

THE DIPPER



THE GWENT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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AGM 2013 COMMENTARY

Trevor Russell

- Chairman, Verity Picken, introduced Steve Roberts, who said how honoured and privileged he felt to be the new President of the Society, following in the footsteps of founding President, Bert Hamar. He wondered whether he, himself, should be considered as a “founding father” of the Society, having been mentored by Bert Hamar, Glyn Lewis, Les Garland and others when he was a young enthusiastic bird-nester back in the 60’s. However, today, after nearly 50 years of membership, he wasn’t sure which was more disappointing; to find neither chain of office nor car parking space waiting for him, or the fact that he still had to pay an entrance fee to get into the meeting!

- Treasurer, Keith Roylance's report went some way to explain why we can't afford a chain of office or let Steve in free of charge:
Net membership saw a further decline of 36 over the year. We have now lost 15% of our members since 2010.
Reduced subscription income meant that the surplus of income over expenditure was just £100. Had we not received substantial survey income the picture would have been substantially red.
- In her first presentation as Chairman, Verity emphasised the varied interests within the Society - those who enjoy the indoor and/or outdoor meetings and those who take part in some of the many different surveys in which the Society is involved.
- Highlighting the variety of surveys, Verity mentioned first the BTO surveys: the Breeding Birds, the Waterway Breeding Birds, the Heronries Census (the longest-running ornithological survey in the world!), Wetland Birds (WeBs), Winter Thrush project (new this year), the Welsh Chat survey (a forerunner prior to going nationwide in 2013).
Garden Birdwatch and Bird Track (online recording of migrants) are very popular - unlike the Bird Nest Record Scheme - though Steve Carter found more nests than anyone else in Wales.
A series of synchronised counts of Fish-Eating Birds on the River Usk records (mainly) Goosanders, Cormorants and Herons whilst Goosander Winter Roost surveys are conducted by hardy enthusiasts across 24 water bodies. Red Grouse are also tracked despite occupying the highest of the uplands above Blaenavon whilst at coastal level the equally hardy Goldcliff Ringing Group monitor Tree Sparrows at Redwick.
A small team is keeping an eye on the disturbance to birds caused by walkers on the new Wales Coastal Path.
- Volunteers are always needed for this ever-changing, fascinating and valuable facet of bird-watching, why not join in? Contact Jerry Lewis direct, or any committee member.
- All Officers and Committee members were re-elected en-bloc and no matters were raised during Any Other Business so the President was able to conclude his first AGM in almost record time!
- As usual the Member's Evening Finger Buffet was generous, appetising and most enjoyable.
- The buffet was followed by a fascinating presentation by Colin McShane, entitled "Migration in Rybachy, Russia" a description of his many visits to ring the multitudes of birds that fly along the spit of land separating the Courish Lagoon from the Baltic Sea in Lithuania/Kaliningrad. The spit is 97km long but only 0.4km wide in places so is a 'migration magnet' that funnels tens of thousands of birds. This is because it acts as a signpost as they head north for their breeding grounds in spring and south to more temperate areas in winter. This feature makes it an exceptionally rewarding ringing station!

COMMITTEE COMMENTARY

- The February meeting heard that Treasurer, Keith Roylance, intends to stand down at the January 2014 AGM, after 10 years in the role. If anyone would like to bring their skills and/or experience to 'The Treasury' please get in touch with Trevor Russell.
- It was reported that the walkways to the hides at NWR were extremely muddy and probably impassable for those in wheelchairs, so we will be asking Tom Dalrymple what remedies are being worked on.
- Bramble clearance in Goytre House Wood will be carried out by the end of February as will a Health & Safety survey of all trees within falling distance of the public footpath.
- A long discussion centred on our declining membership numbers. Whilst our target is around 400, we currently have around 300 and fewer than that would lead to financial difficulties and cutbacks. We will hold an extraordinary committee meeting dedicated to this one topic. **If anyone has any thoughts about why we are losing, or not retaining, members, or has any ideas for boosting membership, please let any committee member know.**
- From **NWR** Tom Dalrymple apologised for the disturbance that will be caused when a replacement hide is built to replace the one that was vandalised a while ago.
- Despite our protests, deterioration at **Llandegfedd reservoir** continues. The manager explained that due to manpower shortages the work of his Rangers must be prioritised to 'follow the money' which means boat and fishing maintenance takes precedence over bird hides, though bird feeders are regularly topped up. We will continue to press for better maintenance of hides and pathways.
- Steph Tyler and Jerry Lewis have prepared a management plan for **Goytre House Wood**. Although there is no grant this year to buy seed for a winter feed crop for the field in front of the wood, we will pay for it ourselves, so Alan Williams was asked to organise the spraying of Roundup to kill Redshank (weed!) and prepare the ground.
- Volunteers will be required to man the GOS stand at **Summer Shows**. We have so far received invitations to attend at NWR and Magor Marsh. Call Trevor Russell, 01600 716266, for more information.
- We will write to the Goldcliff Ringers to congratulate them for their organisation of car parking of crowds of twitchers at Rhiwderin at the recent sighting of the **Common Yellowthroat**.

Trevor Russell

The History of GOS - Appeal for Photographs and Information

At our joint conference with the Welsh Ornithological Society in November 2013, I will be giving a talk on the 50-year history of our society.

I would like to illustrate it with some photographs of officers and other memorable characters from former years. However, at present I do not have anything suitable so would be very grateful if members could look through their photograph collections and allow me to make scans of any that would be useful. The originals would, of course, be returned to their owners. If you have your own scanning facility you could, of course, send me scans directly (wa.venables@zen.co.uk).

People from the past (some still present!) that come to mind immediately are our founder, Bert Hamar, first president Pat Humphreys, a young version of our current president Steve Roberts, our longest-serving chairman Peter Martin and our first nestbox man Percy Playford. Photos of our early field trips showing any of the above and/or such stalwarts as Dave Wood, John Withers, Mary Beard and others would also be good to have.

To add a touch of humour it would also be good to have a few amusing anecdotes from field trips. I already know one or two, but there may be some better ones that other members remember.

If you do have anything that might be useful, please could you let me know by email or by telephone at 02920 756697 (leave a message if no reply and I will ring you back).

Al Venables

NEWPORT WETLANDS WALES REPORT

Autumn/Winter reserve report 2012

Birds

We experimented with keeping the saline lagoon levels lower this winter, particularly the first lagoon. The results in October were very good, particularly the number of wading birds, summed up by this very nice comment on the Gwent Ornithological Society website: "There were too many birds to count, hundreds of Lapwing, Wigeon, Teal and Redshank. Half a dozen Dunlin, many Shoveler and the usual Heron, and Little Egret"

I will wait until the end of the winter to compare with previous years, but the water bird numbers for the winter as a whole seem to be lower than in some previous years.

A record flock of 130 Golden Plover were seen on the grasslands in December. Golden Plover are quite a rare sighting at Newport, despite large flocks being seen higher up the estuary at Slimbridge.

Another record was 75 Water Rail counted in the reedbeds in December. The previous highest number was 54 in April 2005. This is especially good news as the site has been designated a SSSI partly for the Water Rail population and numbers had plummeted in the previous cold winters. Other unusual sightings include:

Whooper Swan and a Common Scoter at Goldcliff on the 14th November,

Great White Egret at Uskmouth on the 23rd November,
Water Pipit at Goldcliff on the 27th November and
Red Breasted Merganser flying up the channel on the 3rd of December.

Management

The biggest job this autumn was cutting and clearing all the vegetation either side of the reedbed paths. Volunteers and staff were involved and equipment was brought down from the Abergavenny base to speed things up. The vegetation has to be cut to maintain the wildflowers essential to Shril Carder Bees that live in the area. Since the reedbed fire last year it is also important to keep the pathways clear of flammable material.

Quite a large area of scrub has been cleared behind the copse in the reedbed. The management aim is to create scattered scrub and bushes primarily for warbler species that breed on the reserve. The ruderal vegetation that occurs where the conditions are too dry for reed is also a useful

addition to the habitat. Some of the Alder and Birch has grown to a diameter in excess of 4 inches in 8 to 10 years, the Willow grows even faster.

Mild conditions in early winter meant that the stock was left on until Christmas in some areas of the reserve. In other parts the damage caused by the poaching of animals was too much and they were brought off earlier.

Events

I gave a talk at the Swansea University careers event on the 17th October.

Kevin led the "Reedbeds in Winter" event with the help of volunteer Chris Hurn on the 10th November.

Gareth Beynon from Cymdeithias Edward Llywd gave a guided walk in Welsh on the 17th November assisted by volunteer Keith Thomas and ex volunteer now Forestry Commission soon to be NRW member, Haf Leyshon.

Tom Dalrymple

Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve - Events Spring 2013

Sunday **21st April** 9.00 am – 11.00 am Natural Resources Wales
Breeding Waders - A walk to Goldcliff Lagoons to see wading birds such as avocets, lapwings, oystercatchers and redshanks at the height of the breeding season.

Leader: Kevin Dupé, Reserve Manager and Voluntary Wardens
Meet: The Farmers Arms, Goldcliff.

Sunday **5th May** 5.15 am – 7.30 am Natural Resources Wales
Dawn Chorus Day - Get up with the larks to listen to the dawn chorus – and find out which species each song belongs to.

Leader: Darryl Spittle, professional ornithologist.
Meet: Reserve Car Park.

Saturday **15th June** 10.30am - 3.30pm Natural Resources Wales and Cymdeithias Edward Llywd

Wildlife in Welsh - A guided walk looking at the plants and animals at Uskmouth in the morning followed by the birds at Goldcliff in the afternoon. Conducted in the Welsh language, suitable for both beginners and fluent Welsh speakers. Come for the whole walk or leave at around 12.30pm. Bring a packed lunch if you wish.

Leader: Gareth Beynon, Cymdeithias Edward Llywd
Meet: Visitor Centre entrance.

Saturday 15th June 1.45pm – 4.15pm Gwent Wildlife Trust and Natural Resources Wales

Wetlands in Bloom - A walk to see and learn about many of the interesting and beautiful plants growing around the reedbeds. A chance to see hundreds of orchids.

Leader: Roger James, President of Gwent Wildlife Trust

Meet: Newport Wetlands Centre.

(Catch the 1pm, No. 63 bus from Newport Bus Station)

Saturday 13th July 11am – 4pm

NEWPORT WETLANDS OPEN DAY

A range of stalls, guided walks, refreshments and children's activities. Stalls and displays by Natural Resources Wales, RSPB, GWT, GOS, Newport City Council, Swan Rescue, Gwent Badger Group, GARG and more.

FREE bus leaves Newport bus station at 10.30am and 1.30pm. Leaves Newport Wetlands at 2pm and 4pm. Free event.

Saturday 16th November 10.30am - 3.30pm Natural Resources Wales and Cymdeithias Edward Llwyd

Wildlife in Welsh - A guided walk looking at the birds at Uskmouth in the morning followed by the birds at Goldcliff in the afternoon. Conducted in the Welsh language, suitable for both beginners and fluent Welsh speakers. Come for the whole walk or leave at around 12.30pm. Bring a packed lunch if you wish.

Leader: Gareth Beynon, Cymdeithias Edward Llwyd

Meet: Visitor Centre entrance

Recent Gwent Sightings for November 2012

Chris Hatch

Highlights

A Hoopoe was reported from Tredegar House, Newport (22nd). A Great White Egret was seen at Newport Wetlands (23rd). A Snow Bunting was recorded at Collister Pill (4th). Waxwings were reported from a number of sites, including Abergavenny (26 on 13th), Pontypool (14 on 20th), High Cross (two on 23rd), Chepstow (one on 28th) and Cwmbran (20+ on 29th).

Newport Wetlands Reserve

A single Short-eared Owl was seen (1st, 4th and 17th). A female Marsh Harrier was recorded (4th, 18th and 23rd), together with a ring-tail Hen Harrier (18th and 23rd).

A Whooper Swan was present (4th), whilst a skein of probable White-fronted Geese was reported (25th). Two late Swallows were recorded (6th), whilst other sightings included a Mediterranean Gull (23rd) and two Water Pipits (27th).

Other sites

Single ring-tail Hen Harriers were recorded on the Blorenge (1st) and Mynydd Llanhilleth (5th). A flock of over 800 Knot was reported from Sluice Farm (1st).

Two White Wagtails were seen at Mynydd Maen (3rd). A Yellow-legged Gull was present at Black Rock (13th). Two late Ring Ouzels were recorded at Blaenserchan (18th), whilst other sightings included a female Marsh Harrier at Peterstone (18th) and a single Water Pipit at Rogiet (30th).

Recent Gwent Sightings for December 2012

Highlights

Six Hawfinches were reported from Dingestow (28th). A male Hen Harrier was seen at Waunafon Bog (30th). An unseasonal Garganey was recorded at Newport Wetlands (17th).

Newport Wetlands Reserve

A Red-breasted Merganser was seen offshore (3rd). A Merlin was reported (5th).

Other sites

A Merlin was reported from Brynmawr (2nd). Single Barn Owls were recorded at Goytre (8th), Newport (18th) and Dingestow (28th). A Mediterranean Gull was reported from Llandegfedd reservoir (8th). Red Kites were recorded at a number of locations.

Records during the month were dominated by sightings of Waxwings: maximum numbers recorded at each location were Chepstow 130+ (2nd), Gilwern 15+ (2nd), Rogerstone 4 (4th), Pandy 6 (8th), Newport 7 (11th), Usk 60+ (14th), Goldcliff 8 (15th), Monmouth 26 (15th), Abergavenny 10 (16th), Llanfihangel Crucorney 10 (22nd).

Recent Gwent Sightings for January 2013

Highlights

A Dartford Warbler was reported from Llandegfedd reservoir (16th). Single Black Redstarts were recorded at Wernddu, Abergavenny (6th) and the second Severn crossing (20th to 25th).

Newport Wetlands Reserve

40 Common Scoter were seen offshore (1st). A female Hen Harrier was recorded (14th) and a Barn Owl was reported (26th).

Other sites

Single Jack Snipe were reported from Sudbrook (6th), St. Brides (14th) and Pandy (18th). Single Ringtail Hen Harriers were reported from Waunafon Bog (12th) and Mynydd Llanhilleth (30th). A Merlin was observed at Abergavenny (6th). Two Common Scoters were seen at the Celtic Manor (12th), whilst Mediterranean Gulls were recorded at the Nedern (12th), Cwmbran boating lake (15th) and Malpas (26th). The only Waxwing report was of one bird at Caerleon (18th). A Long-eared Owl was present at Newport (13th), whilst two birds were reported from St. Brides (20th). A single Short-eared Owl was seen at Waunafon Bog (4th and 13th). Single BARN Owls were recorded at St. Brides (20th) and Llanfihangel Crucorney (22nd).

Recent Gwent Sightings for February 2013

Highlights

An Iceland Gull was seen at Ebbw Vale (12th to 23rd). Single Hawfinches were seen at Magor (15th) and Dingestow (24th).

Newport Wetlands Reserve

A Mediterranean Gull was reported (12th), whilst other sightings included two Bearded Tits (15th) and a single Avocet (15th).

Other sites

Waxwings continued to be reported from a number of sites, with five at Rogerstone (7th), up to eight at Newport (12th to 24th), 14 at Ponthir (11th) and 20 at Aberbeeg (27th). Single Barn Owls were reported from Croesyceiliog (2nd) and St. Brides (8th to 12th), whilst single Long-eared Owls were recorded at St. Brides (10th) and Wentlooge (23rd). A Short-eared Owl was seen at Caldicot (22nd). Other sightings of note included a Mediterranean Gull at Ynysyfro reservoir (1st) and 12 Bewick's Swans near Llantrisant (9th).

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE SHOOTING BAN PROPOSAL

The Welsh Assembly has launched a consultation on banning the shooting of White-fronted Geese. For More information see:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/ban-shooting-white-fronted-geese/?jsessionid=386D6C9963024C27F7D882B60CBA7CC7?lang=en>

England and Wales are the only countries along the birds' flyway where they are not protected. If you wish to add your name to the banning proposal a suggested response is displayed below; response deadline is 19th April 2013

Question 1. Do you agree that the population of Greenland White-fronted Geese in Wales requires further protection? (Yes, Mainly, Not at all).

Ans: Yes: *Wales and England are the only two countries where hunting is theoretically legal (and only as a result of a legal anomaly). This is despite the agreement to remove all sources of avoidable mortality by the UK, Irish, Iceland and Greenland governments under the International Population Action Plan for Greenland White-fronted Geese. The scientific case for removing hunting completely to safeguard the population is overwhelming.*

Question 2: Do you support the proposal to ban the shooting of White-fronted Geese in Wales throughout the year?

Ans: Yes: *Although two races of White-fronted geese occur in Wales, Greenland and European, neither are common. The European White-fronted Goose used to be a regular visitor to Wales, but not today. It is also becoming increasingly rare in England mainly because of short-stopping in continental Europe, where conservation is encouraged. Scarcity and risk of misidentification (both races are very difficult to differentiate in the field) are two reasons to simply ban the shooting of all White-fronted geese in Wales.*

Question 3: Are there any alternative approaches which could be implemented to protect the population of Greenland White-fronted Goose in Wales with the same degree of clarity and certainty as set out in the Welsh Government proposal?

Ans: No: *Poor reproductive success in recent years has been responsible for the declining population in recent years, but we cannot change the factors affecting this in the breeding areas in Greenland. Change in overall population size is dramatically affected by even small changes in survival, so even modest changes in reducing mortality can have dramatic effects on overall population size in this long-lived species.*

Dipper Study Request

I have been carrying out a Dipper breeding and population study on both the Ebbw and Ebbw Fach rivers for the past five years, where 120 adult Dippers have been colour ringed; a silver BTO ring with one colour on the left leg, along with two colour rings on the right leg.

In 2012, just over 90 pulli “young nestlings” have been ringed not only with the silver BTO ring on the left leg as in past years, but also with a ‘shocking’ pink colour ring on their right leg. I would be grateful if members of the GOS would look out for these Dippers with colour rings, particularly the shocking pink rings on the right leg, although a sighting of any colour ringed Dipper would be much appreciated.

Reports can be made to Dave on 01495 244417 or 07733 337601 or by email to: mel@llanhenockgroup.co.uk. A map reference would be excellent although a description of where sighted would do i.e. road, rail bridge, near village, town etc the road number would also be helpful.

BTO NEWS

by Jerry Lewis

There are a number of options for those who wish to help in monitoring our bird populations (through BTO surveys) this spring.

Chat Survey – the squares covered in 2012 need not be repeated this year, but there are some additional squares added to the list. This is an on-line survey so please visit the BTO website to see where they are. Twenty additional squares have been allocated this year and uptake so far has been very poor, please visit the BTO website to find a square near you.

Breeding Woodcock – another on-line survey, the original observers (from 2003), will be given first choice to redo their respective squares, and only one square is currently uncovered – ST 3497 (Nr Coed y Paen). Additional squares can be chosen by yourself, if you suspect Woodcock are present. This survey is undertaken for an hour after dusk, following an initial recce visit, a further three are needed to count all roding birds from a single vantage point.

Breeding Bird Survey/Waterways Breeding Bird Survey (BBS/WBBS) – these are the main surveys for monitoring the populations of our commoner breeding birds. Each involves a preliminary visit (to sort out the route and record habitat) and then two further visits in May-July to record all species seen or heard. As results are based on year to year changes you do not have to be an expert to take part, just know a good range of the commoner birds, and of course your skills will improve year on year. At present there is also a “mentoring scheme” (whereby new people are guided through a survey visit) and training courses – details summarised on the GOS website. There is only one WBBS vacant – the Afon Llwyd at Cwmbran, but there are several BBS squares available – ST 2689, ST 2385 and ST 2097 to the west of Newport, SO 4502 to the east of Usk, SO 3504 and SO 3011 between Usk and Abergavenny, SO 3228 and SO 3929 to the north of Abergavenny and SO 4817 in the Monnow Valley. If you are interested in helping, or finding out more, please give me a ring (01873 855091) or visit the BTO website.

AN ADDITION TO THE OUTDOOR PROGRAMME

***SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR OUR 50TH YEAR - A WALK PLUS
PICNIC!***

Sunday 5th May 2013 at 9.30 am

A unique opportunity to explore the beautiful farmland and woodland near Llangybi. This walk will be followed by a picnic generously provided by the owner – in warm sunshine if the weather's fine, in the barn if wet.

As we need a rough idea of numbers, please email Verity Picken as soon as possible on vpicken@brambling.co.uk or phone her on 01633 450620 to say if you think you'd like to join us. You will be contacted nearer the time for confirmation.

SNIPPETS

Seven Estuary Tidal Power Scheme Government U-Turn.

It was reported in 2011, 'After reviewing the findings of all aspects of the feasibility study, the Government announced in October 2010 that, "There is not a strong enough strategic case to proceed with a scheme at this time". However, naturalists need not be complacent, and perhaps take advantage of this breathing space to continue with building up our case against the scheme'. (Potential Impacts of Tidal Power Schemes on the Severn Estuary: BTO News March /April 2011, issue 293). However on 20th August 2012 David Cameron instructs the government to look again at plans to build a Seven Barrage. Thus the Seven Barrage is once again in the media spotlight as the Prime Minister has instructed Ed Davey the Energy Secretary and Oliver Lewin, the Tory policy chief to look in detail at the privately financed scheme by the Corfan Hafren consortium. This represents yet another change in government attitudes to the barrage since it decided that there was not a strong enough strategic case for it to support a tidal power project in the Seven Estuary, in October 2010.

Speeding Birds.

This is another article located by Keith Roylance in the Daily Telegraph of 29th July 2012: 'Must fly....The Gannet with a taste for speed', once again written by Jasper Copping. Taking the information from the BTO ringing scheme it claims the fastest bird in Britain, the Gannet, with a young bird travelling from Great Saltee Island off the coast of south Ireland, to north Denmark, travelling 722 miles in just one day. The second fastest was a Blackcap, with one bird flying from the Hague in Holland to North Roe on the Shetland Islands, 626 miles in 24 hours, reaching speeds of 25 mph. Even Britain's smallest bird, the Goldcrest reached a speed of 19mph. The top speed recorded however was a Peregrine, clocked at 200mph on a stoop dive for prey.

The speeding birds data was collected from the BTO's ringing scheme which has rung 38 million birds since 1909. From this data the society has formed a Top Ten of birds including which bird has flown the furthest. Not surprisingly, the Arctic Tern was top with one bird flying from Valley in Anglesey to New South Wales, Australia, 11,219 miles in 186 days. The Manx Shearwater was noted as the oldest bird ever recorded, a bird, already an adult, had a ring fitted on Bardsey Island in 1957, and this bird was re-captured at the same location 50 years 11 months later. Paul Stencliffe from the trust suggested 'These are the fastest birds we know about. Their records stand and are there to be broken.'

Change in Indoor Programme.

Rob Parson has had to change the date of one of the speakers from the **2nd November to 26th October**, a clash with WOS conference. The speaker and the title remain the same (David Fletcher on Antarctic Birds.)

A note from Keith Roylance dated 7.3.13.

'I have today received a further cheque for the society from Baileys Outdoor Stores (www.thearmystore.co.uk) for £71.36, their collected monies from the 5p WAG carry charge (excl.VAT).' Once again the society sends it gratitude'.

Goldcliff Muddy Bits.

Members who have had difficulties walking along the footpath adjacent the lagoons at Goldcliff due to the state of mud may like to know, about 60 tonnes of limestone has been placed into the muddy area recently (reported 11.3.13), and it is reported access is now a lot easier.

November Joint Conference, Verity Picken reports:

I'm sure you'll be as delighted as I am that Alan and Steph returned from their meeting with WOS with the news that GOS will be giving three presentations at the joint conference in November. Al Venables will start things off with his talk on the History of GOS. Jerry Lewis will speak on Hawfinches, and Steve Roberts will close the meeting (on a high note) with a talk on Honey Buzzards. An excellent outcome.

Birding Walks Road Testing.

The St James Forestry walk, although apparently an interesting habitat, has presented a few problems to more than one road tester. I'm pleased to say all eventually made it safely home! Andrew, the latest tester, seems to have cracked it but we'd like to have the route checked one more time to make sure no readers get lost. If anyone is prepared to give it a go please get in touch and I'll send the

amended map and directions. Anyone wishes to help can email Verity Picken on vpicken@brambling.co.uk or phone her on 01633 450620. Thank you.

GOS 2012 Library Report

This year, the usage of the library seems to continue at more or less at the same level as previous years. Items often taken by members planning birding trips abroad, or by the same regular enthusiasts. During the course of 2012 a total of 32 items were borrowed from the library compared with 27 last year.

Once again this year, no books have been removed from the library, and as a result space is still at a premium. Given these restrictions, the following items were added to the library during 2012:

Field Guide to the Birds of Colombia. 2010. by Miles McMullan, Thomas H. Donegan, & Alonso Quevedo. Donated by Angela Gomez on behalf of Fundacion ProAves and its commercial affiliate EcoTurs Colombia, an organisation who offer birding tours to Colombia. (info@ecoturs.org) (GOS accession No 825)

'DVD Guide to Birdwatching in Europe' filmed and narrated by Paul Doherty, donated by the librarian. Over 3 hours, with a total of 255 species featuring ten of the best sites in Europe for each site you are shown the birds you might expect to see during a typical day at that time of year, also included are various mammals (including Brown Bears), butterflies, dragonflies, and flowers. All are on a single DVD details: Netherlands in February, Eilat, Israel in March, Extramadura, Spain in April, Pyrenees Spain in April, Lesvos, Greece in April, Eastern Poland in May, Central Finland in June, North Norway in June, Falsterbo, Sweden in October, and North Israel in October. (GOS accession No 826).

'DVD Guide to Birdwatching in Wales' filmed and narrated by Paul Doherty, donated by the librarian. The DVD is 2 hours 11 minutes, with a total of 128 species, featuring Newport wetlands in November. (GOS accession No 827).

'DVD Born to Fly'. Story of the return of the European Crane to Britain. A series four short films including Crane Country the story of the Great Crane Project in south-west England, also The Flamingo Triangle and The Year of the Stork. A total of 47 minutes running time. (GOS accession No 828).

In addition we have also received the following reports:

Breconshire Birds 2011

WeBS The Wetland Bird Survey. Waterbirds in the UK 2010/11

Birds in Wales: Vol 8 No 2; Welsh Bird Report No 24 for 2010. Welsh Ornithological Society 2011.