



Clwb Adar Sir Gaerfyrddin  
Carmarthenshire Bird Club

## Spring/Summer 2026

### Winter Wildfowl extravaganza

There was considerable excitement before New Year when a few geese were reported from the Tywi valley. Investigation showed that most of the presumed Pink-footed Geese were in fact Tundra Bean Geese, which were in close company with a group of lovely Russian White-fronted Geese. Adding to the birding pleasure were a small group of Whooper Swans. It was especially helpful that the birds were so close to the road and easily viewable. In addition to this a Lesser Scaup was discovered at Talley Lakes on New Year's Eve. This quite distant female bird required concentrated watching to make sure the wing pattern was right although the slightly peaked crown was also noticeable. It looked quite at home with the Tufties and several handsome drake Goldeneye. It was only the second occurrence of this species in the county. On 3<sup>rd</sup> January news broke of a Baikal Teal at Castell Ddu, Glamorgan. The little duck spent a lot of time in a dense gaggle of Wigeon with the odd sally into a clear scope view, then putting it's head down again amongst the wildfowl. The bird stuck resolutely to the Carmarthenshire bank before giving the Glam birders a legitimate county tick. The Teal was a welcome addition to the county list!

*Tundra Bean Goose – Adam Dare*



*Russian White Front Goose – Adam Dare*



*Whooper Swan – Adam Dare*



### **Malcolm Holding**

Malcolm a founder member of the Bird Club and a stalwart of the Monday and Wednesday Club at Penclacwydd sadly passed away on 8 February 2026 aged 93. Some of us last saw Malcolm at the inauguration of Wendell's memorial bench at Penclacwydd when he was one of the members who unveiled the bench.



### **Outdoor Meetings**

**18/04/2026**

Meet at 8.30 in car park at Dryslwyn Castle for a walk along the cycle track to Cilsan.

**09/05/2026**

Meet at 9.30 in the car park at RSPB Dinas for our annual visit to this wonderful reserve.

**06/2026**

Details will be posted on the website nearer the time for our annual Nightjar watch.

**11/07/2026**

Meet at 9am for a walk lead by Paul Aubrey at Pembrey Burrows.

**27/08/2026**

Meet at 17.30 at Pembrey Old Harbour to the Club's annual Tern Watch evening. High tide will be 19.01 with a height of 8.19m. If the weather is not suitable on this evening there will be another meeting the following day (Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August) at 17.30 when high tide will be at 19.34 with a height of 8.47m.

**12/09/2026**

Meet at 9.00 for a morning walk around Kidwelly Quay.

Any queries please contact Julie on 07811223353.

## Bird Sightings September 2025 – February 2026

compiled by John Davis

### SEPTEMBER 2025

Star bird was a Lesser Yellowlegs at Kidwelly, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, initially just upstream of the railway bridge and then at a pool just beyond the far side of the marsh. It was later seen near Lougher bridge on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The considerable influx of Curlew Sandpipers was enjoyed in Carmarthenshire with up to six at Kidwelly Quay, from 13<sup>th</sup> and up to 11 at were at WWT Llanelli Wetlands from 16<sup>th</sup>. Kidwelly Quay also hosted up to four Grey Phalaropes from 3<sup>rd</sup> and up to 3 were also at WWT Llanelli from 6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> and two at Pembrey harbour, 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> and singles were at Sandy Water Park on 2<sup>nd</sup>, the river Lledi at Llanelli, 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> and also on 24<sup>th</sup>. Surprisingly, one was seen inland at Ffos Las lakes on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Another great highlight was a Turtle Dove at WWT Llanelli on 20<sup>th</sup> and later at nearby Seaside on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. A Sabine's Gull was another great find, seen from Pembrey Harbour on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

WWT Llanelli Wetlands also benefited from the national influx of Glossy Ibis, with up to three there from 3<sup>rd</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup>, while Spoonbills peaked at 11, Greenshank 46, Ruff 4 and Spotted Redshank 2. Also there, two Garganey on 9<sup>th</sup> and a Cattle Egret on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Pembrey Harbour again proved to be worth visiting with sightings of Osprey, 7<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, three Yellow Wagtails, 8<sup>th</sup>, 263 Sandwich Terns, 9<sup>th</sup> and a Black Tern 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, an Arctic Skua on dates between 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, a Little Stint on 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 59 Turnstones on 12<sup>th</sup> and 23 Eider on 13<sup>th</sup>. At nearby Cefn Siden there were peak counts of 1000 Common Scoters, 975 Sanderling, 500 Dunlin, 250 Ringed Plovers on 8<sup>th</sup> and 3560 Oystercatchers on 24<sup>th</sup>. 75 Turnstones were at adjacent Bury Port harbour on 27<sup>th</sup>.

At Kidwelly Quay there was a Yellow Wagtail on 13<sup>th</sup>, a Garganey on 23<sup>rd</sup> and up to two Spotted Redshanks. The Marsh hosted a Marsh Harrier 22<sup>nd</sup>, five Green Sandpipers, up to two Ospreys, two Glossy Ibis and three Great White Egrets.

Elsewhere a Hobby was seen at Ash Pits Lake on 2<sup>nd</sup> and another at Salem on 15<sup>th</sup>. Three Redwings were at Pembrey racetrack on 21<sup>st</sup> and a Pink-footed Goose was noted at Pencarreg lake on 24<sup>th</sup>.

### OCTOBER 2025

The exceptional numbers of Curlew Sandpipers continued with up to 9 at WWT Llanelli until 18<sup>th</sup> and four at Kidwelly Quay between 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Kidwelly Marsh featured in the Glossy Ibis influx with a peak of nine from 7<sup>th</sup> until 12<sup>th</sup> and one was at WWT Llanelli on 8<sup>th</sup> where there was also a Yellow-browed Warbler, 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, a Pallid Harrier visiting from the Gower, 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and up to eight Spoonbills.

Other Kidwelly Marsh sightings included two Green Sandpipers on 8<sup>th</sup>, six Whooper Swans on 9<sup>th</sup>, a Jack Snipe on 14<sup>th</sup> and four Great White Egrets. The Quay attracted a Hobby on 7<sup>th</sup>, up to two Spotted Redshanks from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and a Ruff on 17<sup>th</sup>. Downstream on 9<sup>th</sup> were 500 Golden Plovers and 253 Wigeon.

WWT Llanelli Wetlands had three Cattle Egrets on 1<sup>st</sup>, six Bramblings and a Spotted Redshank on 16<sup>th</sup> and three Green Sandpipers, 18<sup>th</sup>. At nearby Machynys there were counts of 20 Brent Geese and 117 Pintail on 9<sup>th</sup>.

Elsewhere a Merlin was seen at Salem on 1<sup>st</sup>, an Arctic Tern at Sandy Water Park and then at Pembrey harbour on 4<sup>th</sup> where a Yellow-legged Gull was noted on 6<sup>th</sup>. 44 Swallows were at Ginst on 6<sup>th</sup> plus three Marsh Harrier on 12<sup>th</sup>. 19 Red-throated Divers were at Pendine on 16<sup>th</sup>, seven Water Pipits flew into roost at Ffrwd Fen on 17<sup>th</sup>, 1000 Common Scoter were off Cefn Sidan on 24<sup>th</sup>. An early Goldeneye was at Llyn Pencarreg, from 22<sup>nd</sup>. 38 Whooper Swans returned to the Tywi valley and seen on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## NOVEMBER 2025

November provided numerous highlights: Black Redstarts were at Ferryside for 5 days from 2<sup>nd</sup> and also on 21<sup>st</sup> at Llandeilo and Bury Port harbour. A Leach's Petrel was seen from Pembrey old harbour on 3<sup>rd</sup>. At Ginst there was a Bittern on 13<sup>th</sup> and a Short-eared Owl on 30<sup>th</sup>. A Snow Bunting was briefly at Cefn Sidan on 22<sup>nd</sup>. At Pembrey Burrows there was a Short-eared Owl on 21<sup>st</sup> and a late Wheatear from 22<sup>nd</sup> until 25<sup>th</sup>. Siberian Chiffchaff was once again present at Kidwelly sewage works from 24<sup>th</sup>. A Great Northern Diver was off Pembrey old harbour on 15<sup>th</sup> and two seen from Pembrey Burrows on 24<sup>th</sup>. Up to two Hen Harriers and three Marsh Harriers frequented the coast between Ginst and Llanelli. Firecrests were seen on a few dates at WWT Llanelli, at Ffrwd Fen and Kidwelly. The Gower's Pallid Harrier again visited WWT Llanelli during the latter part of the month. A Merlin was also seen there on a couple of dates and also at Pembrey Burrows and Ginst. Other sightings included 4 Water Pipits and 18 Water Rails at Ffrwd Fen. Bury Port's Turnstones peaked at 373 and 32 Snipe were at Pembrey old harbour on 13<sup>th</sup>. Six Great Egrets and three Water Pipits were at Kidwelly Marsh. Eight Eider and 111 Bar-tailed Godwits were at Pwll on 14<sup>th</sup> and at WWT Llanelli a Garganey on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and a Ruff and Green Sandpiper on 15<sup>th</sup>. A Glossy Ibis was at Kidwelly Quay and 12 Pink-footed Geese at Pencarreg lake on 24<sup>th</sup> and two Goldeneyes were at Talley lakes on 25<sup>th</sup>. Up to 91 Brent Geese were along Llanelli's coast. The Tywi valley's Whooper Swans totalled 51. Up to 32 Red Kites visited a garden at Salem.

## DECEMBER 2025

There were several good birds to round off the year. The Gower's Pallid Harrier paid a couple of visits WWT Llanelli where there were three Avocets from 26<sup>th</sup> and up to six Spoonbills. A Lesser Scaup was a great find at Talley upper lake on 31<sup>st</sup> where there were up to five Goldeneyes. From 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Towy valley near Dryslwyn there were up to 48 Whooper Swans, up to 26 White-fronted Geese, up to 19 Bean Geese and five Pink-footed Geese.

Up to two Siberian Chiffchaffs were at Sandy Water Park and up to three at Kidwelly sewage works where up to around 25 Chiffchaffs were present. A Firecrest was at both sites. A Short-eared Owl was at WWT Llanelli on 6<sup>th</sup> and a Glossy Ibis put in a few appearances at Kidwelly Quay.

Some other sightings included Marsh and Hen Harriers at Ginst, Pembrey Burrows, Kidwelly Marsh and WWT Llanelli. A Merlin was seen from Kidwelly Quay on 4<sup>th</sup> and at Pembrey Burrows on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> where there were two Jack Snipe and 150+ Snipe on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Up to 2000 Golden Plovers and up to 12 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen from Kidwelly Quay and up to four Water Pipits at Kidwelly Marsh.

A Great Northern Diver, 5 Eider and 43 Bar-tailed Godwits were seen from Pembrey old harbour on 8<sup>th</sup> and a remarkable 352 Turnstones were at Bury Port harbour on 25<sup>th</sup>. Six White-fronted Geese were at the Loughor estuary on 24<sup>th</sup> and up to 12 Pink-footed Geese at Pencarreg lake.

## JANUARY 2026

The Pallid Harrier from the Gower again infrequently visited WWT Llanelli where a Merlin was often seen. A Firecrest and two Siberian Chiffchaffs continued to remain at Kidwelly sewage works and two Siberian Chiffchaffs at Sandy Water Park. A Hen Harrier and two Marsh Harriers frequented the coast between Ginst and Llanelli. A Lesser Scaup was briefly at Talley Lakes on 1<sup>st</sup>. A Great Northern Diver was off Pwll on 5<sup>th</sup> and off Pembrey old harbour on 24<sup>th</sup>. A Glossy Ibis was seen by Pembrey airfield from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> and was often at Kidwelly Quay. Up to five Cattle Egrets were also by the airfield. A Surf Scoter was off Gilman point on 14<sup>th</sup>. In the Tywi valley there were up to 55 Whooper Swans, 26 White-fronted Geese, 19 Bean Geese and five Pink-footed Geese and 11 of the latter were at Pencarreg Lake on 1<sup>st</sup>. At WWT Llanelli there were six Spoonbills and up to three Avocets.

Also of interest, a Green Sandpiper was at Cilsan bridge on 1<sup>st</sup> and quite regularly at Commissioners bridge. Four Goldeneye were at Talley lakes and one at Sandy Water Park from 7<sup>th</sup>. Up to 14 Great White Egrets roosted by Dryslwyn castle and up to three Water Pipits were on Kidwelly Marsh. A Jack Snipe and 17 Snipe at Pwll fishing lakes on 6<sup>th</sup> and a Jack Snipe and 98 Snipe at Pembrey Burrows on 15<sup>th</sup>. 48 Brent Geese and

130 Bar-tailed Godwits were seen from Pembrey old harbour on 13<sup>th</sup>. Eight Scaup were at Pendine on 14<sup>th</sup>, a Ruff at Pembrey airfield on 26<sup>th</sup> and 2000 Golden Plovers remained in that area.

#### FEBRUARY 2026

The Pallid Harrier from the Gower again visited WWT Llanelli. Two Firecrests and two Siberian Chiffchaffs continued to remain at Kidwelly sewage works and a Firecrest at Sandy Water Park where eight Sand Martins were seen on 26<sup>th</sup> and also a Yellow-legged Gull on 7<sup>th</sup>. A Glossy Ibis resided at Kidwelly Quay from where up to 1500 Golden Plovers were seen. A Baikal Teal was sometimes on the Carmarthen side of the Lougher estuary. In the Tywi valley there were up to 72 Whooper Swans, 10 Bean and four Pink-footed Geese.

A Hen Harrier, two Marsh Harriers and a Merlin frequented the coast between Pembrey Burrows and Llanelli. 12 Scaup were off Gilman point on 8<sup>th</sup>, 400 Sanderling at Cefn Sidan on 4<sup>th</sup> and a Black Redstart at Telpyn Point on 14<sup>th</sup>. At WWT Llanelli there was a Firecrest on 24<sup>th</sup>, up to five Spoonbills and two Avocets. Up to three Water Pipits were at Kidwelly Marsh and two Cattle Egrets nearby. 19 Water Pipits were noted at Ffrwd Fen on 24<sup>th</sup>. Off Pembrey old harbour was a Great Northern Diver on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 228 Brent Geese on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Little Gull on 20<sup>th</sup> and 152 Bar-tailed Godwits on 28<sup>th</sup>. 105 Snipe were counted at Pembrey Burrows on 9<sup>th</sup>.



*John Davies*



*John Davis*

## Reports of Indoor Meetings

**15/10/2025**

After the AGM Jim Ashton of Wild Horizons gave a talk on the wildlife projects he and his wife have recently undertaken. It was so interesting to see how quickly a newly dug pond can become established in such a short period of time with correct planting in the environment.

**12/11/2025**

Thank you to Rob Hunt on the annual review of birding in Carmarthenshire in the last year.

**10/12/2025**

Paul Aubrey organised and conducted an excellent wildlife quiz for our December meeting at WWT Penclacwydd. Paul brought in some excellent props, the largest of which was a huge whale bone from the Fin Whale that was stranded on Cefn Sidan. There was a selection of skulls and some challenging slides (visual separation of Willow and Marsh Tit for one) to match some difficult questions. Unsurprisingly Brian Briggs was the runaway winner of a very enjoyable occasion. We're giving Paul advance notice for the meeting in December 2026. Be there or be square.

**14/01/2026**

The club hosted Clare Bishop who delivered an informative talk on the history and status of heronries in the county. The county used to be known for its heronries and was a well-known area for hawking herons. There used to be some very large heronries in Carmarthenshire with over 50 nests but now, although the number of heronries appears stable there are no very big groups of nests. One change over the years has been the increasing numbers of Little Egrets in heronries. There was some discussion of whether the numbers of herons had been impacted by Little Egrets – an issue which was unresolved. Many thanks to Clare for her talk.

**11/02/2026** – Hummingbirds by Adam Dare

Thank you to our Chairman, on his talk on Hummingbirds. What a wonderful insight on this enigmatic group of birds. I thought, and I know Adam will agree with me, that the most fascinating was the Bee Hummingbird. The Bee Hummingbird is the world's smallest bird and is only found in the Cuban archipelago. Females are roughly 6.1 cm long and weigh 26g while males are even smaller at about 5.5cm long and 1.85g. Their size is roughly the size of a large bee or a paperclip.



*Courtesy of Wikipedia*

**11/03/2026 – Birding the Danube Delta by Boat**

Our grateful thanks to John Wilson for stepping in at the last minute to give the Club a very interesting talk on his birding trip to the Danube Delta.

John's trip to the Delta with four members of his family was arranged through a Romanian Company: Discover Danube Delta. This was arranged as a private trip with their own guide and boatman. Their stay was based in a guest house in a small island community in the middle of the Delta called "Mila 23". John's trip total was 139 species of birds.

To enable us to send you the newsletter and Bird Report, please let us know if you change address or change your email address in order that we may amend our records thank you.