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NORTH WALES BREEDING BIRD ATLAS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2012

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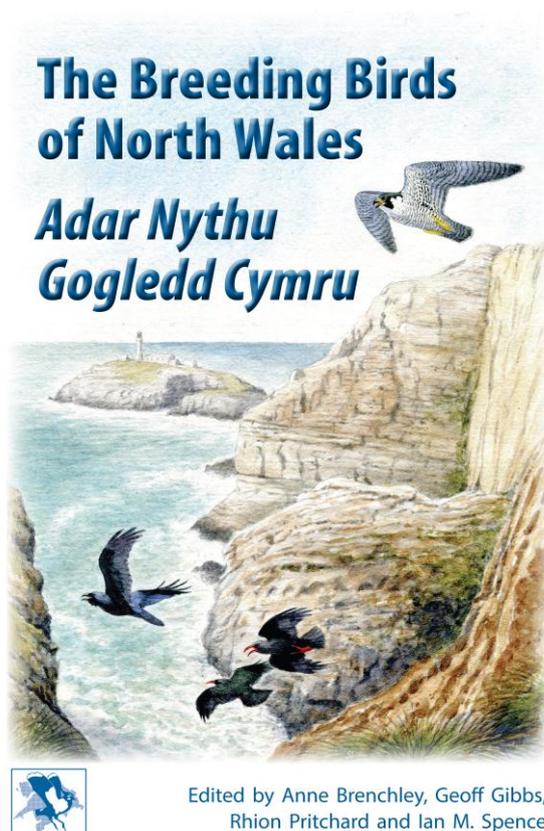
Phew!! The fieldwork and validation are now complete and the publication is beginning to take shape. During the 2012 fieldwork season we gathered more breeding evidence and enhanced the number of Confirmed and Probable breeding records. The dreadful weather in April, May and much of June meant that we were not able to get as many new or improved records as we had planned but overall we are delighted with the final results. We are enormously grateful for all your hard work during the 2008-2012 breeding seasons and we hope that your patience will be rewarded by seeing the information published in 2013. In our final set of data from the BTO we have received 188,035 records with breeding codes for our Atlas. The majority of these records has come from 221 dedicated volunteers (100+ records with breeding codes) with a further 547 volunteers contributing between one and 99 records. Records continued to come in until late September but in order to produce the final maps we may have to exclude some late records. Any significant additions may be published on the website.

We are on schedule to get a final manuscript to Liverpool University Press by December 2012 and the editors have been meeting weekly to ensure that we get a good quality publication out there for you to buy and read. We could not have done this without your help, perseverance and dedication. It is much appreciated. Again many thanks.

Anne Brenchley and Geoff Gibbs

Publication timetable and Pre-publication offer

Once the manuscript is with Liverpool University Press (LUP) there will still be a lot of design work, proof-reading and the choosing of photographic material to be undertaken. In consultation with our Steering Group, LUP will be arranging the marketing and advertising and pre-publication offer. We plan that the book will be published in time for the 2013 autumn conference season and of course Christmas. An official launch of the book is already being discussed so watch this space.



We expect the cover price to be £45 and the pre-publication offer price to be £20 per copy. The actual offer should open around spring 2013. We will endeavour to send details of the prepublication to all contributors and other interested parties.

Support from Waitrose

Waitrose may not be your local supermarket but if you are a Waitrose shopper then you will know that each month every store provides a total of £1000 to support three local charities/voluntary groups. If you live on Anglesey or in the Bangor area then maybe you occasionally visit the Waitrose store in Menai Bridge. We are enormously grateful to Peter Stuttard for putting forward our Atlas project as one of the chosen charities for June 2012 and as a result we received a massive 49.5% support from local shoppers and so £495 has helped boost our publication funds.

Sponsorship – the unloved

Our species sponsorship programme has now raised £17,235. However, there are still 11 species still available for sponsorship. It would be a shame to leave these few species without a friend. If you have not yet sponsored a species here is your chance.

Coot
Corn Bunting
Corncrake
Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove

Great Black-backed Gull
Greylag Goose
Mandarin Duck
Pheasant

Quail
Red-legged Partridge
Shag

Competition for free Atlas – the winner

Last year we decided that the surveyors who had put in the most effort into the Atlas deserved to have the opportunity to win a free copy of the final publication. We now know that 26 people have provided more than 1000 records with breeding codes (from the 188,035 records). These people have now been contacted and thanked for their amazing effort. Excluding the five people involved in the project management, the remaining 21 names were put into a draw at the 10 October meeting of the Bangor Bird Group when Ian Spence gave a talk about the North Wales Atlas and the lucky winner was John Small. These names have been published on our website.

Names of individual observers who supplied at least 1,000 records with breeding codes		
Steven Davies	Carole Walker	Richard Beckett
Steve Culley	Anne Brenchley	Mel ab Owain
Ifor Rhys Jones	Dave Lamacraft	Simon Hugheston-Roberts
Richard Groves	Ivor Rees	Rhion Pritchard
Henry Cook	John Small	Geoff Gibbs
Nigel Pierce	Ian M Spence	Glyn Neville Roberts
Neil Hughes	Peter Stuttard	Tom McCanna
Glenn Morris	Jim Dustow	Ken Croft
Dave Anning	John Lawton Roberts	

Winter Thrush Survey 2012-13

Whether you are a regular volunteer or just started in the Atlas period you may like to know that there are many opportunities to continue your bird surveying, post-Atlas, including this new BTO survey. Over the next two winters the BTO is organising a thrush survey which aims to record where Redwing, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush and Blackbird (plus Starling and Waxwing) are located and what they are doing and eating. There are three ways in which you can help; **firstly**, by choosing a short local route of your choice which can be walked about once a month from now until April, **secondly** by undertaking a walk in one of the 'core' randomly selected 1km squares between 27 December and 10 January (details of the availability of these square can be seen on the website or via your BTO RR) or **finally** if you have little time or are less mobile by recording what berries thrushes eat in your garden. Details of how to take part including guidance notes and berry identification guides can be found on the BTO website.

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/winter-thruses>

Whilst this survey is designed to be done online, non-computer users can take part by contacting their local BTO Regional Representative to obtain paper recording forms.

Do you use BirdTrack?

If you enjoyed using the online recording system for the Atlas and would like to continue recording your bird sightings and make them count for conservation purposes then BirdTrack (www.birdtrack.net) is for you. Storing records on BirdTrack is easy and it is a great way to organise your records, view records by table, graph, map or just create all sorts of lists. The beauty of this system is that these data are also automatically made available to the County Recorders. At present the Cambrian Bird Club does not make full use of these records but it is hoped that this will change in the near future. In north-east Wales, Ian Spence requests that BirdTrack users register their sites as '1km sites' where possible, using the details from the gazetteer from the CBRG website

(<http://www.cbrg.org.uk/8Downloads.html>). If records are entered as loosely defined sites, tetrads or 10km sites these records cannot be used for the North-East Wales Bird Report. The Welsh Ornithological Society is now a partner with the BTO, SOC, RSPB and BirdWatch Ireland in the BirdTrack project and the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) will also be encouraging observers to use BirdTrack as this would help the observers, the WOS and the BTO.

WOS Conference – 10 November

The annual WOS conference will take place at the Myddfai Community Hall, near Llandovery, Carmarthenshire on Saturday 10 November. The title of the conference is the 'Marvels of Migration' and the main speaker is the internationally renowned ornithologist Roy Dennis. Places are still available. Many birders from North Wales are taking the opportunity to have a good weekend away so why not come and join us? Details are on the website:

<http://www.birdsinwales.org.uk/activities/conference.htm>

County Bird Reports 2011

The Cambrian Bird Report 2011 should be available in November 2012 and copies of previous reports can be obtained by contacting Barry Jones (01492 868467). However, there will be no separate 2011 North-East Wales Bird Report as the work for the Atlas has taken precedence but a combined report for 2011/2012 will be produced later in 2013.

Local contact details

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Meirionnydd - Vacant	

County Bird Recorders

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Thanks to the Countryside Council for Wales for printing this newsletter.

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