



World's End & Clocaenog, Sunday 15 March 2015

Seven members turned up at World's End despite it being Mothering Sunday and a very cold misty one at that. Travelling over the moor we came across a lek of 9 Black Grouse as we headed to our meeting point. The purpose of the day's visit was to see moorland and woodland birds as it was too early for migrants.

The area where the car park used to be was awash with Redpolls and Siskins with a large flock of Chaffinches too. We then followed the path across the moor where the Dartford Warbler used to reside and came across another lek of Black Grouse and a couple of Red Grouse. All the time there were calls from Ravens who are early breeders and many juveniles were flying.

We then walked along the Offa's Dyke path in search of an elusive Great Grey Shrike which proved even more elusive but we did see Stonechats and a female Hen Harrier.

We then headed to Clocaenog and the picnic area at Bod Petruel but before leaving the moor we found a male Wheatear. Lunch was taken whilst watching Crossbills feeding young. Goldcrests were abundant as were Siskins and Nuthatches and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker were also seen. We then headed for an area where Goshawk has been seen but alas no luck. A low species count but quality not quantity.

Paul Kenyon

World's End and Clocaenog Forest, Sunday 12th March 2017

Seven members made an early start, meeting at 07:00am at World's End.

The first stop was a Black Grouse Lek where circa twenty males were displaying at no more than 20 metres distance. Moving on a short distance we came across a male Red Grouse which gave stunning views as it stood at the side of the road. Travelling across the moor further lekking male Black Grouse were seen. In total, we saw sixty plus males. While walking over the moor a Sparrowhawk gave a very acrobatic display. A Stonechat and good numbers of Meadow Pipits were also present.

The group then moved on to Clocaenog Forest. Parking at the picnic area good numbers of Crossbills were seen, some of which were recently fledged young birds. The next stop was Craig Bran Banog. From the parking area there is a fairly lengthy and sometimes steep walk to the summit. The rewards were worth the effort, a hunting male Hen Harrier was first to be seen then a Great Grey Shrike gave really good views while seated out in the open. At this point the weather closed in and the rain forced an early end to a very enjoyable day, which was capped off by a Red Kite being seen as we drove home. A total of 37 species were seen including our Raptor 'five a day' consisting of Common Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier and Red Kite.

Graham Haspey

World's End and Clocaenog Forest, 6th March 2022

Ten members got up early to be at Worlds End for 7.00 am. Well worth the effort as we had stunning views of Black Grouse at several Leks plus Red Grouse along the way. An early Wheatear was seen on the way across the moor. On reaching the old car park at the other end of the moor we had Siskins, Crossbills and Goldcrests. After having a coffee we headed for Bod Petruel picnic site in the Clocaenog Forest. Here we had views of Crossbills, Siskins and more Goldcrests plus a drumming Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Heading for Bron Bannog we had a good view of a Goshawk. Ray had another site close by Llyn Brenig which produced good views of two more Goshawks. On arriving at Llyn Brenig we quickly found a wintering Great Grey shrike.

At the visitors centre we had lunch and then visited the feeding stations where we observed good numbers of Brambling and one bird had the full black Head. Again, good numbers of Siskins and Chaffinches. Next, on to Llanrwst where we saw at least 6 Hawfinches in and around the church yard with a really good view of one on top of a Yew tree which is what attracts these birds. Grey Wagtail on the river in Llanrwst with several members getting views of a Red Kite nearby. Good views of Buzzards everywhere we went today.

An excellent day with 52 species.

Paul Kenyon