

**Llanymynech Heritage Area  
and  
Local Nature Reserve**

**Birds of Concern in Llanymynech Heritage Area**



## **Birds of Concern in Llanymynech Heritage Area**

### **Things that influence the decline in bird species and numbers:**

Food

Habitat

Global Warming

Unknown factors e.g. Nitrogen Rain

### **Introduction**

A comparison between a 1999 Bird Survey and the Summer 2025 Bird Survey showed many more sightings in the 2025 Survey, with 21 additional species identified. This is probably due in the most part to the survey method, but it is certainly a credit to the LLIMEYs who have been looking after the Heritage Area for many years. 12 bird species were present which are on the Shropshire Birds of Concern List.

Volunteers visited the Shropshire Ornithological Society Reserve at Venus Pools and met with the Chairman, Graham Walker. He explained how they manage the habitats there and the feeding station. This information has been collated here and will feed in the Heritage Area Management Plan.

### **Chaffinch**

Habitat: Woodland, hedgerows, parkland.

Food: Insects, seeds, fruit.

Support with:  
Hedges, wild birdseed planting & feeders



### **Greenfinch**

Habitat: Woodland edges, hedgerows, gardens.

Food: Seeds, insects.

Support with:  
Hedges & flowering grass margins.



## **Swift**

Support with:

Nest boxes, planting to boost insects

Habitat: Open skies; nests in cavities.

Food: Flying insects.



## **Tawny Owl**

Habitat: Woodlands, parks.

Food: Small mammals.

Support with:

Preserve mature, ivy-clad trees, nest boxes. Be aware of their early nesting in February and avoid disturbance

### **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**

Habitat: Mature woodlands.

Food: Insects in dead wood.

Support by:

Retain dead wood,

Reduce pesticides.



### **Pied Flycatcher**

Habitat: Mature deciduous woodland.

Food: Flying insects.

Support with:

Nest boxes,

Preserve mature woodland

### **Spotted Flycatcher**

Habitat: Open woodlands, gardens.

Food: Flying insects.

Support by:

Preserve nesting sites,

reduce pesticides.



### **Kingfisher**

Habitat: Rivers and ponds.

Food: Fish, aquatic insects.

Support by:

Clean waterways,  
preserve natural banks.



### **Green Woodpecker**

Habitat: Open woodland, grassland.

Food: Ants.

Support by:

Preserve mature trees  
Maintain grassland.  
Protecting ant hills

### **Grey Wagtail**

Habitat:

Fast-flowing streams.

Food:

Aquatic invertebrates.



Support by:

Clean waterways

Preserve natural banks.



### **Treecreeper**

Habitat:

Mature woodland.

Food: Insects in bark.

Support by:

Preserve mature trees;  
Limit disturbance.

### **Moorhen**

Habitat:

ponds, lakes, rivers, canals, and marshes.

Food:

Omnivorous - includes aquatic plants, seeds, grasses, insects, snails, worms, and occasionally small fish or amphibians.



Support by:

Retain areas of dense vegetation along water margins for nesting and shelter.

## **Conservation Actions**

### **Feeding stations**

Chaffinch and Greenfinch will happily use feeding stations, enjoying sunflowers in particular .

Feeding stations will benefit the other birds too, allowing them to build up fat stores to help them maintain heat during the colder winter months, help adults maintain weight and prepare for nesting in the Spring and in the Autumn prepare them for migration and the winter cold.

### **Hedging**

Hedges composed of a variety of shrub and tree species at different stages of growth will encourage berries and fruits and provide different types of shelter for a variety of bird species.

Rotational maintenance will allow the hedges to be at different stages and offer varying habitats for the different species of birds.

Mechanical control of hedges is to be avoided with traditional hedge laying and the use of dead hedges being preferable.

### **Planting**

Planting trees, shrubs, flower mixes and plants such as teasels to provide wild food for the birds and insects will support the bird population in the Heritage Area.

Rowan, Spindle, Oak, Crab apple, Holly, Hawthorne, Guilda rose, Honeysuckle, Teasels, Sunflowers

## **Nest boxes**

Nest boxes can help certain bird species to thrive including:

Swift nest boxes

Tawny owl nest boxes

Flycatchers – open-fronted

## **Pesticides, insecticides and rodenticides**

Minimise the use of rodenticides and pesticides to ensure a healthy prey base, prevent secondary poisoning, and secure abundant insect populations.

## **Maintaining clear waterways**

Wagtails

## **Preserving mature trees**

Many of these birds need mature trees to thrive particularly the fly catchers which thrive on mature oak trees.

Encourage a mix of tree species and ages to support a variety of insects and provide suitable habitat.

Encourage a varied woodland structure with dense undergrowth to support small mammals and insects, which are key food sources.

Avoid major habitat disturbance, especially during the breeding season, to protect nesting sites.

Standing dead wood provides a larder for many species of insects which in return feed the bird populations

Maintain old, ivy clad trees, with suitable crevices for nesting for flycatchers and owls.

## **Bird Feeding Station**

### **Health and Safety**

#### **To protect the birds, please:**

Wash feeders once a month in warm, soapy water, using the green bowl and brushes kept in the food bin.

Allow the feeders to dry, then spray them with the disinfectant kept in the food bin.

Only use food from bins purchased from reputable sources.

Do not place food on the ground, and try to limit spillage.

Remove old, uneaten food.

Use multiple stations to reduce density and the spread of disease.

#### **To protect people, please:**

Use plastic gloves when touching the feeders

Wash your hands with soap after touching the feeders.

#### **To protect the Stable Block, please:**

Make sure food is not spilt on the floor of the stable block

Fill small containers like the Niger and small fat ball containers at the benches outside the stable block

## **Conclusion**

These actions support bird populations and strengthen local conservation efforts.

We have a keen, friendly group of volunteers. More volunteers are always welcome to help us record the birds, top up and clean the feeders, and manage the habitats.

To find out more see our web page on: <https://llanylime.co.uk>