



THE NEWSLETTER

January 2009

www.glamorganbirds.org.uk

You Beauties!



The well watched Bearded Tit at Cosmeston (Photo: Richard Smith) and a Waxwing which spent a day in a garden in Kenfig Hill (Photo: Paul Roberts).

The weather may have been cold but birders in Glamorgan have had plenty of reasons recently to grab their gear and get out of the house to enjoy some pretty special birds in the county. The hot spot was undoubtedly Cosmeston Country Park which hosted a Ferruginous Duck, Bearded Tit and a Lesser Scaup. Elsewhere, small numbers of Waxwing were found at various locations around the county and more recently Glaucous and Iceland Gulls have been around the coastline.

But, as I write this, *The State of Birds in Wales* report has just been published and it doesn't make for easy reading. First the good news: numbers of breeding Dartford Warblers are increasing in Wales - House Sparrows have also increased against a backdrop of significant declines in England, and Welsh seabirds (such as Kittiwake, Fulmars and Guillemots) are stable or increasing and are faring much better than in some other parts of the UK, where shortages of food have caused breeding failure. On the other hand, new surveys of Curlew and Golden Plover show more than 80% declines for both species since they were last fully surveyed in 1993. Concern is also raised for waterbirds on four of Wales's key estuaries and declines in populations of farmland birds continue unabated.

Which makes the GBC's efforts to help farmland birds in the Vale of Glamorgan all the more important. As most of you will already know, thanks to the generosity of John Evans who farms Ty'n-y-Caeau and Lan farms near Marcross, sacrificial crops have been planted to provide food for birds wintering in the area. GBC volunteers have also been out scattering supplementary feed. Sadly, Tree Sparrows have been conspicuous by their absence, but otherwise bird numbers using the crops have been high this winter - including Yellowhammers, Grey Partridge and Reed Bunting. More information inside.

Our work in the Vale of Glamorgan may appear like a drop in the ocean but I'm glad to say that news of what we've achieved is spreading. Inside this newsletter you'll find details of other similar winter feeding strategies being implemented in South East Wales inspired by the success of our project.

Latest News

Membership News

Welcome to the following new members: Andrew & Rosemary Ready from Port Talbot, Michael Walker from Talbot Green, Nicholas Hanford from Nottage and David Winnie from Melksham. Membership is currently 277 (with three pending.) This actually represents around 350 members when one takes family memberships into account.

Request for 2008 Records

If you haven't already done so could you please send all your 2008 bird records to Geri Thomas as soon as possible please? Please remember that all records are valuable. Records of common species, in the overall picture of things, are far more important than those of one off rarities. Breeding records are particularly valuable. So no matter how insignificant you think your records are, get 'em in to Geri.

If it's more convenient, you can drop off your records at Kenfig NNR Visitor Centre. Alternatively, you can now submit your records on an Excel spreadsheet which will significantly help speed up the process of inputting all the information onto the database. You will need a specially designed spreadsheet template which is available from John Wilson. Contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Nestbox Donations

A Tawny Owl Box and three general purpose bird boxes donated by GBC have been given to Glyngaer Primary School as part of their Eco-School Project. The school will also utilise large areas of lawn for planting winter seed stands.

Don't forget that National Nest Box Week starts on St. Valentine's Day (that's Feb 14th to the non-romantics out there). If you've never made a nest box before, it's easier than you think.

A new British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) information booklet, which tells you all you need to know about building different boxes and the best place to position them, is available from the following: Jacobi Jayne & Co, Freepost 1155, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7BR or call Freephone 0800 072 0130, or request the free information pack from the BTO web site:
www.bto.org/nnbw/info_pack.htm

Another useful BTO webpage is:
www.bto.org/nnbw/make.htm

Or save work for yourself by joining the BTO now and you'll receive a free cedar nest box.

Website News

Dan Freedman has decided that he would like to step down as Glamorgan Bird Club/Gower Ornithological Society webmaster and pass the baton on to someone else.

Dan has put in some fantastic work since taking on the job and I'm sure we're all very grateful to him for producing and maintaining such an excellent website. Before he 'retires' from the post Dan is looking at software which will enable the website to be updated by more than one person. This will make the new webmaster's work considerably easier.

The website is a vital part of both GBC/GOS. Not only does it provide club news, a discussion forum and an up to the minute sightings page, it also helps bring in many new members. If you'd be interested in helping to run the website please contact John Wilson or Dan Freedman for a 'no obligation' chat!

National Award for Glamorgan Birder

Bob Howells, from Swansea, received a national award for services to ornithology at the annual conference of the British Trust for Ornithology in December. Presenting the Jubilee Medal on behalf of the BTO, John Lloyd, BTO Regional Representative for North Wales, highlighted Bob's personal contribution to understanding how water birds use Welsh wetlands.

Bob joined the BTO in 1959 and began counting wetland birds in 1969 as part of the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry. When this became the Wetlands Birds Survey (WeBS) in 1993, Bob continued as the BTO WeBS Organiser for West Glamorgan, a post he has held for 34 unbroken years. During this time he has trained a team of volunteer surveyors to count the birds that use the Loughor Estuary.

Bob's unbroken counts of the birds that use the Burry Inlet over the last 39 years, have led to a study to understand how waders use this part of the Welsh coast today. Marking Oystercatchers with a yellow dye, Scientists from the BTO will analyse their winter movements around the estuary. Bob's volunteer team will play an important part in following these birds.

Having been the BTO Regional Representative for Glamorgan, Bob became BTO Regional Representative for West Glamorgan when the county was divided in 1974, a post he has held ever since. He is currently involved in organising the fieldwork for the 2007-11 Birds of Britain and Ireland Atlas, the biggest ever stock take of Britain's birds.

Biodiversity Blitz Days: Slade Farm

The 2008 Glamorgan Biodiversity Blitz took place at Slade Farm and the surrounding area of Southerndown on the 16th August 2008. Despite the appalling weather over 340 species were recorded on the day. Around 200 of these were new records for the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre database. Of the 340 or so species, 140 were vascular plants from a good mixture of woodland, grassland, and semi-aquatic habitats.

Several bird species were observed, one notable sighting was that of a Bullfinch which is a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This bird is also red-listed by the RSPB, because it has seen severe declines in recent years, as is the Song Thrush which was also recorded. In addition, a Green Woodpecker was heard calling from the farm house, and several migrant species were observed including Wheatears Swallows and Sand Martins. A flock of around 30 Canada Geese was also noted feeding in a stubble field.

Slade Farm is an award winning organic pastoral farm situated on the Welsh Heritage Coast, and includes a variety of key wildlife habitats. Slade Wood, in the northern part of the survey area, consisted of a mixture of tree species, including English Elm. Many of the trees themselves, such as Horse Chestnut and Beech are important habitats to the c. 50 lichen species recorded, one of which is potentially a previously undescribed species (*to be confirmed*). The Tree Slug (*Lehmanna marginata*) was found grazing amongst some of these lichens. The limestone walls within the site were also valuable habitats for many calcicole species, such as *Lecanora crenulata*, a lichen more common in southeast Britain. Cwm-y-Buarth situated towards the south of the survey area, had some Stunted Oaks (*Quercus* spp) covered in galls from the wasps *Andricus kollari* and *Neuroterus numismalis*. A Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*), was also found to have made its home under a pile of stones in this area.

The Nant-y-Durfol stream cuts through the site, providing wetter habitats for species such as Floating Sweet Grass, Yellow Iris and Water Mint. Many species of mollusc were recorded on the day, a number of which were found near the stream, such as *Carychium minimum*.

Judith Oakley provided additional records from Black Rocks (Ogmore), just west of the survey site. This area consists of a rocky shore, and comprises several rock pools. This resulted in an additional 26 records to the species list, and included species such as the Lesser Spotted Dogfish and the appropriately named Gutweed (*Ulva intestinalis*).

New WRP Member

Congratulations to GBC member Mike Powell who has recently joined the Welsh Records Panel. The WRP is a sub-committee of the Welsh Ornithological Society that adjudicates on records of scarce and rare birds in Wales.

Welsh Ornithological Society

GBC are now Corporate Members of WOS. This means that the Club will be sent copies of WOS journals 'Welsh Birds' and 'Scarce & Rare Birds' for our library, which will be up and running very shortly. In the meantime, if you'd like to borrow either of these publications please get in touch with the Secretary.

Corporate membership also entitles GBC members to a discount of £2 on WOS membership fees (which currently stand at £15 adult / £18 family). More details about WOS can be found at: www.welshos.org.uk

Birds of Glamorgan

A few copies of this highly sought after book 'Birds of Glamorgan' (Hurford & Lansdown, 1995) are still available. They can be purchased from: Stephen Howe, Dept of Geology, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff. CF10 3NP. They are £10 a copy plus £1 p&p. Cheques should be made payable to 'Cardiff Naturalists' Society'.

Bird Walk

Friends of The Dell present a Bird Walk on Saturday, March 21st. Meet behind Ski Centre, Fairwater Park, Cardiff. Walk starts promptly at 9am and will last an hour or longer. We will discuss which birds are likely to be seen in different areas of the park as we walk round, as well as identifying some common birds by song and appearance. Please bring binoculars, if you have them, and dress appropriately for the weather. Some areas of the park are often muddy. For any further details, contact Paul Seligman, (029) 2055 1281.

Newsletters by Email

The costs of publishing the newsletter are rising. You can help by having your newsletters delivered by email. This not only saves the Club some money, it's also the 'green' option and you'll receive your newsletter up to a week sooner than those who receive it by snail-mail! If you'd like to receive your newsletter this way in the future please contact the Editor. Contact details at the back of the newsletter. Ta very much!

Recent Bird Sightings – Paul Roberts

October 2008 Highlights: A Red-necked Phalarope visited Ogmore Estuary (15th-16th), favouring the flooded fields. A putative Caspian Gull was photographed at Green Point, Rhymney Estuary (14th). A Ring-billed Gull, now in its second winter plumage, returned to Lamby Lake (31st). A Black-necked Grebe called in at Kenfig Pool. Yet another Grey Phalarope was logged at Ogmore Estuary, where a Water Pipit was also present. Yellow-browed Warblers were found at Kenfig (at least two) and St Mellons.



*Whooper Swan at Ogmore Est
(Photo: Mike Pointon)*

Other Sites: A Whooper Swan turned up at Ogmore Estuary early in the month and another four were at Llwyn-onn Reservoir. Two Red-breasted Mergansers flew past Sker. A late Manx Shearwater was off Porthcawl. A Shag was at Aberthaw. Little Egrets were recorded at five regular sites. Raptors included Hen Harriers and Merlins at seven and six sites respectively. Ogmore Estuary held three Grey Plovers and two Green Sandpipers; further Green Sandpipers were at Lamby Lake and Llanilid (2). Selected maxima at Rhymney Estuary were 300 Knot and 72 Black-tailed Godwits. A Jack Snipe arrived at Llanilid. An Arctic Skua lingered off Cardiff Heliport. The only Little Gull was at Cosmeston. Short-eared Owls were seen at Kenfig and Rumney Great Wharf. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was reported at Parc Slip. Away from their breeding locations Dartford Warblers occurred at Nash Point, Pant Norton and Sker. Firecrests graced Aberthaw, Kenfig and Pant Norton.

An impressive maximum of 13 Choughs frequented the Heritage Coast, possibly indicating an arrival from outside the area. A Hawfinch was at Lavernock.

November 2008 Highlights: A smart drake Ferruginous Duck and a confiding Bearded Tit were discovered on the 15th at Cosmeston. A Richard's Pipit was present on the Vale coast between Cwm Nash and Cwm Mawr (26th). A Woodlark flew over Lavernock (14th). A Slavonian Grebe showed very well on the Penarth side of Cardiff Bay. Water Pipits comprised two at Ogmore Estuary and one in the nearby Merthyr Mawr Warren. A Yellow-browed Warbler was a good inland find at Nantyllyon. Single Snow Buntings were at Nash Point and Southerndown. A Ring-billed Gull remained at Lamby Lake.

Other Sites: Ten Little Egrets at Faendre Reen, St Mellons was a record count for the recording area. The long-staying Whooper Swan at Ogmore Estuary was briefly joined by a second bird. Scarcer ducks included Scaup at Cardiff Bay and Cosmeston, an Eider off Penarth, and Red-breasted Mergansers at Cosmeston, Kenfig and Ogmore Estuary. Hen Harriers were seen at Brynnau Gwynion and Kenfig. A smattering of Goshawk, Red Kite and Merlin records was received from typical areas. A maximum of 20 Purple Sandpipers was at Ogmore-by-Sea. Wintering Green Sandpipers frequented Cors Crychudd Reen (2) and Ogmore Estuary (2). Yellow-legged Gulls were identified at both Ogmore and Rhymney Estuaries. Three or four Short-eared Owls graced Rumney Great Wharf. Black Redstarts were observed at four coastal locations. Wintering Chiffchaffs, including the odd eastern race individual, were at Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr Warren. Firecrests were found at Cardiff Heliport and Kenfig.

December 2008 Highlights: The undoubted headliner was a first-winter male Lesser Scaup found at Cosmeston on the 26th; the first county record. Also at Cosmeston a Ferruginous Duck and a Bearded Tit remained from November. Further wintering birds also recorded during the previous month were Slavonian Grebe at Cardiff Bay, Ring-billed Gull at Lamby Lake and Water Pipit at Merthyr Mawr Warren. A Water Pipit returned to Llwyn-onn Reservoir and a Great Grey Shrike was discovered in the nearby Coed Taf Fechan forestry. One or two Bearded Tits were found in the large expanse of reeds at Kenfig rivermouth.



Lesser Scaup at Cosmeston (Photo: Richard Smith).

Late Yellow-browed Warblers arrived at Summerhouse Point and Llangynwyd sewage works (near Maesteg), where a probable northern race Willow Warbler was a surprise. Snow Buntings visited Mynydd Eglwysilan, Werfa and Rumney Great Wharf, with a Water Pipit also of note at the latter site. Single Waxwings at Bridgend and St Mellons were hopefully the vanguard of more to follow.

Future Club Events

Field Trips

Please contact John Wilson on (029) 2033 9424 or john_wilson@glamorganbirds.org.uk at least seven days before the trip date. The meeting point for non-local trips is normally at St. Margaret's Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff – just off junction 32 of the M4. Departure times vary, but John will be able to give you the information for each trip. These trips are suitable for birders of all levels.

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| Sunday, February 8 th | <u>Dawlish & Exemouth (2¼ hrs from Cardiff)</u>
One of the best sites to see divers, grebes, Avocets and plenty more Besides. |
| Thursday, February 19 th | <u>Somerset Levels (1½ hrs from Cardiff)</u>
Past visits have turned up Marsh Harrier, Barn Owl, Ferruginous Duck as well as Otter. |
| Thursday, March 20 ^h | <u>Forest of Dean (1hr from Cardiff)</u>
Starting at New Fancy View for some raptor watching, followed by a search for elusive species such as Hawfinch and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. |
| Sunday, March 29 th | <u>Kenfig & Sker</u>
Early migrants such as Wheatear and Sand Martin should have arrived and who knows what else might be passing through? |
| April TBC | <u>TBC – Mystery Trip</u>
We'll see what's about. Keep an eye on the website for more details or contact John for more information. |

Monthly Walks (Kenfig NNR)

These take place on the third Saturday of each month. Meet at the Reserve Centre at 9.00am. Contact [Dave Carrington](mailto:dave.carrington@virgin.net) on (01656) 743 386 for details.

Monthly Walks (Cosmeston Lakes and Lavernock Point)

These take place on the first Saturday of each month. Meet in the car park at Cosmeston at 9.30am. Contact John Wilson for details (see contacts page in newsletter).

Monthly Walks (Forest Farm - joint walk with the Friends of Forest Farm and Cardiff RSPB group)

These take place on the third Saturday of each month. Meet in the car park at Forest Farm Nature Reserve at 10.00am. Contact Alan Rosney (see contacts page in newsletter) for details.

Indoor Meetings

These are generally held on the first Tuesday of the month during the winter months. Start 7.45pm in the Kenfig National Nature Reserve's Visitor Centre, Kenfig. Contact Paul Denning on (01443) 202 607 / pgdenning.naturepics@virgin.net for details.

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| Tuesday, February 3 rd | <u>American Waders ID Workshop</u>
Led by Alan Rosney. |
| Tuesday, March 3 rd | <u>Ospreys in Wales</u>
A talk by Tim Stowe, GBC member and Director RSPB Wales. |
| Tuesday, April 28 th | <u>Annual General Meeting</u>
The traditional end of year event. This is your opportunity to have your say on club affairs. Refreshments and a quiz will follow the official duties. |

GBC Field Trip to Blackpill and Llanrhidian: December 6th, 2008 – Alan Rosney

What a glorious day! Clear blue skies, crisp air and excellent visibility. Eight members met up at Blackpill for the high tide at around midday. There were plenty of birds on view. The first waders we encountered were around 100 **Sanderling**, which were scampering up and down the beach. Amongst them were a few **Knot** and **Dunlin**. The **Oystercatchers** were generally further away, as were a vast group of around 800 **Ringed Plover**. I don't think I've seen so many together for some time. (I well remember scanning the Ringed Plover flock at Dawlish trying to find a Semipalmated Plover - needle and haystack come to mind.) Bob Francis got on to three **Grey Plover** that were sleeping on the tide line. Surprisingly there were no Godwits on view but there were a lot of **Curlew** around. Off-shore there were lots of **Great Crested Grebes**. I counted 152! Amongst the **Black-headed Gulls** John Wilson picked out a first winter **Mediterranean Gull**. At this point we were berated by a local resident who obviously had something against birdwatchers. She eventually retreated shouting something about "bloody black birds in her garden". It takes all sorts.

Next we had a pleasant walk through Clyne Gardens, catching up with some common woodland species including **Blackcap**, **Nuthatch**, **Treecreeper**, **Green Woodpecker**, **Goldcrest**, **Redwing**, **Fieldfare**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Song Thrush** etc. Unfortunately we didn't see any Willow Tits, a species that has been seen there in the past.

Our next port of call was Mumbles Pier. An adult **Med. Gull** was loafing about on the water. It was almost sporting a full black hood. Off the pier John Wilson got on to a **Great Northern Diver**, which despite being very active, afforded good views to the whole party. I then saw three duck further out in the bay, which turned out to be **Eider**.



Time was pressing so we headed off to Llanrhidian. The aim was to catch the Harriers coming in at dusk. The temperature was dropping like a stone when we arrived and it was at this point that the trip almost turned into a gathering of the Pony Club rather than the Glamorgan Bird Club as the local ponies surrounded us as we set up our 'scopes on the edge of the saltmarsh. One took a particular shine to John Wilson. (Captions to the Editor please).

Despite this equine attention we saw a **Sparrowhawk** and large groups of **Starlings** passing overhead. Over the marsh large flocks of **Golden Plover** were wheeling around in the company of **Lapwings**. We were astonished at the number of **Little Egrets** that were coming in to roost in a tree below Woebley Castle. I lost count at 80. It was getting late and we thought that our chances of seeing a harrier were fading but luckily a **ring-tail** put in an appearance. As it quartered over the saltings, it was joined by a nice male **Marsh Harrier**. A lovely way to finish off a satisfying days birding.

GBC Field Trip to Whiteford Point, Gower: Sunday, January 4th, 2009 – Alan Rosney

It was a bitterly cold day as we gathered in the car park at Cheriton ready for our walk out to Whiteford Point on Gower. The key to birding at the point is to be in place just before high tide. As the peak of the tide was due at around 10.30 a.m., we needed to walk relatively quickly down the hill towards the dunes. Several **Redwings** and **Fieldfares** were in the fields alongside the Pine belt. At the back of the group John Wilson and Huw Thomas were lucky enough to put up a couple of **Jack Snipe**. There were also several **Common Snipe** in the fields.

Despite a thorough search we failed to see any Crossbills in the Pine belt (although other birders told us that there were some about.) We did however see **Coal Tit**, **Goldcrest** and **Treecreeper**. Whilst walking around the edge of the marsh, I was lucky enough to catch a brief glimpse of a **Merlin**. A "**ring-tail**" **Harrier** then put in an appearance, giving everybody a good view. Gareth Jenkins said "Raven calling" (One of the group thought he'd said "Avon calling." – ding dong.) A **Raven** then duly flew overhead. The magic of this place is in the numbers of birds present. Large groups of **Wigeon** and **Teal** were wheeling across the salt marsh and the haunting call of the **Curlew** accompanied us on our walk. There were more **Redwings** in the scrub area with **Stonechat**, **Meadow Pipit** and **Reed Bunting** also present.

The closest birds on the shoreline were a group of **Brent Geese**. Off the point several **Red-breasted Mergansers** were observed. One of the males was performing his elaborate courtship display. Paul Bowden then got on to a **Slavonian Grebe**. Subsequently Huw Thomas found three more. We believe we saw six or seven in all. Unfortunately there were no Black-necked Grebes on view, although there were many **Great Crested Grebes**. John Wilson picked out a rather distant group of **Eiders** on a sandbank. Here thousands of **Oystercatchers** were feeding on the newly exposed mud.

Three colour dyed birds were observed (These were subsequently reported to Niall Burton at the BTO. They form part of a survey of bird movements in the Loughor estuary. If you see any yellow dyed Oystercatchers, please report them to CCW or the BTO. They will be either dyed on the breast or the flanks. You will need to note the time and the state of the tide when reporting them).

Below the lighthouse **Turnstones, Redshank and Ringed Plovers** were amongst the waders picking their way through the rocks and shingle. Some of the group saw some **Common Scoter** whilst scanning the sea for divers. We failed to pick out any divers however.

We decided to go back along the sea wall. Many of the water bodies were frozen. A **Water Rail** was heard squealing in one of the reedy areas. The only "new" species encountered was **Bullfinch**, which was initially picked out by Janet Dewes. Going through Cwm Ivy Woods, we were surprised to hear a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** drumming.

As dusk was approaching, we set off for Llanrhidian to try and see owls and harriers. We did see a couple of "ring-tails" but no owls however.

The group list was around 70. A good start to the new year.

Football Clubs and Avian Influences

I recollect once having a conversation with fellow birders and football enthusiasts, Gareth Jenkins and Alan Rosney, in which we tried to list all the English League soccer clubs whose nicknames involved birds. We were travelling to some distant birding spot - Gareth with his amazing memory will remember where - and our search certainly helped to pass the miles.

Thus I thought a little research would help me to come up with the definitive list; well so I thought but others may be able to add or correct what follows.

Let's begin with the obvious ones where the colour of the kit prompts the name. The commonest is **The Robins**, a nickname borne by three clubs, **Bristol City** who have a Robin on the club crest, **Swindon Town** who once did, and **Cheltenham Town** who also play in red. I could add a fourth, Altrincham Town in the Conference but I'll resist that temptation. Incidentally, what do the rival supporters shout when, for example, Swindon play local rivals Cheltenham? The black and white stripes of **Newcastle United** and of the oldest club in the Football League, **Notts County**, are the origin of our two **Magpies**. We can quickly pass over the blue shirts of **Cardiff City** or **The Bluebirds** and move on to my adopted South Wales team, **Swansea City**. Here it is a chicken and egg situation or rather a swan and shirt dilemma. Did **The Swans** take their name from an abbreviation of their name or from their all white strip? And finally in the colour-inspired section, **Bradford City** or **The Bantams**. Their name originates from their apparently unique claret and amber stripes which resemble the plumage of that fowl.

Crystal Palace, originally known as The Glaziers, are **The Eagles**, simply because the management liked the name while the title **The Throstles**, now almost obsolete, for **West Bromwich Albion**, was allegedly bestowed because of the number of thrushes regularly seen in the hawthorn bushes around the ground. Sadly, **The Owls** for **Sheffield Wednesday** has no avian connection but reminds fans the club once played at nearby Owlerton. **Norwich City** or rather the city of Norwich, was once famous for the breeding of canaries; hence the colour of the team's shirts and their nickname **The Canaries**. I have to allow myself an indulgence to include the penultimate club as it has strong family ties. Son, Alan, is a fanatic of **Leeds United** and it was my university city in the late 50's. Their obsolete name, **The Peacocks**, was derived from a pub of that name which stood at one end of the ground. It was there when I attended Elland Road and maybe still is! And finally..... **Brighton**. Proximity to the sea clearly inspired their name, **The Seagulls**, but purists among club members will deplore such vague nomenclature. Yet one could hardly expect to hear, ringing from the terraces, 'Come on, you Lesser Black-backed Gulls,' or less likely, 'Come on, you Lari Fuscii'.

Comments/corrections/additions to: david@davebush.wanadoo.co.uk

Bird Atlas 2007-2011

Mapping Britain and Ireland's birds



A New Year's Resolution?

Have you done anything towards collecting data for the Glamorgan Atlas yet? If not, how about it? There are plenty of tetrads in all parts of the region just waiting for someone to explore and record their birdlife. By making four visits, two in winter and again in the breeding season, you can show what species make use of it and in what numbers at two different times in the year. For example, just how widespread are Stonechats in winter? Do they stay to breed?

So far only a small proportion of club members have volunteered to take part. If you're one of them, many thanks – your interest and involvement is much appreciated. Some of you are doing this by adopting a tetrad – or, in some cases, more than one. Lists of species, whether from your birding outings or just day-to-day encounters, submitted as Roving Records on paper recording forms or to www.birdatlas.net or to Birdtrack www.birdtrack.net help to complete the picture. If you have completed the visits to your chosen tetrad(s), why not have a go at another? Contact me via the atlas website or see my details below.

Make the most of your atlas time

Although the atlas survey requirements are straightforward, there are some finer points to bear in mind.

Tetrads – record at tetrad (2 x 2km) level wherever possible.

Online entry – if you can enter your data online to the BTO's database it is then immediately available for showing the current picture. But, don't be put off if you can't submit your records online. There are simple paper recording forms also available which I can collect at the end of each season.

Number of Timed Tetrad Visits (TTVs) – you only need to make two visits in just one winter season and two visits in a single breeding season – only 4 visits, that's all!

Varying your route for a TTV – aim to cover the different habitats in the tetrad, perhaps by walking a different route on the second visit to achieve this. Don't ignore "developed" areas as these often have the richest birdlife!

Double counting – be careful when selecting and walking your route that you avoid counting birds twice – for example, birds that fly on ahead of you and roving flocks.

Flying birds – only record these if they are USING the square such as a hovering Kestrel, or Swallows feeding on insects in summer. Ignore birds just flying over, like flocks of gulls.

Dead birds – do not record these, as you can't be sure how they got there. That includes pellets or other evidence.

Owl patrol – visit at dusk or after dark to detect these, but if none are found, record NILNOCT in the species column of a Roving Record to indicate that such a visit has been made.

Coastal sites – record birds offshore as long as they are within the tetrad and you are confident of their identification.

Breeding evidence – this is collected mainly during the breeding season but any evidence you find during the late winter period of species which sometimes nest early, such as Crossbill or Collared Dove, can be entered.

Training

All these points, and many more, will be covered in a one-day (free!) Bird Survey Workshop to be held in Bonvilston in the spring. For more details, please contact me.

BTO are also running residential courses on Bird Survey Techniques (3-5 April) and Bird Identification (7-9 April) at Dale Fort Field Studies Centre, Pembrokeshire, details from su.gough@bto.org.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss any aspect of the Atlas project, please contact me or one of the local organisers:

Bridgend - Laura Palmer (07799) 565 237 valleyslass@hotmail.com

Caerphilly - Geri Thomas (01443) 836 949 geri_thomas@glamorganbirds.org.uk

Cardiff & Merthyr - Daniel Jenkins-Jones (029) 20621 394 daniel_jenkins-jones@glamorganbirds.org.uk

RCT - Alan Rosney (01443) 841 555 alan_rosney@glamorganbirds.org.uk

OR Wayne Morris (01443) 430 284 waynemorris@tiscali.co.uk

Vale of Glamorgan - Rob Nottage phone: (01446) 781 423 email: rob_nottage@glamorganbirds.org.uk

Rob Nottage (BTO Regional Representative and WeBS organiser for East Glamorgan)

Treowen Bird Field.

In 2008, a new winter feeding project designed to feed the traditional farmland birds which are disappearing nationally, was set up in the County Borough of Caerphilly inspired in part by the success of the Glamorgan Bird Club's Tree Sparrow Project.

The project arose out of two successful Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group (GLAMBAG) visits that GBC helped set up to see the Gower and Vale of Glamorgan Winter Bird Feeding projects, funded by the Countryside Council for Wales, and run by Gower Ornithological Society Members, GBC and other interested individuals.



Treowen Field before.

Dave Beveridge, Caerphilly Borough Council's Urban Environment Awareness Coordinator (and GBC member), picked an area of about an acre and a quarter as an initial site for planting with a seed mix to feed birds over winter. The field is beside Treowen Stars football field near Newbridge and had little intrinsic value; it was prone to flooding, had a poor species mix and was not being used for anything. Its location was considered ideal as it borders farmland, with hedges all around its perimeter and mature trees along one border.

The field was ploughed and sown with Kings Wild Songbird Seed mix which has an ideal, broad-spectrum mixture which provides a complete feed crop for farmland birds. Sown in strips alongside natural features, such as hedgerows and ditches, or as a small field, this mix provides food and cover for a wide variety of bird species.

The results so far are stunning and are attracting flocks of people as well as birds. A ringing programme will commence once the birds start arriving in numbers, where licensed ringers will put rings on the birds. This will show changes in populations in the field, and how healthy the birds are. Hopefully some of the birds, which are decreasing in numbers, will increase.

Nearby, Gelligaer Community Council liked the idea so much they have agreed to fund similar projects across their Ward too. Dave has looked across the region and come up with four sites: Glyngaer Primary School; Top Hill landfill near Llancaiach Fawr; Ystrad Mynach Park and land around another primary school (to be confirmed).

Glyngaer Primary is particularly interested because the sunflowers should be in full bloom as the children return from their summer holidays. Then as the seed ripens, flocks of colourful finches should appear to feed. There is also scope for a ringing exercise at the school where the children will get the opportunity to see the birds close up.



Treowen Field after!!!

Thanks to Dave's hard work, with support from Alison Jones, Caerphilly Borough Council (CBC) Ecologist, Geri Thomas and the CBC Local Biodiversity Partnership, one small neglected field has been transformed into a wonderful winter feeding area for some of our most threatened birds. The 'before & after' photographs say it all. It would be wonderful if other unitary authorities could follow suit.

More Winter Feeding Project News

In partnership with Countryside Council for Wales, GLAMBAG are making small grants available for farmland bird feeding projects. GBC has had great success at Ty'n-y-Caeau farm and so a similar sacrificial seed crop will be sown at Dyffryn Gardens near St Nicholas in the Vale of Glamorgan this spring, and again for the next three years. This year interpretation will be provided and the diversity of species using the site will be recorded. Hopefully in future years more detailed monitoring through a ringing scheme will take place.

The field is well connected to hedgerows, small woodland blocks and mixed arable/pastoral fields where priority species including Yellowhammer and Linnets are often seen. The field will also be home to honey bee hives from a local apicultural group (so we'll be keeping our fingers crossed for Bee Eaters!).

The Latest from Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm

And finally on the subject of winter feeding, the latest news from the well established winter feeding area at Ty'n y Caeau Farm near Marcross.

Numbers of birds present during autumn/winter 2008 appear higher than in 2007. Flocks of Linnets and Goldfinches were a feature of early autumn while Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting numbers steadily rose as autumn turned to winter. Up to nine Grey Partridges were occasionally in the crop but no Tree Sparrows were recorded. In November two hanging feeders filled with mixed poultry grain and black sunflower seeds were added to the crop in a bid to further help any Tree Sparrows that may arrive at the field. The method copied a successful scheme at Newton Farm on the Gower where three feeders regularly attracted up to 8 Tree Sparrows. A supply of grain is kept in a bin near the feeders and volunteers top them up every ten days or so.

A strip of land with the same annual crop was also drilled in by John Evans on nearby Lan Farm. The crop grew well and for no apparent reason, the sunflowers did much better. Greenfinches arrived in larger numbers than at Ty'n-y-caeau Farm. A public footpath along the side of the field with the crop allowed visitors to gain access.

Bird Ringing

In eight ringing sessions at Ty'n-y-Caeau up to January 3rd, 355 new birds have been ringed (224 in nine sessions all last autumn-winter). There was news of a Goldfinch ringed on November 3rd, 2007 found dead (hit a window) at Lon-yr-Eglwys, St Bride's Major on 24th January 2008.

Ringling totals for Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm. (Interim totals for 2008-09 have been published - more ringing sessions are planned before the end of this winter period):

	2007-2008 TOTAL	22 09 08	28 09 08	09 10 08	17 10 08	01 11 08	30 11 08	07 12 08	03 01 09	2008-2009 TOTAL
Winter Wren	7	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
Hedge Accentor	22	6	5	8	3	5	8	2	9	46
Robin	11	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	7
Common Blackbird	18	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	7
Fieldfare	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Song Thrush	6	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	0	8
Common Chiffchaff	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Willow Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Great Tit	2	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	8
Blue Tit	11	2	2	1	1	1	3	0	0	10
Long-tailed Tit	10	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	6
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chaffinch	11	0	1	6	2	4	1	0	9	23
European Goldfinch	43	40	11	2	4	9	0	0	0	66
Bullfinch	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Greenfinch	8	2	2	8	1	2	23	6	15	59
Common Linnets	17	5	14	2	1	1	0	0	0	23
Yellowhammer	26	1	2	4	6	9	5	0	5	32
Reed Bunting	25	4	2	6	7	8	12	2	4	45
Sparrowhawk	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Meadow Pipit	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	224	64	47	41	27	50	60	12	54	355

Lesbos - May 8th - 22nd 2008:

Four friends and I made our way with Monarch Airlines from Gatwick to Mytilene, the capital city of the Greek island Lesbos, arriving around mid day. After travelling up to our base at Petra in the north, we checked into our hotel, unpacked and freshened up. We began clocking up species including **House Sparrows, Collared Doves, Greater Flamingos, Avocets, Yellow-legged Gulls, Jays** (race *Krunickis*) and **Red-backed Shrikes**. We stayed locally for the early evening and visited a restaurant run by Christos, a friend of mine for a lovely evening meal and some wine.

Day 2: A local pre-breakfast walk gave us **Lesser Whitethroat, Cirl Bunting, Sub-alpine Warbler, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Crested Larks, Nightingale, Eastern Orphean Warbler, Blackbirds, Blue Rock Thrush, Black-headed Buntings, a Levant's Sparrowhawk, Masked Shrike and Bee Eaters**. Our first destination was *Kalloni Salt Pans*. We stopped off en-route at the five a side football pitch to look for **Scops Owl**. We were in luck as one was in its usual spot in a large Eucalyptus tree. There were large number of **Ruff** at the Pans along with **Little Stints, Black Terns** and a single **Wood Sandpiper**. A **Black Stork** flew overhead where a pair of juvenile **Long-legged Buzzards** was circling. On the electricity wires, a **Common Kestrel** was joined by 5 **Red-footed Falcons**. Nearby, a pair of **Spur-winged Plovers** were feeding on horse dung right out in the open offering great views. **Olivaceous Warblers** were calling nearby and both **Whiskered** and **White-winged Black Terns** were feeding along with a **Little Grebe, Kentish and Ringed Plovers** and a **Black-headed Wagtail**. **Common** and **Little Terns** were also diving into the water and a **Ruddy Shelduck** flew over. After lunch we visited Kalloni Pool which unfortunately is very dry. Two **Squacco Herons** and a **Coot** were the only birds present. We finished off the day at the lay-bys at Petra where we had excellent views of a pair of **Ruppell's Warblers, Hooded Crows, Black-eared Wheatears, Sardinian Warbler** and a fly by **Hobby**.

Day 3: At Kalloni Inland Lake we had brief views of a **Little Crake**. **Sedge** and **Reed Warblers** were present and 2 **Great Reed Warblers** showed occasionally. **Cetti's Warblers** were present along with countless striped necked terrapins. At Vatousa Gorge (Grand Canyon) we saw **Crag Martins** and **Blue Rock Thrushes** along with a fox walking amongst the rocks. At the Isabelline Triangle, a pair of **Isabelline Wheatears** showed well. A dark phase **Booted Eagle** was circling above Ipsalou monastery. **Stonehats** and **Cretzschmar's Buntings** were seen in good numbers on the drive to Sigri. Several **Lesser Kestrels** were seen on the road into Sigri with **Woodchat Shrike, Red-rumped Swallows, Long-legged Buzzards, Red-footed Falcons, Grey Herons** and **Spotted Flycatchers**. From Fanearomi Beach, 2 **Shag** were seen along with rafts of **Yelkouan Shearwaters** with a few **Cory's** mixed in. We took the dirt track back to Eressos with **Whinchat, Garden Warbler, Raven** and a single **Chuckar** seen along with the usual mountain species.

Day 4: En route to the Pans we stopped at the roadside to watch a **White Stork** feeding on frogs in a roadside ditch. At the Salt Pans a male **Marsh Harrier** was hunting and **Crested Larks** were everywhere. At the Sheep Fields, a pair of **Short-toed Larks** showed well. A female **Red-footed Falcon** was on the round with a **Little Egret** nearby. From here we visited the Potamia Valley with **Black-eared Wheatears** and **Western Rock Nuthatches** showing well. **Nightingales** were present and a **Booted Eagle** flew overhead with a **Middle-spotted Woodpecker** flying lower down. **Black Storks, Woodchat Shrikes and Turtle Doves** were all seen and two distant raptors were identified as **Eleanora's Falcons** as they flew closer in. At East River - 18 circling **Blacks Storks** was a nice sight. **Common Shelduck** were the only species at Derbyshire, but nearby Alchadari showed a pair of **Kruper's Nuthatches** really well. They had changed their nest site this year favouring a short tree stump. A **Booted Eagle** and **Masked Shrike** were seen before we returned to the Pans. A group of **Curlew Sandpipers** were new trip ticks as was **Greenfinch** and 3 **Collared Pratincoles**.

Day 5: Parakila Marsh. **Black-winged Stilts** were sitting on eggs, and a **Common** and a **Green Sandpiper** were found nearby. A **Savi's Warbler** was heard only, and **Cetti's** and **Reed Warblers** were in good numbers. **Whiskered Terns** were feeding close in along with **Corn Buntings, Olivaceous Warblers** and a **Night Heron**. We continued onto Devil's Bridge with 3 **Lanner Falcons** and a **Booted Eagle** being the highlights. An **Icterine Warbler** made a brief appearance as did **Linnets, Cretzschmar's Buntings**, a family group of **Great Tits, Western Rock Nuthatches, Cirl Buntings, Chaffinches** and **Black Storks**. At Tavari, a **Sub-alpine Warbler, Raven** and **Steppe Buzzard** were seen. No rock sparrows were found at Agra, but a male **Cinereous Bunting** showed for a while. At Napi Valley a **Roller** flew away from us as we drove through but could not be located. In the valley itself we saw **Sombre Tits, Hoopoes, Turtle Doves, Masked Shrikes, Black-eared Wheatears, Long-legged Buzzards, Sub-alpine Warblers, Cirl Buntings** and another **Lesser Whitethroat**. Every stone building in the valley had at least one **Little Owl** perched on the roof. Before our return to base we stopped off at the Krupers site for a report of long eared owls, but another birder said that they had left the area a week earlier.

Day 6: Ipsalou Monastrey - As we made our way on foot towards the Monastery, **Red-backed Shrikes, Isabelline Wheatears, Black-eared Wheatears, Cretzschmar's Buntings** and 3 singing male **Cinereous**

Buntings were all seen. In the many bushes we saw **Willow Warblers**, a female **Blackcap**, **Spotted Flycatchers**, **Blue Tits** and **Linnets**, with a **Little Owl** out in the open on a rock. We scanned the roof of the Monastery for reports of a **Rock Sparrow**. We found a washed out female, however, the head pattern and white tips to the tail were evident. Two raptors passing by very loosely were a **Common Buzzard** and a **Short-toed Eagle** giving excellent views. After lunch we headed back to the Salt Pans where 7 **Red-footed Falcons**, 2 **Short-toed Larks**, 1 **Collard Pratincole**, 4 **Ringed Plovers** and 2 **Kentish Plovers** were seen along with other species including **Avocets**.

Day 7: This was to be a circular drive today with plenty of stop offs. We stopped at the inland lake for reports of a **Ballion's Crake** but this failed to make an appearance. A **Little Bittern** showed well on the opposite near to a pair of **Little Grebes** with 4 young. A distant **Golden Oriole** could be heard. A **White Stork** and **Woodchat Shrikes** showed well at Potamia Valley. Molivos had a **Long-legged Buzzard** showing well, and **Pallid Swifts** were around the castle. From here we took the coastal dirt track to Skala Sikkiminia where we would stop for lunch. En-route we seen a pair of copulating **Little Owls**, a male **Sub-alpine Warbler** feeding a juvenile, a family group of **Sombre Tits**, **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Goldfinches**, **Black-eared Wheatears**, **Cirl Buntings** and plenty of Balkan white butterflies. Several **Shags** were out at sea and 2 **Audouin's Gulls** were seen. After lunch we drove up into the mountains where we saw **Crag Martins** and **Short-toed Eagles**. Heavy rain came in shortly after, so we continued the drive down to Kalloni where we spent the last part of the afternoon along the East River where rose coloured starlings had been reported feeding in a mulberry tree. We found the tree but no starlings. We decided to return here early the following morning to see if our luck would be better.

Day 8: No 'roseys' again at the East River this morning, but a juvenile **Long-legged Buzzard** perched in a tree top was a nice surprise, and in the mud, **Little Stints**, **Ruff**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Little Ringed Plovers** and a **Little Egret** were feeding. **Common** and **Little Terns** were diving into the river itself. On a nearby spit, a **Stone Curlew** hid itself away by some shrubs. The petrol station had decided to go on strike in protest at the prices, plus the island was suddenly without electricity, and no-one seemed to know what was happening. Oh well, we may as well continue birding. We decided to make the short trip to the Pans and stay there until things cooled down. A **Black-headed Gull** was a new trip tick amongst many other previously seen species. After lunch, we found a petrol station where the owner was only too glad to part with fuel, so we tanked up and made the drive down to Dipi Larsos Reedbed. The area was quieter than in previous years, and apart from a distant **Savi's Warblers**, species actually seen included **Yellow-legged Gulls**, **Hooded Crows**, **Corn Buntings**, **Cetti's Warblers**, **Little Ringed Plovers** (breeding), **Olivaceous Warblers**, **Kentish Plovers**, **Crested Larks**, **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Grey Heron**, **Willow Warbler**, **Reed Warbler**, **Turtle Dove** and a **Water Rail** heard only. Violet limodore and marsh orchids were found. A quick stop off at the Pans on the return home gave us 6 **Red-footed Falcons**, 8 **White Storks** feeding in a field, a fly by **Hobby** and a single **Spotted Redshank**. We stopped off again on the East River, again no starlings, but a pair of **Lesser Whitethroats** in a nearby dead tree were chased off by a female **Ortolan Bunting**.

Day 9: The lay-bys at Petra seen the usual species with more good views of **Ruppell's Warblers**. A **Chucker** was perched out in the open on a cliff edge giving excellent views. After some morning coffee in Molivos, we returned to the lay-by and parked up. From here, I took the group into a little known valley. Agama and Balkan green lizards were everywhere. We had a good number of species, with some of the better ones including **Common Buzzard**, **Middle Spotted Woodpecker**, **Corn Buntings**, **Spotted Flycatchers**, **Masked Shrikes**, **Cirl Buntings** and countless **Red-backed Shrikes**. An **Eastern Orphean Warbler** was briefly seen and a **Wood Warbler** was heard calling. **Black-headed Buntings**, **Bee Eaters**, **Crag Martins** and **Red-rumped Swallows** were in good numbers. I had seen barred warbler here on previous visits but sadly not today. Two **Ruddy Shelduck** flew through the valley as we were leaving. We visited Lfionas for a possible middle spotted woodpecker nest site, but they had already left the nest site prior to our arrival. A circling **Goshawk** over the forestry however was a nice surprise. We moved on into the Napi Valley with most of the same species seen again. A **Common Buzzard** was being mobbed by ten **Hooded Crows**, and 4 **Short-toed Eagles** were circling together. Later on I seen a local friend of mine who told me of a new **Rose-coloured Starling** site, in a mulberry tree and adjacent to the Pans. We hurried down there and quickly located the tree. As I shut off the van engine I could hear them calling. They were incredibly well hidden in the tree, but eventually, then came into view, at least 10, and lifers for the group.

Day 10: Agiassos. This is a lovely drive down to this part of the island. Agiassos is shadowed by Mount Olympus and is the only temperate zone on the island consisting of countless sweet chestnut trees. **Hirundines** and **Swifts** were flying above the village itself in their hundreds. No Bonelli's warblers were either seen or heard during this walk, but local species seen included **Wren**, **Great Tit**, **Song Thrush**, **Robin** and **Woodpigeon**. A **Serin** flew into a popular tree and called for a while. Orchids were found during the walk amongst a great variety of flowers. After lunch we headed down to the salt pans at Polinchitos. They were pretty much devoid of water, although one damp area held 5 **Grey Plover** amongst **Kentish**, **Ringed** and **Little Ringed Plovers** and 1 **Wood Sandpiper**. We moved onto the Kalloni Pans for a quick look, with 8 **Knot** being a nice surprise. We then headed back to the Napi Valley. A **Northern Wheatear** was seen along

the way, and on a valley path I know of we headed off for **Olive-tree Warbler**. After some searching we had brief views of one flying to our right. A small group of **Rose-coloured Starlings** could be seen flying across the valley. We spent the remainder of the afternoon in the valley enjoying good views of many of the previously seen species.

Day 11: Non birding day. Being a Sunday we had booked a boat trip from Petra to Skala Sikkiminia where we would have lunch. We did take our bins though and we actually clocked up a good amount of species, with a **White Wagtail** in the harbour being a new trip tick. After lunch we visited the gift shops followed by myself having a pre-arranged viewing of a local house which was up for sale. In the late afternoon, we visited the Pans as it was reported that a pair of **Rufous Bush Robins** were nesting in low shrubs directly opposite the salt mound before the sheep fields. We waited for about ten minutes and then the male appeared closely followed by the female. Both sexes showed well as they moved around the top of the shrubs giving excellent views for all.

Day 12: With this being our last full day's birding we decided to return to Sigri. A brief stop at the Grand Canyon gave us the usual species plus close views of **Short-toed Eagles**. A **Golden Oriole** could be heard in the valley. The **Lesser Kestrels** showed well as we dropped down into Sigri itself where a male **Spanish Sparrow** was a nice surprise. As we approached Fanearomi Beach, a mulberry tree held 70+ **Rose-coloured Starlings** busily feeding, what a sight. No shearwaters were seen from here today, but a nearby pool held a **Wood Sandpiper** and a male **Whinchat** feeding along the edge. After lunch we took the Eressos dirt track where I took the group along a side path I know into a small valley. A large amount of species were seen with an **Icterine Warbler** feeding low down in a fig tree being the highlight, it was in great condition and really colourful. Re-joining the main track we continued onto the Ford where we saw some **Rock Doves**, a **Peregrine** flying over and a pair of **Ruddy Shelducks** on a pond with 7 young. A **Tawny Pipit** was a new trip tick and a **Little Bittern** was skulking in the Oleander bushes.

For day 13 we took a trip down to Moria to visit a roman aqueduct. What a fascinating structure, almost complete and vast in size and hard to believe it was nearly 2,000 years old and still going strong. En-route we did see a pair of **Lanner Falcons** showing well, **Western Rock Nuthatches** and another **Levant's Sparrowhawk**. At the end of the two weeks, the trip list reached 147 species. No lifers for myself, but the group all had lifers of 33 and 32 species respectively.

GBC Merchandise

Why not order a GBC polo shirt, sweat shirt or fleece? They are available in bottle green with a gold badge.

Fill in the form below and send it to Alan Rosney at 10, Parc-y-Nant, Nantgarw, R.C.T. CF15 7TJ.

Remember to add £2 per item for p & p. Cheques to be made payable to Glamorgan Bird Club. Allow two to three weeks for delivery.

I wish to order :	Size	Number
Polo shirt (£10)
Sweat shirt (£14)
Quarter zip fleece (£17)
Full zip fleece (£18)

[Approx sizes :- Small 36", Medium 38", Large 40 - 42", X Large 44-46", XX Large 48 -50"]

Name:

Address

.....

Postcode

Tel

Severn Estuary Energy Schemes

The shortlist below of proposed Severn estuary energy schemes was announced on January 26th:

- The Cardiff-Weston barrage - a 10-mile scheme costing £14bn that would stretch from near Cardiff to near Weston-super-Mare. It could generate up to 8GW - 5% of the UK's energy needs
- Shoots barrage - a scheme further upstream which would generate around 1GW, equivalent to a large fossil fuel plant
- Beachley barrage - an even smaller scheme, just above the Wye River, which would generate around 625MW
- Bridgwater Bay lagoon - a proposal which would impound a section of the estuary on the coast between east of Hinkley Point and Weston-super-Mare, which could generate 1.36GW
- Fleming lagoon - a similar scheme which would generate the same amount of power from a section of the Welsh shore between Newport and the Severn road crossings.

A public consultation exercise runs until 23rd April. For more information visit:

<http://severntidalpowerconsultation.decc.gov.uk/>

As outlined in previous newsletters, GBC is very concerned that attempts to exploit the tidal power of the Severn estuary will inevitably damage its fragile ecosystem and we will be preparing our own response in due course.

And Finally . . .

Many thanks as always to everybody who contributed articles for this newsletter. Deadline for submissions for the next edition is **March 31st**. Photographs, trip reports (local as well as international), local news, articles, letters/opinions – you name it, I'll 'ave it!

Best wishes

Daniel

Useful addresses & telephone numbers.

Chairman	Membership Secretary & Field Trips Assistant	Treasurer	Wales RSPB
<p>John Wilson, 122, Westbourne Rd., Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3HH. ☎ (029) 2033 9424 john_wilson@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>Alan Rosney, 10, Parc-y-Nant, Nantgarw, R-C-T, CF15 7TJ ☎ (01443) 841555 alan_rosney@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>Adrian Murch 30 Lewis Avenue Bridgend CF31 4JJ ☎ (01656) 768 155 adrian_murch@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>Sutherland House, Castlebridge, Cowbridge Road East Cardiff, CF11 9AB. ☎ (029) 2035 3000 Fax (029) 2035 3017</p>
Secretary	County Bird Recorder	Regional BTO Representative & WeBS Organizer	Editor of The Newsletter
<p>Richard May, 36, Greenway Close, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 2FE ☎ (01446) 407 759 richard_may@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>Geri Thomas, 9, Julian's Close, Gelligaer, Glamorgan, CF82 8DT. ☎ (01443) 836 949 – home ☎ (07984) 591 983 – mob geri_thomas@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>Rob Nottage, 32, Village Farm, Bonvilston, Cardiff, CF5 6TY. ☎ (01446) 781 423 rob_nottage@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>Daniel Jenkins-Jones 18 St. Margarets Rd Whitchurch CARDIFF CF14 7AA ☎ (029) 2062 1394 daniel_jenkins-jones@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>
Bird Report Editor	WEB Master	Field Trips	South Wales Police Wildlife Liaison Officer
<p>John Wilson (details as above)</p>	<p>Dan Freedman 2 Heol y Mynach Ynysybwl nr Pontypridd CF37 3PE (01443) 790 191 dpf@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>John Wilson ☎ (029) 2033 9424 john_wilson@glamorganbirds.org.uk</p>	<p>Sgt Ian Guilford ☎ (029) 2077 2400.</p>