

MONTGOMERYSHIRE COUNTY BIRD REPORT 2024

Compiled by Simon Boyes, County Bird Recorder



Cover photo: Nuthatch, Mochdre, 19 Nov 2024 by Dave Lister

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Barn Owl, near Castle Caereinion, 10 Jan by Aneurin Lloyd

Montgomeryshire County Bird Records – Source of Data in 2024

The British Trust for Ornithology is a very important information source providing Birdtrack and Bird Ringing data. Birdtrack is an excellent mechanism for collating and standardising records; observers are encouraged to use Birdtrack to record their sightings. Records placed on iRecord and eBird are also incorporated.

The Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust Garden Bird Survey is also a useful data source. Various other MWT surveys provide data – special thanks here to Tammy Stretton and to MWT reserve voluntary wardens. The logbook in the second hide at Dolydd Hafren MWT Reserve also produces many records from visitors.

Other records have been obtained from a range of sources such as RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group, Species Habitat Protection Group, the Montgomeryshire Bird Blog, Montgomeryshire Bird Sightings WhatsApp Group (75 members) and various letters, emails and verbal sightings from individuals throughout the year. Thank you everyone! Please keep up the good work.



Kingfisher, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 5 Oct, by Paul Davies

Systematic Species List 2024

A total of 157 species were recorded in Montgomeryshire in 2024.

Order and taxonomy follow the IOC (International Ornithological Congress).

Key: - Status/Frequency – An estimate for Montgomeryshire in 2024

R - Resident; W - winter; S - summer; B - breeding; P – passage; V - vagrant

1 Very rare, fewer than 10 records ever

2 Rare, > 10 records but not annual

3 Scarce (10 – 100 birds occurring or pairs breeding annually)

4 Reasonably Common (100 – 1000 birds occurring or pairs breeding annually)

5 Common

CANADA GOOSE

Branta canadensis

RB5

Abundant, especially in the Severn floodplain near Welshpool. Top counts were of 400 on 28 Jan and 300 on 25 Sep at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, and 350 at Dolydd Hafren on 3 Oct.

BARNACLE GOOSE

Branta leucopsis

W3



Barnacle Goose with Canada Geese, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 9 Nov, by Paul Davies

4 were at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 20 Jan, and 3 were still there on 4 Feb. 3 were grazing with Whooper Swans on flooded fields near Forden on 28 Sep, and 1 was at Dolydd Hafren on 3 Oct. The

origin of these birds is unknown: either of feral stock or possibly from the Dyfi Estuary flock, which nests on islands in Derwentwater, Cumbria, and migrates to Wales for the winter.

GREYLAG GOOSE	<i>Anser anser</i>	RB4
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Usually present at Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. Maximum counts were 200 at Dolydd Hafren on 26 Jan, and 150 two days later at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	W2
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A single bird was present with other geese at Dolydd Hafren on 14 Jan.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	W2
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Now a scarce winter visitor to the Dyfi Estuary and Severn Valley. 3 were seen at Dyfi Junction Station on 28 Oct.

MUTE SWAN	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	RB4
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Frequently seen on our rivers and lakes and on the Montgomery Canal.

WHOOPEE SWAN	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	W3
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A winter visitor along our rivers and larger lakes in varying numbers. No records from the first winter period; but many from the second. A very early flock of 6 were grazing on flooded fields near Forden on 28 Sep. Llyn Hir near Llanerfyl had 4 on 25 Oct, 6 on 28th including 2 juveniles, and 7 on 7 Nov. 3 grazed with Mute Swans near Llandinam on 24 Dec, with 2 at Haimwood near Llandrinio on the same date; and 6 flew north over Llanfechain on 29 Dec.

SHELDUCK	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	RB2, W3
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A regular visitor to Llyn Coed-y-Dinas and the Dyfi Estuary, where 20 were counted on 14 Feb. The top count at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas was 7 on 28 Jan. 4 were at Dolydd Hafren on 17 Nov. A pair bred successfully on farmland near Caerhowel: on 3 Jun a pair of adults with a recently fledged juvenile were on the road near The Gaer Farm.

MANDARIN DUCK	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	RB3
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This secretive woodland duck has established a small breeding population in the county in recent years. Breeding was confirmed at 3 MWT reserves: Dolydd Hafren, Red House and Llanmerewig Glebe, and at Middletown where 2 broods were on the Trewern Brook (with 2 and 9 ducklings). Several pairs nest at Lake Vyrnwy, where the top count was 31 at the north-west end on 30 Oct. A number of records also came in from the Vyrnwy Valley in the Meifod and Llansantffraid areas.

SHOVELER	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	W3
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2 were at Dolydd Hafren on 2 Jan and 11 Mar. Llyn Coed-y-Dinas had 1 on 1 and 13 Oct, and 2 on 14 Nov. 4 were at Lymore, Montgomery on 30 Dec.

GADWALL	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	P2
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Only 3 records: at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas a drake was present on 11 Feb and a pair on 3 Apr; 1 was at Dolydd Hafren on 27 Mar.

WIGEON*Mareca penelope*

W5

Winter visitors, mostly reported from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, Dolydd Hafren, and Cors Dyfi. The last of the first winter period was 29 Mar, and first returning birds reported on 2 Sep. The maximum counts were from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas: 129 on 20 Jan and 105 on 16 Dec. Away from the usual sites, a flock of 40 at Llyn Du near Meifod, on 14 Jan, was notable.

MALLARD*Anas platyrhynchos*

RB5

A widespread breeder and winter visitor throughout the county. Top count was 172 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 16 Dec.

PINTAIL*Anas acuta*

W2



Pintail, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 9 Nov, by Paul Davies

Apart from 10 at Cors Dyfi on 14 Feb, all records are from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, and mostly in Jan, with a few sightings of 1 or 2 birds in Feb and Nov. Top count was 16 on 27 Jan.

TEAL*Anas crecca*

W5

Mostly a winter visitor, with maximum counts of 184 on the Dyfi near Derwenlas on 7 Jan, 101 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 17 Nov, and 110 on Bugeilyn Lake, west of Staylitttle, on 17 Oct.

POCHARD*Aythya ferina*

W2

A scarce bird in the county: 2 drakes in heavy moult were on Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 2 Sep, one staying until 4 Sep.

TUFTED DUCK*Aythya fuligula*

RB3, W4

Most records came from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, where they occur throughout the year, with a maximum of 24 on 5 Aug. 25 were at Llandinam Gravels on 15 Feb, and 30 there on 20 Dec. 15 were on the Dairy Pool, Powis Castle, Welshpool on 23 Oct. 11 were on Llyn Mawr MWT Reserve near Clatter on 14 Jun – a regular breeding site; and 15 on Bugeilyn Lake on 11 May.

COMMON SCOTER*Melanitta nigra*

V2

Two spring records: 6 were on Glaslyn MWT Reserve on 10 Apr, and a lone drake was near the dam on Lake Vyrnwy on 22 Apr.

GOLDENEYE*Bucephala clangula*

W3

3 confirmed sightings: 6 on Llyn Mawr MWT Reserve near Clatter on 30 Jan, 4 on Glaslyn MWT Reserve on 6 Mar, and a pair at Dyfi Junction Bridge on 29 Nov .

GOOSANDER*Mergus merganser*

RB4

Widespread and recorded all year round, usually on rivers in summer but often also on large lakes in winter. Most easily observed from the Brayton Holt hide at Dolydd Hafren, where breeding was confirmed, and a top count of 21 was made on 26 Nov. The under-watched Fachwen Pool near Aberhafesp had 20 on 19 Dec.

RED GROUSE*Lyrurus lagopus*

RB3

The annual grouse count at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB in Apr produced a figure of 74, well down on the previous year's 123. Elsewhere, 1 was at Glaslyn MWT Reserve on 6 Mar; on 28 Jun 1 was at Trinnant on the Radnor border, east of Tylwch; and 1 flew over the road above Llangynog in the Berwyns on 4 Oct.

BLACK GROUSE*Lagopus tetrix*

RB2

The annual grouse count at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB in Apr produced a figure of 8 – this was the only record.

PHEASANT*Phasianus colchicus*

RB5

Widespread and abundant, especially in areas where they are released for shooting.

QUAIL*Coturnix coturnix*

S2

Heard records came from Lake Vyrnwy RSPB on 11 and 20 Jun and 8 Jul, when 2 were calling. 1 was flushed there on 17 Jul. Elsewhere 1 was at Cors Dyfi on 22 May, 1 at Bryn Dadlau near Dolfor on 13 Jun, and 1 at Dolfor on 20 Jun.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE*Alectoris rufa*

RB4

Scattered records. Many are released for shooting, though in far smaller numbers than Pheasants.

NIGHTJAR*Caprimulgus europaeus*

SB3



Nightjar, near Pontrobert, 7 Sep 24, by Dulcie Faulkner

1 was at Llwynderw near Old Hall on 26 May and again on 16 Jun. 2 were heard churring south of Llangynog on 29 Jul, and 1 was photographed in a garden near Pontrobert on 7 Sep.

SWIFT*Apus apus*

SB4

The first reported arrivals were 2 over Llanwnnog on 24 Apr, with most arriving in early May. Most usually depart in early August, but one late migrant was over Lake Vyrnwy on 5 Sep. Numbers breeding in our towns and villages have declined in recent years, but a top count of 100+ was made in Llanidloes on 15 Jul.

CUCKOO*Cuculus canorus*

SB3, P4



Cuckoo, Cwm Twrch near Foel, 12 May, by Aneurin Lloyd

First recorded on 13 Apr on Corndon Hill, near Churchstoke. Most calling males in April and early May are moving north on passage, but a few birds stay to breed on uplands (targeting Meadow Pipits) and at Cors Dyfi (where Reed Warblers are the host). The hills around Lake Vyrnwy are the county stronghold, where RSPB record 'many territories.'

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON*Columba livia*

RB5

Breeds widely in urban areas.

STOCK DOVE*Columba oenas*

RB5

Surprisingly common and widespread, but often unnoticed, in a variety of habitats including mature woodland and scattered trees (for nesting), and arable fields (for feeding), often with

Woodpigeons. Sizeable flocks were noted near Llandinam on 13 Jan and at Gregynog on 6 Mar. 2 *pulli* were ringed in a nest at Red House MWT Reserve near Garthmyl on the very early date of 5 Jan.

WOODPIGEON*Columba palumbus*

RB5

Abundant breeder and winter visitor. Large numbers are reported each autumn flying west.

COLLARED DOVE*Streptopelia decaocto*

RB5

A familiar sight especially in villages and around farms. The species was recorded on 64% (summer) and 52% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys. This winter figure is well below the average for the previous 3 years, which was 67%.

WATER RAIL*Rallus aquaticus*

W3



Water Rail, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 3 Sep, by Tony Coatsworth

Mostly a winter visitor, heard more often than seen. Singles were reported at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, Cors Dyfi and Dolydd Hafren. The only breeding season record was of 1 at Cors Dyfi on 26 Apr.

MOORHEN*Gallinula chloropus*

RB4

Common along the Montgomery Canal, and regularly reported at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas and Dolydd Hafren. Resident on many other ponds and lakes throughout the county.

COOT*Fulica atra*

RB3

A common sight on the larger water bodies such as Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. The top count there was 20+ on 7 Aug. 13 were at Lymore, Montgomery on 30 Dec.

LITTLE GREBE*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

R3

Recorded in small numbers, mostly outside the nesting season. Breeding was suspected at Pwll Penarth and confirmed on a small pool south of Kerry.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE*Podiceps cristatus*

SB3



Great Crested Grebe juvenile, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 23 Jun, by Meurig Garbutt

Reported in the summer months from the north-west end of Lake Vyrnwy and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, where typically one pair nest. One juvenile fledged from the latter site in Jul. Birds usually depart for the coast in late autumn.

OYSTERCATCHER*Haematopus ostralegus*

RB3

Small numbers breed on shingle along the Severn each year, especially at Dolydd Hafren and Caersws. Other records are from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas (where a nest on the island failed, but a pair remained through the summer), Lake Vyrnwy, Cors Dyfi and the River Vyrnwy at Meifod.

GOLDEN PLOVER*Pluvialis apricaria*

W4

The largest flocks of over 100 were at Trinnant, east of Tylwch on 5 Jan and on Corndon Hill on 26 Nov. Long Mountain near Welshpool (12 Jan), Llyn Mawr (30 Jan) and Adfa (27 Oct) held medium flocks (20-50). Other sites had single figures: 2 at Bwlch-y-Garreg on 6 Jan, 1 on Long Mountain (Beacon Ring Fort) on 30 Aug and 1 at Welshpool Golf Club on 6 Sep. RSPB reported 2 or 3 calling males on hills west of Lake Vyrnwy in May.

RINGED PLOVER*Charadrius hiaticula*

P2

On 6 and 20 Apr, a nocturnal recorder picked up singles overflying Welshpool. From 26 to 29 May, 1 was present in fields near Caerhowel.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER*Charadrius dubius*

SB3

First arrivals of the year were simultaneously reported from Llandinam Gravels and Dolydd Hafren, on 31 Mar. They breed along our larger rivers in small numbers, but a remarkable count of 25 was made (including juveniles) along one stretch of the Severn at Caersws on 29 Jun.

LAPWING	<i>Vanellus Vanellus</i>	RB3, W4
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The maximum winter count was 800 at Arddleen on 14 Jan. A breeding colony (rare now inland in Wales) in maize stubble with small pools between Forden and Caerhowel comprised about 10 pairs; 17 chicks were ringed on 28 May.

WHIMBREL	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	P2
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Two spring records, typical of northbound migration: 2 were feeding with Curlew at Newchapel near Llanidloes on 1 May, and 3 flew along the Dulas Valley north of Machynlleth on 18 May.

CURLEW	<i>Numenius Arquata</i>	RB3, W4
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A breeder in reducing numbers on our hillsides and water meadows, Curlews are more numerous in winter, with a maximum count of 57 at Dolydd Hafren on 27 Feb, and 30 at Caersws on 29 Feb. An encouraging project by Curlew Connections Wales found 23 nests in the county, from which 30 chicks hatched and about 9 fledged.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	P2
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10 were at Cors Dyfi on 14 Feb.

JACK SNIPE	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	P2
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2 records of this elusive, under-recorded visitor from the Russian Arctic: 1 near Bwlch-y-Garreg on 6 Jan, and 1 at Hem near Forden on 30 Sep.

WOODCOCK	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	W4
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A common but elusive and secretive winter visitor, mostly from Russian breeding grounds. No records after 23 Mar (1, Lake Vyrnwy) and before 8 Nov (1, also Lake Vyrnwy).

SNIPE	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	RB3, W4
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Snipe, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 17 Nov, by John Anderton

The moorland above Lake Vyrnwy holds a breeding population of up to 20 territories, now increasing as RSPB restore more peatland habitat. The wintering flock at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, often visible from the hide, reached a top count of 16 on 17 Nov.

COMMON SANDPIPER*Actitis hypoleucos*

SB3

First recorded on 7 Apr at Llandinam Gravels. Many pairs nest on shingle along the county's rivers and at Lake Vyrnwy, where an adult with 4 juveniles was seen on 31 May. 6 were at Bugeilyn on 9 Jun. Almost all leave the county for African wintering grounds; however, recent winters have produced a few records (20-40 individuals in Wales each winter). 1 was on the Dyfi just west of Machynlleth on 13 Dec.

GREEN SANDPIPER*Tringa ochropus*

P3



Green Sandpiper, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 3 Aug, by Meurig Garbutt

Mostly seen at migration times and in winter, small numbers were seen in various locations, especially Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. 1 was at Dolydd Hafren on 2 Jan; and on 9 Jul, 1 was at Caersws.

REDSHANK*Tringa totanus*

P3

The sole record came from the Dyfi near Cors Dyfi on 7 Jan.

GREENSHANK*Tringa nebularia*

P2

1 was along the Severn at Caersws on 9 Jul.

DUNLIN*Calidris alpina*

P2

Birds on northbound migration: 1, Cemmaes 13 Apr, and 1, Llanidloes 5 May.

BLACK-HEADED GULL*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

RB3

30 were at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 23 Feb, but the breeding colony there disappeared this year, after last year's disastrous avian flu outbreak. A single occupied nest was reported at Llyn Mawr MWT Reserve on 14 Jun: another location of a colony in the past.

COMMON GULL*Larus canus*

PW2

Occasional passage migrant and winter visitor. 5 were on temporary floodwater near Montgomery with 500 Lesser Black-backs on 21 Oct; and 1 was at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 30 Dec.

HERRING GULL*Larus argentatus*

RB3, W4

Herring Gulls in the county are outnumbered by Lesser Black-backs, but small numbers nest in Welshpool and Newtown. Outside the breeding season, they are more widespread, especially in the west of the county. The top counts received were 36 at Llwynderw, Old Hall, on 3 Aug, and 12 in Machynlleth on 29 Aug.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL*Larus michahellis*

P1

This Herring Gull-lookalike breeds in the Mediterranean and is becoming more regular in UK. A solitary record of 1 with Lesser Black-backs on 28 Apr on flooded fields near Forden.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL*Larus marinus*

PW3

A few scattered records of small numbers, almost all in the west of the county, e.g. Cors Dyfi (1, 20 Mar), Machynlleth (1, 13 Apr), Mochdre, Newtown (3, 15 Apr), Llanwrin (2, 15 Apr) and Llyn Clywedog (1 Jul).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL*Larus fuscus*

RB4, W5

In recent years this has become our most abundant gull, commonly seen on newly-ploughed and newly-silaged fields. Large flocks are now regular in winter, whereas 50 years ago almost all would have migrated south to the Mediterranean. Potters, near Welshpool Station, has a regular breeding population of a few pairs nesting on low factory roofs.

GANNET*Morus bassanus*

V2



Gannet, near Aberhafesp, 25 Sep, by Sue Lloyd-Jones

A juvenile was found grounded after heavy rain at Aberhafesp on 25 Sep. It was taken for rehabilitation to Cuan House Wildlife Rescue in Much Wenlock and released.

MANX SHEARWATER*Puffinus puffinus*

V2

A storm-blown bird was found near Newtown in late Jun or early Jul. As with the species above, it was successfully rehabilitated at Cuan House.

CORMORANT*Phalacrocorax carbo*

RB2, W4

A common sight along the county's main rivers. Maximum count was of 35 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 28 Jan: an unusually high number. 3 pairs nested there, on the horizontal branches of the large oak on the island. Elsewhere, 9 were on Llyn Du, Meifod, on 15 Dec.

LITTLE EGRET*Egretta garzetta*

R3

The first confirmed successful breeding in the county occurred in 2020 in the Welshpool heronry, where a pair raised three chicks. 4 pairs nested there in 2024. Nearby, the winter roost behind the island at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas reached peak numbers on 11 Feb, with 34 Little, 2 Cattle and 7 Great Egrets. Elsewhere, top count was 26 on flooded fields near Montgomery on 24 Dec.

GREAT EGRET*Ardea alba*

W3



Great Egret, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 23 June, by Meurig Garbutt

Great Egrets continue to increase in the county, with records from the Rivers Dyfi, Severn and Vyrnwy, but most from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, where the roost on 28 Jan included 17 Great Egrets with Cattle and Little Egrets. There were no records of any with black bills (breeding condition), though a possible juvenile seen at the above site in Jun was not considered proof of local breeding. The first nesting in Wales is still eagerly anticipated.

CATTLE EGRET*Bubulcus ibis*

V

Llyn Coed-y-Dinas produced the most records: 2 on 28 Jan, 2 on 11 Feb, 1 on 30 May, and 1 on 14 Nov. Elsewhere 2 were at Dolydd Hafren on 2 Jan, 1 east of Caersws on 4 Jan, 3 at Lime Kilns Lane, Welshpool on 10 Jan, and 1 near Machynlleth on 15 Dec.

GREY HERON*Ardea cinerea*

RB4

The recently established heronry in a small sprucewood above The Flash in Welshpool has increased to 33 pairs. Other heronries in the county are much smaller: in approximate order of size they are near Llandinam (in oak), Aberbechan (larch), north of Aberangell (larch), near Llanwrin (larch), Bryngwyn Hall (Bwlch-y-Cibau – spruce and alder), Glansevern Hall (Douglas fir and pine), near Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain (oak) and Carno (mixed). Another heronry overlooking the Wye near Llangurig (in conifers) was only discovered this year.

PURPLE HERON*Ardea purpurea*

V1

1 took off from the first pool along the boardwalk at Cors Dyfi on 16 Apr. The highly experienced MWT engagement officer (who flushed it) provided a good description. However, the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee have declined to accept it, despite another record close by (at Cletwr, Ceredigion) around the same time.

OSPREY*Pandion haliaetus*

SB3



Osprey, Cors Dyfi, 27 Mar, by Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

3 pairs nested in the county, and all juveniles were ringed. At Cors Dyfi, adults Idris and Telyn fledged 3 young. At Llyn Clywedog, adults Dylan and Seren fledged 3 chicks. The newer nest, at the opposite end of Clywedog, fledged 2 young. The first migrant to arrive was at Llandinam on 20 Mar; and the final departure was Idris at Cors Dyfi on 1 Sep, soon after his last offspring departed. Many other records were received of wandering or migrant Ospreys through the summer. Llandinam and Dolydd Hafren both had very regular visits.

GOSHAWK*Accipiter gentilis*

RB3

Widespread but often under-reported. Goshawks favour conifer forests for breeding. Persecution persists in pheasant-rearing areas.



Sparrowhawk, Mochdre, 18 Nov 25, by Dave Lister

A common resident throughout the county, secretive during the breeding season. Often conspicuous around bird feeders. The species was recorded on 71% (summer) and 60% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

MARSH HARRIER*Circus aeruginosus*

P2

Reported only from Cors Dyfi, on 14 Feb, 20 Mar, and regularly through the summer. Ynys Hir RSPB reserve, just over the border in Ceredigion, had a successful nest with 3 young fledged.

HEN HARRIER*Circus cyaneus*

RB3

3 pairs nested at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB, though 2 nests failed. Elsewhere, scattered records at various times of year from Cors Dyfi, Llyn Hir near Llanerfyl, Dylife, Mochdre, Carno, and Welshpool Golf Club.

RED KITE*Milvus milvus*

RB4

According to the BTO, there has been a fourfold increase in the Welsh population of Red Kite in the last 25 years. They can now be seen regularly in any part of the county, though less abundant in the north. The species was recorded on 98% of the 2024 MWT garden surveys, both in summer and winter.

BUZZARD*Buteo buteo*

RB5



Buzzard, Mochdre, 30 Nov, by Dave Lister

The most commonly reported raptor in the county (though Red Kite is a close second). Buzzards are a familiar sight all year round, throughout the county. Buzzard density in Wales is as high as anywhere in Europe, according to a recent RSPB study. The species was recorded on 98% (summer) and 95% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

BARN OWL*Tyto alba*

RB3

Thanks to 2 groups who devote many hours of work protecting Barn Owls, the density of breeding pairs in the county far exceeds other parts of Wales: the Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group reported 101 monitored nests in the county, with 354 chicks raised. The Species Habitat Protection Group had 36 breeding sites, and ringed 152 *pulli* and 4 adults.

LITTLE OWL*Athene noctua*

RB2



Little Owl, Guilsfield, 20 Apr, by Dave Lister

Little Owls are much harder to find in the county than 25 years ago, with numbers in Wales reducing by three-quarters in that period (according to the BTO Breeding Bird Survey). 2 pairs

nested in the Guilsfield area, 1 fledging 1 young. On 17 Feb, 1 flew into a window at Four Crosses, but recovered. Other records came from Llandyssil, Llaethbwllch near Llanfyllin, and near Forden.

LONG-EARED OWL*Asio otus*

W2

3 records: 2 from remote camera footage at Lake Vyrnwy of a perched bird on 24 Apr and 25 Oct; and 1 at Cors Dyfi on 13 Jun, a known nesting area.

SHORT-EARED OWL*Asio flammeus*

W3



Short-eared Owl, near Llanerfyl, 27 Dec by Aneurin Lloyd

According to Lake Vyrnwy RSPB, a pair was on territory in spring; and 2 were in suitable breeding habitat near Adfa on 24 Apr, with 1 a little further west on 24 May. Other sightings were 1 between Llandinam and Mochdre on 16 Sep, 1 at Cripiau Eisteddfa-fach west of Llangurig on 25 Dec, and 1 photographed near Llanerfyl on 27 Dec.

TAWNY OWL*Strix aluco*

RB4

Widely distributed. The species was recorded on 83% (summer) and 78% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys (about average for the years 2020-4).

KINGFISHER*Alcedo atthis*

RB4

Recorded from a number of rivers, streams and lakes throughout the county. Birdtrack received 45 records from 35 sites.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER*Dryobates minor*

R2

Two reliable records this year, after a few years with none. 1 was at Ketch Bach near Llanfyllin on 11 Apr; and 1 was seen and heard at Blaen Tafolog near Mallwyd, on 28 May.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER*Dendrocopos major*

RB5

Widespread and common. Often recorded on feeders in the larger and more rural gardens. In the last 25 years, numbers in Wales have more than tripled (according to the BTO Breeding Bird Survey). The species was recorded on 94% (summer) and 89% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys – about average for the last 5 years.

GREEN WOODPECKER*Picus viridis*

RB3



Green Woodpecker, Powis Castle, 6 Jan by Aneurin Lloyd

Widespread in small numbers; more common in the east of county.

KESTREL*Falco tinnunculus*

RB3

Scarce. 5 nestboxes monitored by the Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group produced 24 juveniles. Regular sightings came from Welshpool Golf Course, the Llyn Mawr area, and around Llyn Hir; also Corndon Hill, Middletown Hill and Lake Vyrnwy.

MERLIN*Falco columbarius*

RB2, W2



Merlin, near Cefn Coch, 17 Sep, by John Formstone

2 pairs nested successfully at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, fledging 4 juveniles each. Elsewhere, sightings came from Arddleen (1, 14 Jan), near Dolfor (1, 19 Feb), north-west of Llangynog (1, 31 May), Clywedog (1, 9 Jul), Dylife (6 Mar, 25 May and 16 Nov), and east of Llanidloes (1, 23 Aug). On 17 Sep, 1 was photographed at Y Foel Quarry, west of Cefn Coch.

HOBBY*Falco subbuteo*

SB3

Successful nests were on the RSPB Lake Vyrnwy Reserve, and at Mochdre and Dolfor. First of the year was at Mochdre on 8 May, and the latest record was from Bacheldre on 9 Sep.

PEREGRINE*Falco peregrinus*

RB3

Breeds in several traditional sites round the county, and maintains a stable population.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE*Lanius excubitor*

PW2

Several records, but possibly all referring to a single bird, which arrived in Dyfnant Forest in Nov 2023, and was relocated nearby on 5 Jan. On 19 Jan it (or another) was at Lake Vyrnwy. On 28 Oct there was a new sighting by the Lake Vyrnwy RSPB office, moving to the Eunant area of the reserve on 30 Oct. The final sighting was on 15 Nov, on the road from the lake towards Bala.

JAY*Garrulus glandarius*

RB5



Jay, Castle Caereinion, 26 Oct, by Aneurin Lloyd

Jays are thriving in the county, in their preferred habitat of broadleaved woodland and woodland edge. The species was recorded on 64% (summer) and 61% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

MAGPIE*Pica pica*

RB5

Familiar and abundant, but not always popular, as Magpies affect songbird populations locally through nest predation. Their overall population trend in Wales in recent years is stable or slightly downwards (according to the BTO Breeding Bird Survey). The species was recorded on 98% (summer) and 96% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

JACKDAW*Coloeus monedula*

RB5

A common sight among larger corvids feeding in fields. Jackdaws nest typically in holes in trees, on crags, cliffs or in old chimneys. The species was recorded on 79% (summer) and 73% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys: both figures higher than the average for the last 5 years.

ROOK*Corvus frugilegus*

RB5

Rooks are more closely associated with arable land than their close relative Carrion Crow. Rookeries occur in suitable treetops around the county. In Wales their overall population trend is gradually downwards.

CARRION CROW*Corvus corone*

RB5

Ubiquitous and abundant. Carrion Crows have flourished alongside modern agricultural methods and in uncultivated uplands. Their abundance has a significant impact on the breeding success of Lapwings and Curlews.

RAVEN*Corvus corax*

RB4

Ravens occur widely throughout the county, nesting on cliffs, crags and in trees (usually conifers). They maintain a stable population in the county.

WAXWING*Bombycilla garrulus*

W3



Waxwing, Newtown, 17 Jan, by Paul Stratford

This occasional winter visitor began the year strongly, with 67 at Newtown College on 1 Jan (the top count in the county all winter). 40 were there on 18 Jan, and 30 on 3 Feb. Welshpool had 5 on 1 Jan, 1 on 24 Jan, 1 on 13 Feb and 7 on 18 Feb. A flock of 20 appeared in Meifod on 3 Jan. At Wern near Arddleen, 3 were present on 7 Jan and 9 on 16 Jan. The final sighting was 6 at Bwlch-y-Garreg on 17 Mar.

COAL TIT*Periparus ater*

RB4

A conifer specialist, Coal Tits nest and winter in the county in good numbers. They also readily visit garden feeders. The species was recorded on 77% (summer) and 82% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

MARSH TIT*Poecile palustris*

RB3



Marsh Tit, Castle Caereinion, 1 Apr, by Aneurin Lloyd

Small numbers nest in the county, usually in natural sites. 16 Birdtrack records came from 8 sites, including Moel-y-Garth near Guilsfield, Leighton (Welshpool), Lake Vyrnwy, Powis Castle, Welshpool Golf Course, Berriew and Newchapel near Llanidloes.

WILLOW TIT*Poecile montanus*

RB3

Scarce and elusive, but still present in the county where suitable wet scrub and woodland habitat remains. 31 territories were found at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, mostly in forestry plantations. 8 Birdtrack records came from 8 sites, mostly different parts of Lake Vyrnwy but also Glaspwll near Machynlleth and Kerry Ridgeway.

BLUE TIT*Cyanistes caeruleus*

RB5

Abundant and familiar. 2024 was a poor nesting season especially for pairs that nested early.

GREAT TIT*Parus major*

RB5

As for Blue Tit (above). At Allt Goch, Llanidloes, 26 pairs nested, compared with 25 pairs of Blue Tits – an unusually high ratio.

SKYLARK*Alauda arvensis*

RB4

Widespread on less intensive farmland and on uncultivated uplands, usually moving to lower levels in winter, or moving south out of our area.

SAND MARTIN*Riparia riparia*

SB4

An early arriving summer visitor which nests along the sandy banks of our larger rivers, especially at Dolydd Hafren and Llandinam Gravels. First reported on 18 Mar at Dolydd Hafren, and latest on 20 Sep at Meifod. 20+ were over Pwll Penarth on 29 Apr.



Swallow juveniles, near Meifod, 16 Sep, by John Anderton

One early arrival was on 19 Mar at Llangurig but most of our Swallows arrive in April and early May. Most leave in Sep. Latest report was 1 at Lake Vyrnwy on 8 Oct.

HOUSE MARTIN*Delichon urbicum*

SB5

First record was 5 Apr at Tyr Gwynt Windfarm near Carno. Most birds return to their nesting areas in mid-May, and depart in Sep or early Oct. A gathering of 60 was noted at Llanymynech Rocks on 21 Sep; and the final sighting was on 16 Oct at Hendomen, Montgomery.

CETTI'S WARBLER*Cettia cetti*

R2

This non-migratory warbler is a recent colonist to Wales, with the first proven nesting in the county in 2021. Most numerous at Cors Dyfi, where up to 4 birds were heard during the summer. Records of singles from Pwll Penarth, another known nesting area, came in Apr, Jun and Oct. On 14 Apr 1 was heard just north of Welshpool along the canal, and 1 stayed at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas from 16 Sep to 5 Oct.

LONG-TAILED TIT*Aegithalos caudatus*

RB5

A common breeder, forming flocks with other tit species from late summer to early spring, and regularly visiting feeders in larger and more rural gardens. The species was recorded on 66% (summer) and 78% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys: both figures are lower than average for the last 5 years.

WOOD WARBLER*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

SB3

This iconic species is characteristic of Welsh hillsides clothed in mature broadleaf forest, especially sessile oak, but increasingly also conifers. Most records are from May and June. Many records are from Lake Vyrnwy, which has about 13 territories, but they are thinly distributed through the county in suitable habitat. The earliest reported was at Lake Vyrnwy on 17 Apr. 5 were found in

woodlands around Llawr-y-Glyn on 29 May. Other records came from Cefn Llwyni near Llanfyllin, and a large conifer block west of Llangurig. The year's last sighting was at Llwynderw, Old Hall on 25 Aug.

WILLOW WARBLER*Phylloscopus trochilus*

SB5

In recent years Willow Warblers have lost ground in lowland areas of Wales, but they maintain healthy populations in the uplands. First of the year was recorded on 22 Mar at Llanfair Caereinion, and latest was at Lake Vyrnwy on 13 Sep.

CHIFFCHAFF*Phylloscopus collybita*

SB5

A common summer visitor, arriving in March and departing in Sep and Oct, although a few stay on to winter at a few sheltered and insect-rich sites. The breeding population in Wales has almost doubled since 1994. Big influxes were reported on 14 and 18 Mar. Winter records came from Pwll Penarth on 27 Feb and 16 Dec, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 12 Dec, and 26 Dec at Ty Brith MWT Reserve near Four Crosses. The species was recorded on 83% of the summer 2024 MWT garden surveys, a higher figure than the average over the last 5 years.

SEDGE WARBLER*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

SB4

The first reported was on 13 Apr at Cors Dyfi, which is the county stronghold for this species, with several breeding pairs. Other regular haunts are Dolydd Hafren, Pwll Penarth, and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. Surprisingly, there were no received records after 1 at Cors Dyfi on 19 Jul.

REED WARBLER*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

SB3



Reed Warbler, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 23 Jun by Meurig Garbutt

Reed Warblers are most often seen at Cors Dyfi, Dolydd Hafren (where the first hide overlooks a breeding area) and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. First recorded on 13 Apr at Cors Dyfi, and latest 27 Aug at Dolydd Hafren.



Grasshopper Warbler, Ceri Forest, 28 Apr, by Paul Davies

An elusive and under-recorded summer visitor. Earliest reported arrival was on 12 Apr at Cors Dyfi, where 1 or more were recorded throughout the breeding season. About 10 pairs nest each year at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB Reserve. Few other records, but 1 was on the slopes of Pen Coed near Llanerfyl on 23 Jun, and 1 was at Llyn Clywedog on 2 Jul. The latest was 1 at Llanymynech Rocks on 28 Jul.

BLACKCAP*Sylvia atricapilla*

SB5, W3

Blackcap is (like Chiffchaff) a warbler on the increase in Wales. Mostly summer visitors, arriving in large numbers in April. A few wintering records: 14 Jan in Welshpool, 7 Mar in Newtown and 25 Dec at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. The first reported singing migrant appeared at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 29 Mar. The species was recorded on 61% of the summer 2024 MWT garden surveys: a higher figure than the 5-year average.

GARDEN WARBLER*Sylvia borin*

SB4

This summer visitor breeds in suitable scrub throughout the county, but is never as common as its close relative the Blackcap. First of the year was 13 Apr near Llanfechain. Birdtrack received 49 records from 39 sites, but none later than 5 Jul at Llanymynech Rocks.

LESSER WHITETHROAT*Sylvia curruca*

SB3

First recorded in Montgomery on 22 Apr. The few other records were from Middletown (4 May), Carreghofa (23 May) and Garthmyl on 29 Jun. Never numerous, and heard more than seen.

WHITETHROAT*Sylvia communis*

SB5

Whitethroats arrive in late April and stay until September, choosing scrubby open habitats with small trees which they use for song-perches. Birdtrack received 29 records from 25 sites, (surprisingly) fewer than Garden Warbler. First was at Lake Vyrnwy on 17 Apr, and the latest date was 3 Sep in Kerry Forest.

FIRECREST*Regulus ignicapilla*

P2

3 records, 2 from Lake Vyrnwy: 1 on 5 Mar and 2 on 12 May; also 1 (of 2 seen) was photographed in Castle Caereinion on 17 Nov.



Firecrest, 17 Nov, and Goldcrest, 29 Sep: both Castle Caereinion, by Aneurin Lloyd

GOLDCREST*Regulus regulus*

RB4, W5

Many nest in the county, usually in conifers; but still more visit on autumn passage, often from Scandinavia. Commonly found in winter in suitable habitat.

WREN*Troglodytes troglodytes*

RB5

Present in most habitats. The species was recorded on 98% of the 2024 MWT garden surveys, summer and winter.

NUTHATCH*Sitta europaea*

RB4

We have a thriving population of Nuthatch in the county. Often seen on feeders in larger, more rural gardens, as well as in their natural habitat of mature broadleaved woodland. 8 pairs nested in boxes at Allt Goch, Llanidloes, the highest number since the project began. The species was recorded on 83% (summer) and 77% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

TREECREEPER*Certhia familiaris*

RB4

Widespread and common, though less conspicuous than Nuthatch. Birdtrack received 123 records from 62 sites. The species was recorded on 44% (summer) and 42% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

STARLING	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	RB4, W5
Declining as a breeding bird in the county; however, winter flocks of migrants from the continent occur widely. Notable examples were 400 at Gregynog on 6 Mar, 70 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 21 Oct, and 350 at Dolfor on 18 Dec, but no large murmurations were recorded. The species was recorded on 48% (summer) and 81% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys: the winter figure is above average for the last 5 years.		
SONG THRUSH	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	RB5
A familiar but retiring species. Most conspicuous in spring and summer when males are singing, repeating each phrase. Many more continental birds arrive for the winter. The species was recorded on 83% (summer) and 57% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.		
MISTLE THRUSH	<i>Turdus viscivora</i>	RB4
Mistle Thrushes nest in various woodland, woodland edge, and hedgerow habitats, and draw attention to themselves in late winter and early spring with their loud, short song-phrases. After the breeding season, family parties join up and can sometimes be seen in flocks, especially on open hillsides where they defend fruiting rowan trees. Examples include 18 at Llangurig on 18 Jul, and 30 at Llwynderw, Old Hall, on 20 Sep.		
REDWING	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	W5
Often abundant in winter and usually outnumbering Fieldfare. Latest record in spring was 29 Mar at Llanfair Caereinion, and first in autumn was a flock of 30 at Cemmaes on 2 Oct. The species was recorded on 40% of the winter 2024 MWT garden surveys.		
BLACKBIRD	<i>Turdus merula</i>	RB5
Abundant as a breeding bird, and augmented in winter with many continental visitors. The mosquito-borne virus Usutu, which has caused a decline in Blackbirds in south-east England, has thankfully not reached Wales yet.		
FIELDFARE	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	W5
Frequently seen between October and April, these gregarious Scandinavian visitors often accompany Redwings. They enter gardens to feed on fallen fruit in hard weather. Latest in spring was on 6 Apr in Welshpool, and the first autumn record was also in Welshpool on 4 Oct. On 23 Feb a flock estimated at 1200 was flushed by a Sparrowhawk at Trelystan, Long Mountain near Welshpool. The species was recorded on 38% of the winter 2024 MWT garden surveys.		
RING OUZEL	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	SB2, P
8 spring records: 1 near Cefn Coch on 5 Apr was the first. Then 6 Apr (2, Welshpool), 8 Apr (1 near Llyn Hir), 10 Apr (1, Dolfor), 13 Apr (an impressive 8 on the north side of Corndon Hill), 17 Apr (2, Lake Vyrnwy), 18 Apr (1, Llyn Hir) and 24 May (1, Cwmbelan). 3 were at Llyn Clywedog on 9 Jul, and the final sighting was 1 at Eunant, Lake Vyrnwy, on 30 Oct.		
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	SB3
This declining summer visitor was first reported on 7 May near Cefn Coch. RSPB Lake Vyrnwy estimates 10 territories on the reserve. Birdtrack received 28 records from 21 sites. 2 pairs nested successfully in a garden at Dylife, fledging 5 and 3 juveniles. The latest record was from Moel-y-Garth near Guilsfield on 8 Sep.		

ROBIN*Erithacus rubecula*

RB5

Well distributed throughout our woods, hedges and gardens. Notable among British birds for maintaining individual winter territories, with females singing in defence of their patch just as males do.

PIED FLYCATCHER*Ficedula hypoleuca*

SB4



Pied Flycatcher, Lake Vyrnwy, 22 Apr by Sam Sharpe

First record was at Llandinam on 4 Apr. Birdtrack received 67 records from 43 sites. RSPB Lake Vyrnwy had 127 nestboxes occupied by this species. At a private reserve near Llanfyllin, 89 *pulli* fledged from 20 nests. Allt Goch, Llanidloes had 107 chicks fledge from 22 nests. The Species Habitat Protection Group monitored 49 nests and ringed 165 chicks. Seldom recorded in late July or August as birds leave the county on early migration. The latest record received was 10 Jul at Lake Vyrnwy.

REDSTART*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

SB4



Redstarts, near Meifod, 23 Apr, by John Anderton

First recorded in Vaynor Park, Berriew, on 1 Apr. A relatively common breeding visitor in suitable habitat throughout the county. The latest sighting was in Kerry Forest on 3 Sep.

WHINCHAT*Saxicola rubetra*

SB3

Latest data from RSPB Lake Vyrnwy suggest a total of about 75 territories; more sparsely distributed in other upland areas. First recorded at Welshpool Golf Course on 14 Apr, and latest on 26 Sep at Llandinam.

STONECHAT*Saxicola rubicola*

SB4



Stonechat, near Cefn Coch, 18 Aug by Aneurin Lloyd

For unknown reasons (but possibly a series of mild winters), Stonechat has the steepest upward trend of any passerine in Wales: a 256% increase between 1995 and 2020. Scattered records: Stonechats nest in small numbers typically on uncultivated hillsides, often with heather or gorse. A top count of 12 was at Pistyll Rhaeadr on 5 Jul.

WHEATEAR*Oenanthe oenanthe*

SB3, P4

Fairly familiar on hillsides and mountains in spring and autumn, with some staying to breed. First of the year was on 18 Mar at Lake Vyrnwy, and the latest 7 Oct at Llanbrynmair. Birdtrack received 26 records from 19 sites.

DIPPER*Cinclus cinclus*

RB3



Dipper, Pwll Penarth, 24 Apr by Paul Davies

Dippers can be found throughout the year on fast-flowing streams and rivers throughout the county. Successful breeding was noted at Pwll Penarth on the Severn and Dolanog on the Vyrnwy.

TREE SPARROW*Passer montanus*

RB3

Few records of this declining species, but 1 was on roadside wires at Llanerfyl on 18 Oct.

HOUSE SPARROW*Passer domesticus*

RB5

Common in towns, villages and around farms. House Sparrows appear to maintain a stable population in the county, without the abrupt declines noted in towns in other parts of the country. The species was recorded on 94% (summer) and 88% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys, which are about average for the last 5 years.

DUNNOCK*Prunella modularis*

RB5

A familiar but inconspicuous resident of our gardens and hedgerows, announcing its presence in spring with a repeated, rather tuneless jingle. The species was recorded on 94% of the 2024 MWT garden surveys, both summer and winter.

YELLOW WAGTAIL*Motacilla flava*

SB3

Elusive and declining in the county, these summer visitors favour rough pasture and water meadows. First recorded on 6 Apr at Caerhowel, where successful breeding was confirmed on 9 Jun. At Carreghofa, alarm calls on 29 Jun suggested breeding there too. The latest sighting was at Bacheldre on 29 Aug.

GREY WAGTAIL*Motacilla cinerea*

RB4



Grey Wagtail, Pwll Penarth, 4 May by Paul Davies

Resident and widespread along streams, rivers and the Montgomery Canal.

PIED WAGTAIL*Motacilla alba*

RB5

A bird often associated with farmyards and villages. Outside the breeding season, a regular roost can be found at the sewage works at Pwll Penarth near Newtown. The species was recorded on 77% (summer) and 65% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

MEADOW PIPIT*Anthus pratensis*

SB5

Common breeder on treeless hillsides throughout the county.

TREE PIPIT*Anthus trivialis*

SB4

Under-recorded, but a regular summer visitor on open hillsides with scattered trees used as song-perches. First recorded at Old Hall, Llanidloes on 11 Apr. A top count of 10 was made nearby at Frochas Common on 1 May. The latest sighting was at Pantperthog on 6 Aug.

CHAFFINCH*Fringilla coelebs*

RB5

Common but declining in the county. Conspicuous when breeding with its loud song. In winter numbers are augmented by continental birds, mostly from Scandinavia. The species was recorded on 94% (summer) and 91% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

BRAMBLING*Fringilla montifringilla*

W4

A regular winter visitor to the county from Scandinavia in varying numbers. The latest to linger in spring was on 2 May at Mochdre; and the first autumn arrival was on 22 Oct at Lake Vyrnwy. Flocks of 100 were noted at Dolfor on 31 Jan and on 21 Feb at Mochdre, where 1 leucistic bird had a white head.

HAWFINCH*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

RB2, W3



Hawfinch, Mochdre, 8 Jun by Dave Lister

This year produced no records from the traditional stronghold around Machynlleth. Most records came from the Welshpool area, where the traditional wintering ground of Powis Castle produced records of 1 on 19 Mar and 2 on 17 Nov. 3 were at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 24 and 25 Jan, and 2 on 8 Apr drinking at a puddle. Elsewhere 1 was at Mochdre on 8 Jan, and 1 at Bwlchyllan, Llanfyllin, on 13 Nov.

BULLFINCH*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

RB5

Often overlooked and elusive, but present throughout in suitable habitat in apparently stable numbers. The species was recorded on 75% (summer) and 57% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys. The summer figure is unusually high.

GREENFINCH*Chloris chloris*

RB5

Patchily distributed through the county in small numbers. In recent years Greenfinches in U.K. have been badly affected by the disease *Trichomonosis*, which is related to poor hygiene at bird feeders. The species was recorded on 68% (summer) and 53% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

TWITE*Linaria flavirostris*

V2

A rare appearance of this upland finch was on 26 Mar at Alltforan, Lake Vyrnwy, where one flew over calling.

LINNET*Linaria cannabina*

RB5

Breeding often semi-colonially and in gorse, Linnets are widespread in suitable habitats in summer.

REDPOLL*Acanthis cabaret*

RB4



Redpoll, near Meifod, 7 Apr by John Anderton

More common in the west of the county and at Lake Vyrnwy, Redpolls are associated with birches and conifers. A spring passage through the county brings some birds to garden feeders. Some stay on to breed in *fridd* habitat.

CROSSBILL*Loxia curvirostra*

RB4

Resident breeder (starting in Jan) and irruptive winter visitor, in large conifer plantations. Birdtrack received 39 records from 20 sites, from various parts of the county.

GOLDFINCH*Carduelis carduelis*

RB5

A common visitor to gardens, bird feeders and rough pastures throughout the county, with an upward population trend. The species was recorded on 91% (summer) and 80% (winter) of the 2024 MWT garden surveys.

SISKIN*Spinus spinus*

RB4



Siskin, Llangadfan, 25 Feb by Pat Powell

A common breeder in upland conifer plantations; and regular in varying numbers on garden feeders. The felling of all the larch at Lake Vyrnwy has reduced numbers there. On 21 Feb, 150 were at a private reserve at Mochdre. A garden in Churchstoke attracted hundreds in early March – the Shropshire ringers ringed 300 in a day.

YELLOWHAMMER*Emberiza citronella*

RB4

A bird of patchy distribution in the county, and losing ground in areas of more intensive agriculture. Birdtrack received 22 records from 16 sites, including Bacheldre, Dolanog, Llanfechain, Carreghofa, Kerry, Cyfronydd, Trelystan and Welshpool Golf Club. A previously strong population in the Bacheldre hedgerows appears to have crashed during the 2024 summer.

REED BUNTING*Emberiza schoeniclus*

RB3

Patchily distributed around wetlands and uplands; most records came from the major wetland sites such as Cors Dyfi, Dolydd Hafren, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, Lake Vyrnwy, Llyn Hir, Llyn Clywedog, etc.