



### **Anglesey, Sunday 11 October 2014**

Six members enjoyed a warm, sunny day on a trip to Anglesey. The day was spent looking for rarities but sadly we missed out on them all but ended up with 57 species for the day. We started at Cemlyn where the highlights included Gannet, Shag, Little Egret, Stonechat, Rock Pipit, Raven, Chough, Linnet, Wheatear, Turnstone, Golden Plover and Greenshank.

We moved on the Breakwater Country Park for lunch followed by a circular walk and highlights here included a number of Common Bussard enjoying the warm thermals around Holyhead Mountain, further better views of Chough plus Little Owl and a flyover Peregrine.

Our next destination was Valley Lakes RSPB reserve where the good wildfowl numbers included Gadwall, Wigeon, Pochard, Shoveler plus Little and Great Crested Grebe.

Our final port of call was Maltraeth Marsh RSPB reserve, a new location for MCOS trips. The highlight here was a single Kingfisher flying down the river Cefni.

The warm sunshine brought out a few butterfly species including Comma, Small Copper, Meadow Brown and Peacock. The 'rarities' we looked for and missed were Short-toed Lark at Cemlyn (present for a few days and seen 10 minutes before we arrived at the field), a Yellow Browed Warbler found in the morning at the country Park and a Glossy Ibis that had been present for a few days at Maltraeth Marsh. Better luck next time!

Ray Evans

### **Anglesey, 18th October 2015**

Only 3 members turned up for the first weekend trip of the new season to Anglesey. En-route to Cemlyn, we picked up a Hooded Crow on roadside wires at Llanfachraeth. We started at Cemlyn where the highlights included Gannet, Shag, Little Egret, Red-Throated Diver, Guillemot, Common Buzzard, Stonechat, Rock Pipit, Golden Plover and Greenshank.

We moved on to Breakwater Country Park for lunch followed by a circular walk and highlights here included Raven, Chough, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel plus a female Blackcap – our only migrant warbler of the day.

We stopped at a roadside field near Ty Croes to check through a big flock of feral Greylag Geese but sadly there was nothing more exciting amongst them.

We moved to Malltraeth estuary and the Cob Pool where highlights included Little Grebe, Wigeon and Pintail.

Our final port of call was a feeding station at Llyn Parc Mawr between Malltraeth and Newborough and birds here included Great Spotted Woodpecker, Treecreeper and Jay plus a Red Squirrel. The sightings of Jay gave us all 8 of the UK crow family in one day – no mean feat. Number of species for the day - 56

Ray Evans

### **Anglesey, 15th October 2017**

The first weekend trip of the new season saw 6 members make the trip to Anglesey. We met at Cemlyn Bay where the highlights were Shag, Razorbill, Manx Shearwater, Gannet, an early Goldeneye and Rock Pipit. We stayed here for a short time before moving to the Inland Sea at Four Mile Bridge where highlights included Wigeon, Redwing, Red Breasted Merganser and a single Red Necked Grebe.

We then moved on to the Range, a coastal, cliff-top heathland south of South Stack where we saw Raven, Stonechat and the highlight a juvenile Dotterel. After lunch we headed to South Stack where the only bird of note in fairly windy conditions was a Chough.

We travelled to Soldier's Point on the edge of the Breakwater Country Park in Holyhead where we saw the undoubted star bird of the day in a juvenile Isabelline (Daurian) Shrike. After everybody had their fill of this rarity, we travelled to Penrhos NR where the highlights were a group of Pale-Bellied Brent Geese, Dunlin, Curlew and Bar-Tailed Godwit.

Our final destination was Malltraeth Marsh RSPB reserve near Holland Arms where we saw among other things Common Buzzard, Shoveler, Snipe and Black Tailed Godwit.

The weather stayed fine all day except for the high winds at South Stack. The tally for the day was 54 species.

Ray Evans

### **Anglesey, 21 October 2018**

Seven members made the trip to Anglesey. We met at Cemlyn Bay where the highlights were Shag, Kittiwake, Manx Shearwater, Gannet, Purple Sandpiper, a summer-plumaged Great Northern Diver in the bay, Greenshank, Curlew and Snipe on the lagoon and a mixed flock of Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting and House Sparrow in a field nearby but no sign of the reported Tree Sparrows which is a rarity for Anglesey.

We moved to a small lake inland from Cemlyn, a new venue for the Society, Llyn Llygeirian. Here in amongst a group of Tufted Duck was a female Lesser Scaup (a new bird for the Society, I think).

We then moved to the harbour at Holyhead where we had our lunch and where we were unsuccessful in finding the Black Redstart reported earlier in the morning. Moving from here to the Inland Sea at the Anchorage at Four Mile Bridge, the highlights included Red-breasted Merganser, Great Crested Grebe and Wigeon and again were unsuccessful in finding the reported Cattle Egret.

We travelled to Penrhos CP where the highlights were a group of Pale-bellied Brent Geese, Eider, Mediterranean Gull and Slavonian Grebe.

Our final destination was on the mainland at Fairbank Road in Towyn near Rhyl where we had a few brief views of a Yellow-browed Warbler.

The weather stayed fine all day and the final tally of birds was 60 Species.

Ray Evans

### **Anglesey, 13th October 2019**

The first weekend trip of the new 2019/2020 season on saw six members make the trip to Anglesey. We met at Cemlyn Bay but the weather was atrocious with very heavy rain. A small flock of Golden Plover was flying around the field adjacent to the carpark. A decision was taken to move to Holyhead Harbour where we did some birding under one of the shelters out of the rain and highlights here included Linnets, Stonechat, Razorbill and Shag. There aren't many reserves on Anglesey with hides so another decision was taken to move back to the mainland to Llanfairfechan where we took our lunch first and then went under the shelter on the front. Unfortunately, another birding group from the Wirral had the same idea so it was a little crowded under this shelter.

Highlights here included a small flock of Eider, parties of Common Scoter, Gannet, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-throated Diver, Wigeon, Turnstone, Ringed Plover with Dipper and Grey Wagtail on the river. Although the rain was easing it was still fairly heavy and we moved to the luxury of hides at RSPB Conwy. Here we saw Gadwall, Shoveler, Teal, Common Snipe and Little Egret. The sun started breaking out mid afternoon and we decided to drive up to the Great Orme to look for a Yellow-browed Warbler that was reported earlier. We didn't see the Yellow-browed because although dry by now there was a strong gusty wind on the top. We did see Stonechat, Raven and Chough.

The weather did not spoil our day's birding but did change our itinerary for the day but we still ended up with a total of 51 species.

Ray Evans