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NORTH WALES BREEDING BIRD ATLAS SPONSORSHIP NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2010

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Background to the project

The project aims to produce the first comprehensive distribution atlas of the breeding birds of North Wales (Flintshire, Denbighshire, Wrexham, Conwy, Gwynedd and Ynys Môn). This entire project is managed by volunteers, coordinating several hundred more volunteers to undertake the fieldwork in the four breeding seasons from 2008 to 2011. The information gathered by the project will make a significant contribution to conservation of birds in the region, and assist practical biodiversity action plan projects being undertaken by partner organisations in both the public and non-governmental sectors. This is why the project is endorsed and supported by a wide variety of partner organisations including all the region's local authorities, public sector organisations such as the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Environment Agency Wales (EAW) and Forestry Commission (FC) and a wide variety of non-governmental organisations such as RSPB, the North Wales Wildlife Trust and the local record centre, Cofnod.

The project is based on the national bird atlas survey programme being coordinated by the British Trust for Ornithology and supported by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and BirdWatch Ireland. However, it was decided to undertake a more comprehensive and detailed survey of North Wales in order to publish the first distribution atlas of the region's breeding birds. The results of this project will be published in book form including at least a page on the majority of native wild bird species recorded breeding within the study area, and a distribution map on a tetrad (2x2 km square) basis.

Anne Brenchley
North East Wales Coordinator
Chair – North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas Project Group

Geoff Gibbs
North West Wales Coordinator

Publishing costs

The book (paperback is the preferred option at present) will include information on how the atlas survey was conducted, key habitats for birds in North Wales in addition to the individual species accounts and clear maps showing current distribution and where relevant a comparison with previous national atlas distributions.

The project aims to produce this publication without any financial loss. The project itself has been run at minimal cost and the whole programme has only been possible because we have sought and received grant aid towards volunteer training and equipment purchase from a variety of bodies including Awards for All Wales, Chester Zoological Society, and several other bodies have made donations. It is anticipated that in order to print sufficient copies of this book, which will be sold to volunteers and other members of the public, the project has to raise at least £15,000 and this should ensure that the retail price is kept to a reasonable level (not exceeding £30). It is also expected that copies of the book will be distributed widely to our main partners, in libraries and possibly in high schools if sufficient grant-aid or sponsorship is achieved. The project is now offering four levels of sponsorship:

1. Major Sponsorship exceeding **£1000**. This will guarantee logos on the cover of the final publication and a free copy of the publication.
2. Corporate Sponsorship and 3. Individual Sponsorship at **£200** per species guarantees sole sponsorship for that species and sponsors will be acknowledged with each relevant species account in the final publication.
4. Individual Sponsorship at **£25** per species will be acknowledged with the relevant species account in the final publication and this sponsorship may be shared between no more than two sponsors (each paying £25) as we know that many of you may share an interest in one particular species.

Corporate and Individual Sponsors

We have spent the last few months inviting organisations/groups/clubs and businesses to support the project by sponsoring a species page in the final publication for the sum of £200. So far we have received corporate sponsorship for seventeen species with more anticipated.

Corporate Sponsors – monies paid	Species
Trunk Roads Agency	Barn Owl
Clwyd Bird Recording Group	Black Grouse
North East Wales Wildlife	Bullfinch
First Hydro + North Wales Wildlife Trust	Chough
Welsh Raptor Study Group (NE Wales)	Hen Harrier and Merlin
Flintshire County Council	Lapwing
Magnox North + North Wales Wildlife Trust	Little Ringed Plover
Denbighshire County Council	Little Tern
North Wales Wildlife Trust	Nightjar
e-on	Peregrine
Magnox North – Wylfa	Sandwich Tern
Snowdonia National Park Authority	Twite
Cambrian Ornithological Society	Ring Ouzel
Glaslyn Osprey supporters	Osprey
Deeside Naturalists' Society	Shelduck
Gwynedd County Council	Yellowhammer

Several individuals have also come forward to sponsor species, either in their own name or *in memoriam* of another, at the rate of £200 and so far we have received this kind of sponsorship for a further five species.

Individual sponsors – monies paid	Great Spotted Woodpecker
	Pied Flycatcher
	Raven
	Redstart
	Tree Sparrow



Buzzard by Barry Barnacal



Golden Plover by Steve Culley

Corporate sponsorship has either been pledged or is pending for the following species and we hope to update the above tables on the North Wales Bird Atlas website on a regular basis.

Monies promised/pending	
Arctic Tern	Bearded Tit
Black Guillemot	Curlew
Eider	Goosander
Little Egret	Manx Shearwater
Oystercatcher	Puffin
Red Grouse	Red Kite
Skylark	

Your sponsorship is now needed

We are now inviting more organisations and individuals to take up this challenge. However, we do accept that £200 will be too much for many of the people who might be interested in species sponsorship and so that is why we are also having the fourth level of sponsorship, which is for £25 per species, BUT this does not guarantee sole species support as we propose that species can be shared between no more than two sponsors, each paying £25. All species breeding in North Wales that do not feature in the lists above are now available for sponsorship. A complete list of all the known species breeding in North Wales can be found on the website. Maybe you are one of our valued atlas surveyors or just a supporter of the project but either way your help is now needed. Species sponsorship would make a good Christmas present for a friend or family member or you perhaps have a personal favourite. Whatever you choose we would now like to hear from you. Sponsorship can be in the form of cash or cheque (made payable to Clwyd Bird Recording Group – North Wales Atlas Sub-Account). Please send your sponsorship monies to Ian Spence at the following address:

43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6LT (01352 750118) or email:

ianspence.cr@btinternet.com

Some interesting statistics

Number of species breeding in North Wales	185+
Number of tetrads covered by the atlas	1796
Total number of volunteers contributing records for the project	c700
Number of volunteers who have contributed over 1000 records	63
Number of volunteers who have contributed 500-999 records	36
Number of volunteers who have contributed 100-499 records	189

Initial Results – Winners and Losers

The preliminary examination of the results received so far has shown that we have cause for concern over several species. These are unsurprisingly many of the species that are highlighted nationally as being of conservation concern and include: most of our breeding waders, Kestrel, Cuckoo, Swift, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Ring Ouzel, Wood Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Whinchat, Redstart, Marsh and Willow Tit, Hawfinch, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting and House Sparrow. Conservation action for some key specialities such as Black Grouse, Red Kite, Hen Harrier and Chough appears to be effective and numbers are stable if not increasing. Sadly, however, Corn Bunting is probably now extinct as a breeding bird in North Wales and Yellow Wagtail is only just hanging on.

There is some good news and new species now breed in Wales that did not do so twenty years ago. Little Egret shines out as a real star and the exotic Mandarin Duck is on the increase. Buzzards look to be even more common than previously thought and now the Hobby is a regular breeding species.



Kingfisher by Barry Barnacal



Yellow Wagtail by Barry Barnacal

Illustrations – Photographs & Drawings!

We want our final publication to look very attractive and we are looking for good quality **photographs** and **drawings** to help illustrate the book. Pictures of any of our breeding birds and key habitats in North Wales, taken in the recording area and preferably in the atlas period (2008-2011) would be much appreciated. Full acknowledgment will of course be given. So take your camera on all your trips from now on. If you know of any local bird artists or you are one yourself, some line drawings would also enliven our book. Do get in touch with the local organisers to show us your work.

For any enquiries or further information concerning the North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas please contact:

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