in Aberavon found late in the month has proved locally popular.

July was always going to struggle to top June, however, with a Swainson's Thrush on Skomer, a Cedar Waxwing (found dead) in Pembrokeshire and a

content, including the archive of Welsh Birds/ Birds in Wales and the Welsh Records Panel annual report, Scarce and Rare Birds in Wales, which is published exclusively on the web. This area is password-protected.

Your username is your surname and your postcode (the one you registered when you joined/renewed your WOS membership), and the password is 'wosmember'.

Click [here](#) for more information.

2015 WOS Conference

We are just finalising the programme for our annual Conference, to be held in Carno, Powys, on Saturday 7 November. The theme will be Inspiring the Next Generation and as part of our work to encourage young conservationists in Wales, we will be offering a small number of free places to 16-25 year olds.

Look out for your invitation to book in the coming weeks, by email and in the next issue of Birds in Wales.

(Graphic via @Cr10lan on Twitter)



Children's book on Hen Harriers

Author and birder Martin Bradley has recently published a children's book that highlights the plight of the Hen Harrier. The back cover features WOS and a message from our President, Iolo Williams.

You can order Skydancer from the publisher, Skyhunter Books, [on their website](#).



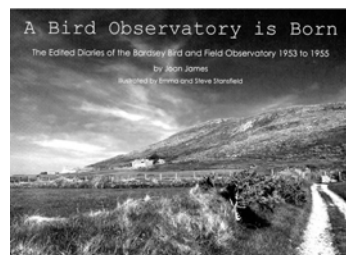
WOS Student Research Award

Students and their tutors have just six weeks to nominate a study of birds in Wales for the 2015 Derek Moore Student Research Award. The deadline is 15 September, and the

well-twitched Cretzschmar's Bunting on Bardsey.

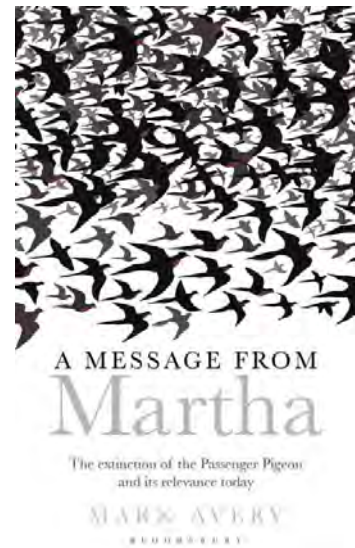
Listen to Steve Stansfield, warden of Bardsey Field and Bird Observatory, talk about his experience with the bunting and the team's hard work to enable hundreds of birders to see a first-for-Wales on the [Talking Naturally](#) podcast.

[Summaries](#) of scarce and rare birds in Wales, written by Robin Sandham, appear on the website each month. Read July's roundup [here](#).



New book on Bardsey Obs

A Bird Observatory is Born, by Joan James, features the edited diaries and archive photographs of the Field and Bird Observatory from 1953-55. For details, contact Steve Stansfield via the [BFBO website](#).



Books for sale

Beryl Moore, wife of our late Chairman Derek Moore, has donated several books from Derek's library to WOS to raise funds for our grant schemes.

We are seeking sealed bids for these books, which can be made by email to web@birdsinswales.org.uk prior to our Conference on 7 November or on the day. Books can be collected from the Conference, or sent (with additional p&p) by post following the event.

> Mark Avery (2014) A message from Martha. Bloomsbury. (RRP £16.99)

> Douglas E Chickering (2014) Reflections on a Golden-winged Warbler: the joys and aesthetics of birding. Bard Brook Press. (RRP US\$20)

> Adam Scott Kennedy (2014) Birds of Kenya's Rift Valley. Princeton University Press. (RRP £18.95)

> Robert Gillmor (2006) Cutting Away: the linocuts of Robert Gillmor. Langford Press (RRP £38)

> Gordon Kirk and John

award includes £200 and the opportunity to present their findings at our annual Conference. See [our website](#) for details.



Pembs Report

The Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2014 has been published online by the Bird Group of the Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. It is available as a free pdf download - get your copy [here](#).



Fellow Iolo

Congratulations to WOS President Iolo Williams who has been honoured as a Fellow of Aberystwyth University for his work to "promote understanding, enjoyment and respect of nature and the environment to Welsh audiences".

The [full citation](#) appears on the university website.

Phillips (2013) *The Birds of Gloucestershire*. Liverpool University Press. (RRP £45)

> Dawn Balmer et. al (2013) *Bird Atlas 2007-11*. BTO Books. (RRP £69.99)



Are you a web designer?

Our website is WOS's primary means of communicating about the birds in Wales to the outside world, and it is - we feel - time for a refresh. We also wish to develop a Welsh-language web presence.

We are looking for help from someone with experience and skills in website design and management to help develop the right solutions. It would involve working with our web-manager during the coming autumn and winter. If you could help, please contact web@birdsinwales.org.uk.

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