

# **Celtic Bird Tours**

## **South Wales Autumn Migration**

### **18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 1999**

#### **Trip Report**

Until the final morning, we were blessed with high pressure, ensuring clear blue skies. A strong easterly wind meant that although temperatures reached 14 Celsius, it felt a lot colder. On the final morning a low-pressure system brought drizzle and an even stronger and colder wind, making birding difficult. In total 88 species were recorded.

#### **Dabchick**

First noted at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> when 3 were present. Another 2 were at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on the same day.

#### **Great Crested Grebe**

Six at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> were followed by 4 at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on the same day.

#### **Great Cormorant**

Small numbers were noted daily with a maximum of 7 at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Grey Heron**

Noted daily in small numbers at various locations.

#### **Mute Swan**

A herd of 37 at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> and another of 41 at Cosmeston Lakes on 20<sup>th</sup> represented good counts for the time of year.

#### **Eurasian Wigeon**

Following 9 at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup>, an exceptional October count of 66 was present at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Gadwall**

Eighteen at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

#### **Eurasian Teal**

Three at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> were followed by 22 at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Mallard**

No large counts were noted but birds were noted at various locations in small flocks.

#### **Northern Shoveler**

Six at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> were followed by 2 at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on the same day.

**Red – crested Pochard**

The feral drake was present at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Pochard**

Following 17 at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>, a flock of 125 plus was present at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on the same day.

**Tufted Duck**

Following 32 at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>, a flock of 136 was present at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on the same day.

**Greater Scaup**

A first winter male at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup> was an early arrival and was the only record.

**Goldeneye**

Two females were present at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a typical arrival date for this species.

**European Sparrowhawk**

Several birds, both male and female were noted at various locations throughout. Perhaps the most interesting record was of a female circling high out to sea at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Buzzard**

Singles were noted at various locations throughout. A bird at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup> was thought to have been a genuine migrant.

**Common Kestrel**

Recorded at most locations in ones and twos on all dates.

**Merlin**

A female/ immature male flew past the car at Gileston on 20<sup>th</sup>. Later that day a male was seen hunting over East Aberthaw village.

**Peregrine**

One at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup> was noted playfully stooping at passerine migrants. Another bird was seen out at sea at the same site earlier in the morning, but was not thought to have been a migrant.

**Water Rail**

Two birds both seen in flight only at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> were the only records.

**Common Moorhen**

Six at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> followed a single at Miskin on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Coot**

Recorded at all suitable locations with a maximum count of 325 plus at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Oystercatcher**

Two hundred plus at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

**Ringed Plover**

A single bird at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup> represents a very poor showing for this relatively common species.

**European Golden Plover**

Three flocks totalling 100 plus birds were recorded at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing**

Singles at Nash Point and Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> were followed by 60 plus at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Dunlin**

Five at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

**Jack Snipe**

A single bird at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> gave excellent flight views before disappearing into the reeds on the western edge of the pool.

**Common Snipe**

A single bird showed briefly after being flushed at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Curlew**

Small numbers were noted at various locations throughout. The maximum count was 6 at Gileston on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank**

Seven at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> was a good count for the site and remained the only record.

**Common Sandpiper**

A single, rather late bird was at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruddy Turnstone**

A flock of 27 at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup> was a below average count for the time of year.

**Mediterranean Gull**

Two adult winter plumaged birds at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> included a Dutch colour ringed bird.

**Black – headed Gull**

Recorded at various locations throughout with a largest count of 800 plus at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Gull**

Small numbers were recorded at most locations with a maximum count of 12 at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull**

Recorded daily at various locations with a maximum count of 300 plus at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black – backed Gull**

Recorded only at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> and Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> where a poor count of just 6 were present.

**Great Black – backed Gull**

Singles were noted at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> and Sker on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Wood Pigeon**

Recorded daily in small numbers with a maximum of 25 plus at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Collared Dove**

Two at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> was surprisingly the only record.

**River Kingfisher**

A single bird at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> gave close up views in front of the southern hide.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker**

A bird seen in flight at Cosmeston Lakes on 20<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

**Sky Lark**

Small numbers moving west were recorded daily with a maximum count of 9 at Cwm Nash on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Swallow**

Singles were recorded daily at various locations.

**Meadow Pipit**

Small numbers were recorded daily with a maximum count of 35 plus at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Rock Pipit**

A single bird at Cwm Nash on 18<sup>th</sup> was surprisingly the only record.

**Grey Wagtail**

Singles were recorded at Miskin and Nash point on 18<sup>th</sup> and Kenfig Pool and Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Pied Wagtail**

Small numbers were recorded daily with a maximum of 17 at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Dipper**

Two birds were noted near dusk on the River Ely, Miskin on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Wren**

Recorded daily in small numbers.

**Dunnock**

Recorded daily in small numbers.

**European Robin**

Recorded daily at all locations with a maximum count of 9 at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Stonechat**

Recorded daily at most locations with a maximum count of 5 at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Wheatear**

Three at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup> were late migrants.

**Blackbird**

Recorded daily at all locations, with an influx on 18<sup>th</sup> involving at least 80 birds. The maximum count of 35 plus was at Cwm Nash.

**Redwing**

Recorded at most locations, with an influx on 18<sup>th</sup> of at least 60 birds. The maximum count was 23 at Miskin.

**Song Thrush**

Recorded at all locations, with an influx on 18<sup>th</sup> of at least 50 birds. The maximum count of 16 was at Miskin.

**Mistle Thrush**

Two at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> were followed by 3 at Cosmeston Lakes on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Garden Warbler**

Two rather late birds at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> were a surprise.

**Blackcap**

Recorded in ones and twos at Nash Point and Miskin on 18<sup>th</sup>, Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> and Gileston on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Chiffchaff**

Recorded daily at most locations in reasonable numbers. The maximum count was 6 at Cwm Nash on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldcrest**

An influx of migrants was noted at all locations with a maximum count of at least 18 birds at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Firecrest**

A single stunning male gave good views at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Tit**

A single bird showed well at Miskin on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Coal Tit**

Small numbers were recorded at various locations with a maximum of 3 at Gileston on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Tit**

Recorded daily in small numbers.

**Great Tit**

Recorded daily in small numbers.

**European Nuthatch**

The only record was of a single bird at Miskin on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Treecreeper**

Two at Miskin on 18<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

**Long – tailed Tit**

Several small flocks were noted at various locations with a maximum count of 11 at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Jay**

A single bird at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup> was seen in flight only.

**Common Magpie**

Recorded daily in small numbers.

**Carrion Crow**

Recorded daily in small numbers.

**Rook**

The only notable count was 20 plus at Ogmores estuary on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Jackdaw**

Recorded daily in small numbers with a maximum of 100 plus at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Raven**

Three at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

**Common Starling**

Recorded daily with the only notable flock being 250 plus at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**House Sparrow**

Recorded daily in small numbers.

**Chaffinch**

Small numbers were recorded at most locations with a maximum of 85 plus at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenfinch**

First recorded at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup> when just 2 were noted. Thereafter a flock of 50 plus at Gileston on 20<sup>th</sup>.

**European Goldfinch**

Recorded daily in small numbers with a maximum count of 40 plus at Sker on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Linnet**

Several small flocks were recorded throughout with a maximum of 120 plus at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Siskin**

Several small flocks were noted at various locations with a maximum of 12 at Nash Point on 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Northern Bullfinch**

The only record was of 2 flying west at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellowhammer**

Two at Kenfig Pool on 19<sup>th</sup> was the only record.

**Reed Bunting**

A single female at Cosmeston Lakes on 20<sup>th</sup> was surprisingly the only record.