

# Montgomeryshire County Birds 2012

## Species Sightings Summary

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(28/11/13)

### Introduction

Publishing a full Montgomeryshire County Bird Report has proven impossible for quite a few years and 2012 was no exception. This 2012 Species Sightings Summary is intended partly to 'fill the gap' and also to illustrate the potential to produce a full County Bird Report for 2013.

The success of any County Report is dependent upon the contributions of observers and records received. It is hoped that the information below will act as an incentive for all to submit their sightings and data for inclusion in the 2013 County Report.

### Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to EVERYONE who has contributed records. Special thanks to the BTO, MWT, RSPB, Jim Marshall (Upper Dyfi Estuary) and Tony Puzey (Dolydd Hafren).

### 2012 – A wet year

The weather dominated in 2012 and it was Wales' 3rd wettest year in history. The rain had a significant negative impact on Montgomeryshire's breeding birds. A heat wave in March had offered false promise (the month was the 3rd warmest and 5th driest recorded in the UK) but then it rained almost continuously. The breeding season through April-July coincided with record rainfall and most species, were affected - either being directly washed out or unable to find food. The BTO have assessed the year as one of the worst breeding seasons ever. There were consequently fewer birds present during the late summer migration (e.g . Blackcap/Garden Warbler/Chiffchaff/Willow Warbler totals were down 33% on Montgomeryshire' BTO Garden Birdwatch data compared to 2011) and, quite possibly, there were fewer observers due to the inclement weather

### Additions to the Montgomeryshire County List

Bean Goose and Glossy Ibis were added to County List in 2012

## Montgomeryshire Birds 2012 Systematic Species Sightings

### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Scattered breeding birds and small winter gatherings. Dolydd Hafren max count was 8 (19/2).

### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus Cygnus*

Up to 22 (21/1 & 16/2) at Aberhafesp Jan-April (all adults or sub-adults) and a peak count of 16 in the second winter period (including 6 juvenile) at the same location. 2 at Dolydd Hafren on 10/2, 2 at Llyn Du 10/10, and 2 reported from Caersws 21/11. 6 were at Lake Vyrnwy (2 adult, 4 juvenile) 30/1. Also reported from Upper Dyfi Estuary

### **Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis rossicus*

New county record. Dolydd Hafren 3 Tundra *rossicus* birds on 28/1 and 6 dates in Feb. A single bird was seen on 22/3

### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Infrequent presence of small numbers (<10) on Upper Dyfi Estuary

### **White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

2 birds of unknown origin were present at Dolydd Hafren March 2012 and on 23/10. A few Greenland Whitefronts were occasionally seen on the Upper Dyfi Estuary

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Widespread, with a Dolydd Hafren max count of 80 (5/2)

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Widespread breeder with the Dolydd Hafren max count at 420 on 31/12

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Approx 300 birds winter on the Dyfi and were occasional winter visitors to Upper Dyfi Estuary

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

A Dark-bellied bird reported at Four Crosses amongst 22 Canada Geese on 8/2. Occasionally visitors to the Upper Dyfi Estuary in small numbers (<10)

### **Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis*

At Dolydd Hafren, a single bird of unknown origin (but presumed escape) was seen on 12 occasions between 19/8 and 5/12. A bird (possibly same) was seen at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 5/12.

### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Dolydd Hafren sightings between Jan and May peaked with max count of 3. Other inland sightings included Llyn Coed y Dinas in the same time period. Breeding was also then recorded at Llyn Coed y Dinas. One Shelduck was present at Lake Vyrnwy in January. A few pairs also breed on the Upper Dyfi Estuary where counts of individuals made it into double figures in 2012

### **Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

Present on the county rivers. A female was photographed at Pwll Penarth 17/6

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

The Dolydd Hafren max count was 100 on 2nd & 5th Feb. Numbers were lower Sept - Dec, reaching 28 on 31/12. 23 were at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 5/1. Largest flock on the Upper Dyfi Estuary (c.200) coincided with large tides

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Sightings were made at Dolydd Hafren in 10 months of the year, with 85 on 31/12, 50 (19/2) and 38 (25/11) being the highest counts. 25+ were at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 26/1. At Lake Vyrnwy (max count 24 on 3/2) breeding was suspected but not proven. A comparatively large wintering flock was present on the Upper Dyfi Estuary with possibly up to 1000 on occasion

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Widespread. Largest counts were 167 at Llyn Coed y Dinas 5/1, and 100 at Dolydd Hafren 30/9. Lake Vyrnwy's max count was 50 on 13/12

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Singletons at Dolydd Hafren 17-18/1, 10/10, 16/12. A handful of birds were infrequently recorded on Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Dolydd Hafren recorded just one pair 13-14/2. A drake was seen at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 23/2, with another at Pwll Penarth 28/5

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Records from Llyn Coed y Dinas of one bird 20-21/2 and also present in March. One drake at Llyn Mawr 25/2 and again 12/7

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

One reported from the Upper Dyfi Estuary 15-16/1

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Bred at Llyn Coed y Dinas but it's thought all chicks were predated by pike. Count of 39 at The Flash, Welshpool on 26/8

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

A first-winter drake was present at Llyn Coed y Dinas from 4-10/1. 2 pairs were on the Upper Dyfi Estuary 21/5

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

A pair present on 8-9/2 on Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

3 at Llyn Mawr on 16/1 and 5 there 19/2. 4 at Glaslyn on 28/1, 8 at Garreg Hir on 3/4, and present at Llyn Clywedog on 14/12. Numbers on the Upper Dyfi Estuary crept into double figures prior to Spring migration

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Occasional on Upper Dyfi Estuary e.g. 5 seen 26/3

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

The Dolydd Hafren max count was 25 on 17/1. At least 2 pairs successfully bred at Lake Vyrnwy, and Goosander also bred on the River Severn. Max count on Upper Dyfi Estuary was 57 at end August but reduced quickly thereafter

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus scoticus*

Many immatures were observed at Lake Vyrnwy, July and Aug

**Black Grouse** *Tetrao tetrix*

6 lekking males at Lake Vyrnwy and just one female reflected a large drop on 2011 numbers (19 males)

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Widespread with numbers artificially increased in winter for shooting

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Just one confirmed record of a bird at Guilsfield on 9/3

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

One heard calling at Lake Vyrnwy 19/6

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Abundant, especially in the winter (released for shooting)

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Dolydd Hafren max count was 5 on 25/11. Bred at Pwll Penarth. All but one of Lake Vyrnwy's sightings were in the winter with 5 present on 11/11

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

A pair at Llyn Coed y Dinas had two broods, with 3 and 2 young fledging. At Lake Vyrnwy a pair attempted to breed but failed. A pair recorded at Llyn Mawr 19/5 and at Llyn Clywedog (7/4 & 15/5)

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

One bird reported from the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 13/12

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

Very occasional appearance on Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Max count was 28 at Dolydd Hafren on 28/10, with 27 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 20/2. Larger numbers were present on Upper Dyfi Estuary at times during 2012

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Dolydd Hafren sightings were on 11-14/2, 17/2, 19/2, 13/3

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Seen in winter months at Dolydd Hafren with up to 4 present (4/1). Resident on Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

There are potentially 6+ heronries within Montgomeryshire but just one was surveyed in 2012 where 17-19 nests were recorded (a total in line with recent years). Dolydd Hafren max sighting was 9 birds on 8/7.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

New county record. A sighting in Montgomery on 4/2 was followed by one at Dolydd Hafren the next day. Further records then followed from Montgomery on 24-25/2 and 28-30/4

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Scattered records, 4 seen together at Dolydd Hafren 30/4 and 17/10. In 2011 the Welsh Kite Trust published that there were 51 Red Kite territories in the county. The equivalent 2012 data has not been released

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A female flew past the Cors Dyfi Osprey nest 11/8 and a juvenile was at Glaslyn 8/9. Another record of a female came from the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 22,24,26th October

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

There were 6 pairs at Lake Vyrnwy and 3 pulli fledged from 7 nest attempts. A male was sighted at Cefn Coch 29/9 and a bird was reported from Llanfair Caereinion on 18/10. Up to 3 individual birds were wintering on the Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

3 - 4 pairs at Lake Vyrnwy, but only one was suspected of successfully breeding (outside the reserve). Confirmed breeding at Pont Robert. Scattered records elsewhere

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Widespread and a frequent 'user' of garden feeders, Sparrowhawk was recorded from 50% of MWT Bird Survey gardens in summer 2012 and from 66% in the winter of 2011/12

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

The most common large raptor in Montgomeryshire - Buzzard appears in the 'top 10' birds seen from MWT Bird Survey gardens in both winter (100% of gardens in 2011/12!) and summer (97%). The maximum count at Dolydd Hafren was 24 on 10/6. 20 were seen together in a field at Mathrafal 30/11. At least 5 pairs bred at Lake Vyrnwy, each raising one chick

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

1 chick fledged at MWT Cors Dyfi . Handful of sightings of passage birds e.g. 1 over Cledan valley, Carno 10/9

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Scattered records only

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

2 pairs attempted breeding at LV but only one was successful with 2+ fledged. Scattered records elsewhere coincided with passage dates. Wintering bird(s) were on the Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Dolydd Hafren experienced 6 sightings between May and June (up to 3 birds). Scattered sightings elsewhere with no evidence of breeding

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Widespread sightings and scattered nest sites. 2 pairs attempted breeding at Lake Vyrnwy but only one was successful with 2+ fledged

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

At Dolydd Hafren breeding was recorded and up to 8 were present there 19/8. Breeding was also reported from Upper Dyfi Estuary. Elsewhere, 4 were at Welshpool on 3/2, 1 calling there 26/8 and Water Rail was also recorded from Pwll Penarth

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Bred at Dolydd Hafren and up to 8 present 19/8. Scattered records from elsewhere (mostly lowland distribution).

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Surprisingly few records (is the species scarce or just under recorded?). Breeding was recorded at Dolydd Hafren where up to 4 birds were present from 25/3 to 30/12. Scattered records from elsewhere included Gregynog, Pwll Penarth, Llyn Coed y Dinas and Welshpool Flash.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Recorded at Dolydd Hafren from Jan to Aug with 7 present on 23/3. Also recorded at Caersws on 3/5. The breeding pair at Llyn Coed y Dinas fledged 2 young in 2013. 4 birds were seen briefly at Lake Vyrnwy 27/4. Oystercatcher do breed on the Dyfi Estuary but none were inside the Montgomeryshire boundary this year.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

At Dolydd Hafren birds were recorded from 23/3 to 26/6 with a peak count of 8 on 27/5. Recorded from other sites along the Severn and at Llyn Coed y Dinas on passage

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Singletons at Dolydd Hafren 6/5 and 2/6

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Flocks of 50-60 were recorded at Ceri Forest and Llyn Hir in April. 15 were seen at Llangurig 28/2. A large flock of 800 was present in an area south of Llyn Clywedog towards the end of November - the first birds arrived 11/10 with the flock building to 800 by 18/11 and then departed soon after. This site regularly has Golden Plover in Oct/Nov, but 800 is almost 3 times the size of the largest flock recorded there since 2004

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Occasionally seen on passage on the Upper Dyfi Estuary e.g. 4 on 16-17th April

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

500-600 flock feeding in fields along the river Severn at Leighton on 18/1 and 527 (possibly the same birds ) were counted at Llyn Coed y Dinas on same date. Dolydd Hafren peak count was 200 on 22nd & 24th Jan.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

10 at Dolydd Hafren 2/9

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Small flock reported from the Upper Dyfi Estuary 29/5

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina schinzii*

Seen on passage at Dolydd Hafren with max counts of 11 (31/1) and 8+ (31/8). One at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 25/2. Flocks of 250+ on high tides in Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

3 at The Flash, Welshpool 21/11, 1 at Lymore pools 6/12. One trapped and ringed at Llyn Hir 1/1

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Scattered records across the County mostly outside of the breeding season, with max count of 25 at Caersws on 2/3. Drumming males heard at Llyn Hir in May

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Widespread overwintering species within the County. No summer records received in 2012

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Recorded from Dolydd Hafren 10/2 and 2/9. Also an occasional passage visitor to Upper Dyfi Estuary with 5 on 6/7

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

3 at Caersws on 4/5. Small numbers infrequently seen on Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Observed on passage with 16-18 at Caersws on 3/5, 15 at Dolydd Hafren 5/5 and 3 at Llyn Hir 11-12/5. Passage on the Upper Dyfi Estuary peaked at 34 on 7/5

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Up to 4 pairs at LV but breeding success unproven. Scattered breeding elsewhere within the county but no known/reported outcomes. Max 80 at Dolydd Hafren on 15/3 including one leucistic bird. 33 were at Ardleen 6/3 and 100+ were seen on big winter tides at Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

A pair was at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 19/5 and singleton was there 17/3. Other sightings were from Caersws 15/4, Dolydd Hafren 22/7 and Glaslyn 8/9. Regularly seen in the Upper Dyfi Estuary

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Observed on passage at Dolydd Hafren with max count 15 on 23/8. Other sightings from Caersws (3/5) and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas (12/8)

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

County sightings were all outside of the breeding season with up to 5 present at Dolydd Hafren (4/1) and birds regularly seen at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Recorded at Dolydd Hafren 27/5 and 22/7

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Fluctuating water levels at Lake Vyrnwy were thought likely to have affected breeding numbers. Max count of 12 made at Dolydd Hafren on 22/4 and 6/5

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

Recorded at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 18/4, 27/5 and 3 dates in June

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

A colony of 250 pairs at Llyn Coed y Dinas produced 600 young. Max count at Dolydd Hafren was 250, 11/1

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

One inland at Leighton 30/4

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

500+ at Welshpool 8/1 and 350+ in roost at Llyn Clywedog 28/1. Recorded every month at Dolydd Hafren with max 180 on 2/9. A pair bred at Llyn Coed y Dinas

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

350 at Llyn Clywedog 31/1. Sighted at Dolydd Hafren in 6 months of year with 20 present 7/9. A regular record on the MWT Bird Survey from Newtown

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

One record of an adult from Dolydd Hafren 27/5

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

A first-winter was recorded 8th & 11th January mixing with Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Welshpool

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Infrequently seen in the county - just a few sightings inland e.g. Lake Vyrnwy , 3 birds 26/1 and 2 on 27/2. One overhead record on an MWT Bird Survey at Derwenlas (late October)

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Occasional visit made to the Upper Dyfi Estuary post breeding (adult with juvenile) but also seen 16/4

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

5 sightings at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 18/4 probably involved multiple birds

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

9 sightings at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 18/4 probably involved multiple birds plus 1 on 1/5. 4 birds at Leighton on 30/4

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Records from Llyn Coed y Dinas on 25/4 and 1/5

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Present in urban areas e.g. 30 reported in Welshpool , 11th Jan (Birdtrack)

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Widespread within Montgomeryshire. Highest count at Dolydd Hafren was 50 on 22nd Feb

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Widespread and abundant. Regularly seen in large flocks in the countryside and in gardens (a 'top 10' most frequently seen species in winter and summer MWT Bird Surveys).



**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Apparently less abundant than the two species above, Collared Dove is nevertheless widespread especially at lower altitudes and in farmyards and gardens where there is food.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

A male 'purring' at Fir House Sheepwalk, Tregynon on June 14th but not heard on subsequent visits. Another (or the same) at Meifod on 15/6 - 17/6.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Scattered records e.g. 3 at Llyn Hir 205, 2 at Glas Llyn 15/4, singletons at Llanfyllin 5/5, Banc-y-Groes 15/5, Hafren Forest 15/5, Dolydd Hafren 2/6. Present at Lake Vyrnwy (Apr-May)

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

40 pairs across the county (of which 4 non-breeding) produced 110 pulli. 6 single bird roosts were also found

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

A winter sighting at Caerhowel (28/1) was followed up with 2 males calling there in April. One heard on 12/8 at Dolydd Hafren. Also a record from Four Crosses 20/6

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Recorded from at least 66% of all Gardens in the MWT Bird Survey this species is apparently common and widespread within the county

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

A male heard calling at Lake Vyrnwy was the only record of this scarce species in 2012

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

At least 3 birds were present at Llyn Hir in May. Also recorded from Ceri Forest 2/2, Carno 12/5 and Upper Dyfi Estuary 24 & 27/6. One flushed from Molinia at Fir House Sheepwalk, Tregynon on April 24th. 2 sightings at Lake Vyrnwy 2/5 & 25/6

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

5 churring males at Lake Vyrnwy and 3+ at Hafren Forest in May. One churring male on Upper Dyfi Estuary 4/7

**Swift** *Apus apus*

Recorded at Dolydd Hafren between 30/4 - 22/7 with 200 seen there 5/6. Swift was recorded on 63% of MWT Bird Surveys in 2012 - notable in more urban areas where the species finds locations to nest

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Present on most County rivers and water bodies but breeding success was probably low due to the high water levels

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Scattered records. Appears to be more common in the north and east of the county

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major*

Widespread and a regular visitor to garden feeders with over 90% of gardens in the MWT Bird Survey recording the species in both winter and summer

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus minor*

A record from Carno 28/3 and occasional records from Upper Dyfi Estuary where a bird visited feeders during the winter and on 19/6. Also one record from the BTO Garden Birdwatch of a bird near Llandinam on 5/2

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Increasing population density recorded at Lake Vyrnwy and double figure counts of singing males from Pumlumon. Scattered records elsewhere

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Recorded at Dolydd Hafren 20/3 - 2/10. Widespread breeding on County rivers although breeding success was probably poor due to high water levels

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Recorded at Dolydd Hafren 31/3 - 7/10. Earliest date was 30/3 near Pentrerbeirrd. Some late broods followed the wet summer e.g. fledging recorded 3/10 at Newtown, but generally numbers were down e.g. BTO Garden Birdwatch recorded 60% less records in 2012 compared to 2011 within the county

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Recorded less frequently than Swallow in the MWT Bird Survey, but widespread throughout the county. Date range at Dolydd Hafren was 1/4 - 30/9

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Over 40 territories identified at Lake Vyrwny and breeding recorded throughout the county especially on young plantations

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

One of the most numerous species at Lake Vyrwny where an increase in population density was recorded. Common on uplands throughout the county with a large passage movement in September

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

Lake Vyrwny recorded this species for the first time with a winter plumage bird found on 19/4, associating with a few migrant meadow pipit. The bird stayed until at least 23/4

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Few records with max count of 3+ singing at Montgomery and maximum 2 (6th and 20th May) at Dolydd Hafren. Lake Vyrwny registered a reserve first when one flew over on 2/5

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Widespread breeding alongside county rivers

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Widespread and frequently recorded (not least, presumably, because it is an easy species to see and identify). No large roosts reported for Montgomeryshire 2012

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

Handful of singleton sightings from Dolydd Hafren of birds on passage and 2 around Lymore Pools, Montgomery 21/4

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

An exceptionally large influx to the county occurred late Nov-early Dec with up to 200 birds in Newtown. Waxwing were recorded at Dolydd Hafren for the first time on 25/11 (30 birds). Flocks also reached Welshpool, Machynlleth and Llanidloes. 5 gardens recorded the species on the MWT Bird Survey (compared to zero the previous year)

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Widespread and on all county rivers and smaller tributaries

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Widespread and common but not always easy to see. In the winter 2011/12 MWT Bird Survey, Wren had the highest recorded discrepancy between garden presence and the quantity seen i.e. it was seen in a lot of gardens but there were never many of them (Sparrowhawk was second in the list using this measure which would be more expected)

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Widespread - the 15th most frequently recorded bird on the county Birdtrack records

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Along with Blue Tit and Blackbird the only species seen in every Montgomeryshire garden in 2012 (MWT Bird Survey). Max count was at Dolydd Hafren of 20, 7/10

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Widespread records. The date range of sightings at Dolydd Hafren was 15/4 to 19/9 and the peak count was 11 on 8/7. Redstart are particularly common around Lake Vyrnwy and 8 pairs used nestboxes there in 2012

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Breeding at Lake Vyrnwy and other scattered locations, county Whinchat records on Birdtrack are outnumbered 5:1 by Stonechat. Under-recorded or more scarce than the Stonechat?

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Breeding was recorded at Lake Vyrnwy and other scattered locations

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Comparatively good numbers recorded from Lake Vyrnwy at end of breeding season. Widespread records from elsewhere

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

A few passage records only e.g. up to 3 birds seen at Lake Vyrnwy April/May

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Along with Blue Tit and Robin, the only species guaranteed to be seen in every Montgomeryshire garden in 2012 (MWT Garden Bird Survey). Some of the population migrates and continental European birds appear during the winter. Max count at Dolydd Hafren of 80, 28/10

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Widespread winter visitor. 250 recorded from Lake Vyrnwy 15/3. A late record of 30 on 4th April near Pentrebeirrd

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Widespread records. Max count was 20 at Dolydd Hafren on 28/10

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Widespread winter visitor - no reports of large flocks in 2012 with 50 at Dolydd Hafren 28/10 and a similar number at Llanfyllin on 7/11

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Widespread records although less frequently reported than Song Thrush

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

One at Dolydd Hafren 16/2

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Scattered records e.g. reeling males at Dyfnant Meadows 11/5, Banc-y-Groes 15/5, Lake Vyrnwy (May-July)

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Scattered records where suitable habitat. Bred at Dolydd Hafren, where max count was 12 on 10/6

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Scattered records in suitable habitat. Bred at Dolydd Hafren, where max count was 10 on 29/7. Also a few pairs bred at Llyn Coed y Dinas

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Present. Recorded at Dolydd Hafren 25/3 - 13/10. A few birds are recorded overwintering in Montgomeryshire. An early summer/late winter bird was ringed at Welshpool 13/3. Breeding was badly affected by the summer rain

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Present in smaller numbers than Blackcap. Recorded at Dolydd Hafren 15/4 - 7/10

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Scarcely recorded. Observed on passage at Dolydd Hafren and singing males at Pwll Penarth, Aberbechan, Llandyssil and Brooks in May

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Widespread records, more common than Lesser Whitethroat, but infrequently recorded - another species to suffer breeding failure during the wet summer

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Estimated approx 20 pairs at Lake Vyrnwy. Elsewhere, scattered records from suitable habitat e.g. 3 males singing at Gregynog 29/5

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Widespread, arriving in large numbers approx 4th week of March. One was recorded on 10/3 at Pwll Penarth. Dolydd Hafren date range was 18/3 - 28/10

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Present - one of most abundant species in County. Recorded at Dolydd Hafren 8/4 - 10/10. First recorded on 25/3 at The Flash, Welshpool

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Common in the many conifers of Montgomeryshire. Unsurprisingly seen in more Montgomeryshire gardens during winter (26%) than summer (15%) (MWT Bird Survey)

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

Two singing males and 1 female seen at Lake Vyrnwy

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

A widespread but sparse and declining distribution. Recorded in 23% of MWT Bird Survey gardens but 0% BTO Garden Birdwatch gardens.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Widespread and common in suitable habitat, this species readily uses nestboxes. At least 45 nest attempts were recorded at Lake Vyrnwy (2011 = 61) during a difficult wet breeding year. In 2012, within Powys (not possible to get data just for Montgomeryshire), 1592 Pied Flycatcher chicks were ringed in nestboxes. This is 5 times more chicks ringed than of any other species (Blue Tits = 308 chicks ringed).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Widespread - counted in approx 75% of Montgomeryshire gardens (MWT Bird Survey) during the winter and just over 50% in the summer

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*

Scattered records but probably more frequently seen and widespread than Willow Tit - the difficulty of separating the two species in the field does not help

**Willow Tit** *Parus montanus*

Resident at Lake Vyrnwy in small numbers. Few records from elsewhere although the BTO Garden Birdwatch records from near Aberangell suggest a thriving population in early winter at least (Marsh Tit also apparently present there)

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

Numbers appeared to increase towards the end of year with Montgomeryshire BTO Garden Birdwatch data showing 25% more records in the second half of the year than the first (in 2011 the comparison was equal). This is consistent with the trend across Britain that showed an unprecedented increase in Coal Tits visiting gardens in the final quarter of 2012 (apparently the wet weather caused natural food to be in short supply)

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

The most common bird in Montgomeryshire's BTO Garden Birdwatch. Similarly with the MWT Bird Survey where Blue Tit is the species most frequently seen in gardens during winter and summer (100% of gardens). Blue Tit numbers in gardens decline slightly during the summer but it's still top of the list

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Abundant but apparently less so than Blue Tit (MWT Bird Survey)

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

A common bird within Montgomeryshire and well inside the top 20 most common birds on BTO Garden Birdwatch and MWT Bird Survey. Regularly recorded breeding in nest boxes

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Widespread and regularly seen in late summer/autumn tit flocks

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

One at Hafren Forest in late Jan/Feb near the Afon Biga confluence. One was photographed 12/2 near Neuadd, Llanfair Caereinion and another was recorded at Lake Vyrnwy from 2-19/3

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Present. An increase in numbers at the end of year coinciding with an influx from abroad. Highest count was 9 in a single flock near Clun Forest on the Shropshire border on 14/10 (Birdtrack)

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Common in lowland areas. 20 were seen together at Dolydd Hafren on 22/1

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Widespread breeding resident. 120 at Dolydd Hafren on 6/12

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Present but not in such apparent large numbers as Carrion Crow or Jackdaw. 50 was the highest count at Pont Robert 9/11, and a similar number from a BTO Garden Bird Count in the west near Aberangell - which may have something to do with proximity to rookeries

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Present - the most common corvid in Montgomeryshire

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Seen throughout the county with widespread breeding records e.g. at least 3 nesting pairs were recorded at Lake Vyrnwy

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Scarce breeder but common winter visitor. A flock of 25000+ at Dylife (28/1) included an albino bird

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Faithful to preferred sites/farms where there can be healthy (but sometimes isolated) populations present. The records from the MWT Garden Survey illustrate this where House Sparrow was the 2nd most frequently seen bird in summer 2012, yet was observed in only 84% of the gardens

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Breeding was recorded from the eastern side of county but a scarce bird elsewhere in the county although it was recorded from 9 scattered gardens in summer 2012 (MWT Bird Survey). There were just a handful of records from Dolydd Hafren. A sighting at Red Bank Welshpool was recorded on 20/1 and 2 were seen at Llansantffraid on 2/10. A small flock were at Hem near Montgomery on 20/7 and wintering flock of 40+ mixed with Yellowhammer on Ceri Ridgeway (28/1)

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common - the 2nd most frequently seen species on the MWT Garden Bird Survey in winter and third in summer. Some of Montgomeryshire's breeding birds move south in the winter and Chaffinch from continental Europe then add to the remaining Montgomeryshire population

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

There were more Brambling at the end of the year than the start - indeed the winter of 2012/13 proved to be a 'good brambling year'. Max counts at Dolydd Hafren were 12 on 10/2 & 18/3, and 17 on 6/12. The BTO Garden Birdwatch recorded 16 in a garden near Welshpool on 9/12 and there were 5 times as many reports of Bramblings in the second half of the year compared to the first half

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Becoming increasingly common as the species recovers from the disease Trichomonosis that has impacted numbers over the past few years. Present in over 80% of gardens (MWT Bird Survey) Greenfinch can also be seen in large numbers during the winter. A large flock of 450 was reported from Dolydd Hafren on 13/1

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Common and present in at least 80% of gardens (MWT Bird Survey) where the species is particularly fond of niger seed during the winter. Autumn flocks may be seen feeding on thistle e.g. 100 at Dolydd Hafren 21/10

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Present. High numbers visit feeders on Spring passage and many breed across the county in conifer forest. RSPB Lake Vyrnwy feeders can be inundated with 100's of birds during the spring.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

Max count of 200 at Dolydd Hafren, Jan-Mar. 35 seen at Llanwnnog on 7/2. Scattered breeding records e.g. Roundton Hill

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

High numbers were recorded at feeders on a few days during Spring passage e.g. 100+ at Llanfyllin 21-22/4. 33 of these birds were caught and ringed and 2 were then recovered on their return Autumn migration - one at Icklesham, East Sussex on 24/10 and another at Sommethonne, Luxembourg, Belgium on 12/11. Lesser Redpoll breed in Montgomeryshire in suitable habitat. Records of Common (Mealy) Redpoll *c.flammea* were claimed but not accepted by the Welsh Records Panel and so Common Redpoll remains off the County List

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

At Lake Vyrnwy the species seemed more common at the start of the breeding season than the end. Small flocks were recorded from Hafren Forest (Feb), Llyn Clywedog (Dec) and Llanfyllin (July)

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata*

Scattered records of small numbers of birds and breeding records. Dolydd Hafren recorded 10 on 4th Feb and 10+ were present at Llanfechain on 8th April (of which 9 were trapped and ringed)

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Scattered breeding recorded with the largest winter flocks probably on Ceri Ridgeway e.g. 40+ with Tree Sparrows (28/1). Can be a regular garden feeder visitor during the winter in areas where the species is present (seen in 15% of MWT Bird Survey winter gardens)

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Resident at Dolydd Hafren where numbers increase during the winter and c.40 were seen (21/10 & 30/12). There are a handful of records of birds visiting garden feeders during the winter