

## Places to Visit – Llyn Coed y Dinas by Chris Townsend

Owned and maintained by Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Llyn Coed y Dinas (affectionately shortened to Lcyd) has been a revelation in respect to the species which occur in the Severn Valley. Situated 2 miles south of Welshpool, the lake was created in 1988 when gravel was extracted to raise the level of 'The Welshpool Relief Road'. Located just north of the large roundabout on the A483 (OS grid ref SJ223052), the 7.6 hectares site has an orchard in a meadow, teaching facilities, a picnic area, sizeable car park and a comfy hide.

Planted only with native species, the reserve has developed into a notable wildlife area and an impressive avian migration site. Worsening weather conditions can cause species to appear in numbers e.g. A passing April shower can make 100's of hirundines materialise, only for them to suddenly disappear as the weather improves. As water levels fall in summer, returning migrant waders use the mud exposed to find invertebrates to further fuel their journey.



Bittern

### Winter

The resident Canada Goose flock swells, with numbers sometimes topping 400, and ringing returns have shown birds travel here from north England. Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck and Wigeon are all regular in good numbers, with Snipe, Lapwing, Cormorant, Shoveler, Pintail, Gadwall, Pochard and Goldeneye present in smaller numbers at some time in most winters. A Red-Breasted Goose once stayed for about 2 hours, which, following the report of one on the Severn Estuary the previous day (and then on the Solway the subsequent day) may have been a wild bird. Bittern has occurred in several winters, with a well-watched bird present for over 3 weeks in early 2015.

### Spring/Summer

Breeding species include a colony of Black-Headed Gulls of c.200 pairs, present from the end of February to the end of July. Other regular breeders include Mallard, Tufted Duck, Canada Goose, Great Crested Grebe, Reed Bunting, Sedge & Reed Warbler, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Great & Blue Tit, Pied & Grey Wagtail, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Dunnock, Wren, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch. Shelduck, Common Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover have also bred in the past. Whilst Sand Martin have not bred recently, they are often present, as are Swift, Swallow and House Martin. Spring migrants have included Garganey, Common, Arctic, Little and Black Terns, Kittiwake, Little Gull, Dunlin, Redshank, Whimbrel, Green & Common Sandpiper, Yellow Wagtail and occasional Black-Tailed Godwit. Barnacle, "small" Canada Goose, and Pink-Footed Geese records are probably feral in origin, whilst frequent Greylag and the occasional Egyptian Geese and Swan Goose are certainly so.



House Martin, Sand Martin,  
Swallow

## Autumn

Waders of many species can occur in small numbers and Dunlin, Black-Tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Redshank, Green and Common Sandpipers, Snipe, and Lapwing are regular, with Little Stint also occasionally recorded. This is the time of year which has produced Hobby, Common Scoter, Great White Egret and Spoonbill, while Little Egret and Little Grebe can appear at almost any season. Even Spotted Crake, an immature Gannet, and Short-Eared Owl have been recorded.

Throughout the year Cormorants are likely, roosting in the Oak tree on the island, and Grey Heron, Mute Swan, and the common corvids are usually present. Buzzard are seen daily, and Kingfisher, Water Rail, Red Kite, Sparrowhawk and Peregrine are regular.



Little Egret