

# MONTGOMERYSHIRE COUNTY BIRD REPORT 2020



**Compiled by Simon Boyes, County Bird Recorder**

**Cover photo:** Hobby near Mochdre, Newtown, 31 Jul 2020, by David Lister

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## Introduction

2020 was Covid year: a uniquely difficult year in many ways, not least for bird recording. During two long national lockdowns, travel away from home was forbidden and survey work – normally carried out on MWT and RSPB reserves – was halted. As a result, many species were under-recorded and a few of the county regulars – Black Grouse for example – were not recorded at all. On the other hand, there was more focus on home birding and garden feeders than usual; this report reflects these differences in recording effort.

## Obituary – David Reading Thomas (Red)



Chris Griffiths has provided this obituary:

"So sad to report the passing of David Reading Thomas ('Red').

"Red was an "old school" birder known to many throughout the county. He was certainly an individual old country boy and a Montgomeryshire boy to the core. He was passionate about all aspects of wildlife and conservation. A gentle, understated, modest man, he would be as happy watching a Dunnock nesting in his garden as he would be watching Osprey fledge from one of the many platforms made by him in the county. He was a member of Montgomeryshire Barn Owl group for over 25 years. Barn Owls are another species to benefit from Red's carpentry skills, with many nest boxes of his still in use.

"Our thoughts go out to his wife Eileen and family, who can be comforted from the legacy that Red has left behind.

"Cysga'n dawl Red"

## Montgomeryshire County Bird Records – Source of Data 2020

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

The Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust Garden Bird Survey is also a useful data source. Various other MWT surveys provide data, as does the logbook in the second hide at Dolydd Hafren MWT Reserve.

Other records have been obtained from a range of sources such as RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, the Montgomeryshire Bird Blog and various emails, texts, What's Apps, and verbal sightings from individuals throughout the year. Thank you everyone - please keep up the good work!



Blackcap wintering in Welshpool, 31 Dec, by Brian Pollard

## Systematic Species List 2020

A total of 145 species were recorded in Montgomeryshire in 2020. This figure was lower than usual, reflecting the restrictions caused by Covid 19 lockdowns.

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

Key: - Status/Frequency – An estimate for Montgomeryshire in 2020

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

1 Very rare, fewer than 10 records ever

2 Rare, > 10 records but not annual

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

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

5 Common

<b>RED GROUSE</b>	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	RB3
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The county stronghold is in the Berwyns, near the Denbighshire border. Apart from 4 birds ringed, (see Ringing Report, page 28), only one specific record was received: 1 north of Llangynog on 16 Apr. Absence of other records illustrates the problems caused by Covid lockdowns during the year.

<b>RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE</b>	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	RB4
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Scattered records. Many are released for shooting, though in far smaller numbers than Pheasants.

<b>PHEASANT</b>	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	RB5
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Widespread and abundant, especially in areas where they are released for shooting.

<b>CANADA GOOSE</b>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	RB5
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Abundant, especially in the Severn floodplain near Welshpool. A count of 100 was made at Dolydd Hafren on 12 Dec, but the maximum count was of c.900 in late autumn at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas.

<b>GREYLAG GOOSE</b>	<i>Anser anser</i>	RB4
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Usually present at Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. Maximum counts were 101 on 19 Jan, and c.120 on 22 Dec, both at Dolydd Hafren. Numbers are increasing year on year at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. Some nest at Lymore, Montgomery.

<b>MUTE SWAN</b>	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	RB4
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Frequently seen on our rivers and lakes and on the Montgomery Canal, and maintaining a stable breeding population. See also Ringing Recoveries, page 30.

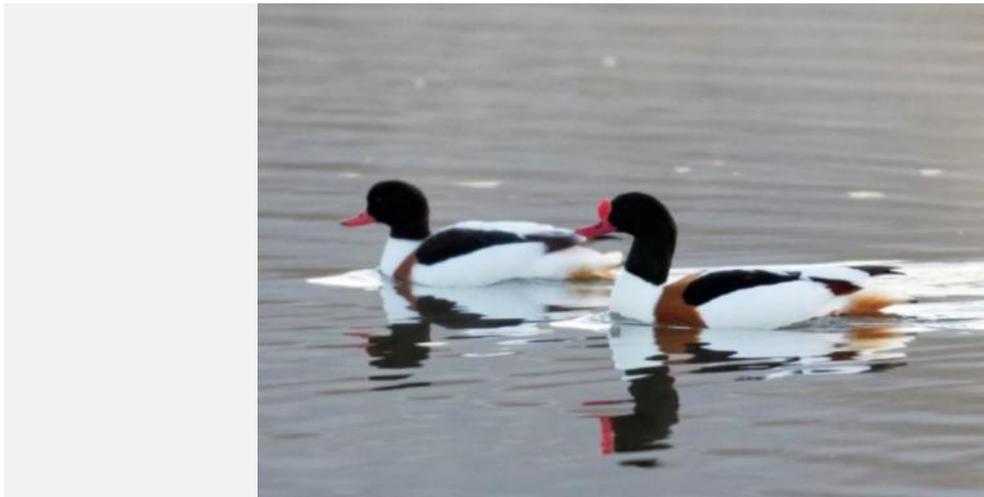
<b>WHOOPER SWAN</b>	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	W3
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A winter visitor along our rivers and larger lakes in declining numbers. 5 were at Llyn Glanmerin near Machynlleth on 3 Jan, and 6 flew along the Tanat Valley near Llanrhaedrym-Mochnant on 21 Jan.

<b>EGYPTIAN GOOSE</b>	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	V2
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1 was at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 21 and 22 Nov.

<b>SHELDUCK</b>	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	RB2, W
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Shelduck at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 19 Jan, by Edd Cottell

A regular visitor to Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, with a maximum of 4 on 30 Dec. 1 was at Lymore Pool near Montgomery on 1 Mar, but the highest count was 21 near Dyfi Junction Station on 6 Mar.

<b>MANDARIN DUCK</b>	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	RB3
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This secretive woodland duck has established an increasing breeding population in the county in recent years. 5 (including 3 males) were on the Severn near Llandrinio on 1 Nov, and other records came from Newtown, Dolydd Hafren, Llanidloes and Llanfair Caereinion.

<b>SHOVELER</b>	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	W3
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2 were at Dolydd Hafren on 29 Jan, and 4 at Lymore Pool near Montgomery on 13 Dec.

<b>GADWALL</b>	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	P2
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The only records came from Lymore Pool, with 1 on 1 May, and 2 on 13 Dec.

<b>WIGEON</b>	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	W5
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Reported only from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas and Dolydd Hafren, and only in Jan, Nov and Dec. 30 were at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 6 Jan, but the maximum count was 150+ at Dolydd Hafren on 12 Dec.

<b>MALLARD</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	RB5
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A widespread breeder and winter visitor throughout the county.

**PINTAIL***Anas acuta*

W2

4 were at Dolydd Hafren on 19 Feb; and near Dyfi Junction Station there were 2 on 15 Mar and 4 on 23 Oct.

**TEAL***Anas crecca*

W4

A winter visitor, with maximum counts at 6 locations as follows: 112 near Dyfi Junction Station on 4 Jan, 20 on Llyn Clywedog on 15 Jan, 81 on Llyn Bugeilyn on 18 Oct, 35 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 22 Nov, 14 at Llandinam Gravels on 14 Dec, and 60 at Dolydd Hafren on 16 Dec.

**POCHARD***Aythya ferina*

W2



Pochard female (right) with Tufted Duck, Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 17 Dec, by Chris Townsend

A scarce bird in the county: 5 were at Dolydd Hafren on 7 Feb, and a lone female at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 17 Dec.

**TUFTED DUCK***Aythya fuligula*

RB3, W4

Most records came from Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, with a maximum of 24 on 7 Feb; but also recorded from the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction, Powis Castle, Llyn y Tarw and Lymore Pools.

**COMMON SCOTER***Melanitta nigra*

V2

A lone female was on Lake Vyrnwy on 8 Oct.

**GOLDENEYE***Bucephala clangula*

W3

A few scattered winter records (all from Jan, Mar and Dec) with a maximum of 5 at Glaslyn on 1 Jan. Other records came from the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction, Llyn Glanmerin, Llyn y Tarw and Gwgia Reservoir (both north of Caersws), Llyn Bugeilyn, and Llyn Ebyr (near Llanidloes).

**GOOSANDER***Mergus merganser*

RB4

Widespread and recorded all year round, usually on rivers in summer but often also on large lakes in winter. Breeding was only first proved in the county in 1970.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER***Mergus serrator*

P2

3 (1 drake, 2 ducks) were on the Dyfi at Machynlleth on 25 Apr, and on 25 Sep.

**SWIFT** *Apus apus* SB4

The first reported arrival was at Llandinam on 20 Apr with most arriving a week or two later. 30 pairs were estimated to have bred in Welshpool, with 90 over the town in late July. Most usually depart in early August, with a final sighting on 12 Aug in Welshpool.

**CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus* SB3, P4

First recorded (earlier than usual) on 11 Apr at Llwynderw, near Llanidloes. Most calling males in April and early May are moving north on passage, but a few birds stay to breed on uplands (targeting Meadow Pipits) and at Cors Dyfi (where Reed Warblers are the host).

**ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia* RB5

Breeds widely in urban areas.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas* RB5

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

**WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus* RB5

Abundant breeder and winter visitor. Each autumn, large flocks are observed moving south-west over Welshpool.

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto* RB5

A familiar sight especially in villages and around farms. Collared Dove was recorded on 83% (summer) and 65% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus* W3



Water Rail at Pwll Penarth, 22 Mar, by Meurig Garbutt

Mostly a winter visitor, and heard more often than seen. 4 were at Dolydd Hafren on 22 Nov; other strongholds are Llyn Coed-y-Dinas and Pwll Penarth.

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus* RB4

A species that is only sporadically reported, apart from regular sightings at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas and Dolydd Hafren.

<b>COOT</b>	<i>Fulica atra</i>	RB3
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A common sight on the larger water bodies such as Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, where 2 pairs nested, and fledged 3 or 4 juveniles.

<b>LITTLE GREBE</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	R3
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Recorded in small numbers, mostly outside the breeding season. The maximum count was of 4 at Dolydd Hafren on 5 Jan, and both 12 and 17 Dec. Other sites include Pwll Penarth, Powis Castle, Llandinam Gravels, and Lymore Upper Pool, where a June date suggests breeding may have taken place.

<b>GREAT CRESTED GREBE</b>	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	SB3
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Reported in the summer months from Lake Vyrnwy, Llyn Clywedog and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, where the breeding pair finally fledged one juvenile at the third attempt. Birds usually depart for the coast in autumn.

<b>OYSTERCATCHER</b>	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	RB3
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Small numbers breed on shingle along the Severn each year, especially at Dolydd Hafren, where 4 were present on 22 Mar. 1 visited Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 15 and 19 Jan.

<b>LAPWING</b>	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	RB3, W4
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Maximum counts were 60 at Dolydd Hafren on 29 Jan, 50 also there on 31 Dec, and 37 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 7 Feb. The Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group reports that 4 pairs nested in the Montgomeryshire part of the Churchstoke area; no other breeding records received.

<b>GOLDEN PLOVER</b>	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	W4
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No daytime records were received; but 49 were ringed in the county during the winter periods during nocturnal wader-ringing expeditions, mostly at sites near Llanerfyl and Dolfor.

<b>LITTLE RINGED PLOVER</b>	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	SB3
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Breeding records came from Llandinam Gravels and the Dyfi near Machynlleth.

<b>CURLEW</b>	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	RB3, W4
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A breeder in reducing numbers on our hillsides and water meadows, Curlews are more numerous in winter, with a maximum count of 65 at Dolydd Hafren, including 12 with red and yellow rings. 35 were on the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction Station on 15 Mar. The Camlad Valley Community Wildlife Group reports that 3 pairs nested in the Montgomeryshire part of the Camlad Valley and Churchstoke area. One nest at Lake Vyrnwy was predated by a fox: an all-too-regular occurrence. A few other scattered nesting records were received, mostly in the uplands in the centre of the county. See also Ringing Report (below).

<b>DUNLIN</b>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	P
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1 was photographed in breeding plumage in a field near Dolydd Hafren: it stayed from 23 May to 6 Jun. Another was on the lakeshore at Glaslyn on 20 Jul.

**WOODCOCK***Scolopax rusticola*

W4

A common but elusive and secretive winter visitor, mostly from Russian breeding grounds. Most records are from Nov-Feb, but the latest was near Llanerfyl on 16 Mar. The first of the new season was above Mochdre, Newtown, on 30 Oct. It is doubtful if Woodcock breed in the county. 77 were ringed in the county during the year (see Ringing Report - below).

**JACK SNIPE***Lymnocyptes minimus*

P2

1 was ringed on 15 Nov near Clatter during a nocturnal wader-ringing expedition.

**SNIPE***Gallinago gallinago*

RB2, W4

A common winter visitor to our wetlands, with a maximum of 7 at Llandinam Gravels on 17 Nov. The moorland above Lake Vyrnwy holds a stable breeding population.

**COMMON SANDPIPER***Actitis hypoleucos*

SB3

First recorded on 20 Apr from Llandinam Gravels, where 2 pairs established territory. Last seen on 30 Oct at Dolydd Hafren. Between these dates many nest on shingle along the county's rivers and at Lake Vyrnwy.

**GREEN SANDPIPER***Tringa ochropus*

P3, W2

Most often seen on autumn passage, for example 1 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 3 Aug. For most of Oct, 1 stayed in a damp field with a manure-heap at Bacheldre, near Montgomery. Some stay through the winter, such as 3 at Dolydd Hafren from 25 to 31 Dec. Most of our visiting birds nest in old Redwing nests in Scandinavia, Russia, and the Baltic States.

**REDSHANK***Tringa totanus*

P3



Redshank near Llyn Mawr, 20 Jun, by Ruth Jones Maclennan

1 was photographed in potential breeding habitat near Llyn Mawr MWT Reserve (near Clatter). It was regularly seen there for a few days from 15 Jun. It is in an area where Redshank used to nest - though this year only one bird was ever seen and no alarm calls were heard. 12 were on the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction Station on 15 Mar.

<b>BLACK-HEADED GULL</b>	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	RB4
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c.180 pairs nested at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, with c. 300 fledging. 152 were on the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction Station on 5 Jul.

<b>MEDITERRANEAN GULL</b>	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	P2
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1 subadult was in the Black-headed Gull colony at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas for three weeks, from mid-Apr to early May. 2 were on the Dyfi near Machynlleth on 29 Oct.

<b>COMMON GULL</b>	<i>Larus canus</i>	PW3
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Occasional passage migrant and winter visitor, recorded at Pentre Llifior, near Berriew, on 22 Mar. One surprising summer record is of 8 at Bugeilyn on 14 Jun, during a BTO Wetland bird survey.

<b>GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL</b>	<i>Larus marinus</i>	P3
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A few scattered records of small numbers, visiting Dolydd Hafren in Jan, Feb, Jul, Sep and Dec. Other sightings were from Machynlleth, Dylife, Ceinws, Llwynderw and Bugeilyn.

<b>HERRING GULL</b>	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	RB3, W4
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Herring Gulls in the county are outnumbered by Lesser-Black-backed Gulls, but small numbers nest on low factory roofs in Welshpool (near the railway station) and Newtown (near Morrisons). Outside the breeding season, they are more widespread, especially in the west of the county. The top count was 79 on the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction Station on 5 Jul; and there were 33 at Llandinam Gravels on 20 Sep.

<b>YELLOW-LEGGED GULL</b>	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	P1
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On 24 Jul, 3 of this species were seen feeding with Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Dylife. This is an increasing species in Wales, with about 50 records per year. The first record for the county was in 2009. Mostly Mediterranean in range, they nest as far north as Brittany.

<b>LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL</b>	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	RB4, W5
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In recent years this has become our most abundant gull, commonly seen on newly-ploughed and newly-silaged fields. Large flocks are now regular in winter, whereas 50 years ago almost all would have migrated south to the Mediterranean. Potters, near Welshpool Station, has a regular breeding population of a few pairs, which regularly fly over to Llyn Coed-y-Dinas to predate Black-headed Gull chicks. 370 were at Dylife on 27 Jul, 300 near Meifod on 23 Oct, but 600 was the maximum count, at Dolydd Hafren on 2 Nov.

<b>CORMORANT</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	RB2, W4
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A common sight along the county's main rivers and large lakes. For the first time, 2 pairs nested in the oak tree on the island at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, fledging 5 juveniles.

<b>GREY HERON</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	RB4
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The recently established heronry in a small wood above The Flash in Welshpool had 28 active nests. Other heronries in the county are much smaller: in approximate order of size they are near Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Llandinam, Aberbechan, near Llanwrin, Glansevern Hall, and Carno.



Great Egret at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, 11 Oct, by Chris Townsend

Great Egrets continue to expand through the county, though to date there have still been no breeding records in Wales. Along the Severn 1 or 2 were recorded at Llandinam, Caersws, Aberhafesp, Penstrowed, Dolydd Hafren, Welshpool, and Llandrinio Bridge, as well as from Llyn y Tarw, Four Crosses and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas. All records came from Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec.

**LITTLE EGRET***Egretta garzetta*

R3

The first confirmed successful breeding in the county occurred in 2020 in the Welshpool heronry, where a pair raised three chicks. Little Egrets nest a month later than Grey Herons, and still have juveniles in the nest throughout June. They have become a common sight by our rivers and lakes: the maximum count was 14 at Dolydd Hafren on 30 Nov and 29 Dec.

**OSPREY***Pandion haliaetus*

SB3

Two pairs nested in the county. At Cors Dyfi, adults Monty and Telyn fledged 2 male chicks which were ringed. At Llyn Clywedog, adults Dylan and Seren fledged 3 male chicks which were also ringed. To give an idea of the occurrence of other Ospreys through the county, in 2020 a total of 12 different ringed Ospreys intruded upon the Dyfi nest – each one individually identified at <https://www.dyfiospreyproject.com/our-ospreys-test/intruding-ospreys>

**HONEY-BUZZARD***Pernis apivorus*

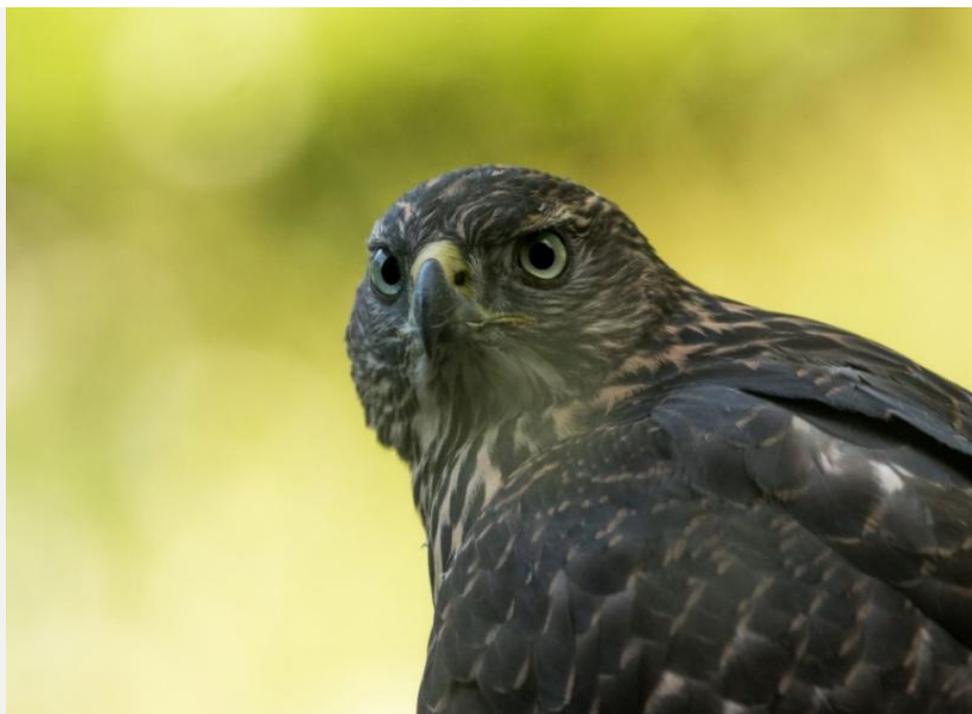
P2

1 was observed flying through forest at Lake Vyrnwy on 26 July.

**SPARROWHAWK***Accipiter nisus*

RB4

A common resident throughout the county, secretive during the breeding season. Often conspicuous around bird feeders. Reported on 58% of MWT winter garden surveys.



Goshawk juvenile at Llanfechain, 12 Jul, by Mairi Eyres

Widespread but often under-reported. Goshawks favour quiet conifer forests for breeding. 4 were together at Llyn Clywedog on 22 Mar. A juvenile was photographed at Llanfechain on 12 Jul, attacking its own reflection in a window. On 19 Dec, an immature was at Dolydd Hafren, alarming a flock of Curlews.

**MARSH HARRIER***Circus aeruginosus*

P2

2 records, both from Cwm Nant-y-Meichiaid, near Llanfyllin, of one overhead on 5 and 24 Apr.

**HEN HARRIER***Circus cyaneus*

RB3

One pair nested successfully in the Berwyns, raising 5 chicks, exactly on the border with Denbighshire. Other records came from Glaslyn (1, 20 Apr), Carno (1 male, 19 May), near Foel (1 male, 20 Sep), and Adfa (1, 26 Sep). A nesting attempt near Glaslyn was not successful.

**RED KITE***Milvus milvus*

RB4

According to the BTO, there has been a fourfold increase in the Welsh population of Red Kite in the last 25 years. They can now be seen regularly over any part of the county, and were recorded on 91% (summer) and 73% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys. 16 were together at Forge, near Machynlleth, on 30 Nov.

**BUZZARD***Buteo buteo*

RB5

The most commonly reported raptor in the county. Buzzards are a familiar sight all year round, throughout the county. Buzzard density in Wales is as high as anywhere in Europe, according to a recent RSPB study. They were recorded on 100% (summer) and 94% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**BARN OWL***Tyto alba*

RB3

The Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group reported 44 successful breeding attempts in the county, with 157 chicks raised; and the Species Habitat Protection Group reported 22 nests that raised 81 chicks. This density is far higher than is reported in other parts of Wales, and is testament to the hard work and dedication of these 2 groups.

**TAWNY OWL***Strix aluco*

RB4

Widely distributed. They were recorded on 87% (summer) and 72% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**LITTLE OWL***Athene noctua*

RB3

Little Owls are much harder to find in the county than 25 years ago, with numbers in Wales reducing by three-quarters in that period (according to the BTO Breeding Bird Survey). A pair raised a chick at Caersws, and around Wern (near Arddleen) there was a group of 3 territories, with one pair successfully raising 2 chicks. 2 chicks were ringed in a box near Forden. 1 was in farmland near Trewern on 3 Jun.

**SHORT-EARED OWL***Asio flammeus*

W3



Short-eared Owl near Llyn Mawr, 28 Dec, by David Lister

The only records came during Dec, when a remarkable concentration of up to 10 birds took up residence in the Llyn Mawr area (near Clatter), and remained into Jan 2021.



Hoopoe at Llyn Clywedog, 15 May, by John Williams

3 records of this Mediterranean vagrant, all from within a week, which may relate to 1,2 or 3 individuals: 12 May (Lake Vyrnwy), 15 May (Llyn Clywedog), and 17 May (near Clatter).

**KINGFISHER**

*Alcedo atthis*

RB4

Recorded from a number of rivers, streams and lakes throughout the county; and breeds in river banks. In mid-winter many Kingfishers depart for the coast, but there were winter records from Dolydd Hafren (19 Jan, 2 Nov) and Berriew (12 Nov).

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER**

*Dendrocopos major*

RB5

Widespread and common. Often recorded on feeders in the larger and more rural gardens. In the last 25 years, numbers in Wales have more than tripled (according to the BTO Breeding Bird Survey). They were recorded on 100% (summer) and 89% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**GREEN WOODPECKER**

*Picus viridis*

RB3

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

**KESTREL**

*Falco tinnunculus*

RB3

Scarce, but reported from many parts of the county. 2 pairs around Llyn Mawr (near Clatter) bred successfully in boxes, and a pair raised 4 young on Middletown Hill.

**MERLIN**

*Falco columbarius*

RB2, W2

A pair fledged 4 young in moorland above Lake Vyrnwy; but another pair in a different part of the Berwyns failed to settle. Other records are of wintering individuals: Glaslyn on 22 Mar, Short Cross (on Long Mountain near Welshpool) on 4 Oct, between Dolanog and Pont Llogel on 9 Oct and 1 chasing 150 Redwings at Llandinam Gravels on 12 Oct.

**HOBBY***Falco subbuteo*

SB3

A pair bred successfully above Mochdre near Newtown. At Lake Vyrnwy a pair were regularly seen and probably bred. Other sightings came from Pentre Llifior (near Berriew, in Jul, Aug and Sep), Pantperthog near Machynlleth (31 Jul), Felindre near Berriew (2 Aug), 2 at Bwlchyddar (15 Aug) and Carreghofa (18 Aug). At Llwynderw near Llanidloes 1 was seen at dusk catching bats on 26 Jul, and 2 on 11 Sep. First and last dates were 22 May and 20 Sep.

**PEREGRINE***Falco peregrinus*

RB3

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

**JAY***Garrulus glandarius*

RB5



Jay near Mochdre, Newtown, 14 Nov 2020, by David Lister

Jays are thriving in the county, in their preferred habitat of broadleaved woodland and woodland edge. They were recorded on 61% of the 2020 winter MWT garden surveys.

**MAGPIE***Pica pica*

RB5

Familiar and abundant, but not always popular, as Magpies affect songbird populations locally through nest predation. Their overall population trend in Wales in recent years is stable or slightly downwards (according to the BTO Breeding Bird Survey).

**JACKDAW***Coloeus monedula*

RB5

A common sight among larger corvids feeding in fields. Jackdaws nest typically in holes in trees, on crags, cliffs or in old chimneys. A flock of 100+ were at Dolydd Hafren on 17 Nov. They were recorded on 75% (summer) and 70% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**ROOK***Corvus frugilegus*

RB5

Rooks are more closely associated with arable land than their close relative Carrion Crow. Rookeries occur in suitable treetops around the county. In Wales their overall population trend is downwards. The top count was c.100 at Cloddiau, near Welshpool, on 10 May.

**CARRION CROW***Corvus corone*

RB5

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

**RAVEN***Corvus corax*

RB4

Ravens occur widely through the county, nesting on cliffs, crags and in trees (usually conifers). They maintain a stable population in the county. A roost of 50 in woods at Llandinam on 28 Dec was the highest count.

**COAL TIT***Periparus ater*

RB4



Coal Tit at Sarn, 1 Jan, by Mark Wilson

A conifer specialist, Coal Tits nest and winter in the county in good numbers. They also readily visit garden feeders. They were recorded on 83% (summer) and 85% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**MARSH TIT***Poecile palustris*

RB3

Small numbers nest in the county, usually in natural sites. They have seriously declined in both England and Wales; new research suggests this could be linked to the dominance at garden feeders of Blue and Great Tits. A few locations record them in most months, such as in Llandinam and Moel-y-Garth (near Welshpool).

**WILLOW TIT***Poecile montanus*

RB3

Elusive, but still present in the county where suitable wet scrub and woodland habitat remains. Willow Tits were the subject of a BTO survey in 2019 and 2020: 53 territories were found in the county, including 7 at Lake Vyrnwy. Many more pairs undoubtedly nest, but large areas of Hafren and Dyfnant Forests were not covered due to Covid restrictions. Breeding was also suspected in Breidden Forest near Crewgreen, Ceri Ridgeway, and near Llanerfyl.

**BLUE TIT***Cyanistes caeruleus*

RB5

Abundant and familiar: recorded in all MWT 2020 garden surveys, summer and winter.

**GREAT TIT** *Parus major* RB5

Abundant and familiar: recorded on 100% (summer) and 98% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis* RB4

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

**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* SB4

An early arriving summer visitor which nests along the sandy banks of our larger rivers, especially at Dolydd Hafren and Llandinam Gravels. First reported on 23 Apr at Machynlleth, and latest at Llyn Clywedog on 27 Aug. Top count was 100 at Aberhafesp on 29 Apr.

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica* SB5

One early arrival was on 22 Mar at Dolydd Hafren, but most of our Swallows arrive in Apr and early May and leave in Sep. Last report was 12 Oct, at Wern near Arddleen.

**HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum* SB5



House Martins at Sarn, 28 May, by Mark Wilson

First record was on 4 Apr, at Lymore near Montgomery. Most birds return to their nesting areas in mid-May, and depart in Sep or early Oct. The latest report was on 9 Oct in Llanidloes.

**CETTI'S WARBLER** *Cettia cetti* R2

Records of singles from the reedbeds of Pwll Penarth on 22 Mar and 11 and 12 Sep. Breeding likely in some years in the county, especially in 2016 when there were several summer records.

**LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* RB5

A common breeder, forming flocks with other tit species from late summer to early spring, and regularly visiting feeders in larger and more rural gardens. They were recorded on 80% of the 2020 MWT winter garden surveys.

**WOOD WARBLER***Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

SB4

This iconic species is characteristic of Welsh hillsides clothed in mature broadleaf forest, especially sessile oak, with most records from May and June. Many records are from Lake Vyrnwy, but they are well distributed through the county in suitable habitat. The earliest reported was 20 Apr, at Allt Goch, Llanidloes, and the latest 1 Aug at Llwynderw, Llanidloes. 1 on the slopes of Moel-y-Golfa near Middletown on 16 May was the first for a few years there.

**WILLOW WARBLER***Phylloscopus trochilus*

SB5

In recent years Willow Warblers have lost ground in lowland areas of Wales, but they maintain healthy populations in the uplands. First of the year was recorded on 5 Apr, both in Ceinws near Machynlleth and at Llwynderw near Llanidloes, with several more reported during the next 2 days. The latest was 13 Sep, near Dyfi Junction Station.

**CHIFFCHAFF***Phylloscopus collybita*

SB5



Chiffchaff at Dolydd Hafren, 25 Dec, by Edd Cottell

A common summer visitor, arriving in March or April and departing in Sep and Oct, although a few stay on to winter at a few sheltered and insect-rich sites such as Pwll Penarth MWT Reserve. A male singing at Belan, near Welshpool, on 11 Mar may have been an overwintering bird or a new arrival. 79% of the MWT summer garden surveys had Chiffchaff records. One on 25 Dec at Dolydd Hafren was definitely overwintering!

**SEDGE WARBLER***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

SB4

Cors Dyfi is the county stronghold for this species, with several breeding pairs. Other regular haunts are Dolydd Hafren, Pwll Penarth, and Llyn Coed-y-Dinas: all wetland areas with plenty of bushes. As for several other species this year, lockdown prevented observers recording first arrival dates.

**REED WARBLER***Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

SB3

See comments for Sedge Warbler, above. Reed Warblers breed in similar habitats, but favour larger reedbeds, often without bushes. 3 pairs nested at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, and raised

several young. The reeds in front of the hide at Coed-y-Dinas and the first hide at Dolydd Hafren are the easiest places to watch them.

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia* SB3

An elusive and under-recorded summer visitor. Some pairs nest each year at Lake Vyrnwy RSPB Reserve.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* SB5, W3

Mostly summer visitors, arriving in large numbers in April. 58% of the MWT summer garden surveys had Blackcap records. A few wintering records: 20 Jan and 31 Dec in Welshpool gardens, 27 Jan in Middletown, and 9 Nov near Llanfyllin.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* SB4

This summer visitor breeds in suitable scrub throughout the county, but is never as common as its close relative the Blackcap. First of the year was unusually early: 10 Apr near Carno; most arrive in late April and early May.

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca* SB3

First recorded 3 May in Middletown, and latest 31 Aug on Corndon Hill. Other May records were from Carreghofa (8 May), Llanfyllin (9 May) and Moel-y-Garth, near Welshpool (19 May) showing a bias towards the east of the county. Never numerous, and heard more than seen.

**WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis* SB5



Whitethroats arrive in late April and stay until September, choosing scrubby open habitats with small trees which they use for song-perches. First recorded was on Middletown Hill on 23 Apr.

**FIRECREST***Regulus ignicapilla*

P2

1 was photographed in a garden in Ceinws, near Machynlleth, on 29 Mar.

**GOLDCREST***Regulus regulus*

RB4, W5



Goldcrest at Pwll Penarth, 22 Mar, by Meurig Garbutt

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

**WREN***Troglodytes troglodytes*

RB5

Present in most habitats, recorded on 96% (summer) and 97% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**NUTHATCH***Sitta europaea*

RB4

We have a thriving population of Nuthatch in the county. Often seen on feeders in larger, more rural gardens, as well as in their natural habitat of mature broadleaved woodland. 85% of the MWT 2020 winter garden surveys had Nuthatch records.

**TREECREEPER***Certhia familiaris*

RB4

Widespread and common, though less conspicuous than Nuthatch. They were recorded on 38% of the MWT 2020 winter garden surveys.

**STARLING***Sturnus vulgaris*

RB4, W5



Starling murmuration forming a duck's head, Dolydd Hafren, 29 Nov, by Edd Cottell

Declining as a breeding bird in the county; however, winter murmurations remain impressive. Notable examples were at Dolydd Hafren, where 5,000+ were estimated in late Jan, and again c.10,000 from 29 Nov until the end of the year. Starlings were recorded on 50% (summer) and 72% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**RING OUZEL***Turdus torquatus*

SB2, P2

1 was on Corndon Hill on 21 Mar: either a very early migrant or a wintering bird. Winter records are rare but not unheard of in Wales and Shropshire.

**BLACKBIRD***Turdus merula*

RB5

Abundant as a breeding bird, and augmented in winter with many continental visitors.

**FIELDFARE***Turdus pilaris*

W5

Frequently seen between October and April, these gregarious Scandinavian visitors often accompany Redwings. They enter gardens to feed on fallen fruit in hard weather, and were recorded on 32% of the 2020 MWT winter garden surveys received. The latest record was of 24 at Llanymynech on 10 Apr, and the first reported arrival was a flock of 85 on 15 Oct at Llyn Clywedog. The top count was of 260 at Carno on 5 Apr.

**REDWING***Turdus iliacus*

W5

Often abundant in winter and usually outnumbering Fieldfare. Latest reports were both on 5 Apr, from Cloddiau (Welshpool) and Ceinws (Machynlleth). First recorded on 28 Sep at Llwynderw, near Llanidloes. Top count was c.500 at Montgomery on 12 Oct. Redwings were recorded on 34% of the 2020 MWT winter garden surveys received.

**SONG THRUSH***Turdus philomelos*

RB5

A familiar but retiring species. Most conspicuous in spring and summer when males are singing, repeating each phrase. Many more continental birds arrive for the winter. Song Thrush was recorded on 96% (summer) and 50% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**MISTLE THRUSH***Turdus viscivora*

RB4

Mistle Thrushes nest in various woodland, woodland edge, and hedgerow habitats, and draw attention to themselves in late winter and early spring with their loud, short song-phrases. After the breeding season, family parties join up and can sometimes be seen in flocks of 20 or more, especially on open hillsides where they defend fruiting rowan trees.

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER***Muscicapa striata*

SB3



Spotted Flycatcher nestlings at Aberhafesp, Jun 2020, by Sarah and Gerard Bland

This declining summer visitor was first reported on 8 May at Allt Goch, Llanidloes; and the last on 31 Aug at Corndon Hill. Other records came in from Machynlleth, Ceinws, Llanidloes, Llwynderw, Aberhafesp, Llanfyllin, Carno and Llandinam.

**ROBIN***Erithacus rubecula*

RB5

Well distributed throughout our woods, hedges and gardens. Notable among British birds for maintaining individual winter territories, with females singing in defence of their patch just as males do. Robin was recorded in all MWT 2020 garden surveys, summer and winter.

**NIGHTINGALE***Luscinia megarhynchos*

P1

One of the most unexpected records of the year was an unseen male whose song was clearly captured by the Dyfi Osprey live camera at Cors Dyfi on 2 Jun. The previous county record was of a singing male that stayed on Moel-y-Golfa, near Middletown, for over a week in late May 1983.

**PIED FLYCATCHER***Ficedula hypoleuca*

SB4

Earliest record was 5 Apr at Felindre, near Berriew. By 7 Apr, arriving males were already defending nest boxes both at Llanfyllin and Dolforwyn MWT Reserve near Abermule. 12 were at Llwynderw, near Llanidloes, on 26 Apr. At Lake Vyrnwy RSPB Reserve, there were 77 occupied nest-boxes. Seldom recorded in late July or August as birds leave the county on early migration; but the latest sighting was at Llyn Clywedog on 27 Aug. 390 Pied Flycatchers were ringed in the county during the year, mostly *pulli* (chicks): see Ringing Report (below).

**BLACK REDSTART***Phoenicurus ochruros*

P3

A male was in a quarry near Pistyll Rhaeadr Waterfall on 4 Dec.

**REDSTART***Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

SB4



Redstart female, Llwynderw near Llanidloes, 31 May, by Richard Becker

A relatively common breeding visitor in suitable habitat throughout the county. First recorded on 9 Apr near Forden. 7 were at Llwynderw Farm near Llanidloes on 26 Apr. The latest record was from Corndon Hill on 31 Aug.

**WHINCHAT***Saxicola rubetra*

SB3

About 20 pairs nest each year at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; small numbers in other suitable upland sites in the county. 2 on spring passage at Llandyssil on 22 Apr were the earliest record. 1 was at Llandinam Windfarm on 8 May, and 1 near Guilsfield on 4 Jul.

**STONECHAT***Saxicola rubicola*

SB4

Scattered records: Stonechats nest in small numbers typically on uncultivated hillsides, often with heather or gorse.

**WHEATEAR***Oenanthe oenanthe*

SB3, P4

Regular on hillsides and mountains in spring and autumn, with some staying to breed. First report of the year was on 10 Apr, on a hill above Penstrowed; and the latest on 24 Sep at Moel-y-Garth, near Welshpool.

**DIPPER***Cinclus cinclus*

RB3

Dippers can be found throughout the year on fast-flowing streams and rivers throughout the county.

**HOUSE SPARROW***Passer domesticus*

RB5

Common in towns, villages and around farms. House Sparrows appear to maintain a stable population in the county, without the abrupt declines noted in towns in other parts of the country. They were recorded on 96% (summer) and 92% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**TREE SPARROW***Passer montanus*

RB3



Tree Sparrow at Sarn, 4 Dec, by Mark Wilson

Few records of this declining species. 1 visited a bird-feeder in Sarn on 1 Jan and 4 Dec, with 2 there in late Nov. Other records came from Machynlleth (8 Jun) and Cors Dyfi (29 Sep). 2 MWT garden surveys (1 from Tregynon, 1 from Churchstoke) record them regularly.

**DUNNOCK***Prunella modularis*

RB5

A familiar but inconspicuous resident of our gardens and hedgerows, announcing its presence in spring with a repeated, rather tuneless jingle. Dunnock was recorded on 96% (summer) and 91% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL***Motacilla flava*

SB3

Elusive and declining in the county, these summer visitors favour rough pasture and water meadows. 2 pairs can be found each summer at Bacheldre, near Montgomery, where the last bird lingered to mid-Oct. 1 was at Dyfi Bridge, Machynlleth, on 27 May, and 1 at Carreghofa on 17 Jun.

**GREY WAGTAIL***Motacilla cinerea*

RB4

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

**PIED WAGTAIL***Motacilla alba*

RB5

A bird often associated with farmyards and villages. On 13 Sep, 33 were counted by the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction Station. Outside the breeding season, a regular roost can be found at the sewage works at Pwll Penarth near Newtown. 44% of the MWT winter 2020 garden surveys recorded the species.

**MEADOW PIPIT***Anthus pratensis*

SB5

Common breeder on treeless hillsides throughout the county, commonly moving to lowlands in autumn and winter. 120 were along the Dyfi near Dyfi Junction Station on 13 Sep.

**TREE PIPIT***Anthus trivialis*

SB4

Under-recorded, but a regular summer visitor on open hillsides with scattered trees used as song-perches. First recorded on 12 Apr at Ceinws, near Machynlleth; and latest on 21 Sep at Corndon Hill. RSPB report a good breeding population at Lake Vyrnwy.

**CHAFFINCH***Fringilla coelebs*

RB5

Common but declining in the county. Conspicuous when breeding with its loud song. In winter numbers are augmented by continental birds, mostly from Scandinavia. Chaffinch was recorded on 100% (summer) and 92% (winter) of the 2020 MWT garden surveys.

**BRAMBLING***Fringilla montifringilla*

W4

A regular winter visitor to the county from Scandinavia in varying numbers. The last record from the first winter period was 25 Apr in Machynlleth; and the first arrival was on 15 Oct at Llanfyllin. No large flocks were reported, but 15 were on the west side of Lake Vyrnwy on 2 Feb. Surprisingly, no Brambling were ringed in the county in 2020 (compare 261 in 2019).

**HAWFINCH***Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

RB2, W3



Hawfinch in Machynlleth, 3 Jun, by Emyr Evans

The county's stronghold for this elusive finch is in the west around Machynlleth, where a female was photographed on 3 Jun. A different (ringed) bird was on the same garden feeder the previous week. 2 were in nearby Ceinws on 1 Apr. Llyn Coed-y-Dinas produced 1 on 22 Jan, and 1 on 28 Mar, but this year there were no records from Powis Castle.

**BULLFINCH***Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

RB5

Often overlooked and elusive, but present throughout in suitable habitat in apparently stable numbers. 4 juveniles fledged from a late nest in Middletown on 1 Sep. 53% of the MWT winter 2020 garden surveys recorded the species.

**GREENFINCH***Chloris chloris*

RB5

Patchily distributed through the county in small numbers. In recent years Greenfinches in U.K. have been badly affected by the disease *Trichomonosis*, which is related to poor hygiene at bird feeders. 34% of the MWT winter 2020 garden surveys recorded the species.

**LINNET***Linaria cannabina*

RB5

Breeding often semi-colonially and in gorse, Linnets are widespread in suitable habitats in summer. The maximum count was of 18 on Corndon Hill on 31 Aug.

**LESSER REDPOLL***Acanthis cabaret*

RB4



Lesser Redpoll at Sarn, 29 Apr, by Mark Wilson

More common in the west of the county and a common nesting species at Lake Vyrnwy, Lesser Redpolls are associated with birches and conifers. A spring passage through the county brings some birds to garden feeders. They are easily observed on feeders at Cors Dyfi MWT Reserve; other records came in from Dyfnant Forest, Cefn Coch, Ceinws, Llwynderw near Llanidloes, and Round Bank near Sarn.

**CROSSBILL***Loxia curvirostra*

RB4

Resident breeder (starting in Jan) and irruptive winter visitor, in large conifer plantations. Records came from various parts of the county, with a maximum count of 42 in Ceinws on 31 Mar.

**GOLDFINCH***Carduelis carduelis*

RB5

A common visitor to gardens, bird feeders and rough pastures throughout the county, with an upward population trend. 72% of the MWT winter 2020 garden surveys recorded the species.

**SISKIN***Spinus spinus*

RB4

A common breeder in upland conifer plantations; and regular in varying numbers on garden feeders. Top counts were 70 at Ceinws on 24 Aug, and 35 at Cefn Coch on 20 Jan. Other strongholds include Lake Vyrnwy, Ceri Forest and Hafren Forest. 7 were on a garden feeder in Welshpool on 20 Dec. 302 were ringed in the county during the year (see Ringing Report - below).

**YELLOWHAMMER***Emberiza citronella*

RB4



Yellowhammer at Wern near Arddleen, 10 Feb, by Sue Southam

A bird of patchy distribution in the county, and losing ground in areas of more intensive agriculture. However, it can still be found (e.g. in the Tanat Valley) both as a breeding bird and on garden feeders. Ceinws near Machynlleth and Bacheldre near Montgomery also hold significant breeding populations.

**REED BUNTING***Emberiza schoeniclus*

RB3

Patchily distributed around wetlands and uplands; a maximum of 20 was recorded at Dolydd Hafren on 11 Dec. There was a small winter roost at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas.

## Ringing Report

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 2020 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. (2021) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2020. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 7-August-2021)*)

Species	Pullus	Juvenile	Adult	Unaged	Total
Mute Swan	49	0	0	0	49
Mandarin	0	1	0	0	1
Mallard	0	0	3	0	3
Goosander	0	5	0	0	5
Red Grouse	0	0	1	3	4
Sparrowhawk	3	0	0	0	3
Buzzard	0	1	0	0	1
Moorhen	0	0	1	0	1
Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0
Golden Plover	0	31	18	0	49
Curlew	0	0	16	0	16
Woodcock	0	31	46	0	77
Jack Snipe	0	0	0	1	1
Snipe	0	8	15	0	23
Green Sandpiper	0	3	1	0	4
Stock Dove	8	0	1	0	9
Woodpigeon	0	0	5	0	5
Barn Owl	85	1	5	2	93
Little Owl	2	0	1	0	3
Kingfisher	0	6	1	0	7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	6	5	0	11
Green Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	1
Kestrel	16	2	0	0	18
Jackdaw	10	0	1	0	11
Carrion Crow	2	0	0	0	2
Coal Tit	0	21	19	3	43
Marsh Tit	0	1	0	0	1
Willow Tit	9	2	0	0	11
Blue Tit	78	142	254	2	476
Great Tit	66	108	121	2	297
Skylark	0	0	2	3	5
Swallow	11	0	1	0	12

Long-tailed Tit	0	11	8	34	53
Willow Warbler	0	49	17	0	66
Chiffchaff	0	135	22	3	160
Wood Warbler	5	0	0	0	5
Sedge Warbler	0	0	1	0	1
Blackcap	1	46	27	0	74
Garden Warbler	0	14	6	0	20
Lesser Whitethroat	0	2	1	0	3
Whitethroat	0	5	2	0	7
Goldcrest	0	72	14	13	99
Wren	3	25	12	6	46
Nuthatch	14	6	7	7	34
Treecreeper	0	24	1	1	26
Starling	0	1	4	0	5
Blackbird	20	55	36	0	111
Fieldfare	0	5	15	0	20
Redwing	0	100	59	11	170
Song Thrush	2	15	9	0	26
Spotted Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	3
Robin	17	68	20	0	105
Pied Flycatcher	368	2	20	0	390
Redstart	42	6	3	0	51
Wheatear	0	1	0	0	1
Dipper	2	11	9	0	22
House Sparrow	11	3	6	17	37
Dunnock	1	24	8	5	38
Grey Wagtail	0	9	0	0	9
Meadow Pipit	0	155	3	6	164
Chaffinch	1	15	13	0	29
Bullfinch	0	6	12	0	18
Greenfinch	0	1	17	0	18
Lesser Redpoll	0	7	11	1	19
Goldfinch	0	170	270	9	449
Siskin	1	89	209	3	302
Reed Bunting	3	0	0	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>1360</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>3827</b>

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

A selection of interesting ringing recoveries reported in 2020 are listed below.

Source : *Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A. (2021) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2020. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 7-8-2021)*

<b>Mute Swan</b>			
W03646	Nestling Male	19/10/2000	Brithdir, Berriew: 52°36'N 3°11'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	12/09/2008	Welshpool: 52°39'N 3°9'W (Powys) 6km NNE 7y 10m 24d
	Caught by ringer	30/09/2011	Crowther Hall, Pool Quay, Welshpool: c. 52°41'N 3°6'W (Powys) 12km NNE 10y 11m 11d
	Caught by ringer	05/09/2012	Welshpool: 52°39'N 3°9'W (Powys) 6km NNE 11y 10m 17d
	Caught by ringer	08/09/2016	Pool Quay near Welshpool: c. 52°40'N 3°7'W (Powys) 9km NNE 15y 10m 20d
	Caught by ringer	06/09/2017	Pool Quay near Welshpool: 52°41'N 3°6'W (Powys) 12km NNE 16y 10m 18d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	04/09/2018	Pool Quay near Welshpool: 52°40'N 3°7'W (Powys) 9km NE 17y 10m 16d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	05/07/2020	Pool Quay near Welshpool: 52°41'N 3°6'W (Powys) 10km NNE 19y 8m 16d
	Caught by ringer	14/08/2020	Pool Quay near Welshpool: 52°41'N 3°6'W (Powys) 12km NNE 19y 9m 26d
Z52898	Nestling Female	11/09/2006	Wern, Arddleen: 52°42'N 3°6'W (Powys)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	10/09/2015	Arddleen, near Welshpool: 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys) 3km 8y 11m 30d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06/09/2017	Arddleen (North): 52°43'N 3°6'W (Powys) 3km 10y 11m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07/07/2019	Wern, arddleen: 52°42'N 3°6'W (Powys) 1km 12y 9m 26d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	05/07/2020	Wern, arddleen: 52°42'N 3°6'W (Powys) 1km 13y 9m 24d
ZZ8435	Adult Male	06/09/2007	Four Crosses: 52°45'N 3°5'W (Powys)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/09/2012	Arddleen (South): 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys) 2km 5y 0m 6d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	24/07/2014	Arddleen (South): 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys) 2km 6y 10m 18d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20/09/2015	Arddleen (South): 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys) 2km 8y 0m 14d
	Caught by ringer	30/08/2019	Montgomery Canal, Arddleen, Llanymynech: 52°44'N 3°5'W (Powys) 2km 11y 11m 24d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30/07/2020	Montgomery Canal, Arddleen, Llanymynech: 52°44'N 3°5'W (Powys) 1km 12y 10m 24d
ZZ8511	Adult Female	12/09/2008	Arddleen, near Welshpool: 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	12/09/2012	Arddleen (South): 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys) 0km 4y 0m 0d
	Alive (ring read in field)	24/07/2014	Arddleen (South): 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys) 0km 5y 10m 12d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	20/09/2015	Arddleen (South): 52°44'N 3°6'W (Powys) 0km 7y 0m 8d
	Caught by ringer	30/08/2019	Montgomery Canal, Arddleen, Llanymynech: 52°44'N

			3°5'W (Powys) 1km 10y 11m 18d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30/07/2020	Montgomery Canal, Arddleen, Llanymynech: 52°44'N 3°5'W (Powys) 1km 11y 10m 18d
<b>Oystercatcher</b>			
FJ10861	Adult	26/03/2017	River Severn, Caersws: c. 52°31'N 3°24'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	27/03/2019	Dolydd Hafren, Forden, montgomery: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys) 18km ENE 2y 0m 1d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07/06/2020	Brockhall Gravel Pits, Hereford: 52°4'N 2°48'W (Herefordshire) 64km SE 3y 2m 12d
<b>Golden Plover</b>			
DK38694	Adult	29/10/2014	Tre-Gwynt, Llanerfyl: c. 52°37'N 3°26'W (Powys)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27/09/2020	Llyn Hir: 52°37'N 3°25'W (Powys) 2km 5y 10m 29d
DK38696	Adult	29/10/2014	Tre-Gwynt, Llanerfyl: c. 52°37'N 3°26'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	10/10/2017	Tre-Gwynt, Llanerfyl: 52°38'N 3°25'W (Powys) 2km 2y 11m 11d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	27/09/2020	Llyn Hir: 52°37'N 3°25'W (Powys) 2km 5y 10m 29d
DE69249	First-year	21/10/2016	Two Crosses, Clun Forest, clun: 52°28'N 3°6'W (Shropshire)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	06/11/2016	Gwenlas, llanbadarn Fynydd: c. 52°25'N 3°18'W (Powys) 14km WSW 0y 0m 16d
	Caught by ringer	13/03/2020	Kerry Hill: 52°27'N 3°17'W (Powys) 12km W 3y 4m 21d
DT24008	First-year	13/10/2018	near Two Crosses, Clun Forest, clun: 52°28'N 3°7'W (Shropshire)
	Caught by ringer	27/01/2020	Kerry Hill: 52°27'N 3°17'W (Powys) 12km W 1y 3m 14d
<b>Curlew</b>			
FJ10849	Adult Female	11/03/2017	Dolydd Hafren, Forden, montgomery: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys)
	Alive (ring read in field)	01/12/2017	Adrigole Harbour: 51°41'N 9°44'W (Cork) 459km W 0y 8m 20d
	Alive (ring read in field)	20/11/2018	Adrigole Harbour: 51°41'N 9°44'W (Cork) 459km W 1y 8m 9d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11/09/2019	Adrigole, Bantry: 51°40'N 9°43'W (Cork) 458km W 2y 6m 0d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	04/03/2020	Adrigole, Bantry: 51°40'N 9°43'W (Cork) 458km W 2y 11m 22d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	23/09/2020	Adrigole, Bantry: 51°40'N 9°43'W (Cork) 458km W 3y 6m 12d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14/12/2020	Adrigole, Bantry: 51°40'N 9°43'W (Cork) 458km W 3y 9m 3d
FJ10852	Adult Female	11/03/2017	Dolydd Hafren, Forden, montgomery: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13/04/2019	Weston Farm, binweston: 52°37'N 3°2'W (Shropshire) 10km ENE 2y 1m 2d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	13/10/2019	Ring, Clonarkilty: 51°36'N 8°51'W (Cork) 403km WSW 2y 7m 2d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	07/09/2020	Ring, Clonarkilty: 51°36'N 8°51'W (Cork) 403km WSW 3y 5m 27d
FJ25145	Adult Male	27/02/2019	Dolydd Hafren, Forden, montgomery: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys)
	Alive (colour rings seen)	05/03/2019	Dolydd Hafren, Forden, montgomery: 52°35'N 3°10'W (Powys) 0km 0y 0m 6d

	Alive (colour rings seen)	14/09/2020	Dungarvan: 52°4'N 7°37'W (Waterford) 308km W 1y 6m 18d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	02/11/2020	Dungarvan: 52°4'N 7°37'W (Waterford) 308km W 1y 8m 6d
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°5'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 0y 1m 5d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17/01/2017	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°5'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 1y 5m 11d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	12/10/2017	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°5'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 2y 2m 6d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	18/09/2019	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°5'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 4y 1m 12d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	19/02/2020	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°5'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 4y 6m 13d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	17/04/2020	Oakdale, church Stoke: 52°31'N 3°2'W (Powys) 12km SE 4y 8m 11d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	11/08/2020	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°5'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 5y 0m 5d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	09/10/2020	Devoran: 50°12'N 5°5'W (Cornwall) 296km SSW 5y 2m 3d
	FJ25313	Adult Male	22/03/2020
Alive (colour rings seen)		17/04/2020	Bryn Cwmyrhiwdre, dolfor: 52°27'N 3°22'W (Powys) 8km SSE 0y 0m 26d
Alive (colour rings seen)		10/08/2020	Puslinch: 50°19'N 4°1'W (Devon) 247km S 0y 4m 19d
<b>Woodcock</b>			
EZ08413	First-year	10/01/2015	Nant-Yr-Hafod, Staylitle, llanidloes: 52°30'N 3°39'W (Powys)
	Freshly dead (shot)	15/01/2020	Llanidloes: 52°26'N 3°32'W (Powys) 11km SE 5y 0m 5d
EZ21799	First-year	20/11/2016	Bwlch Y Garreg, near Caersws: c. 52°33'N 3°27'W (Powys)
	Freshly dead (cat)	08/11/2020	Warande, Schiedam: 51°54'N 4°24'E (Zuid-Holland) The Netherlands 540km E 3y 11m 19d
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>			
HT57162	Nestling	24/06/1997	Ynys Gwylan Islands: 52°47'N 4°41'W (Gwynedd)
	Freshly dead (hit glass)	12/07/2020	Forge, Machynlleth: 52°34'N 3°49'W (Powys) 63km ESE 23y 0m 18d
<b>Barn Owl</b>			
FH68684	Nestling Male	20/07/2013	Site Confidential, near Llanidloes: c. 52°27'N 3°32'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	04/01/2014	Site Confidential near Dolfor: c. 52°27'N 3°15'W (Powys) 15km ENE 0y 5m 15d
	Caught by ringer	19/05/2014	Site Confidential near Mochdre, newtown: c. 52°27'N 3°23'W (Powys) 13km ENE 0y 9m 29d
	Caught by ringer	23/12/2015	Site Confidential near Mochdre, newtown: c. 52°27'N 3°23'W (Powys) 13km ENE 2y 5m 3d
	Caught by ringer	27/06/2016	near Mochdre, Newtown: 52°27'N 3°23'W (Powys) 11km ENE 2y 11m 7d
	Caught by ringer	14/06/2020	Confidential Site near Newtown: c. 52°27'N 3°23'W (Powys) 11km ENE 6y 10m 25d
<b>Kestrel</b>			
EA13663	Nestling	03/07/2020	Bradleys Br, Gorefield: 52°40'N 0°3'E (Cambridgeshire)

	Long dead	08/10/2020	Braich-Yr-Owen, Lake Vyrnwy: 52°48'N 3°33'W (Powys) 244km W 0y 3m 5d
<b>Blackcap</b>			
ACE0713	Juvenile	20/07/2020	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	05/09/2020	Baden Down Farm: 51°16'N 1°45'W (Wiltshire) 196km SSE 0y 1m 16d
<b>Redwing</b>			
RZ52620	First-year	30/10/2017	Abermule: c. 52°33'N 3°16'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	20/11/2020	Mungia: 43°21'N 2°49'W (Vizcaya) Spain 1,024km S 3y 0m 21d
RZ98740	First-year	14/10/2019	Hill Farm, Abermule: c. 52°33'N 3°15'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	15/12/2020	Brookbatch, Old Storridge Common: 52°9'N 2°21'W (Worcestershire) 76km SE 1y 2m 1d
<b>Chaffinch</b>			
BLB 14836430	First-year Male	26/11/2016	Ursel: 51°7'N 3°28'E (Oost-Vlaanderen) Belgium
	Alive (in net or cage)	07/03/2020	Welshpool: 52°39'N 3°9'W (Powys) 486km WNW 3y 3m 10d
<b>Brambling</b>			
NOS EK74183	Adult Male	11/05/2019	Overbygda, Trysil: 61°19'N 12°15'E (Hedmark) Norway
	Alive (ring read in field)	25/10/2020	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys) 1,329km SW 1y 5m 14d
	Alive (ring read in field)	29/10/2020	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys) 1,329km SW 1y 5m 18d
<b>Goldfinch</b>			
AHC9389	First-year	20/10/2018	Wales Farm, Plumpton: 50°53'N 0°4'W (East Sussex)
	Freshly dead	12/09/2020	Aberhafesp, Newtown: 52°30'N 3°23'W (Powys) 290km NW 1y 10m 23d
S011740	First-year Male	01/01/2016	Hardham: 50°56'N 0°32'W (West Sussex)
	Alive (ring read in field)	20/01/2020	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys) 277km NW 4y 0m 19d
AKB2374	First-year Female	05/01/2019	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys)
	Freshly dead (cat)	16/01/2020	Maynooth: 53°22'N 6°36'W (Kildare) 233km WNW 1y 0m 11d
AEB0975	Full-grown	29/11/2020	Pwllan, Llaninam: 52°28'N 3°26'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	29/12/2020	Chilbolton, near Stockbridge: 51°9'N 1°26'W (Hampshire) 201km SE 0y 1m 0d
<b>Siskin</b>			
AHC0975	Second-year Male	10/06/2018	Bogietang, Wardend, Durriss: 57°1'N 2°24'W (Aberdeenshire)
	Caught by ringer	29/12/2020	Pwllan, Llandinam: 52°28'N 3°26'W (Powys) 511km S 2y 6m 19d
ACE0409	First-year Male	13/02/2020	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys)
	Caught by ringer	30/04/2020	Fort Augustus: 57°7'N 4°41'W (Highland) 493km N 0y 2m 17d
AAF9258	First-year Male	29/04/2019	Cnoc: c. 56°12'N 4°42'W (Argyll and Bute)
	Caught by ringer	02/10/2020	Llanfyllin: 52°46'N 3°15'W (Powys) 392km SSE 1y 5m 3d
Z973938	First-year Male	26/03/2019	High Lodge, near Brandon: c. 52°25'N 0°39'E (Suffolk)
	Freshly dead	13/03/2020	Bryndreiniog, near Oswestry: 52°48'N 3°21'W (Powys) 275km W 0y 11m 16d



Treecreeper at Mochdre, Newtown, 26 Dec, by David Lister

### Map of county and a short explanation of why this differs from North Powys

The map below shows the vice-county of Montgomeryshire, which is VC47. Vice-counties were introduced in 1852 and are units used for wildlife recording, which offer a standardised area for comparison over time. They broadly follow the old county boundaries. VC47 differs slightly from the Montgomeryshire district of North Powys, since a small area in the north-east of Powys (around the village of Llangedwyn) is excluded. It was formerly part of Denbighshire and has only recently been added to Powys. The Denbighshire wildlife recorders have always kept the records for this area. Thanks to our Local Environmental Records Centre, BIS (Biodiversity Information Service), for the map.

