

Celtic Bird Tours

South Wales Wetlands

10th – 12th September 1999

Trip Report

We enjoyed superb weather throughout the weekend as a high-pressure system dominated, giving mainly clear blue skies. Winds were light and from a south easterly direction. Temperatures were well above the average for the time of year in the mid to high twenties. We had a little overnight rain on the 11th.

A total of 83 species was noted.

Systematic list:

Dabchick: First noted at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 11th when 4 were present. Thereafter at least six including breeding plumaged adults feeding young were at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Great Crested Grebe: After 2 at Kenfig on 12th another 8 were at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on the same date.

Cormorant: Widespread with a maximum count of 16 at Ogmores estuary on 10th.

Little Egret: Two at Ogmores estuary on 10th and another 2 at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Grey Heron: Recorded daily with a maximum count of 11 at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Mute Swan: Recorded at most sites with a maximum of 4 at Kenfig on 11th.

Greylag Goose: Twenty-six at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Shelduck: Following a juvenile at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 11th, 2 adults were at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Wigeon: Two at Kenfig on 11th were followed by the first major influx of the autumn when 50 plus were at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Gadwall: Seven at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Teal: Forty plus at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Pintail: Two females at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Mallard: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Shoveler: Twenty plus at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Pochard: Recorded daily in small numbers with a maximum of 35 plus at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 11th.

Tufted Duck: Recorded at most locations with a maximum of 120 plus at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 12th.

Sparrowhawk: Three females at Ogmores estuary on 10th.

Buzzard: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Kestrel: An impressive count of 6 at Ogmores estuary on 10th. Several further singles noted at various locations.

Peregrine: One at Sker on 11th and another single at Penclacwydd on 12th were both judged on size to be females.

Moorhen: Forty plus at Penclacwydd on 12th was the maximum count.

Coot: At least 100 at Kenfig on 11th was the maximum count.

Oystercatcher: Recorded at all coastal locations with a maximum of 110 plus at Ogmores estuary on 10th.

Grey Plover: Singles were noted at Sker on 11th and Penclacwydd on 12th.

Lapwing: Recorded only at Penclacwydd on 12th when just 12 were present.

Knot: Five at Sker on 11th were followed by 400 plus at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Curlew Sandpiper: An excellent count of 21 of this locally scarce species at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Dunlin: A very poor count of 8 at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Snipe: One in flight at Sker on 11th was the only record.

Black-tailed Godwit: Sixty plus at Penclacwydd on 12th was a typical record at this site.

Bar-tailed Godwit: Four distantly in flight at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Whimbrel: Eight at Sker on 11th was the only record.

Curlew: Recorded daily with a maximum of 80 plus at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Spotted Redshank: Four winter plumaged birds at Penclacwydd on 12th was a typical record for the site.

Redshank: 100 plus at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Greenshank: A good count of 39 at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Common Sandpiper: Singles were recorded at Ogmores estuary on 10th and Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 11th.

Turnstone: Three at Sker on 11th was the maximum count.

Mediterranean Gull: A second winter bird gave scope filling views at Ogmores estuary on 10th.

Black-headed Gull: Widespread with a maximum of 450 plus at Ogmores estuary on 10th.

Common Gull: Two at Ogmores estuary on 10th was the only record.

Herring Gull: A major influx of 4000 plus was recorded at Ogmores estuary on 10th.

Yellow-legged Gull: A single bird at Penclacwydd on 12th was a typical record.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Great Black-backed Gull: Four at Ogmores estuary on 10th was the maximum count.

Sandwich Tern: Four distantly at Sker on 11th was the only record.

Wood Pigeon: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Collared Dove: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Sand Martin: Six at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 11th was the only record.

Swallow: Recorded at most sites in small numbers.

House Martin: Small numbers were recorded at most sites.

Meadow Pipit: Twenty plus at Sker on 11th was the only record.

Rock Pipit: A good count of 7 at Ogmores estuary on 10th was the maximum, with smaller numbers at other coastal locations.

Grey Wagtail: Four at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 11th was the only record.

Yellow Wagtail: An excellent count of 24 at Sker on 11th were all of the nominate race.

Pied Wagtail: Recorded daily with a maximum of 20 plus at Eglwys Nunydd reservoir on 11th.

Wren: Heard throughout but amazingly no sight records.

Dunnock: Two at Penclacwydd on 12th and a single at Kenfig on 11th were the only sight records.

Robin: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Whinchat: Three at Sker on 11th gave good views.

Stonechat: Five at Ogmores estuary on 10th and the same number at Kenfig on 11th were the only records.

Wheatear: Two at Ogmores estuary on 10th was the only record.

Blackbird: Three at Kenfig on 11th was the only sight record.

Sedge Warbler: Three at Kenfig on 11th were elusive but a typical record for the time of year.

Whitethroat: Five juveniles at Kenfig on 11th included one bird that showed extremely well.

Chiffchaff: Seen or heard daily with a maximum of 6 at Kenfig on 11th.

Willow Warbler: A single at Kenfig on 11th was the only record.

Goldcrest: A single showed very briefly at Kenfig on 11th with 2 or 3 more heard in the same flock.

Blue Tit: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Great Tit: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Long-tailed Tit: Twenty plus at Kenfig on 11th was the only record.

Magpie: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Carrion Crow: Recorded daily in small numbers.

Rook: Fifteen at Ogmores estuary on 10th was the largest flock.

Jackdaw: Fifty plus at Ogmores estuary on 10th was the largest flock.

Raven: A single calling bird flew over Sker on 11th.

Starling: Widespread but no large flocks recorded.

House Sparrow: Recorded daily in small numbers with a maximum of 15 plus at Kenfig on 11th.

Chaffinch: Recorded daily in ones and twos at various locations.

Greenfinch: Four at Penclacwydd on 12th was the only record.

Goldfinch: Recorded daily with a maximum of 30 plus at Penclacwydd on 12th.

Linnet: Recorded daily with a maximum of 25 plus at Kenfig on 11th.

Reed Bunting: Singles were recorded at Sker on 11th and Penclacwydd on 12th.

Butterflies

Red Admiral

Speckled Wood

Mammals

Rabbit

Atlantic Grey Seal – 1 close inshore off Sker on 11th.