Introduction

This is the twenty first annual report of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee, WBRC, (formerly WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce species in Wales in 2019. The table below summarises the number of scarce and rare birds recorded in Wales over the past ten years in terms of their historical occurrence:

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2019	2	5	9	7	25	15	37	100
2018	2	8	10	5	19	21	79	144
2017	1	12	7	11	37	56	19	143
2016	2	6	14	12	35	38	62	169
2015	2	5	2	9	15	13	46	92
2014	2	13	14	11	21	42	73	176
2013	2	11	5	12	14	41	45	130
2012	0	5	4	17	37	49	35	147
2011	0	4	9	10	30	26	72	151
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	70	137

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new British Ornithologists Union (BOU) British List (2019) and includes all those records assessed by the WBRC along with those accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) (shown in italics). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders for all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WBRC welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence but this ideally should be accompanied a written description. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other species to assess from County Recorders and Editors - these are not detailed in this report.

WBRC would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helped in the assessment process.

Scarce species (assessed by WBRC) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of 1st January 2019 the full list of species which WBRC considers is as follows:

Taiga Bean Goose	Tundra Bean Goose	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck	Ferruginous Duck	Surf Scoter	Lesser Scaup
Smew	White-billed Diver	Cory's Shearwater	Great Shearwater
Wilson's Petrel	Red-necked Grebe	Night Heron	Purple Heron
White Stork	Glossy Ibis	Black Kite	Montagu's Harrier
Rough-legged Buzzard	White-tailed Eagle	Golden Eagle	Red-footed Falcon
Corn Crake	Spotted Crake	Crane	Stone-Curlew
American Golden Plover	Kentish Plover	Temminck's Stint	White-rumped Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Red-necked Phalarope	Lesser Yellowlegs
Ring-billed Gull	Caspian Gull	White-winged Black Tern	Alpine Swift
Bee-eater	Golden Oriole	Red-backed Shrike	Woodchat Shrike
Bearded Tit	Short-toed Lark	Shore Lark	Red-rumped Swallow
Greenish Warbler	Dusky Warbler	Radde's Warbler	Pallas's Warbler
Barred Warbler	Icterine Warbler	Melodious Warbler	Aquatic Warbler
Marsh Warbler	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling	Nightingale
Bluethroat	Red-flanked Bluetail	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Penduline Tit
Citrine Wagtail	Tawny Pipit	Olive-backed Pipit	Serin
Common Redpoll	Arctic Redpoll	Common Rosefinch	Corn Bunting
Cirl Bunting	Ortolan Bunting	Rustic Bunting	Little Bunting

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (i.e. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some case the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WBRC welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen. As of 1st Jan 2020, Lesser Scaup and Kentish Plover will move back onto BBRC list.

BBRC have requested submissions of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, *British Birds* 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WBRC will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WBRC would like to receive submissions are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*	Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*	Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
Razorbill – *torda*	Little Auk – *polaris*	Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
Grey-headed Wagtail - *thunbergi*	Treecreeper – *familaris*	Coal Tit – *ater*
Jay – *glandarius*	Jackdaw – *monedula*	Redpolls – *islandica* / *rostrata*
Bullfinch –*pyrrhula*		

The report, in a slightly different format to the past, shows a breakdown of records over the last 80 years as well as the total number of individuals of that species recorded in Wales. Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases in improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras.

The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in italics) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and also the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.

The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2019 they were: Steve Stansfield, Bardsey (Chairman), Richard Brown – Skokholm & Pembroke, Chris Jones – Denbigh, Simon Murray – E & W Glamorgan, Paul Roberts E. Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfon and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion.

The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. WBRC is always on the lookout for new members, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WBRC Secretary.

Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WBRC species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WBRC description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WBRC Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561).** The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs in electronic form: **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**

Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pended for information are found in appendix 1.