



Welsh Ornithological Society Small Grant Scheme 2021/2022

The Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) is a charity devoted to the promotion of the conservation of wild birds in Wales, to advance education and study of all aspects of birds in Wales and to promote and publish results of research into birds in Wales. Further details on the work of WOS can be found on <https://birdsin.wales>

The Grant Scheme

In 2021/22, two grants not exceeding £1000 are available for bird conservation projects in Wales. There are now two application windows but there is no guarantee that any grants will be awarded. A second year of funding may be considered in exceptional circumstances. **In past years, there has been a deadline application date of the end of February in each calendar year, but we are now revising this to two application windows – 31 December 2021 and 30 June 2022. The second window will still be available even if we award two grants in the first one.**

To qualify for the grant, your project must focus on bird species that are considered to be Priority Species * according to Thorpe & Brenchley 2017 (see below Notes for Applicants for details). Other species currently declining or threatened in Wales may only be considered if the project is of exceptional quality. The project should aim to improve:

1. Current knowledge of status, trends, distribution or species requirements
2. Habitat conditions at specific sites (the work undertaken will need to be sustainable)
3. Production and dissemination of species information to assist others in conservation action

Notes for Applicants

- **Deadlines for Applications: Friday 31 December 2021 and Thursday 30 June 2022.**
- Projects must take place within Wales.
- The grant can pay for costs of the project such as materials, specialist equipment (not including binoculars and telescopes), research and surveys including travel expenses, habitat management and technical advice. It should not pay for core funding for a group.
- The funding must be used for new biodiversity conservation work and not to fulfil any existing agreements such as Service Level Agreements, agri-environment works, planning obligations.
- Any individual or non-profit group or organisation may apply. If you are applying on behalf of a non-constituted group and therefore do not have a bank account (such as a Biodiversity Action Group), you may nominate an organisation to administer the project finances.

Eligible organisations include Local Authorities, Registered Charities, and Government Organisations.

- A nominated person must sign the application form accepting the conditions of grant on behalf of those involved in the project.
- The applicant must supply adequate information to justify the project.

Species Eligible for WOS Grant Funding based on R.I.Thorpe & Anne Brenchley (2017). Promotion of Bird Surveys and Monitoring in Wales: current and required. Birds in Wales 14:1 pp 49-62

Priority – Level 1

Species classified as Red in BoCCW3 based on assessment of UK data only, or where current data for Wales is more than 6+ years old, and where a current threat to the population is identified.

UK data used: Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

Information more than 6 years old: Merlin.

Priority – Level 2

Red-listed species in BoCCW3 where a threat to the population is identified, with population assessment based on Welsh data. Currently no species are identified at this level, but it may be required for future revisions.

Priority – Level 3

Species classified as Red in BoCCW3 based on assessment of UK data only, or where current data for Wales is more than 6+ years old.

UK data used: Common Sandpiper, Grasshopper Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Yellow Wagtail.

Information more than 6 years old: Golden Plover (breeding), Lapwing, Black-headed Gull (breeding), Herring Gull (breeding), Short-eared Owl, Kestrel, Dunlin (breeding), Water Rail (breeding), Snipe (lowland breeding), Redshank, Spotted Flycatcher, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit (breeding), Whinchat (breeding).

Priority – Level 4

Characteristic species of Welsh habitats: Pied Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Tree Pipit, Redstart, Hawfinch (breeding).

The following species are adequately covered by existing schemes/effort and would not be eligible for WOS Small Grant funding: Manx Shearwater, Gannet, Kittiwake.

- 6* years: this fits in with the periodicity of BOCCC (every six years), Article 12 reporting (every 6 years), State of Nature (every 3 years) and SCARRABBS (3, 6 or 12 years) – so in principle, there should be new data for every update.
- Note: Threat defined where there are small vulnerable populations and/or proposed development or other changes are current or where declines are thought to be continuing.
- The above process produced the WOS Council priority species list. Although Priority Levels are assigned, surveys of all the species in the lists are important and will be encouraged and supported by WOS.

What happens next?

- The Welsh Ornithological Society Council will consider all applications; successful applicants will be informed as soon as possible after applications have been assessed. Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback as to why their application was not successful. **Applicants should not start work on projects until after receipt of an offer letter.**
- Grants will be paid halfway through (50%) and on completion of the project (50%) based on satisfactory completion of the project.
- A nominated member of WOS Council will be identified as the project liaison officer.
- Any publicity for the project must acknowledge the support of WOS.
- The maximum amount of grant from this scheme will be £1000. However, this funding can be used as match against a bigger project.
- Grants are not mandatory. They will be offered at the discretion of the Welsh Ornithological Society Council.
- A report on the projects that receive grant funding will be produced at the end of this grant scheme. Applicants are encouraged to publish the results of the project in *Birds in Wales*.
- Applicants will be required to produce a short summary of their project for WOS publicity purposes and encouraged to make their results publicly available, such as by publication or the provision of the data with the Local Records Centre.

How to apply

Applications can only be accepted using the official application form – available here in PDF or Word format.

If you require any assistance or would like to have an informal chat about your project before completing the application please contact Anne Brenchley.

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