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Birds in Wales
home of the Welsh Ornithological Society



Our annual WOS Conference was held at Neuadd Reichel, Bangor University on Saturday 3rd November. We welcomed a number of fantastic speakers to the packed out hall for presentations on the theme of 'Welsh Woodlands', with regular attendees, welcomed back as well as a gratifying number of first-timers, several of whom joined WOS on the day. We hope that everyone enjoyed their day and we received some really helpful (and positive!) feedback from the audience.

Next year is WOS' 30th anniversary and we'll be pulling the stops out to make it a special conference – we've already had some great suggestions for speakers and topics. We'll be returning to our original venue at Aberystwyth on the 16th November 2019.

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Derek Moore Student Research Award

We received some brilliant applicants for this year's Student Research Award. The winner was chosen and announced at the conference, we would like to congratulate Joe d'Souza for his research into the incidence of plastics pollution affecting urban Dippers in South Wales. Iolo presented the award to Joe at the conference and attendees very much enjoyed talking to Joe regarding his research during the breaks. We look forward to hearing more from his work!



Lifetime Achievement Award

As well as our Student Research Award, WOS awards the Lifetime Achievement Award to someone who has been a standout hero to Welsh wildlife. This year, the award was awarded to Bob Howells one of the founder members of the Gower Ornithological Society some sixty years ago, who still contributes important records and has produced important work on the Burry Inlet.



WOS and Brexit

Leaving the EU provides a unique opportunity to develop a new sustainable land management programme using taxpayers' money to pay Welsh farmers for protecting and maintaining the environment for all the people of Wales. We believe that this is a just use of public money, paying for things we all need but for which there is no market and that it will provide long-term security for the farming and land management sector. Recognising that food and forestry will continue to be outputs from these sectors, we believe that Welsh Government should support a stronger connection between consumers and producers, especially in farming, and that developing a sustainable food policy for Wales would be a significant first step towards this. Read our full response to the Welsh government consultation document [here](#).



Rarities Roundup!

Three long staying rarities continued to lurk in their regular haunts, in the shape of the Snowdonia Snowy Owl, the Ynys Las female King Eider and the Llanddulas Glaucous Gull. Persistent westerly systems meant there were only a few arrivals from the east, but what they lacked in quantity they made up for in quality. The star bird from a photogenic point of view was a Siberian Stonechat on Bardsey in the middle of the month (pictured above) and this was



Update on WOS Policies

WOS has also been busy on the policy front. WOS responded to the Welsh Governments consultation on land management support post-Brexit. It is vitally important for our birds that we get this right. We also continue to talk to Welsh government over our concerns on the evidence base used to issue licences to cull Ravens, Goosanders and Cormorants, and are active members of 'Curlew Cymru' – a consortium set up to actively look at and implement action to save this rapidly declining iconic bird.

Now available to view and download from the Members' area on the website!

This publication features a number of scarce and rare birds found throughout Wales in 2017, including the Rock Thrush, Melodious Warbler and Western Bonelli's Warbler.

We'd like to thank John Green and the Welsh Records Panel for their hard work.



Any other business

If you pay your WOS subscription by **Standing Order**, We would like to encourage all members to pay via Direct Debit using this link: <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL0001NS6GF3B0>

16-25 year olds seeking help funding a placement, volunteering or study of birds in Wales can apply

Have you spotted that the county pages on the website include details of the birding hotspots for each area, and also the boundaries of each bird-recording area? Head to the [counties page](#) and click on the map.

New Council Members & Returning President

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non-members, too, so if you know someone that it might help, point them to [our website](#).

as WOS President and welcomed Alison Noble as Membership Secretary and Dan Rouse as E-Newsletter author.

Thank you for your support of the Welsh Ornithological Society.

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