

Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2015

Compiled by
M.D.Haigh



Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2015

Contents

3	Montgomeryshire County Bird Records - Source of Data in 2015
4	The Weather 2015
5	Systematic Species List 2015
33	Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust Garden Bird Survey 2015
35	Ringling Report 2015

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all individuals who have taken the time to contribute sightings, complete surveys or take photographs.

The following organisations have helpfully provided assistance and data –

- British Trust for Ornithology
- Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group
- Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust
- RSPB

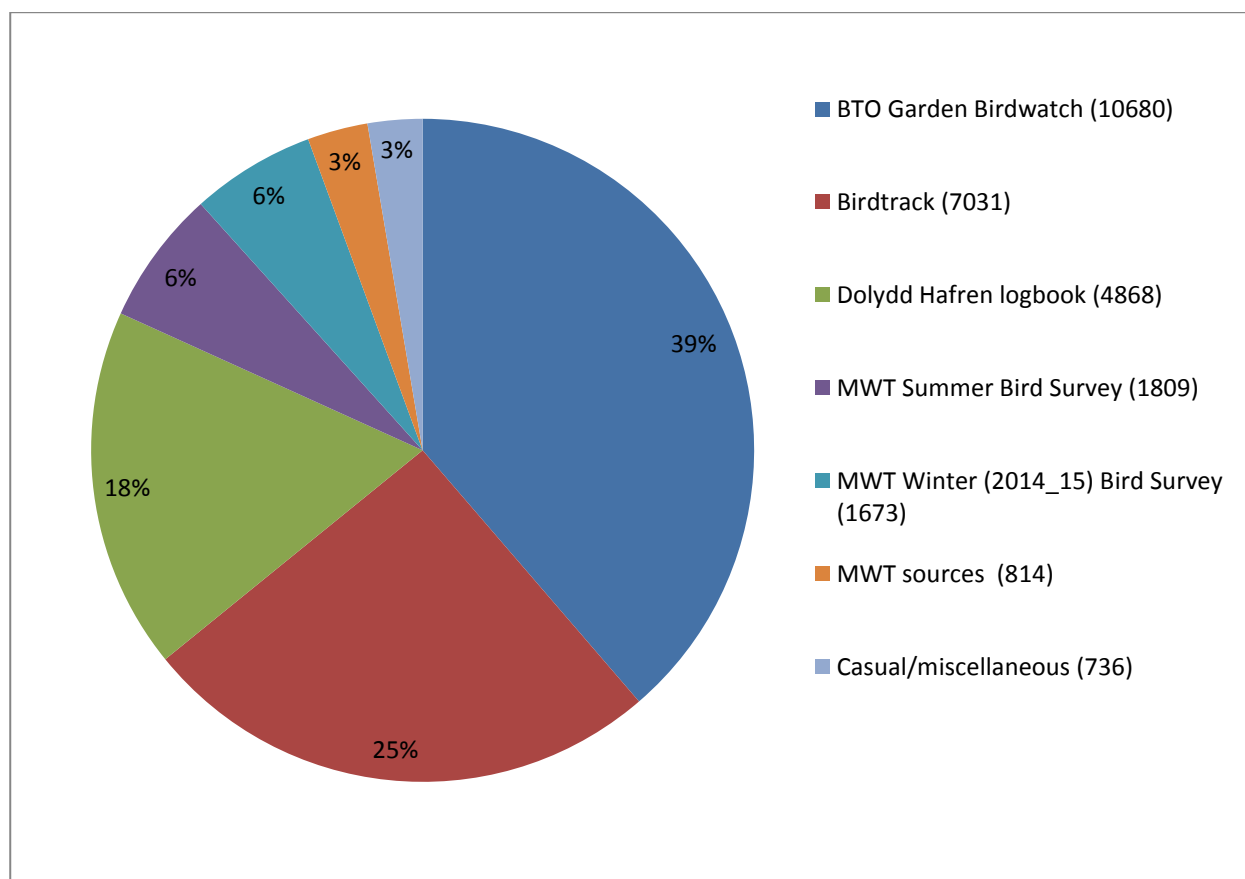
M.D.Haigh

Montgomeryshire County Bird Recorder

August 2016

Front Cover: Bittern at Llyn Coed y Dinas, February 2015 by Edd Cottell

Montgomeryshire County Bird Records - Source of Data in 2015



Over 27000 records were collated in the production of this report and the pie chart above gives an approximate indication of the source of these records.

The **British Trust for Ornithology** is a very important source providing Garden Birdwatch, Birdtrack and Bird Ringing data (the latter not included in the chart/dataset above but some is used anecdotally throughout the report). No other BTO survey data is included. The Birdtrack data is valuable although ensuring integrity of the dataset initially provided by the BTO requires significant manual effort. The removal of ambiguous records, duplicates and 'out of county' sightings whittled the original dataset down from 9441 records to the 7031 currently retained (the task must be far worse in larger counties!)

Nevertheless, Birdtrack is an excellent mechanism for collating and standardising records and people are encouraged to use Birdtrack to record their sightings.

The **Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust** Garden Bird Survey is an extremely useful data source (more information on this survey in the relevant section below, page 33). Various MWT surveys provide other data as does the MWT reserve, Dolydd Hafren (for which, the hide logbook records are shown separately above). Notably few records are received from MWT Cors Dyfi - it would be nice to receive more.

The 'casual records' in the chart above have been obtained from a range of sources e.g. **RSPB** Lake Vyrnwy, **Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group**, the Montgomeryshire Bird Blog and various letters, emails and verbal sightings from individuals throughout the year.

Thank you everyone. Please keep up the good work.

The Weather 2015

2015's weather again challenged avian life. The year started mild and the summer was cool and wet. Early autumn was fine & sunny but was followed by exceptionally high rainfall and warm temperatures.

January-February 2015 were uneventful with unsettled, mild weather mixed with occasional frost & snow. March had average temperatures and a dry start but a wet end with strong winds. Bird-wise, relatively small numbers of winter migrants were present (e.g. thrushes & Brambling). Siskin were virtually absent from feeders (low migratory numbers plus an abundance of natural food). April was the 2nd sunniest month in Wales since 1929 with temperatures slightly above average and rainfall 39% of average.

However, April's promise was not fulfilled and below average temperatures were experienced during the whole summer. Rainfall in May was higher (158%) than normal, and June had rain showers & unseasonably strong winds. The damp summer resulted in mixed breeding season results with some species (e.g. tits) faring relatively well but others (e.g. Pied Flycatcher) struggled with food shortages due to cold nights.



Rain (and a drake Goosander) by Mark Wilson.

The end of June/start July was temporarily sunny & warm but the rest of July was cool, cloudy and changeable with westerly winds. It felt particularly cold at night (Nightjar will have struggled to find food). August was even more unsettled with westerly winds and frequent rain. September started the same and despite a few fine spells, the month was 1.1°C below the long-term average. October was (amazingly!) fine. Although sunshine and temperature were average, rainfall was just 45% of the norm. Conditions were ideal for huge numbers of migrating Goldcrest to travel to Wales from Scandinavia and eastern Europe.

The fine weather (very) briefly continued into November. The temperature on the 1st exceeded 20°C, and 5 species of butterfly were seen at Lake Vyrnwy! However, things changed abruptly. November deteriorated into wet and windy weather. Whilst it remained mild (2.3 °C above the long-term average), twice the normal rainfall fell across Snowdonia. December was even worse with 2-3 times normal rainfall recorded and was very mild with strong winds. No frost was recorded in December and the month was 4.6°C warmer than average. 2015 had the warmest and wettest December (217% of average rainfall) since 1910. Unsurprisingly there was not much action at bird tables because the birds found plenty of natural food and retained their body heat.

Systematic Species List 2015

A total of 163 species were recorded in 2015. One species was new for the county (Yellow-browed Warbler) and the Chiffchaff sub-species, *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff), was also recorded for the first time in Montgomeryshire.

Key: - Status/Frequency – An estimate for Montgomeryshire in 2015

R - Resident; **W** - winter; **S** - summer; **B** - breeding; **P** - passage

- 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

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Alarch Dof

RB4

Widespread throughout the year in small numbers with scattered breeding locations. The highest count was 8 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 23rd May.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Alarch y Gogledd

W3

The estimated number of Whoopers in fields next to Red House Farm near Caersws was c.20 in early Feb although actual counts around the time were 12 on 24th Jan and 11 on 14th Feb. 5 Whoopers visited Dolydd Hafren on 4th Mar. In the 2nd winter period, a single bird on the Upper Dyfi Estuary (18-19th Nov) had increased to 5 (4 adult, 1 juvenile) on 26th Nov. Llyn Ebyr held 2 birds on 21st Nov.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Gwydd Dalcen-wen

W2

In a virtual repeat of 2014's appearance, 2 birds of the European race (*a.albifrons*) were present at Dolydd Hafren from 15-29th March.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Gwydd Wylt

RB4

Greylag are more numerous in winter months in Montgomeryshire (no records were received for June and July in 2015). They were reported from 3 locations - Dolydd Hafren, the Upper Dyfi Estuary and Llyn Coed y Dinas. The maximum count was 60 on 26th Dec at Dolydd Hafren.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Gwydd Canada

RB5

By far the most common goose species in the county, Canada Geese are recorded in all months and are a widespread breeder. Winter numbers are expanded by the arrival of visiting birds from elsewhere (in 2014 it was found that at least some originate from the Lake District's breeding population). Dolydd Hafren's year commenced with 300 Canadas there on 1st Jan rising to a peak of 500+ on 8th Feb. Numbers rapidly declining soon thereafter. A small flock built again in August and reached c.200 birds by 16th, but those had mostly gone by the month end. The flock then built again from 9th Nov with 50 birds rising to a peak count of 600+ on 22nd Nov. 300+ of these were still present at Dolydd Hafren at the end of 2015. Elsewhere, a flock of 300 was on the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 11th Feb.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Gwydd Wyran

R3/W3

Only recorded on the Upper Dyfi Estuary where the regular wintering feral birds (like the Canadas, having proven links to the Lake District) built from 6 on 1st Sept to 170+ by 15th Nov.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Hwyaden yr Eithin

RB3/W3

Only ever reported from the same 3 locations (the Dyfi estuary, Llyn Coed y Dinas and Dolydd Hafren). Shelduck certainly bred on the Dyfi (a female & 8 ducklings seen on 26th May) and at Llyn Coed y Dinas (a duckling was there on 6th June and an 'immature' reported on 30th June). Away from the coast, the highest count was at Llyn Coed y Dinas with 7 reported on 17th May and 6 confirmed (2 male & 4 female/2nd year type) on 18th May.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Hwyaden Gribog

RB3

Surprisingly just a handful of records received for what is clearly an under-reported species. They are secretive and difficult to see during the breeding season, but Mandarin will undoubtedly have bred successfully somewhere in Montgomeryshire in 2015! 2 were reported from Lymore Pools on 18th Jan, with up to 3 at Tre-derwen in March. Presence during the breeding season was noted at Lake Vyrnwy (though no nests were found), and at Llanfechain. There was just one winter record from Newtown sewage works on 16th Dec.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Chwiwell

W5

Small numbers winter at scattered sites throughout the county. During the first winter period they remained until 22nd March (at Dolydd Hafren), and, in the 2nd winter period, Wigeon arrived from 7th Sept (Machynlleth). The highest count was 150 on the Lymore Estate, Montgomery on 24th Jan.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Hwyaden Lwyd

R3/W3

The only record came from Lymore Pools, with up to 4 birds present on 18th and 24th January.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Corhwyaden

RB1/W4/P

The second most frequently reported Duck in the county with about half as many records as Mallard in 2015 and twice the number of Tufted Duck and Wigeon. Very scarce May-July with just a couple of reports during this time. Highest count was 200+ at Dolydd Hafren on 4th Jan.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Hwyaden Wylt

RB5/P/W5

Widespread and common breeder. 200+ were at Dolydd Hafren on 4th & 18th Jan and 6th Dec.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Hwyaden Lostfain

W3/P

A count of 7 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 3rd Jan was notable, with a drake also there on 18th Jan. 4 were at Dolydd Hafren on 4th Jan. In the autumn, Lake Vyrnwy produced an eclipse drake in the last week of Oct and there were 5 present there on 22nd Nov. The Upper Dyfi Estuary recorded Pintail on passage with the highest count in 2015 being 17 on 28th Oct.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Hwyaden Addfain

P3

A pair in front of the first hide at Dolydd Hafren on 26th April had apparently been present from 21st. The only other record in 2015 was a drake at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 3rd May.



All of 2015's Garganey - at Dolydd Hafren (L) and Llyn Coed y Dinas (R). Both pics by Mark Wilson

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Hwyaden Lydanbig

RB1/W3/P

A monopoly of sightings was received from Llyn Coed y Dinas with records of up to 6 present there from 8th Feb - 11th Apr. As many as 2 were then present in the autumn from 17th Oct - 5th Nov.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Hwyaden Bengoch

W3

3 records received were all from Llyn Coed y Dinas on 8th Feb, 3rd Apr (3 birds, 1m & 2f) and 5th Nov.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Hwyaden Gopog

RB3/W5

Reported in 2015 from Llyn Coed y Dinas, Llyn Mawr, Llyn Clywedog, Llyn Ebyr and Powis Castle with records received for every month except August. 20 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 15th Apr was the highest count.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Mor-hwyaden Ddu

P2

Llyn Clywedog claimed the first record of the year with a seemingly typical summer passage appearance for the county. A flock of 10-12 were present there from noon on 6th July until 8.30pm on 8th. Lake Vyrnwy offered a single bird on 11th Oct, 3 on 21st Nov, and 12 on 22nd Nov.

One of the more unexpected finds of 2015 was an adult male feeding on the Afon Twymyn at Commins Coch on 22nd Oct (pictured right).



Common Scoter at Commins Coch by Peter Williams

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Hwyaden Lygad-aur

W4/P

Scarce. Llyn Clywedog held up to 8 birds (3 female, 5 male) in the first winter period (and Goldeneye were also present there in Nov). The Upper Dyfi Estuary had c.10 birds on 16th Jan, 3 were at Lake Glaslyn on 24th Jan, presence at Llyn Mawr in Feb-Mar, and a late spring record of a male just south of Llanerfyl on 5th May. In the second winter period, Goldeneye returned to the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 14th Nov. Lake Vyrnwy held a female 22-23rd Nov, and a bird was at Dolydd Hafren during late Dec.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Hwyaden Frongoch

RB3/W3

A female at Lake Vyrnwy on 22nd November was the only county sighting.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Hwyaden Ddanheddog

RB4

Widespread in small numbers on the county waterways with breeding evident e.g. 2 nests were found at Lake Vyrnwy (pictured right).

Juvenile birds were observed in many locations, often collating into small flocks during late summer e.g. 23 at Dolydd Hafren on 19th July, and 20+ over Llanfyllin (probably from either the River Cain or River Tanat or both) on 29th July. The largest accumulation was on the Dyfi Estuary with a high count there of 63 on 30th Aug.



Goosander on eggs at Lake Vyrnwy, May 2015 by RSPB

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*

Grugiar

RB4

Just 2 locations reported for this species in 2015 - the Lake Glaslyn and Lake Vyrnwy areas. At the latter the RSPB warden reported an impressive, "minimum of 210 territories on reserve and 65 outside".

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

Grugiar Ddu

RB3

5 lekking males were counted at Lake Vyrnwy in 2015.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Petrissen Goesgoch

RB4/W5

Not many records received suggests a decline in artificially released birds for shooting. Most sightings were from Berriew where a few regularly visited a Garden Birdwatch site during March-June. An adult with chicks was seen near Geufford on 30th June.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Sofliar

RB2

A singing bird was heard on 9th July at Lake Vyrnwy.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Ffesant

RB5/W5

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

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Gwyach Fach

RB3/W4

Elusive during the breeding season, there were again no confirmed breeding records in the county despite birds being present in the breeding season at Llyn Coed y Dinas, Pwll Penarth and Fan Pool. The vast majority of Little Grebe reports come from Dolydd Hafren but no birds were seen there between 6th May and 8th Nov. Dolydd Hafren recorded a maximum count of 7 on 20th Dec.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Gwyach Gopog

RB3/W4

Recorded at 5 locations and breeding attempts were probable at them all - Lake Vyrnwy, Llyn Clywedog, Llyn Coed y Dinas, Llyn Ebyr and Marsh's Pool (Llanidloes). 2 large chicks were reported from Llyn Ebyr. The only site from which multiple pairs were reported was Llyn Coed y Dinas (2 pairs).

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Mulfran

R4/W

Present in the county all year round with a maximum count of 15 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 4th Feb.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Aderyn y Bwn

P1/W1

A Bittern at Llyn Coed y Dinas from 1st-25th Feb was one of the ornithological highlights of 2015. Taking up winter residence directly in front of the main hide, many 100's of people were able to view the bird from as close a distance as 6 metres. Even at this range, in a very small patch of reeds, the Bittern was remarkably difficult to find (and lose sight of) due to its stealth and camouflage. Another wintering Bittern in the county was confirmed at Cors Dyfi by trail camera pictures on 30th Jan and 9th Feb.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Creyr Bach

RB3/W

Absent in the county from June to mid-July, the Dyfi Estuary, Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed y Dinas dominate the sightings of this species in other months. However, it's always nice to record Little Egret in less well reported places e.g. a bird at Montgomery on 23rd Jan, one on the River Cain at Llanfyllin (8th Feb), and possibly the same bird on the River Tanat at Penybontfawr on 18th Feb. Highest count was 9 at the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 29th Oct.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

Creyr Mawr Gwyn

V2

Now seemingly an annual visitor to Montgomeryshire with the Dyfi Estuary and Lake Vyrnwy again playing host to birds in 2015. Reports from the Dyfi Estuary came on 5th Jan, 7th, 12th, 13th, 23rd, 25th Mar, 11th Apr, and 7-9th July. Lake Vyrnwy held a well-watched bird from 7th-15th August.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Creyr Glas

RB4

Highlight of the Heron year was the report of a few nests in a new colony at Welshpool (or at least the re-establishment of an old colony). Otherwise, widespread records mostly in small numbers.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Barcud Coch

RB4

Widespread (indeed Montgomeryshire's 2nd most reported raptor in 2015). 4 nests were reported in 2015 (there will have been more) for what is now a relatively common breeding raptor in the county.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Bod y Gwerni

P2

A few records of passage birds on the coast at Cors Dyfi on 3rd June & 8th Aug, with a male on the adjacent Upper Dyfi Estuary 2nd Jan & 15-19th Aug. Inland, there was one record from Llyn Hir on 11th Sept, when a female/juvenile type briefly quartered an area before heading west.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Bod Tinwen

RB3

4 pairs at Lake Vyrnwy fledged 5 chicks. The males in 3 of these pairs were aged as 1st summer birds (so relatively young). A pair also bred in the south of the county and produced chicks (judging by parental behaviour) but nest outcome, if known, has not been published. Scattered records of passage birds were recorded inland during the spring and autumn. At the coast, the Upper Dyfi Estuary hosted a wintering ringtail in the first winter period (to 30th March) and up to 3 birds were there during December (2 males & 1 ringtail observed on 24th).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

Gwalch Marth

RB4

An underreported species due to Goshawk spending much of the year hidden deep in large conifer plantations (and also the relative difficulty in confirming identify of the species during its notoriously brief flypasts). Breeding was confirmed at Lake Vyrnwy in 2015 but will probably have occurred throughout the county.



Goshawk by Keith Lewis

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Gwalch Glas

RB4

Widespread records and regularly seen in gardens - in fact 60% of the 240 records received in 2015 came from Garden Birdwatch or the MWT Garden Bird Survey.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Bwncath

RB5

The most frequently reported raptor in the county. Seen from 100% of MWT Garden Survey gardens in Summer 2015 and Winter 2015-16. There were 16 Buzzard riding thermals at Dolydd Hafren on 5th Apr.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Gwalch y Pysgod

RB2/P3

2 pairs again successfully bred in Montgomeryshire in 2015. The pair at the Dyfi Osprey Project (at MWT Cors Dyfi) fledged 3 chicks, as did the other site in the south of the county. Passage birds were seen at scattered sites of which the 2 Osprey present at Dolydd Hafren in mid August were probably the most watched and recorded (see Ringing section below - page 37 - for details & pictures of these birds).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Cudyll Coch

RB4

Just 40 records were received in 2015 suggesting that Kestrel really is now a scarce breeding raptor in the county. 2 nests were confirmed - one at Lake Glaslyn (large downy young observed) and the other at Lake Vyrnwy where a pair successfully bred for the first time in 15 years.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Cudyll Bach

RB3/P3/W

Merlin has very recently all but disappeared as a breeding species in Montgomeryshire and no-one seems to know why. 10 years ago there would have been 6+ pairs successfully breeding regularly in the county and now we are lucky if we get any. In 2015, a pair was present at Lake Vyrnwy but failed to breed. In the south of the county a pair is likely to have hatched eggs (judging by dates and behaviour) but final nest outcome has not been published. Autumn records of passage birds (late Sept-mid Oct) were received from Dylife, Llyn Hir, Foel and the Upper Dyfi Estuary (which also had singles in the first winter period on 5th Mar & 17th Apr). Merlin was also reported from Trelydan on 2 occasions in Feb.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Hebog yr Ehedydd

RB2/P3

It's interesting (but possibly irrelevant) to note how the number of reports of Hobby fluctuate between the years. In 2015, 26 sightings were received (2014 = 46, 2013 = 10). The first of 2015 was seen over the Hafren Forest on 18th Apr and the last at Dolydd Hafren on 7th Oct. Aggressive adults plus at least one juvenile were seen at a location in the south of the county so breeding was likely in at least one Montgomeryshire site (and maybe a couple more judging by the dates of records).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Hebog Tramor

RB3

The BTO's Peregrine Breeding Survey in 2014 confirmed 18 breeding sites for Peregrine in the county and they were encountered reasonably frequently in 2015 - especially near eyries. The publicly viewable pair at Lake Vyrnwy were thought to have fledged 1 chick. Unusual behaviour was observed at Dolydd Hafren on 15th Sept, when a male Peregrine waded 3 metres out into the river to wash and was carried downstream by the water (it survived)!

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Rhegen y Dwr

RB2/P3/W

Winter records were received from the Dyfi Estuary, Dolydd Hafren, The Flash (Welshpool), Llyn Coed y Dinas, Pwll Penarth and Pool Quay. However, no sightings were reported in 2015 between May and July (so breeding is unlikely to have occurred).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Iar Ddwr

RB4/W

All reports received were from the Severn Valley, stretching in a more or less north to south line between Llansantffraid and Newtown. The exception was a record from Llyn Mawr on 9th June. This distribution presumably represents the location of bird watchers who report their sightings rather than that of Moorhen!

COOT *Fulica atra*

Cwtiar

RB4/W/P

Scattered records with most coming from the usual well watched sites. Maximum counts were 10 at Llyn Coed y Dinas (4th Feb) and Dolydd Hafren (5th Apr). In addition to these sites, breeding was noted at Llyn Mawr with 3 fledged young there on 9th June.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Pioden y Mor

RB3/W

Inland Oystercatchers are almost all seen at Llyn Coed y Dinas and Dolydd Hafren and at least one pair attempted to breed at each site in 2015. The birds arrived at the sites in February and had mostly departed by mid July (though 2 Oystercatcher were seen at Dolydd Hafren on 12th Aug). Elsewhere there were 5 passage birds at Lake Vyrnwy on 4th Apr, a pair at Pontrobert on 19th May, 2 breeding pairs at Caersws, and 2 at Llyn Clywedog on 8th July. At the coast, Oystercatcher are regular on the Dyfi Estuary where the high count was 24 on 4th Aug.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Cwtiad Torchog Bach

RB3/P

The first of the year arrived at Dolydd Hafren on 5th Apr and the last observed on 16th Aug at the River Dyfi between Machynlleth and Derwenlas. A breeding species at Dolydd Hafren (as well as locations further south along the River Severn), there were possibly as many as 5 pairs there on 13th May.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Cwtiad Torchog

P3

Two inland records of singletons at Llyn Coed y Dinas (15th Apr) and Dolydd Hafren (31st May). The highest count came from the Upper Dyfi Estuary with 30+ on 22nd March.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Cwtiad Aur

RB3/W3/P

Upland passage records only were received (Jan-Mar and Sep-Oct). Numbers seemed well down on previous years with just 75 the maximum count near Cefn Coch on 12th Feb & 19th Mar. In the autumn the biggest flocks were 50 at both Llyn Hir (8th Oct) and west of Llanidloes (9th Oct).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Cwtiad Llwyd

P1

All records came from the Upper Dyfi Estuary where the highest passage counts were 4+ on 20th March, and 9 on 27th Sept.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Cornchwiglen

RB3/W4

Reasonably good flocks were reported from Dolydd Hafren particularly in the spring. 100 there on 1st Jan had swelled to 500 by 11th. Numbers then dwindled until 1st Feb when 1500+ Lapwing were present. Approximately 500 remained in the area for the next 10 days or so rising to 1000+ on 15th & 17th Feb. After the 18th Feb (500 birds counted) numbers fell to just a few birds with limited (but possible breeding) presence through the summer. 100+ birds did not appear again at Dolydd Hafren until 22nd Nov and numbers then rose to reach 300-400 by 26th Dec.

Numbers elsewhere were far smaller throughout 2015 with the largest flock being 50 at Llyn Hir on 3rd Oct. Few breeding records were forthcoming but breeding does seem likely to have occurred at least around the Llanidloes area.



Lapwing by David Lister

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina schinzii*

Pibydd y Mawn

P3/W

All the records were from Dolydd Hafren with a single on 28th Apr, 9 on 30th Aug and 2 on 22nd Nov. There will undoubtedly have been some presence on the Dyfi Estuary as well.

JACK SNIFE *Limnocyrtus minimus*

Giach Fach

W3/P

2 were at Dolydd Hafren on 24th March with one also observed there on 29th Mar. Llyn Hir had single birds on 24th Jan and 6th & 8th Oct. The county ringing report shows a total of 5 Jack Snipe were ringed so unless all those reported were caught, then there were some others somewhere..!

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*

Giach Gyffredin

RB3/W4

Lake Vyrnwy was unique within the county in reporting a drumming male inland. The only other summer Snipe were at Llanymynech where multiple birds were reported weekly until w/e 14th June. Snipe do breed on the Upper Dyfi Estuary where the first chipping male was heard on 10th Apr. Otherwise, all Snipe records received in 2015 were outside of the breeding season (i.e. during Jan-Apr and Aug-Dec). The maximum count during this time was 40 at Llyn Hir on 24th Jan.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Cyffyllog

RB3/W5/P

Records of wintering birds only again - it's very doubtful that Woodcock breed in the county anymore. Maximum count was 13 at Llyn Hir on 24th January.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rhostog Gynffonddu

P2

Present on the Upper Dyfi Estuary on at least the 11th April.

The only other record was a singleton at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 17th July (pictured right).



Black-tailed Godwit at Llyn Coed y Dinas, July 2015 by Brian Pollard

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Coegylfinir

P3

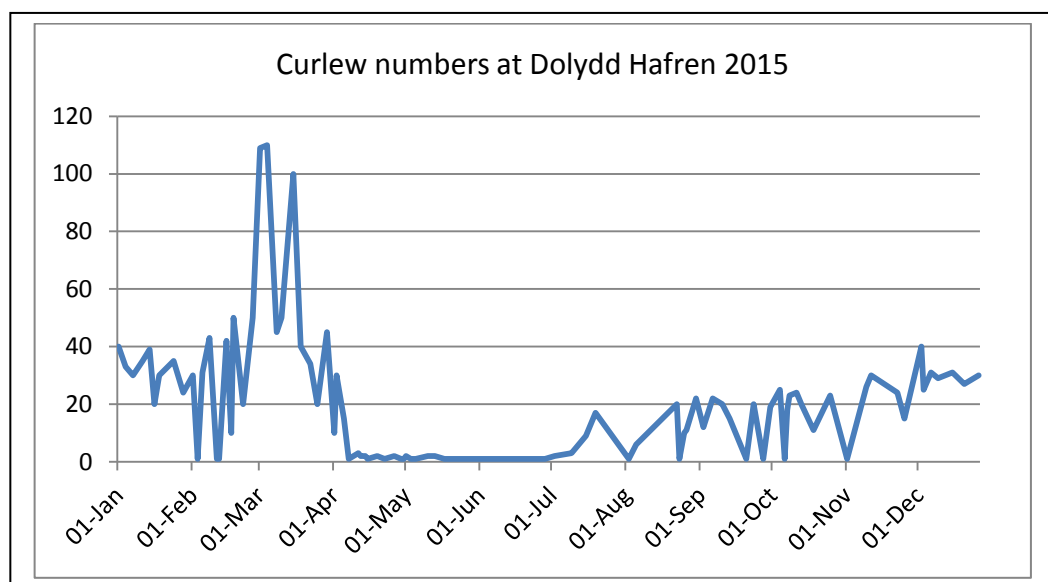
Dolydd Hafren produced 1 bird on 19th Apr, 2 on 26th Apr and 1 on 30th Apr. Passage periods on the Upper Dyfi Estuary gave high counts of 20+ on 3 dates in mid-May, and 29 on 26th Aug.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Gylfinir

RB3/W4

With 96 records received from Dolydd Hafren it's possible to produce a reasonably meaningful chart (below) to show the pattern of Curlew numbers throughout the year at the site. Numbers of birds gathering in the spring (max count 110 on 4th Mar) prior to the breeding season were higher than those in autumnal post breeding/winter flocks (max 40+ on 2nd Dec).



Not all of the birds that gather at Dolydd Hafren will be local breeders and unfortunately, as might be expected from the recent national population crash, evidence of breeding was thin to non-existent. 3 pairs were around at Lake Vyrnwy which, despite protection, failed to fledge any young. Possible breeding was also noted in the Castle Caereinion area with 3 birds present there at the end of May. No breeding records were received from anywhere else (although there probably will have been a few other breeding attempts somewhere in the county).

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Pibydd Coesgoch

RB3/P4

Successfully bred on the Upper Dyfi Estuary but numbers of Redshank (and Snipe etc) will have been reduced by heavy rain and large tides on 6th May and 2nd June. A bird at Machynlleth on 2nd July presumably was a wanderer from downriver. Elsewhere, Dolydd Hafren recorded Redshank between 8th Mar & 26th Apr with the highest count there of 5 on 17th Mar. A singleton was also present there on 19th July. Single birds were recorded from Llyn Coed y Dinas on 15th Jan, 17th Mar and 5th Apr. The only other record was of a calling bird near Llangurig on 5th June.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Pibydd Coeswerdd

P3

Just one sighting of a spring passage bird inland at Dolydd Hafren on 12th April. On the Upper Dyfi Estuary 2 birds were present 14th-15th Apr and autumn numbers peaked at 3 on 1st Oct.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Pibydd Gwyrdd

P4/W3

Reported in all months of the year but mostly from July to April. Almost all the sightings received came from the well watched sites of Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed y Dinas. The exceptions were singletons at Caersws on 24th January and on the River Cain at Llanfechain on 24th April. Green Sandpiper were present on various dates on the Upper Dyfi Estuary including 4 on 4th Oct.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Pibydd y Dorlan

SB4

Wintering birds were at Caersws on 24th Jan and the Upper Dyfi Estuary (also the 24th Jan, plus 1st & 3rd Feb). Otherwise first spring arrivals commenced on 29th Mar at Dolydd Hafren with the main bulk of sightings then from 12th April onwards at various sites. The final record of 2015 was at Dolydd Hafren on 11th Oct. The RSPB Lake Vyrnwy warden noted it was, "not a good (breeding) season due to high water levels".

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Gwylan Mor y Canoldir

P3

The first record of the year came from Llyn Coed y Dinas with a summer plumaged, 2nd winter bird from 29-31st March. Another was seen there on 13th Apr before an extended residence of a 1st summer bird from end April until 24th May. An adult with a missing foot was seen at the same location on 30th June. Dolydd Hafren was the only other site to report the species (2nd July).



Larus sp at Llyn Coed y Dinas - Mediterranean Gull (L) by Chris Townsend and Little Gull (R) by Micky Maher

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Gwylan Fechan

P2

An adult was present at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 29th Apr and it, or another, was also there on 30th April.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Gwylan Benddu

RB4/W5/P

The Llyn Coed y Dinas colony numbered about 300 pairs and were on eggs by end March but the water level rose and flooded early nesters. Fortunately some survived or re-laid and by the end of June c.280 airborne chicks were reported. The highest count away from the breeding site was c.400 at Dolydd Hafren on 15th Feb. There are very few sightings of this species in the county post-July with 3 birds at Dolydd Hafren on 19th Sept, 1 there on 22nd Nov, and a record from Llyn Coed y Dinas on 26th Nov.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Gwylan y Gweunydd

P3/W

A few reported on Birdtrack at Machynlleth between Jan-Mar with another from the same source in July.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Gwylan Gefnddu Leiaf

RB2/P4/W4

A big flock of 2000+ were enjoying the flooded fields at Welshpool in 27th Dec. Counts in excess of 200 were noted at Dolydd Hafren and Caersws (also in December). More than half the sightings of Lesser Black-Backed Gull came from the 4 months Apr-July coinciding with spring passage and local breeding (there is a small colony at Welshpool at least). Along with Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-Backed Gull is the most commonly encountered gull species across Montgomeryshire.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Gwylan y Penwaig

RB4

Reported in all months except October. As with Lesser Black-Backed Gull, just over half the county records came in Apr-July. No breeding records were received in 2015 but there probably was a colony at Newtown. The highest count was c.800 at Caersws (in flooded fields near Maes Mawr Hall) on 4th Dec.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Gwylan y Gogledd

P1

A single bird reported from the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 23rd Jan, 29th Jan and 5th Feb.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Gwylan Gefnddu Fwyaf

P3

A few scattered records on scattered dates. The highest counts were 10 on the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 10th Apr, 5 at Caersws (with the Herring Gulls) on 4th Dec, and 3 at Dolydd Hafren on 6th Dec.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Gwylan Goesddu

P2

2 were at Llyn Coed y Dinas late afternoon on 26th Mar on the island in front of the hide. 2 were also seen at the same location on 28th March - a full adult in the morning and a 1st winter in late afternoon.



At Llyn Coed y Dinas - Kittiwake (L) by Mark Wilson and Arctic Tern (R) by Micky Maher.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Morwennol Gyffredin

P3

Montgomeryshire Tern passage (and therefore sightings) seems to have dwindled in recent years and any species of Tern in 2015 was a rare sight. Common Tern was reported just once - from Llyn Coed y Dinas on 5th May.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Morwennol y Gogledd

P2

A singleton at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 6th May.

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Colomen y Graig/Colomen Ddof

RB5

The highest count was 25 in Welshpool on 4th Feb but we know there are many more than this in Welshpool and Newtown and probably other larger towns.... Last year's MWT Garden Bird surveyor "plagued" by pigeons in Newtown noted "still overwhelmed with 24+" in the Winter 2014-15 survey.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Colomen Wyllt

RB5

Probably under-recorded because Stock Dove are less inclined to visit gardens (although they regularly do) and are less visibly recognisable than say Collared Dove (for which records outnumber Stock Dove in 2015 by 4 to 1). Highest count was 64+ at Dolydd Hafren on 20th Sept.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Ysguthan

RB5/P/W

Very common - the 7th most reported species in 2015. No large flocks were reported but that does not necessarily mean they were not there.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Turtur Dorchog

RB5

Present in 66% of summer gardens and 60% of winter gardens (MWT Garden Bird Survey). All counts provided were of fewer than 10 birds.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Turtur

(SB)/S1

A single bird was present in a garden at Pentre'r beirdd on 10th June.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Cog

SB3/P

The MWT Garden Bird Survey recorded Cuckoo from 1 in 5 summer gardens for the 2nd year running (this is an improvement on 2012 when just 11% of gardens reported the species). However, it does depend where the gardens are - those near upland/moorland have a much better chance of hearing Cuckoo as most of Montgomeryshire's Cuckoo seem to favour Meadow Pipit as host. The first of the year were heard at Llanfechain on 12th Apr and Castle Caereinion (week ending 12th Apr).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Tylluan Wen

RB3

This species seems to experience cyclical short-term population change with boom and bust years. 2015 was definitely a boom year with 69 pairs of Barn Owl being the highest total for the county since the record high of 73 pairs in 2005.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Tylluan Fach

RB3

Little Owl were resident at Dolydd Hafren from Feb-Nov but otherwise just 2 other locations were reported with a bird at Churchstoke w/e 30th Aug and 1 heard near Staylittle on 11th Feb.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Tylluan Frech

RB5

2015 was a good year for Tawny Owl. At RSPB Lake Vyrnwy in a 'normal' year just a few nests are found in the large nest boxes there, but in 2015 a total of 11 nest attempts were discovered which successfully fledging at least 18 young. The MWT Garden Bird Survey also noted record numbers of Tawny Owl with presence recorded in 80% of winter 2014-15 gardens and 83% of summer gardens.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Tylluan Glustiog

RB2/P/W3

More sightings were received than in recent years from:- Glaslyn (17th Feb); Llyn Hir area (2 on 11th Mar); Lake Vyrnwy (2nd & 16th Apr); an adult southwest of Llangurig (15th July); up to 2 wintering birds on the Dyfi Estuary 8-27th December.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Troellwr

SB4

Recorded from just 2 locations (west of Llanidloes and Lake Vyrnwy) in 2015. As in previous years this low count is a reflection of few people looking or reporting, rather than a county shortage of Nightjar.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

Gwennol Ddu

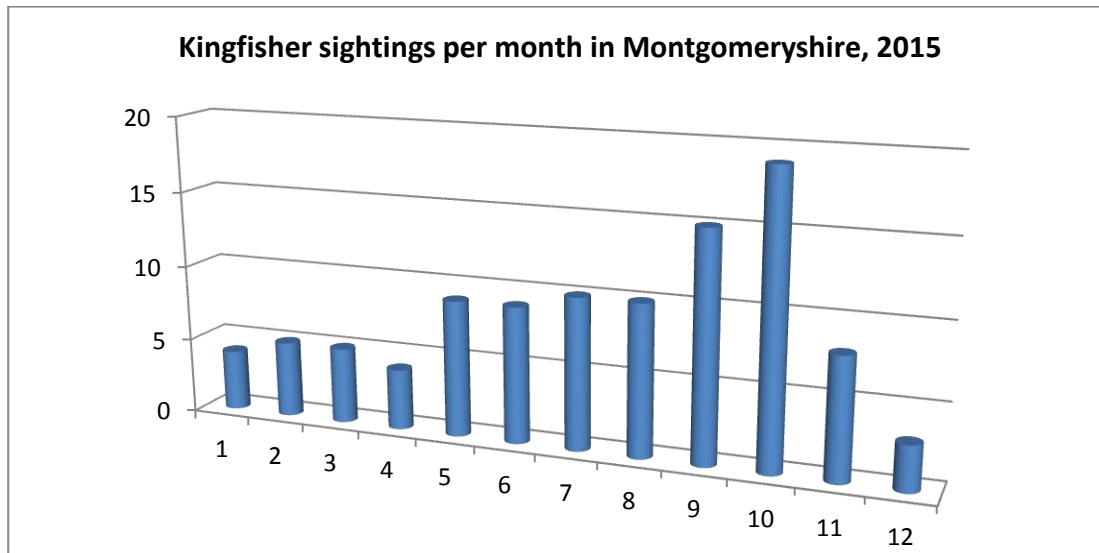
SB5

The first of the year was at Dolydd Hafren on 19th April and the last records were from there, and also Llanidloes, on 16th August. There were 100+ Swift over Welshpool on 7th August.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Glas y Dorlan

RB5



Widespread. The chart above shows that more Kingfisher are reported in the autumn when there are more birds around (the young having fledged) and all birds are dispersing to wintering areas.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Cnocell Werdd

RB4

33% fewer records were received in 2015 compared to 2014 but the distribution is the same as in previous years (see map in Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2014).

Green Woodpecker remains concentrated in the north-east part of the county with a couple of records also coming from Llyn Clywedog. The picture on the right was taken in Welshpool in July.



Green Woodpecker (male) by Chris Townsend

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major*

Cnocell Fraith Fwyaf

RB5

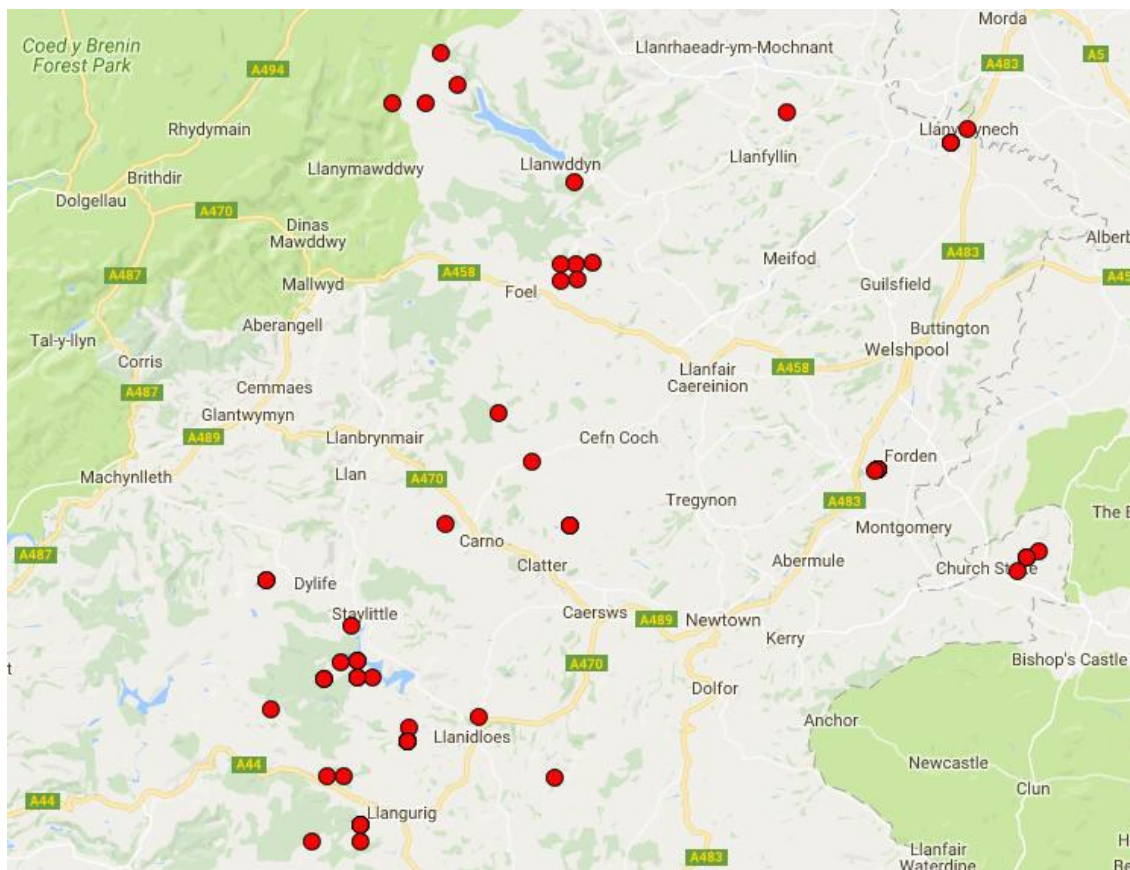
The fact that this is the 12th most reported species in the county illustrates just how common Great Spotted Woodpeckers are in Montgomeryshire (and gardens in particular). New record highs were received from the MWT Garden Bird Survey with 94% of summer, and 96% of winter gardens recording the species.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor*

Cnocell Fraith Leiaf

RB3

Two April records, one from Dolydd Hafren on 15th and the other from Breidden Hill on 20th. A bird visiting feeders on the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 22nd Oct was driven off by Great Spotted Woodpecker.



Skylark records received for Montgomeryshire 2015

Records were received from widespread locations (map above) confirming that there are some people recording species within the 'more remote' parts of the county. The map offers a relative comparison (non-scientific) of Skylark to chat abundance when compared alongside the chat map (page 22 below). The maximum Skylark counts in 2015 were 30+ at Llanymynech on 3rd Oct, and 26 near Llyn Clywedog on 4th April.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Gwennol y Glennydd

SB5

2 birds on the 14th March at Llyn Coed y Dinas were the first sighting of 2015 with the last observed on 10th Sept at Dolydd Hafren. Known to be a widespread breeder within the county, Sand Martin are however not widely reported with 66% of records coming from Dolydd Hafren! Llyn Coed y Dinas produced the highest count of 2015 with 150+ on 11th April.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Gwennol

SB5/P

2 birds at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 1st Apr were the first of 2015 and Swallow were present in the county until a final 2 at Dolydd Hafren on 25th Oct. The highest count was an estimated 60 at Pontrobert on 16th Sept.

The Swallow highlight of 2015 concerned 2 birds ringed in Montgomeryshire which were then subsequently found in South Africa. Although they all go there, the chances of a British ringed Swallow actually being found or re-sighted in South Africa are about 50,000:1 !

The first Montgomeryshire Swallow recovered in Africa was a juvenile ringed at Cors Dyfi on 20th July 2014. It was found at Meyerton, South Africa on 11th Feb 2015 (206 days : 9335 km). The 2nd Swallow was ringed as a chick at Llanfechain on 24th June and retrapped in a 2 million bird Swallow roost at Umzumbe, Southern Kwazulu, South Africa on 28th Nov (157 days : 9835 km).



The Swallow ringed in Llanfechain and retrapped in South Africa (pictured) by A.Pickles

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Gwennol y Bondo

SB5

The Montgomeryshire Garden Bird Survey recorded House Martin in 75% of summer gardens - slightly up on previous years which is encouraging because there seem to be local areas from which the species has recently all but disappeared. The first birds arrived at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 4th Apr and the last were reported from Ceinws on 25th Oct. The largest concentration numbered 500+ above Lake Vyrnwy in late afternoon on 26th August.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Corhedydd y Coed

SB4/P

Widespread breeding records of this summer visitor. The first was seen on 15th April with 2 sightings in different areas near Llanidloes.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Corhedydd y Waun

SB5/P

Reported in all months although winter numbers are significantly reduced and the records most often come from lowland locations e.g. Dolydd Hafren. The largest flocks were typically reported during the autumn passage with 200 at Llyn Hir on 6th Oct and 150 there on 8th Oct. Larger flocks are undoubtedly present at this time of year comprising numerous local juveniles and others from more northerly locations.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Siglen Felen

SB3

Present between 15th Apr - 19th Aug at Dolydd Hafren (which in 2015 was the only reliable location to see Yellow Wagtail in Montgomeryshire). Reported from just 3 other places:- at Meifod (21st April); Llyn Coed y Dinas (5th May); Tylwch (w/e 10th May).

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Siglen Lwyd

RB4/W

Widespread and with an apparently greater presence in gardens in 2015 with 50% of summer gardens and 49% of winter gardens reporting the species in the MWT Garden Bird Survey (the average for the previous 3 years is around 30%).

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Siglen Fraith

RB5/P/W

Widespread records with 30+ the highest count at Dolydd Hafren on 22nd March. A roost of 21 was noted on the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 14th Aug.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

Bronwen-y-Dwr

RB5

The Dipper is a common breeding bird along all suitable county waterways but is infrequently reported. RSPB Lake Vyrnwy noted that Dipper "did not have a good season due to nests being washed away from bridges due to high water levels".

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Dryw

RB5

The recovery has continued from losses due to the heavy snow of 2013. Now 8th in the list of most reported bird species in the county (it dropped to 23rd in 2013). Wren reports reached new highs in the MWT Garden Bird Survey with presence in 98% of winter gardens and 92% of summer gardens.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Llwyd y Gwrych

RB5

In 2015 Dunnock maintained its recent run of being the 6th most reported bird species in the county. Two high counts were suggested from Dolydd Hafren with 20 on 5th April and 26 on 22nd Nov.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Robin Goch

RB5/P

The 3rd most reported species of 2015 (behind Blue Tit and Blackbird). Where a count was provided, 35 records noted 10 or more birds, of which 29 were in the months Sept - February (Robin are more visible in the winter, less territorial, and, their numbers are swelled by over-wintering continental birds).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Tingoch Du

P2

A bird of female/juvenile type was located in the clearfell area just below the Rhiwargor waterfall at Lake Vyrnwy on 19th September. This was a particularly rewarding find as a glimpse of something similar in the same area at the end of August had resulted in a fruitless search.

This was the first confirmed county record since 2006 (an immature found in July, also at Lake Vyrnwy).



Black Redstart by Gavin Chambers

SB4

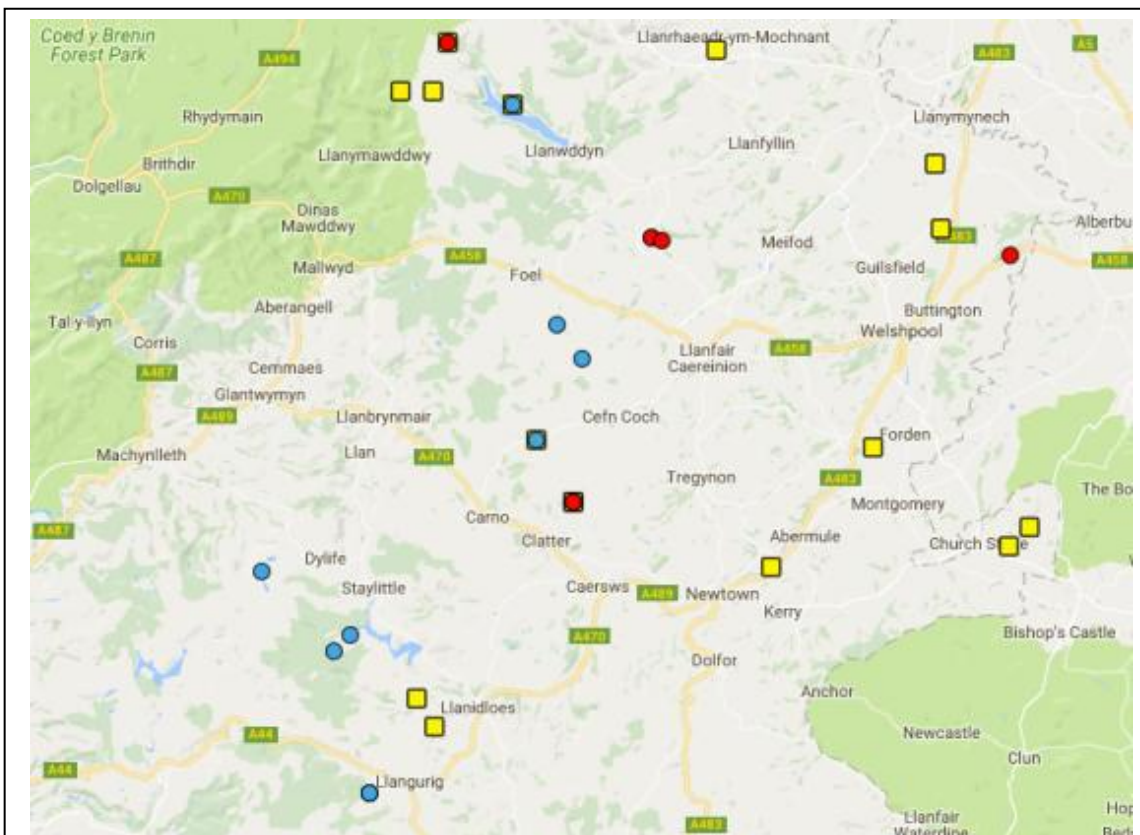
A very unusual record came from the Upper Dyfi Estuary of a male present virtually every day between 7th Jan - 16th Mar. The bird was even heard to sing as early as 20th Feb. Elsewhere, more conventionally, there was an early record of a bird seen and heard at Cwmbiga on 23rd March. Other early records were made on 2nd April at Llanfyllin and Lake Vyrnwy. The last Redstart of 2015 was at Llandyssil on 15th Oct when a female/juvenile type was seen at Green Lane. Redstart seemed to do well in 2015 with many reports of breeding birds throughout the county.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Crec yr Eithin

SB4

The first Whinchat arrived at Lake Vyrnwy on 19th Apr and the last was at Dolydd Hafren on 15th Sept. The map below shows a mid to west breeding distribution bias (especially in comparison with Stonechat).



Chat species sightings May-June 2015

Yellow = Wheatear; Blue = Whinchat; Red = Stonechat

Observations from these breeding season records:

- There are not many records and all chat species are probably under-reported
- Stonechat has the fewest sightings
- Whinchat apparently has a mid to westerly distribution bias in the county

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Clochdar y Cerrig

W3/SB4

Sightings came from c.10 county locations between February and September but from only 5 in May & June (map above). Overwintering birds were near Cefn Coch on 14th Jan & Staylittle on 11th Dec.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Tinwen y Garn

SB5/P5

Fewer records were received than in 2014 with more than half being spring passage birds in widespread locations. The first Wheatear of the year were at Llanbrynmair on 19th March and the last at Dolydd Hafren on 15th Sept. Double figure counts of passage birds were made on the Dinas Mawddwy road at Lake Vyrnwy 15-16th April and 10 were west of Llanidloes on 19th April. A relatively common breeder in Montgomeryshire's upland habitat, the RSPB Lake Vyrnwy warden noted that Wheatear enjoyed "a better season than usual".

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Mwyalchen y Mynydd

SB3/P3

The first confirmed Ring Ouzel breeding record in Montgomeryshire for a number of years came from the Lake Glaslyn area where a pair successfully raised at least one brood. A report of a brief song heard at Lake Vyrnwy in May was tantalising.

Elsewhere, the only records were of spring passage birds with 1 on the Kerry Ridgeway (just inside the county border) on 6th April, and a female at Lake Vyrnwy 13-16th April.



Ring Ouzel by Eryl Selly

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Mwyalchen

RB5/W/P

Widely reported and present pretty much everywhere. Highest counts were all from Dolydd Hafren with c.40 there on 8th Feb and 18th Oct.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Socan Eira

W5/P

Two mild winters have resulted in Fieldfare being present in Montgomeryshire in relatively low numbers. The final birds of spring were seen in the Llyn Clywedog area on 4th Apr. The first of the autumn was at Lake Vyrnwy on 4th Oct (although there were no further sightings until 14th Oct). The high count in both winter periods came from Dolydd Hafren with 200+ there on 4th Jan and 22nd Nov.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Bronfraith

RB5/P/W

Song Thrush had been consistently recorded in c.75% of gardens for the past few MWT Garden Bird Surveys but jumped to 90% in summer 2015 and 82% in winter 2015-16. Presumably they are benefiting from mild weather and wet ground conditions. The highest count of 2015 (30 birds recorded at Dolydd Hafren on 25th Oct) may include continental migrants.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Coch Dan-aden

W5/P

As per Fieldfare, the final birds of winter 2014/15 were seen in the Llyn Clywedog area on 4th Apr. The first sightings of the second winter period were at Llyn Hir and Lake Vyrnwy on 8th Oct. Neither of the winters was particularly cold and consequently Redwing were present in the county in relatively small numbers. The largest flocks were 200 at Dolydd Hafren (18th Jan) and at Trewern (10th Feb), and 150+ at Dolydd Hafren on 20th Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Brych y Coed
RB5 The same number of records were received as in 2014 although presence was up in the MWT Summer & Winter 2015-16 Garden Surveys. A flock of c.50 west of Llanidloes on 31st July was notable.	
CETTI'S WARBLER <i>Cettia cetti</i>	Telor Cetti
R1 A record from Cors Dyfi on 4th May.	
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER <i>Locustella naevia</i>	Troellwr Bach
SB4/P The first of 2015 was at Cors Dyfi on 13th April. This location and the Hafren Forest dominate the few records received but other sightings came from Kerry Hill, Lake Vrynwy and west of Llanidloes.	
SEDGE WARBLER <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Telor yr Hseg
SB4 All records came from the 4 main reedbed sites in the county at Dyfi Estuary, Dolydd Hafren, Llyn Coed y Dinas and Pwll Penarth. A welcome exception was of a singing male at Fan Pool (near Llanidloes) on 27th April. The first of the year was at the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 19th Mar and the last at Dolydd Hafren on 30th Aug.	
REED WARBLER <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Telor y Cyrs
SB4 As per Sedge Warbler, virtually all the records came from Cors Dyfi, Dolydd Hafren, Llyn Coed y Dinas and Pwll Penarth. A record from Llyn Mawr on 13th May was a noteworthy exception. The first of the year was at Dolydd Hafren on 19th Apr and the final sighting was also from there on 15th Sept.	
LESSER WHITETHROAT <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Llwydfron Fach
SB3/P As in previous years this was an infrequently recorded species in the county. Spring records came from Dolydd Hafren, Pontrobert, Wern and Llyn Clywedog with the earliest at Dolydd Hafren on 15th Apr. Autumn passage birds were at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 20th Aug and Bwlchyddar on 29th Aug as well as at Dolydd Hafren throughout until the final sighting there on 23rd Sept.	
WHITETHROAT <i>Sylvia communis</i>	Llwydfron
SB4/P Middletown Hill produced the first Whitethroat of the year on 23rd April with the final sighting at Dolydd Hafren on 15th Sept. Whitethroat seem to have a fragmented distribution within the county and are not often reported - about half as many records received as for Garden Warbler.	
GARDEN WARBLER <i>Sylvia borin</i>	Telor yr Ardd
SB5/P The first of 2015 was at Dolydd Hafren on 15th April. Reported from widespread locations thereafter until September when the last accepted record came from Dolydd Hafren on 13th.	

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Telor Penddu

SB5/P/W3

The highest number of over-wintering birds ever recorded in the county were noted in Jan (10 records) and Feb (9 records). Fewer were noted in the later winter period with just 2 records in Nov and 4 in Dec. The breeding season seemed good with reasonably high numbers of juveniles present and on passage in late summer/early autumn. The highest counts predictably coincided with this period, all coming from a ringing study site at Bwlchyddar with 21 birds on 6th & 16th Aug, and 15 on 29th Aug.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Telor Aelfelyn

SB4

There was an unprecedented large influx of Yellow-browed Warbler into Britain in the autumn of 2015. As seemingly everywhere else in Wales was recording the species, it was with some relief that Montgomeryshire's first Yellow-browed Warbler was found in Newtown on 12th Oct. The bird remained until the 16th Oct, flitting around in the tops of sycamore trees alongside the MacDonalds car park.



Yellow-browed Warbler, Newtown by Paul Leafe

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Telor y Coed

SB4

The first record of the year was a singing male at Lake Vyrnwy on 22nd Apr. Surveys there suggested 30+ singing males present on the reserve. Ad hoc counts were also made in the woods near Llanidloes producing 7 singing birds at Alt Goch, 3 in Gorn Hill Top Wood and 5 at Gorn Hill Main Wood.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Siff-saff

SB5/P/W2

2015 was an excellent year with Chiffchaff reported from >70% of MWT summer Garden Bird Surveys. Large numbers of juveniles moved through the county from July onwards. 30+ birds were recorded at Dolydd Hafren on both 30th Aug & 6th Sept, whilst 31 were ringed at Bwlchyddar on 4th Sept.

Chiffchaff were recorded in all months with some over-wintering (see table below). The January records came from Treowen Estate, Newtown (4th) and Machynlleth (22nd). The December records were from Newtown sewage works on 16th and 18th.

Chiffchaff - winter birds in Montgomeryshire 2015:

Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
2	2	6	4

The sub-species **Siberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* was recorded for the first time in the county with 3 separate birds involved. The first was with Goldcrest passage at Lake Vyrnwy on 25th Oct. Two more were wintering at Newtown sewage works (with *Phylloscopus collybita*) on the 16th & 18th Dec.



Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* at Lake Vyrnwy by Gavin Chambers (top) and Newtown by Paul Leafe (bottom)

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Telor yr Helyg

SB5/P

In 2015, the earliest and latest accepted records were at Dolydd Hafren on 5th April and 27th Sept. The highest count was 42 from near Llangurig on 16th May. A Willow Warbler with a damaged wing was at Newtown sewage works in December.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Dryw Eurben

RB5/P/W

There was an unusually large movement of Goldcrest south and west through Britain in autumn 2015 and Montgomeryshire experienced notable numbers of Goldcrest at this time. Many of the birds were probably continental in origin and 2 birds found at Lake Vyrnwy in October already carried rings from the east coast of England. The passage movement was evident from 20th Sept when 20 Goldcrest were found early morning moving along a hilltop hedge (not their normal habitat) at Bwlchyddar. Large numbers were similarly observed in willow scrub at Lake Vyrnwy with 30 on 25th Oct and 37 on 1st Nov. These counts were just a fraction of the total birds moving through the area - easily numbering 100+ per day. The MWT Garden Bird Survey also recorded a high frequency and distribution of Goldcrest in Winter 2015-16 with the species seen in more than 40% of gardens for the first time.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Dryw Penfflamgoch

SB2/P1

A few pairs of Firecrest had bred at Lake Vyrnwy since the early 1980's but for the 2nd consecutive year no birds were reported during the breeding season at Lake Vyrnwy or from anywhere else within the county.

One Firecrest (most likely of continental origin) was trapped and ringed alongside Goldcrest at Lake Vyrnwy on 25th Oct. Another similar autumn passage record came from Newtown on 21st Nov. A single bird was reported earlier in the year from the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 2nd Jan.



Firecrest at Lake Vyrnwy 25th Oct by Gavin Chambers

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Gwybedog Mannog

SB4/P

The first of the year was at Lake Vyrnwy on 1st May with the last reported from Llanfyllin on 22nd Sept. Widespread records were received but fewer than in 2014.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Gwybedog Brith

SB5

Montgomeryshire is an important breeding location for this red listed species with birds readily using nest boxes in suitable habitat throughout the county. However, 2015 was not a great breeding season for Pied Flycatcher. It started well with good numbers of birds returning and Lake Vyrnwy recorded a 17% increase in nests attempts on the previous year. However, the number of chicks fledging there fell by around 10% compared to 2014. Nest failures and smaller broods were caused by relatively cold night time temperatures during April and May which constrained food supply.

The first Pied Flycatcher of 2015 was observed on 10th April near Llanidloes.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Titw Gynffon-hir

RB5

Long-tailed Tit returned to their normal numbers following a dip in sightings in 2014. In the MWT Garden Bird Survey they were reported present in 66% of summer gardens and in around 80% of gardens during the winter. Flocks of 30+ were at Dolydd Hafren on 30th Aug, 4th Oct and 1st Nov.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Titw'r Wern

RB4

Far more county records were received for Marsh Tit (100+) than Willow Tit (just 7 excluding Lake Vyrnwy) in 2015. Nevertheless, Marsh Tit is a species that is now seemingly only thinly distributed in small numbers within the county. Breeding was confirmed at Roundton Hill and Lake Vyrnwy and juveniles were found at Bwlchyddar in July. Birds were recorded during the breeding season in widespread locations including Berriew, Pentre'r beirdd, Dolydd Hafren and near Llanidloes.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Titw'r Helyg

RB3

Away from Lake Vyrnwy (where an ongoing study of Willow Tit is underway), records were received outside of the breeding season from Dolydd Hafren, Gaer fawr Hill, Pwll Penarth and west of Llanidloes. A Willow Tit was excavating a hole at Breidden Hill on 20th April and adult and young were at Bwlchyddar in July. The Lake Vyrnwy population was thought to number about 15 pairs with more birds likely in the adjacent Dyfnant Forest. No nests were found at Lake Vyrnwy in 2015 but juvenile birds were present during the autumn thus confirming that local breeding did occur.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Titw Penddu

RB5

A common and widespread conifer specialist. Numbers seemed up on those of 2014 and for the first time, 100% of MWT survey gardens reported the species (winter 2015-16).

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Titw Tomos Las

RB5

Once again Blue Tit was the most commonly reported bird in Montgomeryshire and also tops the MWT Garden Bird survey list. 2015 was an excellent year for Blue Tit. Record nest attempts were made at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy and large, successful broods were also noted from nest boxes all around the county. Perhaps the most intriguing record though, was of a melanistic (i.e. showing abnormal dark-coloured pigment in the feathers) bird in Trewern garden in January. A similar bird had been recorded at the same location back on 6th Feb 2010 and it transpires that this bird (or another) was also seen and photographed in another Trewern garden in 2010 and 2012.



The 'black-headed' Blue Tit of Trewern in 2015 by S. Morley

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Titw Mawr

RB5

This is the 5th most frequently reported species in 2015 and whilst common and numerous does not seem to be as abundant as Blue Tit. Also enjoyed a good breeding season in 2015.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Delor y Cnau

RB5

Nuthatch appear to be increasing within Montgomeryshire. Lake Vyrnwy recorded a record high of 24 nesting attempts in the RSPB nest boxes in 2015. Nuthatch numbers have increased sharply at Lake Vyrnwy in recent years with just 3 nest attempts regularly recorded in the years up to 2013 whilst 13 nest attempts were made in 2014.

The MWT Garden Bird Survey also recorded Nuthatch visiting more summer gardens (91.7%) than ever before.



Nuthatch chicks at Lake Vyrnwy by RSPB

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Dringwr bach

RB5

Widespread. Typically reported from approximately 1 in 5 summer MWT Garden Bird Surveys and slightly more winter surveys.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Cigydd Mawr

W3

As in recent years, the only reports came from the Dyfnant/Lake Vyrnwy area.

Sightings were reported at Lake Vyrnwy on 6th Jan and 2nd Apr and from the Dyfnant Forest on 8th Feb and 12th Mar.



The Dyfnant Forest Great Grey Shrike by Nick Smithers

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Ysgrech y Coed

RB5

Widespread, although the only double-figure count was that of 12 at Dolydd Hafren on 18th Oct.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Pioden

RB5

As in 2014, Magpie is the 10th most frequently reported species in Montgomeryshire in 2015. For both years, 700+ sightings have been received and in both years, Carrion Crow records exceed Magpie by less than 10 records. 15 of the Magpie records were double-figure counts. The highest was 38 at Dolydd Hafren on 15th Mar with 20 there on 21st June & 2nd Aug. 19 were near Llangurig on 12th July.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Jac-y-do

RB5/P/W

Common throughout the county, the highest count was 200 at Dolydd Hafren on 7th Oct.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Ydfran

RB5/P

The least reported of all the corvids in Montgomeryshire. The largest flock noted was 100 in the Pontrobert area on 15th Sept.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Bran Dyddyn

RB5

The most common corvid in the county with triple-figure flocks undoubtedly present somewhere, although none were reported in 2015!

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Cigfran

RB5

A widespread breeding species in the county, the highest counts were 45+ at the Beacon Ring on 9th Aug, 25 in a large vocalising flock over Pontrobert on 6th Oct, and 20+ at Dolydd Hafren on 21st Feb.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Drudwen

RB4/P5/W5

The number of records received and seasonal balance was similar to 2014 with 70% of the records from 2015 being of wintering birds (November-March). The MWT Garden Bird Survey recorded the species in 50% of summer gardens which is slightly higher than in 2014, as was the frequency with which the species was seen. MWT Garden Survey winter results were slightly lower than in 2014.

The largest flocks were 3000 at Dolydd Hafren on 26th Dec and 2000 birds were there in the first winter period on 15th Feb. A 2000 bird roost was recorded on the Upper Dyfi Estuary on 19th Oct.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Aderyn y To

RB5

On the conservation Red List due to significant population decline over the past few decades, 2015 appears to have been, in Montgomeryshire at least, a marginally better year for House Sparrow. The MWT Garden Bird Survey reported the species present in 91% of summer gardens and the frequency with which the species was encountered was also the highest on the survey in 4 years. Numbers were also up at Lake Vyrnwy where the warden commented, "had a good season productivity wise, lots of juveniles around".

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Golfan y Mynydd

RB3

A small breeding population remains in the south-eastern corner of the county mostly around Montgomery, Bishops Castle and Churchstoke. In the latter location, during an MWT Garden Survey, "good numbers were noted Apr-May feeding on red millet". A few records were also received from Llanidloes. The highest count was 15-20 at Lymore on 24th January. Up to 12 were in the finch flock at Dolydd Hafren in January and a few juvenile birds were sighted there with adults in June. A few further records were noted for the late winter period elsewhere from the county (via the MWT Garden Survey) although it's difficult to confirm the veracity of all of these sightings.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Ji-binc

RB5/P/W

Abundant and widespread. Up to 200 were at Dolydd Hafren in January and this would not be an uncommon flock size elsewhere if they were counted more regularly! Seen in 100% of MWT summer garden surveys for the first time in 4 years.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Pinc y Mynydd

W4

Very few birds were present in the first winter period with just 7 records of a few birds. The exception was a report of 190 from a site near Cefn Coch on 25th Feb. More than 20 records were received for the second winter period but related to only a single or a handful of birds each time (the earliest of which were 3 overhead at Lake Vyrnwy on 15th Oct).



Brambling by Trevor Gould

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Llino Werdd

RB5

Widespread and widely reported but generally in small numbers. The largest flock was c.50 on 9th December at Dolydd Hafren. Present in just 66% of Montgomeryshire Gardens (MWT Winter Survey 2015-16) making Greenfinch just the 25th most likely species to visit Montgomeryshire winter gardens.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Nico

RB5/P

On the same list (MWT Winter Survey 2015-16), Goldfinch ranks at 16th and is present in 89% of winter Montgomeryshire gardens. No particularly large flocks were reported in 2015, the maximum being 100 at Llyn Hir on 3rd Oct, with 75+ at Dolydd Hafren on 10th Sept.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Pila Gwyrdd

RB5/P/W

2015 was a really poor year for Siskin sightings. The birds were present and breeding in the county but in significantly reduced numbers compared to recent years. It is most likely that a good crop of natural food (spruce & pine seed) resulted in less autumnal passage in 2014 and therefore less Siskin returned north in spring 2015 resulting in reduced passage presence on garden bird feeders. Similarly the natural food persisted through the summer, again reducing Siskin visibility on feeders.

The MWT Garden Bird Survey Winter 2014-15 found Siskin in just 47% of gardens compared to 76% the year before. What is more, the frequency with which Siskin were encountered in those gardens was 53% lower in winter 2014-15 than the previous year. The largest flocks reported were 100+ at Cwm Biga on 21st Feb and c.100 at Allt Goch 21st March.

As is often the way with these small migratory finches, there is cyclical nature to their presence and we already know that 2016 is a spectacularly good year for Siskin!

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Llinos

RB5/P

Linnet are widespread in the county but tend to reside in remote countryside where there are few birdwatchers. The largest flocks were 200+ at Dolydd Hafren on 4th January, 100+ there on 18th Jan & 8th Feb, and c.100 at Lymore on 13th March.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Llinos y Mynydd

RB2/W3

Unsurprisingly, none reported in 2015 but there was one sighting in 2014 which was missed from the 2014 County Report. A single bird sheltering from the wind and visible from 5 metres near Carno Wind Farm on 22nd Oct 2014. Claims of Twite visiting garden feeders are, in all probability, Lesser Redpoll.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Llinos Bengoch Lieaf

RB5/P/W

Numbers were down in the spring for the same reason as Siskin but because Redpoll are generally present in smaller numbers, the change was less noticeable. In fact they were seen in only 23% of MWT Garden Bird Survey gardens winter 2014-15 compared to 36% of gardens the year before. The largest counts were birds on autumn passage with 60+ at Lake Vyrnwy on 8th Oct and 30+ at Dolydd Hafren on 25th Oct. The highest spring count was 30 on feeders at Llanidloes on 21st March.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Gylfin Groes

RB4/P/W

Relatively few records were received with the majority in the first half of the year when singing males and juveniles were recorded from scattered locations. The highest count was 22 at Bwlchyddar on 22nd July.

NB. A record of a male **Two-barred Crossbill** (*Loxia leucoptera*) at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 20th Jan made by a professional warden plus 1 witness, was rejected by the British Birds Rarity Committee. We need a picture next time!

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata*

Coch y Berllan

RB5

Indications are that Bullfinch enjoyed a good 2015 with more birds being seen in more gardens in both the summer and winter MWT Garden Bird Surveys than in 2014. The largest flock was 16 at Dolydd Hafren on 18th October.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Gylfinbraff

RB3

The usual winter location of Powis Castle car park delivered up to 15 birds between 12th Jan - 22nd Feb. The same location held a single bird on 27th & 29th Dec. One of the more unusual sightings from the summer MWT Garden Bird Survey was of a Hawfinch feeding on Wych Elm seed on a lawn near Dolanog (pictured right). The bird visited the garden during the middle two weeks of June.



Hawfinch in the garden by Felicity Ramage

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citronella*

Melyn yr Eithin

RB4

50+ records received is similar to 2014 and reflects a scattered breeding population. Yellowhammer can often be seen during the winter period at garden feeders adjacent to arable or frith rich areas. The largest flock observed was 50+ at Lymore on 16th December.

RB4/P/W

A large over-wintering flock at Dolydd Hafren which started the year with 50+ birds on 4th Jan was thought to have reached 100+ birds on 15th Feb. 60+ were still present on 15th March, with 50 the final big count on 22nd March. Some Reed Bunting stay to breed at Dolydd Hafren and there were 20+ there in May.

Other breeding locations in 2015 included Pwll Penarth, the Dyfi Estuary and upland sites (where undoubtedly many breeding birds go unseen) such as Llyn Mawr, Llyn Clywedog, Cefn Coch, near Llangadfan, and Lake Vrynwy.



Reed Bunting by Mark Wilson

Systematic Species List - Excluded Records

- Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) at Upper Dyfi Estuary. 5 of uncertain origin arrived just after dawn on 3rd Nov and remained until 20th Nov often associating with Canada and Greylag Geese.

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust Garden Bird Survey 2015

The MWT Garden Bird Survey has been running in the same format for 20+ years. Each person taking part in the survey records the species they see weekly within 500m from a set point (normally their garden).

The species are scored '1' for a single bird, '2' for more than one bird and '3' for more than 10 birds. Using this scoring mechanism enables ranking to be produced by species and by the relative frequency with which those species are seen.

The survey is split into 2 parts, one for summer (mid April-end Sept) and the other for winter, spanning two calendar years (i.e. Oct - mid April the following year). Tony Puzey has long compiled and produced the survey results but this year the Top 25 species are published here (with a summary of previous years for comparison).

MWT Garden Bird Survey SUMMER Top 25 Species

Number of surveys	48	59	69	73	
	% of gardens recording species				
Species	2015	2014	2013	2012	average
Blackbird	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Blue Tit	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Robin	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chaffinch	100.0	98.3	98.6	98.6	98.8
Great Tit	100.0	96.6	100.0	97.3	98.4
Buzzard	100.0	94.9	100.0	97.3	98.0
Woodpigeon	95.8	94.9	97.1	97.3	96.4
Carrion Crow	95.8	93.2	92.8	94.5	94.0
Magpie	93.8	94.9	100.0	95.9	96.4
Goldfinch	93.8	94.9	89.9	87.7	91.2
Great Sp Woodpecker	93.8	91.5	88.4	90.4	90.8
Dunnock	93.8	86.4	91.3	87.7	89.6
House Sparrow	93.8	89.8	88.4	84.9	88.8
Wren	91.7	88.1	81.2	86.3	86.3
Nuthatch	91.7	81.4	84.1	87.7	85.9
Swallow	89.6	83.1	88.4	87.7	87.1
Song Thrush	89.6	74.6	75.4	76.7	78.3
Pheasant	87.5	74.6	78.3	78.1	79.1
Coal Tit	85.4	76.3	92.8	84.9	85.1
Tawny Owl	83.3	71.2	71.0	65.8	71.9
Greenfinch	79.2	74.6	79.7	86.3	80.3
Pied Wagtail	79.2	76.3	59.4	65.8	69.1
Sparrowhawk	77.1	64.4	66.7	65.8	67.9
House Martin	75.0	67.8	69.6	74.0	71.5
Red Kite	75.0	74.6	66.7	57.5	67.5
					...
Total Species recorded	92	90	100	95	

MWT Garden Bird Survey WINTER Top 25 Species

Number of surveys	45	51	55	66	68	
Species	2015_16	2014_15	2013_14	2012_13	2011_12	average
Blackbird	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Blue Tit	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Robin	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Great Tit	100.0	98.0	98.2	100.0	100.0	99.3
Buzzard	100.0	96.1	98.2	97.0	100.0	98.2
Coal Tit	100.0	90.2	94.5	98.5	94.1	95.4
Chaffinch	97.8	100.0	98.2	100.0	100.0	99.3
Wren	97.8	98.0	92.7	87.9	94.1	93.7
Dunnock	95.6	92.2	92.7	92.4	92.6	93.0
Great Sp Woodpecker	95.6	94.1	89.1	89.4	94.1	92.3
Magpie	93.3	96.1	92.7	98.5	92.6	94.7
Carrion Crow	93.3	94.1	94.5	95.5	94.1	94.4
Woodpigeon	91.1	88.2	89.1	89.4	97.1	91.2
House Sparrow	91.1	90.2	87.3	89.4	89.7	89.5
Pheasant	91.1	88.2	78.2	86.4	89.7	86.7
Goldfinch	88.9	88.2	89.1	80.3	80.9	84.9
Nuthatch	86.7	84.3	89.1	87.9	86.8	87.0
Sparrowhawk	84.4	72.5	76.4	66.7	80.9	75.8
Song Thrush	82.2	68.6	67.3	80.3	72.1	74.0
Long-tailed Tit	80.0	78.4	72.7	78.8	72.1	76.1
Red Kite	80.0	70.6	58.2	62.1	50.0	62.8
Starling	75.6	66.7	67.3	83.3	75.0	74.0
Tawny Owl	68.9	80.4	76.4	72.7	72.1	74.0
Greenfinch	66.7	72.5	80.0	77.3	79.4	75.8
Pied Wagtail	66.7	86.3	78.2	72.7	72.1	75.1
						...
Total Species recorded	80	84	78	84	77	

The MWT Garden Bird Survey is a really useful tool in helping monitor the county's birds but numbers of people taking part in the survey are declining. If you'd like to join in, then please contact the Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust for a form (phone: 01938 555654; email: info@montwt.co.uk).

Ringing Report 2015

Bird Ringing is another method by which bird populations are monitored and assessed. All ringing is undertaken by qualified ringers under licence from the British Trust for Ornithology. The total birds ringed by species in Montgomeryshire during 2015 is shown below.

"Pulli are birds ringed in the nest, juveniles are those identified as being in their first calendar year, adults are all birds in their second or later calendar year. Some birds cannot be aged by plumage characteristics, these unaged birds are tabulated separately and are included in the totals for the year". (Source : *Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A.(2016) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2015. BTO, Thetford* (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 28-April-2016)


Species	Pullus	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	Total
Mute Swan	41	0	1	0	42
Teal	0	0	1	0	1
Mallard	0	0	1	1	2
Goosander	0	1	1	0	2
Red Grouse	0	0	0	1	1
Red Kite	0	0	0	0	0
Sparrowhawk	0	1	1	0	2
Oystercatcher	0	0	1	0	1
Golden Plover	0	25	34	0	59
Little Ringed Plover	3	0	1	0	4
Lapwing	3	1	2	0	6
Curlew	0	0	23	0	23
Common Sandpiper	1	5	1	0	7
Green Sandpiper	0	1	5	0	6
Jack Snipe	0	0	5	0	5
Woodcock	0	51	71	0	122
Snipe	0	6	9	10	25
Stock Dove	12	0	1	1	14
Barn Owl	58	1	5	1	65
Little Owl	0	1	1	0	2
Tawny Owl	17	1	4	0	22
Nightjar	0	0	1	0	1
Kingfisher	0	5	3	0	8
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	13	9	0	22
Kestrel	3	0	0	0	3
Jay	0	2	3	0	5
Jackdaw	15	0	0	0	15
Goldcrest	2	238	21	23	284
Firecrest	0	1	0	0	1
Blue Tit	548	312	120	2	982
Great Tit	157	125	57	1	340
Coal Tit	38	62	24	9	133
Willow Tit	0	5	7	1	13

Species	Pullus	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	Total
Marsh Tit	8	4	3	0	15
Skylark	0	0	0	9	9
Sand Martin	0	3	2	0	5
Swallow	151	3	18	0	172
Long-tailed Tit	0	5	3	60	68
Wood Warbler	42	0	4	0	46
Chiffchaff	29	331	42	3	405
Willow Warbler	16	47	31	0	94
Blackcap	5	117	38	0	160
Garden Warbler	0	23	18	0	41
Lesser Whitethroat	0	1	0	0	1
Whitethroat	0	13	7	0	20
Sedge Warbler	0	1	0	0	1
Nuthatch	107	3	11	14	135
Treecreeper	0	12	1	2	15
Wren	0	48	9	0	57
Dipper	38	6	10	0	54
Blackbird	28	33	25	0	86
Fieldfare	0	7	10	0	17
Song Thrush	8	14	7	0	29
Redwing	0	24	5	1	30
Mistle Thrush	0	0	1	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	9	0	0	0	9
Robin	34	62	32	1	129
Pied Flycatcher	847	0	130	0	977
Redstart	110	12	2	1	125
Stonechat	5	0	0	0	5
Wheatear	0	1	6	0	7
Duncock	6	39	18	1	64
House Sparrow	13	14	4	12	43
Grey Wagtail	8	5	0	0	13
Pied Wagtail	12	0	0	0	12
Tree Pipit	0	5	4	0	9
Meadow Pipit	0	224	11	15	250
Brambling	0	0	1	0	1
Chaffinch	1	37	71	0	109
Bullfinch	2	30	23	0	55
Greenfinch	1	65	128	0	194
Linnet	0	0	1	0	1
Lesser Redpoll	0	45	32	2	79
Goldfinch	0	100	143	0	243
Siskin	0	18	23	1	42
Yellowhammer	0	1	0	0	1
Reed Bunting	0	1	2	4	7
Total	2,378	2,211	1,289	176	6,054

Reports of recovered birds that were ringed or found ringed in Montgomeryshire

A selection of interesting ringing recoveries reported in 2015 are listed below.

Source : Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A.(2016) *The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2015*. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 28-April-2016)

Mute Swan			
W03649	Nestling	19/10/2000	Brithdir, Berriew: 52°36'N 3°11'W (Powys)
	Sick (predated)	03/03/2005	Berriew, Welshpool: 52°35'N 3°11'W (Powys) 2km 4y 4m 12d
	Freshly dead (hit by car)	17/08/2015	near Fron: 52°33'N 3°13'W (Powys) 4km 14y 9m 29d
W05029	Nestling Female	26/08/2001	Four Crosses: 52°45'N 3°5'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	10/09/2015	Four Crosses: 52°45'N 3°5'W (Powys) 0km 14y 0m 15d
W07904	Nestling Male	12/09/2002	Arddleen, near Welshpool: 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	12/09/2012	Llanymynech: 52°46'N 3°5'W (Powys) 4km 10y 0m 0d
	Caught by ringer	10/09/2015	Four Crosses: 52°45'N 3°5'W (Powys) 3km 12y 11m 29d
W17572	Adult Female	15/09/2004	Garthmyl: 52°34'N 3°11'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	10/09/2015	Garthmyl: 52°34'N 3°11'W (Powys) 0km 10y 11m 26d
W17571	Adult Male	15/09/2004	Garthmyl: 52°34'N 3°11'W (Powys)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10/09/2015	Garthmyl: 52°34'N 3°11'W (Powys) 0km 10y 11m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/09/2015	Llyn Coed-Y-Dinas, Welshpool: 52°38'N 3°9'W (Powys) 354km N 0y 4m 28d
Osprey			
 <p>Two colour ringed Ospreys were at Dolydd Hafren on various dates during August 2015. Both were 2 year old females originally ringed as nestlings in Scotland. Pictured on the left is Blue HL1 (by David Lister) and on the right is Blue YU (by Mark Wilson)</p>			
1446491 (Blue HL1)	Nestling Female	07/07/2013	Site Confidential, Highland: c. 57°13'N 4°58'W (Highland)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14/08/2015	Dolydd Hafren, Forden: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys) 530km SSE 2y 1m 7d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17/08/2015	Dolydd Hafren, Forden: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys) 530km SSE 2y 1m 10d
1439118 (Blue YU)	Nestling Female	13/07/2013	Site Confidential, near Bankfoot: c. 56°29'N 3°31'W (Perth and Kinross)
	Alive (colour marks seen)	06/08/2015	Dolydd Hafren: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys) 436km S 2y 0m 24d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17/08/2015	Dolydd Hafren: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys) 436km S 2y 1m 4d

Cormorant			
CIJ G3885	Nestling	15/04/2015	Godin: 49°28'N 2°25'W (Herm) Channel Islands
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/09/2015	Llyn Coed-Y-Dinas, Welshpool: 52°38'N 3°9'W (Powys) 354km N 0y 4m 28d
Curlew			
FH68456	Adult Male	06/08/2015	Dolydd Hafren, Forden, Montgomery: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11/09/2015	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°4'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 0y 1m 5d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	03/12/2015	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°4'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 0y 3m 27d
Woodcock			
EY08426	Adult	29/12/2011	Nant-Y-Gwrdu, Llyn Clywedog, Llanidloes: c. 52°28'N 3°39'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	24/02/2014	Nant-Y-Gwrdu, Llyn Clywedog, Llanidloes: c. 52°28'N 3°39'W (Powys) 0km 2y 1m 26d
	Caught by ringer	10/01/2015	Nant-Y-Gwrdu, Llyn Clywedog, Llanidloes: c. 52°28'N 3°39'W (Powys) 0km 3y 0m 12d
EX73531	Adult	18/11/2011	Dolgadfan, Llanbryn-mair: c. 52°34'N 3°40'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	04/02/2013	Dolgadfan, Llanbryn-mair: c. 52°34'N 3°40'W (Powys) 0km 1y 2m 17d
	Caught by ringer	08/01/2015	Dolgadfan, Llanbryn-mair: c. 52°35'N 3°39'W (Powys) 2km 3y 1m 21d
Goldcrest			
DKT528	Full-grown Female	11/10/2015	Orfordness: c. 52°5'N 1°34'E (Suffolk)
	Caught by ringer	25/10/2015	Lake Vyrnwy: c. 52°45'N 3°27'W (Powys) 350km WNW 0y 0m 14d
HNL491	Full-grown Male	14/10/2014	Kilnsea: 53°36'N 0°7'E (East Riding of Yorkshire)
	Caught by ringer	01/11/2015	Lake Vyrnwy: c. 52°45'N 3°27'W (Powys) 259km WSW 1y 0m 18d
Blue Tit			
D460523	Nestling	04/06/2015	Cefn Llwyni: c. 52°45'N 3°19'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	08/09/2015	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys) 6km NE 0y 3m 4d
D460485	Nestling	04/06/2015	Hirnant, near Penybontfawr: c. 52°47'N 3°24'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	15/10/2015	Lake Vyrnwy: c. 52°45'N 3°27'W (Powys) 7km SSW 0y 4m 11d
Swallow			
Z115431	Juvenile	20/07/2014	Cors Dyfi Nature Reserve: c. 52°33'N 3°55'W (Powys)
	Sick	11/02/2015	Meyerton: 26°34'S 27°58'E (Republic of South Africa) Republic of South Africa 9,335km SSE 0y 6m 22d
Z215476	Nestling	24/06/2015	Llanfechain: 52°46'N 3°14'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	28/11/2015	Umzumbe, Southern Kwazulu: 30°34'S 30°31'E (Kwazulu-Natal) Republic of South Africa 9,835km SSE 0y 5m 4d
Chiffchaff			
HRD951	First-year	06/09/2015	near Bwlchyddar: 52°47'N 3°15'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	26/11/2015	Porth Hellick, St Mary's: 49°54'N 6°17'W (Isles of Scilly) 382km SW 0y 2m 20d
Redstart			
Z215412	Nestling	19/06/2015	Lake Vyrnwy: c. 52°45'N 3°27'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	07/09/2015	Erme Valley At Harford: 50°25'N 3°55'W (Devon) 262km S 0y 2m 19d

Hawfinch			
NW66378	First-year Male	26/04/2014	Dolgellau: c. 52°44'N 3°53'W (Gwynedd)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10/05/2014	Dolgellau: c. 52°44'N 3°53'W (Gwynedd) 0km 0y 0m 14d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23/06/2014	Machynlleth: 52°34'N 3°51'W (Powys) 19km S 0y 1m 28d
Goldfinch			
Z069461	Second-year Male	20/06/2014	Abermule: c. 52°33'N 3°16'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	22/02/2015	Heusden-Zolder: 51°1'N 5°16'E (Limburg) Belgium 612km ESE 0y 8m 2d
Siskin			
Z591360	Juvenile Female	13/06/2015	Dukes Warren: 51°10'N 0°22'W (Surrey)
	Freshly dead	03/09/2015	Forge: 52°33'N 3°49'W (Powys) 285km NW 0y 2m 21d
L965855	Full-grown Male	14/04/2012	Welshpool: 52°39'N 3°9'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	31/01/2015	Branch End, Stocksfield: 54°56'N 1°54'W (Northumberland) 265km NNE 2y 9m 17d
Y722104	Juvenile Female	05/07/2012	Bratton, near Minehead: 51°12'N 3°30'W (Somerset)
	Caught by ringer	24/07/2012	Bratton, near Minehead: 51°12'N 3°30'W (Somerset) 0km 0y 0m 19d
	Alive (ring read in field)	07/07/2015	Lake Vyrnwy: c. 52°45'N 3°27'W (Powys) 173km N 3y 0m 2d
	Alive (ring read in field)	12/07/2015	Lake Vyrnwy: c. 52°45'N 3°27'W (Powys) 173km N 3y 0m 7d