

Birds in Wales Online

enews from the Welsh Ornithological Society

'Don't shoot', says WOS

WOS recently wrote to the Minister for Natural Resources, Carl Sargeant, expressing serious concern about the level of evidence used by Natural Resources Wales when issuing licences to shoot Goosanders and Cormorants. We believe these licences are issued without any real idea of the impact on the species' populations.

The letter also urged the Welsh Government to review the hunting of Greenland White-fronted Goose, despite evidence from international experts who called on all states within its breeding, migration and wintering range to ban hunting. Numbers wintering at its main site, the Dyfi estuary, have fallen from more than 100 in 2005 to just 20 in 2014.

The story featured on the [BBC News](#) website and on [Wales Online](#), with a readers' vote asking



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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

Should the Welsh Government have stricter controls on shooting birds?

YES

NO

As we had failed to make progress with the licensing authority, Natural Resources Wales, over the issue of Goosanders and Cormorants, [we presented the Minister](#) with some detailed questions. This was his response:

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref CS/01515/15

Ian M Spence

ianspence.cr1@btinternet.com

13th October 2015

Dear Ian M Spence,

Thank you for your letter of 27 September highlighting your concerns about the management of licensed shooting in Wales.

When Natural Resources Wales (NRW) came into operation on the 1 April 2013, the function of issuing the licences to which you refer was given outright to the NRW.

I understand that NRW have a right of appeal process which can be accessed by contacting Clive Thomas, Director of Governance and Communication, Natural Resources Wales, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3UR (e-mail: clive.thomas@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk).

That was it - nothing more. An evidence-based approach to shooting Wales' protected species?

On Greenland White-fronted Geese, the Minister talks about "strengthening our evidence base concerning the ecology of the GWfG in Wales" but dismisses a ban on hunting.

To be continued, Minister...



Newswatch

The [Newswatch](#) page
links to the stories

birdwatchers in Wales

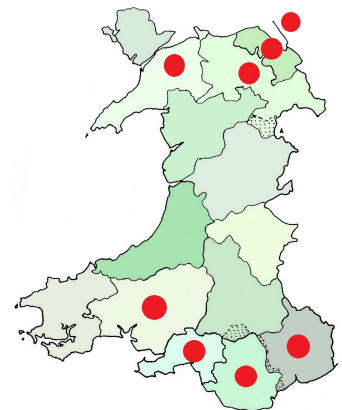
Key dates

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

6 May: [Bird identification workshop](#), Nagshead, Gloucestershire (BTO)

2-6 June: [Introduction to bird surveys](#), Betws-y-Coed, Conwy (BTO)

2-4 September: [Bird Identification weekend](#), Betws-y-Coed, Conwy (BTO)



Bird Club affiliates

[Cambrian Orn Society](#)
[Carmarthenshire Bird Club](#)
[Clwyd Bird Record Group](#)
[Deeside Naturalists Soc](#)
[Gower Orn Society](#)
[Merseyside Ringing Group](#)
[Glamorgan Bird Club](#)
[Gwent Orn Society](#)

Is your local Club affiliated?
Contact our [treasurer](#) to find out more.



Book now for Conference

There are just 17 days left to [book your place](#) at our Conference, in partnership with RSPB Cymru and BTO Cymru. It takes place in Carno, Powys, on Saturday 7 November.

We have a great line-up of speakers, including Iolo Williams, Lucy McRobert and Viola Ross-Smith, and it's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, and meet new ones.

As part of our goal of Inspiring the Next Generation, we are delighted that the six free places offered to 16-25 years olds have been snapped up, and we're looking forward to an excellent event in just over three weeks.

Still haven't booked? [Do it now!](#)

making the news in Wales.

Among the news featured recently:

- > [Daily Post](#) - Scottish Power installs osprey nest platforms
- > [Western Mail](#) - Aber Uni student to assess cat killing of birds
- > [Daily Post](#) - wetland reserve gets makeover



The rare and the scarce

Prolonged high pressure in recent weeks has meant lovely weather, but our [Rarity Tracker](#) shows it has been a fairly quiet period for the rarity-hunter. October's highlight was a twitchable **Alpine Swift** over the Little Orme, Caernarfon, for three days (thanks to Marc Hughes for the photo).

September's highlights, featured in Robin Sandham's [monthly roundup](#) on the WOS website, were Skokholm's first **Long-billed Dowitcher**, a probable **Pallid Harrier** over Ramsey, and a couple of **Cattle Egrets** in south Wales.

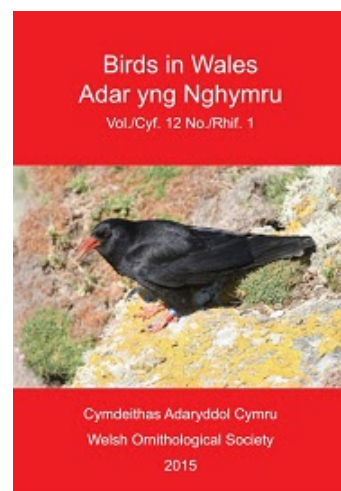


Member Zone

The Members' Area on the website contains exclusive 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'.

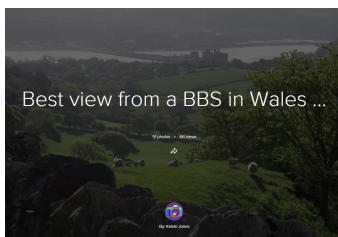
Click [here](#) for more information.



Birds in Wales

You should by now have received your latest issue of our journal, *Birds in Wales/Adar yng Nghymru* (vol.12).

The main paper, by Tony Cross and Adrienne Stratford, brings together their 24 years (and counting...) colour-ringing

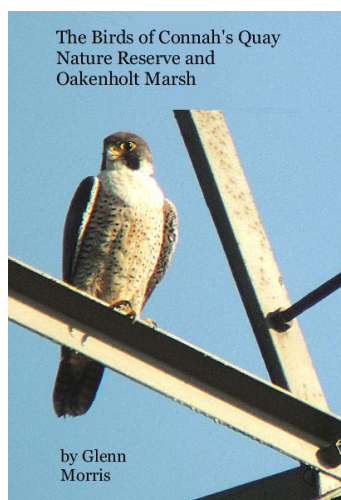


BBS with the best view?

Last spring, BTO Cymru's Kelvin Jones invited Breeding Bird Survey participants to take a snap during fieldwork and submit it as the 'Best view from a BBS in Wales'.

He has posted those received so far on [Flickr](#), and at the WOS Conference, delegates can vote from a shortlist of five selected by professional photographer Nigel Hughes. The winning picture will be produced at a large size for the photographer.

Hi-res original photos should be sent to [Kelvin](#) by 20 October.



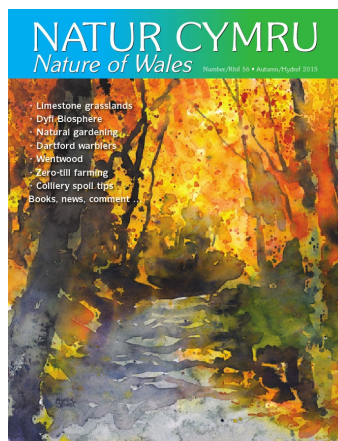
New book on Dee estuary



Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2014

Editor Jon Green is putting the finishing touches to the latest report from the [Wales Records Panel](#).

It will be published in the [Member Zone](#) on the WOS website in late October, and you will receive an email when it has been uploaded.



Natur Cymru

A quick plug for the excellent quarterly magazine *Natur Cymru*. The [latest issue](#) includes articles on Dartford

of Choughs on the Llyn Peninsula. Storm-petrels at Strumble Head, Curlews and wind turbines, and Oystercatcher roosts on Traeth Lafan are also featured, as well as summaries of the projects supported by our Small Grant Scheme in 2014.

This was Dr Steph Tyler's final issue as editor of our journal, as she retires from Council at the AGM in November. Huge thanks from WOS members, Steph, for all you have done for the Society.

Remember that WOS members get free access to all our journals from the last 10 years in the [Member Zone](#) (see above for password details) - the latest issue has now been added to that archive.



A MESSAGE FROM Martha

The extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and its relevance today

MARK AVERY
BLOOMSBURY

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@birdsinwales.org.uk prior to our Conference on 7

Dee estuary

A new book, *Birds of Connah's Quay nature reserve and Oakenholt Marsh*, is a 70-page guide to the 233 species seen at the CQNR (managed by WOS affiliate [Deeside Naturalists' Society](#)) and the neighbouring RSPB Oakenholt Marsh.

The book is available for £4.49 softback, £13.49 hardback or £14.49 with a dustjacket (prices exclude VAT). It can be previewed and ordered on the [Blurb website](#).



Grow Wild in Wales

Grow Wild is awarding funds from the National Lottery to community projects that plan to transform communal spaces using native wild flowers.

They are asking the public to select a flagship site in Wales that will be awarded £139,000, so the organisations behind the plans are seeking your vote.

The three shortlisted

Warblers in south Wales, rare migrants on Bardsey this spring, and the wonders of colliery spoil tips for wildlife.

Geoff Gibbs from Natur Cymru will have a stand at the WOS Conference with sample copies and subscription forms.



Little Terns look for Friends

Volunteers at Wales' only Little Tern colony are working with site manager, Denbighshire County Council, to set up a 'Friends of' group at Gronant.

The terns need more people to step forward to monitor and warden the nests, raise awareness among local people and potentially seek funding that is not available to the Council. More than 100 Little Terns fledged on the beach this year.

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 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)

projects are:
> Cwmbran's
UrbanBuzz
> Discover the Diff, led
by RSPB Cymru
> Furnace to Flowers,
led by Gwent Wildlife
Trust

Find out more about the
projects and cast your
vote at [Growwilduk](#).

Search 'Gronant Little
Terns' on Facebook or
email [Adrian Hibbert](#) at
Denbighshire County
Council.

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