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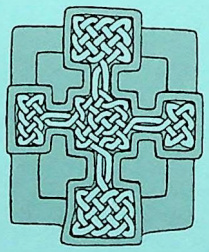
THE CARMARTHENSHIRE ANTIQUARY

THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE
CARMARTHENSHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

TRAFODION
CYMDEITHAS HYNAFIAETHAU SIR GAERFYRDDIN



Editor
MURIEL BOWEN EVANS, M.A.

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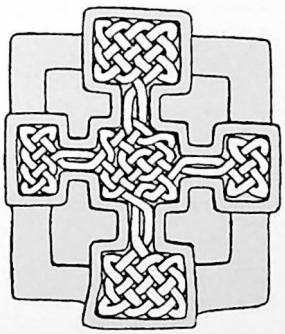

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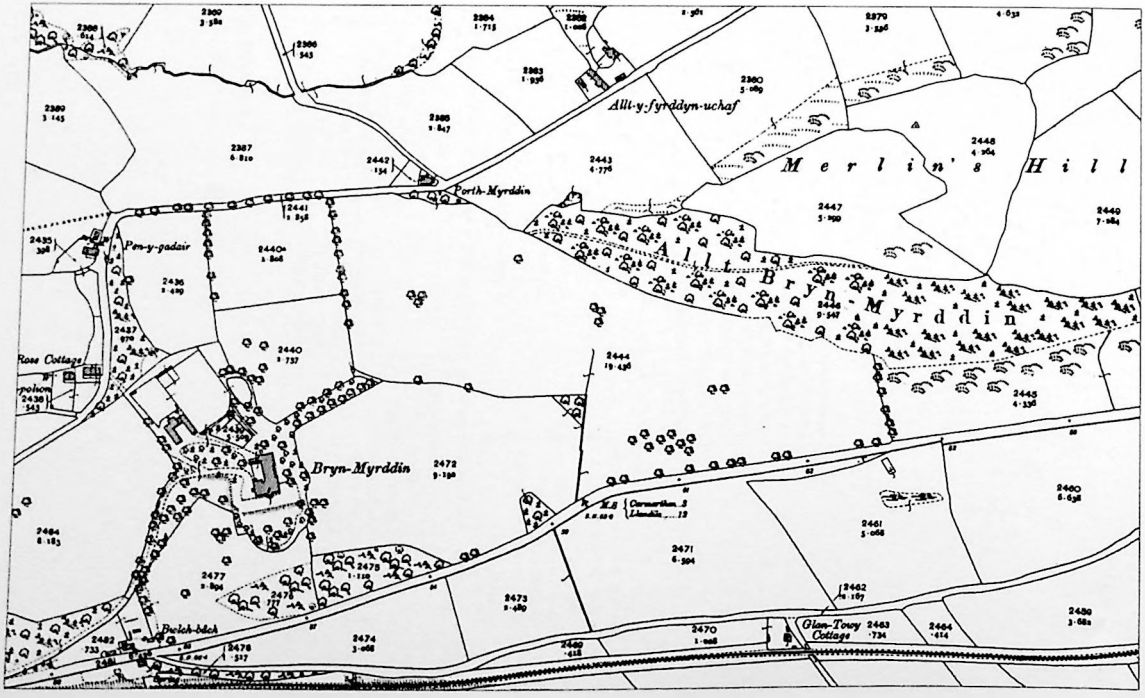
The Sound of Birdsong (and Music!)

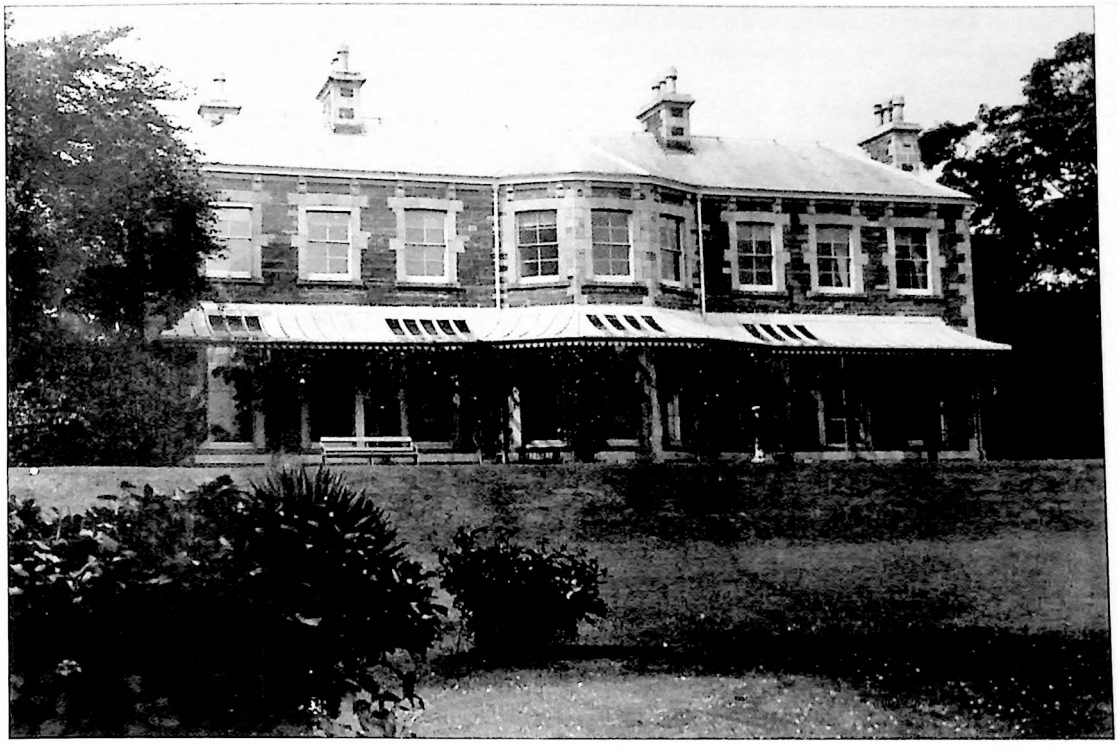
The nature diary of Mary Edith Morris

Terry Wells

In December 2003 a nature diary compiled by Mary Edith Morris of Bryn Myrddin, Abergwili, covering the period 1936-1971 was deposited in the archive.[1] Perhaps predictably, for those who know me, my interest was in the bird sightings recorded within the volume, and, in that respect, it is an uncommon resource for Carmarthenshire for the mid twentieth century. Ingram and Salmon highlight this in their 1954 list of birds for Carmarthenshire, bemoaning the lack of available recorded data after the publication of Barker's 1905 *Handbook to the Natural History of Carmarthenshire.* But, as Edith Morris's journal illustrates, it is not necessarily a lack of recording, but possibly the lack of knowledge of, or access to, such material. It is not until the 1970s and 1980s that there is the start of any substantial amount of publicly available data on bird



1906 OS Map showing location of Bryn Myrddin.



Bryn Myrddin, c.1912.

recording within the county. This was provided by surveys organised by the British Trust for Ornithology[2] and annual reports for Carmarthenshire compiled by the West Wales Naturalists' Trust.[3]

Mary Edith Morris was born at Bryn Myrddin, Abergwili, on 3 August 1887 and baptised in Abergwili church on 7 September the same year. Her Godfather was her uncle, John Ryle Morris, and she had two Godmothers, her aunt Julia Anne Vaughan and Mary Saunders.[4] She was the second child of the four children of Edward Harold Morris and his wife Edith (née Abadam of Middleton Hall). Her older brother David died of scarlet fever at the age of four, and her younger brother Ryle inherited Bryn Myrddin on their father's death. Ryle married Countess Alicemargit Hoyos in Vienna in 1931; both are mentioned in the diary. She also had a younger sister, Vida. Neither Mary nor Vida married.

The connection of her father with Thomas William Barker must have had an influence on her interest in natural history; he was a keen naturalist and antiquary and compiled the *Handbook to the Natural History of Carmarthenshire* in 1905. J. H. Barker, Thomas's father, had formed a business partnership with Edith's father, Edward Harold Morris, on 5 May 1879. Thomas Barker in 1886 joined his father in the firm of Barker & Morris, subsequently known as Barker, Morris & Barker. Both the Barkers died in the early part of the twentieth century, Thomas William on 7 July 1912 and his father eight years earlier on 19 December 1904. E. H. Morris carried on the business with the name unchanged and evidently the connection of the two families continued as on 11 November 1937[5] Alice Abadam writes to Mary's brother Ryle telling him that Mary was staying with the Barkers 'whom she likes so much'. She and the Miss Barkers went to see 'Grey Owls'[6] nature films.

Mary was educated at home with the help of a French governess, and later went to boarding school at Malvern Ladies' College. She then worked for seven years at King's College Hospital in London. In about 1920 she became one of the pioneer policewomen and served for two years attached to the military police in

the British Army of Occupation in the Rhine Provinces of Germany, where she was stationed for a time at Cologne. She became fluent in German and amongst other duties there attended hearings in the German courts of justice, acted as an interpreter and carried out welfare work among women and girls. On her return to Britain she was attached to the Metropolitan Police force, working in the streets and parks and in the East End of London. She also served for some years in Sheffield, arriving there in 1925 when there was only one other policewoman in the city.

In 1936, when her nature diary starts, she was working in Beddington and living with her aunt Alice Abadam at 70 Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood, London. Alice was a constitutional Suffragist and founder of the Feminist League, who gave lectures all over the country. She had a great influence on Mary. In 1939 Alice and Mary both moved down to Bryn Myrddin when war broke out. From the notes in the journal Mary seems to be dividing her time between London and Bryn Myrddin during 1938 and 1939 but it is not clear if Alice is with her. The last entry in the journal with a reference to London is 19 August 1939. Alice Abadam died at Bryn Myrddin in 1940, leaving her house in London to Mary, who sold it and remained at Bryn Myrddin, apart from occasional visits elsewhere, until 1955 when she bought Brynteg on the outskirts of Ffynonddrain, near Carmarthen.

Many of her wildlife sightings recorded in the diary when she was in London were on or near Beddington Sewage Farm, which is still a valuable site for bird sightings, now managed and monitored by the Beddington Farm Bird Group.[7] Birds at Beddington were certainly being recorded when she was in London as the first known survey was in 1933. However, the outbreak of the second World War temporarily halted any further plans. After the war the London Natural History Society became involved and regular recording and bird ringing[8] resumed at the sewage farm. There can be no doubt that if Mary Edith had still been in London she would have become involved.[9]

As with all documents the primary interest is often supplemented by the secondary information discovered within. There are frequent mentions of place and field names, and of neighbours and people she spoke to in the local area, often recording their sightings in the diary. For example, on 9 May 1944 she records: 'Swifts arrived at Cothi Bridge, says Mrs Arthur Jones.' Birdsong is a regular feature of the entries, recording both what we would still regard as common species and those which have since declined or disappeared from Carmarthenshire, species such as the woodlark and corncrake. A typical entry is that of 27 January 1957: 'Heard Thrush, missel thrush, great tit, hedge sparrow & robin. Saw snowdrops & 2 primroses.' Many of the day to day entries follow a similar pattern; of particular interest in these are the notes of when she first hears or sees spring migrants. These often have value in showing historical variations in arrival dates. On 17 May 1959 there was a world-wide co-ordinated 'Dawn and Dusk Chorus Study'. It was well advertised but, despite her interest in noting bird song, Mary does not seem to have participated, her only entry for that day being 'Heard Blackcaps singing at Brynteg.'[10] Other entries in the diary have more detail, recording behaviour such as that on 29 January 1949: '. . . Bluetit in dining room on cord of Electric Light control & in & out after food all day.' Or that of 3 October 1951: 'I saw a Buzzard carrying off in its feet part of the nest of wasps out of bank in back lane which it had been digging out all the afternoon . . .' Undoubtedly a Honey Buzzard, a rare summer visiting species then, and one that still is now; the first confirmed record for Carmarthenshire had been only thirty years earlier near Llangadog.

There are many similar individual entries in the diary identifying particular habits or sightings worthy of reading, see the following full transcript of the diary. Since the time of writing the status of some of the birds regularly mentioned in the text has changed substantially. There are also a few who are noticeable by their absence. I have made a few notes below on some of these.

Red squirrel – So not a bird, but I have chosen this as it is surprising that there is only one entry – in 1945. At that time the red squirrel would have been common throughout the county, possibly even regarded as abundant in places. There was no noticeable contraction in its range until the 1950s. Why there were not more entries of sightings of red squirrels is a mystery. It is now restricted to a few small pockets in the north of the county, the only known red squirrels in south Wales.

Manx shearwater – There are fairly regular sightings along the coast of Carmarthenshire but inland sightings are very rare. On 15 September 1950 she reports finding one near the drive to Bryn Myrddin. It had

Towy Vale, 1805.

been blown inland by a gale the previous night. In September 2011 this was repeated with two birds being found in Carmarthen, one at Glangwili Hospital, the second in the car park outside the Archive Office. Needless to say I was on holiday at the time!

Heron – There is a heronry in Bryn Myrddin wood so I was surprised when reading the diary to find that it was not mentioned at all. However, as it seems to be known of first in 2003 it is not so surprising that she did not mention it. Occasionally heronries move but from the available data there do not seem to be any existing heronries that were abandoned around that time so presumably it was newly established in 2003 or thereabouts.

Little egret – It is theoretically possible that a little egret could have been seen as they were occasionally in Wales in the 1960s, certainly in Pembrokeshire, but no known sightings in Carmarthenshire until much later. Now they are relatively commonplace and breed regularly in the county, I am sure she would have been thrilled to see such an exotic and delightful bird.

Corncrake – In decline since the beginning of the twentieth century and regarded as a rare bird in south Wales by 1938, Mary records hearing them fairly regularly up until 1966. They were present in the Towy valley up until 1979 but since then as sporadic passage birds only.

Collared dove – Following its explosion across Europe the collared dove was first recorded in Carmarthenshire in 1965, and first known breeding in 1968. It was not common across the county but Carmarthen was one of the areas it was known to inhabit, but obviously Mary did not see one, or hear of one being seen. Now there can not be anyone who does not know the bird.

Blackcap – Mary mentions hearing and seeing blackcaps regularly, but none in winter. They were known to overwinter in small numbers in the county from the 1930s onwards. Now, despite being classified as a summer visitor, they are regularly seen in the winter. I get them in the garden every winter, invariably appearing in the last two weeks of November.

Woodlark – Regularly recorded by her up until the 1960s and present in the county and breeding until the 1970s but in rapid decline since, and now very rarely encountered.

Partridge – Recorded by Mary up until the 1940s which fits the known pattern. They were plentiful in the early part of the twentieth century but by the 1950s had declined dramatically. Now seen occasionally but by no means common.

Curlew – Regarded as a quite numerous breeding species in the 1950s, has declined steadily since and now breeds only sporadically and locally.

Cuckoo – Mention the cuckoo today and most people lament that they no longer hear them. It is a declining and no longer common species. Mary's records of cuckoos are an annual feature of the diary. After a while reading one anticipates the entries, as indeed she must have anticipated writing them. It is perhaps fitting that the last entry in the diary is hearing the cuckoo on Merlin's Hill.

She was very happy in Ffynonddrain, but eventually became unable to look after herself and moved back to Bryn Myrddin into one of the flats created there. The diary becomes gradually more exiguous after this time, and stops altogether in 1971. For the last couple of years of her life she lived in a home in Llandrindod Wells where she maintained her connection with wildlife, feeding a tame robin that used to come into the kitchen there. She died on 4 December 1975 and was interred in Abergwili churchyard after a Requiem Mass held in St Mary's Church, Carmarthen.

And the Sound of Music? No, not Julie Andrews singing over Merlin's Hill but a connection perhaps almost as bizarre involving torpedoes and a bottle of champagne. When researching for the article, my curiosity was piqued by Alicemargit's maiden name of Hoyos, triggering one of those 'I've seen that name before' moments. It was resolved when I (re)found the reminiscences of Count Edgar Hoyos, Alicemargit's father, deposited in the archive by Alicemargit (as Mrs Ryle Morris) in 1975.[11] I had previously dismissed it as one of those items accumulated along the way that had no obvious connection with Carmarthenshire, just showing how wrong one can be. In his writings he also gives a history of the family of Hoyos dating back to the beginning of the sixteenth century.

Alicemargit was the fourth child, and first daughter, of Count Edgar Hoyos and Countess Ilona (née Kinsky) born 26 February 1907. However, it is not the Hoyos family but Count Edgar's mother, Alice Whitehead, daughter of Robert Whitehead, engineer and the inventor of the self-propelled torpedo, that provides the connection. Robert developed the torpedo after being approached by the Austrian government to produce a weapon to destroy ships from a distance. At the time he had been working in a warship factory in Fiume, then part of the Austria-Hungary empire. Alice Whitehead's brother, John, married Agathe Breunner, their eldest daughter, Agathy (Alicemargit's second cousin once removed), provides the final link, Count Edgar writes of Agathy's future husband:

> 'We soon made friends with him and he was often a guest in our house, but still oftener at Aunt Agathe Whiteheads whose eldest daughter Agathy, then a charming and pretty girl of 18 he was particularly interested in. He always said he had fallen in love with her, when she had smashed the Champagne bottle on the bows of his Submarine, during the launching Ceremony.'

The submarine commander was of course, Georg Ritter von Trapp. Agathy died in 1922 from scarlet fever, Georg remarried and it could be said that the rest is cinematic history.[12]

The Diary

A full transcript exactly as written, no editorial changes have been made.

1936

5th January — Blackbird singing opposite Church of Our Lady, Grove Rd.

25th March — Chiffchaff singing at Bryn Myrddin.

1st April — Started 6 months patrol for Beddington & Wallington U.D. Council.
Saw & heard fieldfares in corner of Beddington Wood & every day to 30th April. Also peewits and Redshanks.

7th April — Grange Gardens. Saw 1 coot, 1 treecreeper, 1 Kingfisher. The Kingfisher sat facing me on a wire stretched across the watercress bed stream showing his red brown breast, then flew downstream & showed his azure wings. Grange Gdns not opened to the Public till 11th April.

16th April — At Fleet, Hants, saw caterpillar of Tiger Moth, a large woolly bear, cross the road, later learnt they hibernate as larvae & feed on docks.

19th April — Heard blackcap sing in Beddington Wood.

20th April — Heard cuckoo in Grange Gdns. Piercey the Park Keeper says he heard it on 16th inst.

24th April — Saw Blackcap at Beddington & heard several Willow Warblers, warm sunny day after wet night.

26th April — Saw several swallows over grass field, sewage farm, but they were gone next day. Did not see the regular ones at Farm, Beddington till about 4 days later.

30th April — Saw 20 great crested grebe on 2 miles of Virginia Water which is 9 miles round. Some tufted ducks also. The grebe stretched their necks along surface of water & made a long rattling cry like a rattle, or an R being rolled. Saw several heron's nests in tall trees not far from Virginia Water & heard their harsh honking call.

8th May — Saw several swifts flying high & shrieking over Grange Gardens.

14th May — Virginia Water. Swan swam over to a couple sitting on a fallen trunk & alarmed them by leaving water & expecting food & even pecked the man's paper carrier. Swans were sitting on the grass around parked motors at Egham.
Saw 2 cock great crested grebe fight on Virginia Water, faced each other c[1] necks stretched out along the water & made loud rattling cry & slowly approached each other, attacked & both disappeared diving & then repeated the cries. Their wives appeared from opposite directions ½ mile off c anxious clucking cries, to the obvious relief of combatants who pecked at the water & drifted slowly apart. The wives hurried up swimming very fast & each appeared to hold a conversation c her mate c heads stretched straight up high above the water & beaks close together. The 2 pairs then swam off in opposite directions.
Saw 2 birds which might have been sandpipers or snipe flying over the water c single notes.
Saw wild duck c 8 young ones which looked 2 weeks old & swam strongly & joyously on Virginia Water.

15th May — Beddington. Heard White throat singing in hawthorns of Beddington Park. Many tree sparrows about as usual. Found a cock house sparrow stunned on London Rd gave him a drink & coled his head & he flew off. Motors passing every moment so it was lucky I saw him.

19th May — A swift was found in Wandle. Lay c eyes shut, shivering, tail & wings soaked. I warmed it in my hand which it liked & settled down closely, clinging c its claws.
A dark sooty brown c greyish white patch under very wide mouth, short wide beak at base c wide nostrils & huge fine eyes which gave it remarkable expression. I left it for 1½ hrs on a mat in sun in summer house & it revived & sat looking round 7 stretching its neck, did not attempt to fly & did not flutter or seem afraid. We threw it into the air & in a second it got its balance & flew high up, being met by 2 other swifts. I never could have hoped to have a swift in my hand.

23rd May — Saw pr of moorhens c 5 young ones on Wandle in grange, both parent birds clucked & fussed round them with greatest care. Next day parents escorted them over to another island, harrying them c repeated calls. Heard the sweet call "toote toote toote" of the redshank as I came into Beddington Park & can picture their flights over sewage

1. Symbol for 'with'.

farm, alighting c̄ wings white beneath extended above them.

4th June — at Virginia Water heard the turtle dove.

7th June — Beddington Park, saw a young tree sparrow under elm tree where they usually nest in a hole, being fed by parent bird. It cd scarcely fly but had a good idea of clinging to the trunk.

11th June — Heard nightingale singing in a thick hedge at back of large grass field near Thames where Staines to Windsor rd runs. Saw 8 young wildducks c̄ mother duck on small round pond, Wimbledon Common close to Wimbl Park Rd. Saw large numbers of Swifts circling above reservoir on north side of Staines Rd & south of Stanwell.

29th July — Saw 2 flycatchers at Grange for first time this year. Saw Kingfisher on Lake in Grange.

1st August — Saw Kingfisher during heavy rain close to house at grange overlooking stream & then it flew towards Wandle.

26th Sep — Heard chiffchaff at the Grange, I suppose a migrant as the usual one has long been silent. Several moorhens on lake, v quarrelsome. 1 coot & 2 young wild duck there lately. Swallows I saw & heard on 23rd I think they were migrants as I had already missed the others.

28th Sep — Saw a Little grebe on lake at Grange. Saw kingfisher on lake, cold thundery day during heavy rain.

6-21 Nov — At Le Chateau, Lamballe, Brittany. Heard nuthatch & wren singing, also saw several beautiful bulfinches (sic).

29th Nov — Thrushes singing at 70 Hamilton Terrace.

5th Dec — Bideford along Torridge saw curlews, red shanks, sandpipers, herring & common gulls.

7th Dec — Hartland Quay, saw 2 Ravens, 1 buzzard, 1 cormorant, goldfinches & stone chats.

Dec 22nd — Ross, thrushes, nuthatch & mistle thrush singing.

27th — Ross, Chasewood – saw green Woodpecker.

1937

15th January — London. Blackbird & woodpigeons singing.

30th January — " Blackbird singing after thaw.

5th February — " Thrush singing 2.50am in Hamilton Terrace.

9th " — " Chaffinch singing.

20th " — Kew Gdns. Saw cock blackbird c̄ white head & several white feathers on shoulders. Nuthatch & hedge sparrows & chaffinches singing. Saw heron fly towards the Thames at 5.15pm.

22nd March — Heard chiff'ff at Bryn Myrddin in plantations.

28th " — Heard Willow Warbler at B.M.[2]

3rd April — Heard chiff chaff at Grange Park. Heard snipe drumming on sewage farm 7.30pm.

4th April — Saw & heard Redshanks, peewits, on sewage farm.
Saw small brown bird, darkish colouring below & side view appearance of a crest tapping a dead tree, cd not see the colouring. ?Lesser spotted woodpecker or wryneck. A little larger than a nuthatch. Undulating flight. John's Bird book says wryneck does not tap trees, it is ∴[3] a lesser spotted woodpecker.
Saw 4 goldfinches in Grange & hear greenfinch daily.

15th April — 7pm. Heard Little owl in Richmond Pk 7 saw a fine cock pheasant.

16th April — Heard Willow warbler at Beddington Park. Saw a wagtail in Manor Gdn probably the ~~yellow~~ grey.

17th " — Saw & heard Willow Warbler in Beddington Park.

19th " — Heard snipe drumming 8.50pm sewage farm.

20th " — Heard Willow Warbler in AA's garden.

21st " — A pair of Tufted ducks appeared on the Lake, Grange Park & stayed all day, diving & swimming round.
The pair of wild duck there daily, every evening 3 or 4 mallard come down.
A robin extremely tame & came within a yard of me & chirupped on a fence, I expect I was near her nest.
I hear Mistle thrush daily in bird sanctuary.
Saw the wagtail in Grange Park catching insects on one of the wooden supports of bridge which are level c̄ water surface, the Wandle running like a torrent through the sluice.

22nd — Virginia Water. Several prs great crested grebe, herons on their nests, redstart, ?1 snipe, may be a sandpiper, small & fawn, c̄ pointed wings curving down, zigzag flight, edge of water. 15 tufted ducks, wild ducks, 2 mistle thrushes, 2 jays; heard chiffchaff, blackbird, willow warblers, cuckoo, sweet & soft over the water. Saw a kestrel. Heard nuthatches.

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2. Bryn Myrddin.
3. Symbol for 'therefore'.

23rd April — Beddington. Saw 2 swallows this afternoon. The tufted ducks have left the Grange.

30th April — Pair of coots on Beddington Park Pond for 1 day. heard cuckoo.

1st May — Pair of tufted ducks on Beddington Park Pond. Heard larks singing on Sewage Farm. Several more swallows about.

Was told large numbers of bramblings have been seen all April on sewage farm.

3rd May — Saw tree creeper in Bridge gdn.

7th May — Saw several swifts, flying high over dairy at Grange Park & screaming with joy.

13th May — Fleet. Heard Turtledove. Saw a peewit. Heard some larks singing.

14th May — Pr Tufted ducks on Beddington pond, also pr Wild duck on Wandle close to Upper Bridge. Heard snipe on sewage farm.

14th May — Heard and saw treesparrow sing in Queen Elizabeth's Wk. about same volume of song as a chaffinch, but shorter & no cascade to it.

16th May — Saw 2 flycatchers together in Grange Park. Frequently see pr Tufted ducks on Beddington Pond, one evening saw them fly, extremely rapid wing movement & flight. They are getting tamer, a mallard is often c̄ them. Call of Tufted ducks is "crake". I see many fledged thrushes & blackbirds & starlings being fed by parent birds. I hear the cuckoo daily, also blackcaps. Heard redshanks today. Large numbers of swifts in joyous parties of 20 to 30, swallows not numerous, a pair here & there, 2 at Beddington Farm, 1 at Grange Dairy, 1 at Mellow's park in pavilion.

Saw a blue butterfly.

28th — Saw a Red Admiral.

29th — Heard Turtle dove constantly in Grange Wood.

31st — Heard & saw Black Cap in thick bushes, edge of Pear Walk, Grange.

June 4th — Saw Blackcap on telegraph wires at Hackbridge stn singing & saw him fly up into air & sing, falling to settle on the stem of some reeds.

June 9th — Saw & heard the Lesser spotted woodpecker & saw it hunting & tapping all over the Turkey oak outside front door of Grange, probably feeding a young bird. The crest & black & white colouring plainly visible. Often have I heard its note, but not been able to see it.

Several blackcaps & a chiffchaff singing beautifully. About 2 weeks ago heard the most piteous cries from about 12 peewits wheeling over a ditch on sewage farm, only one of them swooped to the ground, after 10 mins a carrion crow got up & flew away empty handed & followed by the peewees, no doubt he had eaten a young one.

The great tits have a nest for the 3rd year in top of post of garden railing at the Lodge, Beddington Pk.

12th — Saw several young great tits near Lake at Grange, very noisy & active till warned by parents.

13th — A wild duck has hatched 10 ducklings at top of Lake at Grange, 9 remained on 14th swimming fast. Saw a hedgehog stepping high on golf course, I put it in some long grass.

June 28th — Green Woodpecker on lawn of Wandle Bank House

The wild duck at Grange has only 3 young ones left, very swift & active.

Several fledged pied wagtails at Grange.

29th — Heard Redshanks at dusk on sewage farm.

July 2nd — Saw 2 Little owls in Beddington Park, close to hole at base of an ash were (sic) boys destroyed young owls 2 yrs ago. They hopped nimbly along a branch v like a jay, gazed at me c̄ low level brows & showed a white line under chin on raising head. Marks round nest.

July 10th — Saw hedgehog near Beddington Pond & saved it from 2 dogs. He seems to know me now.

Blackcap still sings.

Brood of ducklings reduced to 3. feed on insects & weeds & the mother v devoted.

17th — Blackcap still singing.

The mother duck often leads her 3 large ducklings up to the island & occasionally leaves them now. Often see Missel thrushes on golf course.

2 dead hedgehogs have been found on golf course so I fear my piglets are gone as I have not seen them for a week.

August 10th — I hear the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker call in Beddington Park from time to time.

3 young wildduck as big as their mother, but wings not fully grown.

Jenny Wren has just brought off a brood.

A young Robin very tame, still has yellow rim to beak & only a trace of red, sits 2 feet from people on seat & looks sideways at them. (Grange)

I hear a fledged goldfinch has been seen. (Grange)

10th & 11th — Willow Warbler back in AA's garden & singing a whispered song, must be on the move.

Missed the swifts in London & Beddington on 10th August. They have been specially active & noisy of late, screaming & wheeling as if getting into training.
Starlings are in flocks & have begun wheeling like swallows hawking flies.
Peewees in large flocks.

August 26th Virginia Water. Saw 4 prs great crested grebe all v quiet. One pair had 3 young ones & I saw her gather them to her & they sat on her back or else under her wings c̄ heads peeping out on to her back & cd hear them squeaking. Though smaller then moor hens they dived well. Heard green woodpecker & nuthatch.

Sept 1st & 6th Heard chiffchaff singing in Grange Park.

7th Kingfisher in Manor Gdns.

9th Pair of Little Grebe on Wandle Lake in Grange Park.

12th Heard chiffchaff singing feebly at Grange, very cold.

11th Saw a dozen swallows mobbing a Kestrel in Beddington Park with pathetic cries.
Saw and heard several jays in Beddington Wood.

14th Beddington Lane tip saw several wild ducks, Tufted ducks, 2 Little Grebe, several coots & moorhens.

16th Saw 3 Little Grebe on Lake at Grange Park, first saw 2 of them on 13th & 16th. Heard chiffchaff.

17th Heard chiffchaff at Grange & Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

19th Heard chiffchaff singing at Grange.

20th Heard mistlethrush singing. The Little Grebes tamer & pretty to watch diving.
Robins singing a lot. All at Grange.

21st Saw Kingfisher on Wandle Lake, Grange Park. Heard chiffchaff singing in Grange, robins singing aggressively. Little Grebes still on Lake. Hedgesparrow singing in Grange.

22nd Saw several swallows.

24th Not a swallow left, they must have gone on 23rd.

25th 3 Dabchicks still on Lake of Grange.
Peewees on sewage farm – Kestrel at Grange.
Rooks come to Beddington Pk for acorns now.

1938

Jan 3rd Pigeons cooing; hedgesparrow, robin & thrushes sing in Hamilton Terrace daily.

20th Blackbird started singing in garden of 70 Ham: Terr: Mr Durrant told me he was given a Canary by a patient & he often held it in his hand at breakfast & fed it c̄ toast, if it was too hard he dipped it in his tea. Later he gave the bird away & the new owner wrote & said he had never seen a bird take toast & dip it in tea cup & bring it back & eat it as this one did. Evidence that smallness does not limit quality of brain. Bird copied what it had seen done.

Feb 4th Chaffinch singing in garden, Hamilton Terrace.

5th 2 Blackbirds singing well in ditto.

14th Some of the blackheaded gulls have their black faces.

20th By Towy saw 1 curlew, 3 cygnets, 1 widgeon.

24th Near Capel Gwyn 1 raven. Curlews singing on flat.

25th At Bryn Myrddin, about 1am a hen chaffinch tried 3 times to get in at my bedroom window, a rough night. I let her in & she slept on top of cupboard. In morning she flew round room & then perched.
I picked her up & let her out, she flew off calling "pink pink".

27th 2 ravens, 1 partridge & 1 buzzard on Merlin's Hill.

March 11th Wren sitting on roof of bird table at B.M. c̄ wings widely extended & fluttering & singing a prolonged song & looking up to verandah.

13th Chiffchaff singing. Saw & heard 2 Ravens, heard buzzard & curlews.

22nd Long tailed Tit under B.M. Verandah all day collecting cobwebs & flying off c̄ them for its nest.

April 9th Heard Willow Wren

10th By Towy 1 swan, 1 sandpiper, 1 curlew, 1 lark, saw several sandmartins.

April 14th Willow Warbler singing by Bishop's Ponds

17th By Towy 1 sandsnipe.

19th Chaffinch's nest c̄ eggs in hedge going to Merlin's Grove.

25th Many Blackcaps singing by Pwlltycoch.
Cuckoo heard by Jim at Bryn Towy.

26th Saw 1 swallow at Llangunnor.

27th Many Blackcaps. By Towy 2 sandpipers, 2 swallows.

28th Alicemargit heard cuckoo.

29th 2 Black back gulls by Towy.

May 8th Swan on nest near pond & pill Glyn Myrddin.

10th Beautiful bird song.

13th Saw some swifts at Maesdeilo.

14th Flycatcher on lawn, B.Myrddin.

24th Rly. Cutting ? Whitethroat's nest, 5 olive green eggs.

June 22nd — 5 young wrens fledged from nest in B.M. loft, one sat on my finger.

July 26th — Swifts screaming joyously above Hamilton Terr: & blackbirds still singing & woodpigeons cooing.

July 26th — Richmond Pk. Saw 1 tufted duck c̄ 3 young ones diving beautifully though only two weeks old. Saw 1 great crested grebe. Heard Kingfisher.

Aug 6th — Swifts left Hamilton Terrace late.

11th — Heard Willow Warbler & Blue Tit in garden at Hamilton terrace after a long absence.

October 20th — Thrush singing in 70 Hamilton Terrace gdn

Novr 7th — Brown owl in Hyde Park hooting. I am told they also come to Courtfield Rd to the gardens behind.

" 17th — Woodpigeons cooing in garden, 70 Ham: Terr:

1939

Jan 21st — Woodpigeons & great tits in garden, Ham: Terr:

" 22nd — Blackbird singing softly 7am. Ham: Terr:

Feb 14th — Blackheaded gulls on serpentine getting black heads.

26th — Chaffinch singing at 70 Hamilton Terrace.

March 13th — Thrush & Wren 70 Hamilton Terr: Have not heard former for weeks, nor latter at all.

April 8th — At Yalding saw 2 gt crested grebe, coots, mallard, 2 long tailed tits, heard heron & green woodpeckers & saw 2 partridges.

13th — Heard Willow Warbler in Hyde Park.

18th — Heard Willow Warbler, small spotted Woodpecker, peewits & chaffinch & wren at Beddington Park.

20th — Saw a Blackbird in Hyde Park c̄ a good deal of white on his back.

25th — Blackbird in Miss Barker's garden, Sheffield c̄ white crown to head & white feathers on wings.

29th — Heard many Willow Warblers singing in Rivelin.

May 1st — Saw a Redstart & several swallows in Dukeries.

6th — Heard cuckoo at Fleet.

22nd — Saw & heard Swift at Hamilton Terrace. Thrush singing again after long interval.

30th — Saw 2prs of House Martins nesting under roof of Belmont Abbey near Porch on left side.

25th June — At Bryn Myrddin – goldfinches nesting & green Woodpeckers fledged.

A young woodpecker was caught near back door & another came under verandah where it was followed by a carrion crow which I drove off. The young woodpecker's constant call is much like a jackdaw's. The mating display of pied wagtails very pretty.

July 28th — Hamilton Terrace. I see & hear swifts all day. Thrushes singing sweetly & loudly at Beddington.

July 30th — Blackbirds singing softly in Hamilton Terrace.

August 8th — Saw about 12 or more swifts wheeling & screaming over H. Terrace, next day all had gone.

10th — Young Mallard c̄ imperfect plumage seized a duckling & tiny moorhen & ducked them & flew about c̄ them in his beak. He went off when parent moorhen arrived on scene in pond at top end of serpentine & she got the little one onto a tub & kept it warm & fed it, its head was bleeding & it was soaked & swam ½ under water. The parent duck did not come off her pond. The tufted ducks seem more careful mothers & make a deep trilling quack of warning, the ducklings a high short pretty trill.

12th — Virginia Water. Saw about 8 young great crested grebe, 3, 3, 2 c̄ their parents – I suppose female. Saw Kingfisher near boat house. Many coots & mallard.

20th — Blue Tits have been back in garden for a week.

19th — Heard small spotted Woodpecker & saw a hawk ? a Kestrel in Tower at Kew Gds.

Sept 23rd — Swallows gone.

October 28th — Saw a flock of golden crested wrens near B. M. house & clinging to the house walls. Buzzards calling all day on Merlin's Hill.

Novr 1st — Saw several 15 sewin below Gwili Bridge, all rising. Large fish.

Decr 4th — Saw several Golden Crested Wrens on east side of the house. 1 gentian in garden in bloom.

10th — Gwili bank high. A cormorant at 8.15am eating a fish in the pool below the bridge.

13th — Saw a fine stoat in pond field hedge near the rabbit holes. Gentian still in bloom.

1940

January 7th — A Blue Tit v. tame on my dressing table.

11th — Heard gt spotted Woodpecker rattling at B.M.

20th — Hardest frost since 1845. 10 ins in on Towy which is frozen from source to sea.

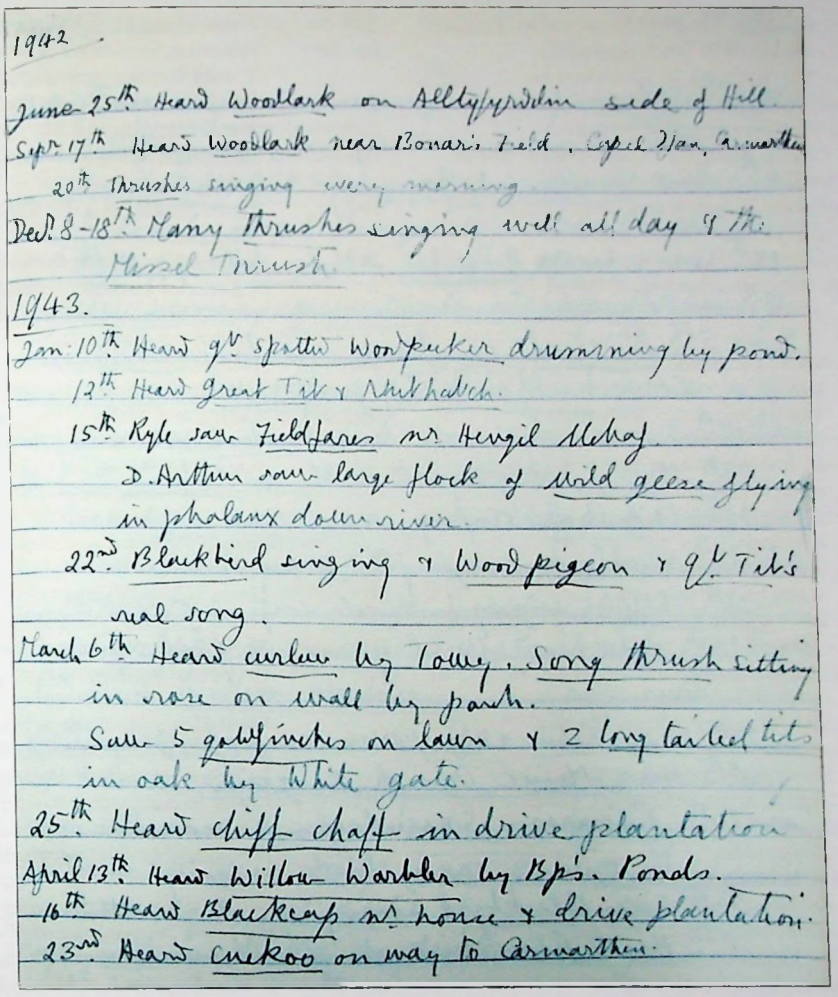
21st — Ryle saw a Golden Crested Wren in Carmarthen.

February 1st — Heard wild geese flying west 2.30pm past B.M. Ryle saw 50 next day.

February 5th — Heard Blackbird sing part of his song. Great Tit singing well, extremely mild.

6th	Saw 2 wild geese fly up valley 9am. Heard Chaffinch & hedge sparrow singing.
8th	V warm sunny day. Thrush & Greenfinch & bull finches tuning up.
12th	Saw about 300 wild geese above Dryslwyn Bridge grazing in a field. Also a lot of teal, Tufted Duck & Mallard.
22nd	Woodpigeon calling & Missel Thrush singing.
March 22nd	Ryle heard Chiffchaff on Merlin's Hill.
23rd	1am. Heard pigeon cooing. B.M.
24th	I heard Chiffchaff in drive plantation.
April 18th	Heard Buzzards on Merlin's Hill. Heard & saw Black cap in drive plantation.
21st	Heard Willow warbler at B.M.
23rd	Linnet eating seeds off rhododendron at B.M. Ryle heard cuckoo.
25th	Saw a swallow near Dulais & heard cuckoo.
May 9th	Heard Swifts over Hamilton Terrace.
June 16th	Missel Thrush & 2 fledged young ones on lawn Ham: Terr.
August	Saw Linnets eating rhododendron seeds at B.M.
Sept 10th	Saw 7 buzzards near Cwmgwili on Bronwydd side.
" 24th	Swallows have gone.
October 23rd	Heard thrushes singing.
Novr 2nd	Wren singing well.
" 14th	Heard Bull finches in rhododendrons. Saw & heard 16 Fieldfares.
21st	Thrushes singing.
25th	Missel thrush singing.
1941	
Jan 10th	Curlews on boggy field opposite Llettyhenri, also a buzzard & heard small spotted woodpecker in oak opposite farm.
" 15th	Saw 4 Redwings in plantation by garden.
29th	Great tit & robin singing.
Feb 2nd	Thrush singing in Carmarthen.
6th	Chaffinch singing at B.M.
7th	Missel thrush singing.
Feb 21st	Greenfinch singing.
March 4th	Linnet singing.
5th	Yellow Hammer singing in oak wood, Llettyhenry.
March 14th	Blackbird singing at B.M. at dawn.
16th	Chiff Chaff singing at Bryn Towy & Ryle heard several in wood on Merlin's Hill.
17th	Heard Woodpigeon.
April 15th	Heard Willow Warbler.
16th	On Drwsllwyn Castle under the curve of an arch window & facing N.E. a large nest of sticks which Ryle thinks a raven's. I saw only jackdaws & 2 buzzards, 3 wildduck, 2 curlews, & 1 dead coot injured by pike netting on backwater. Feet had black webbing frills to each finger to the claw. Saw some sand martins.
22nd	Heard Cuckoo.
25th	Saw 1 swallow in Saddlefield.[4]
May 3rd	Heard Blackcap in Esther Davies's garden.
" 11th	Saw 1 swift in Carmarthen & 1 near Abergwili.
June 5th	Redstart hovering near Verandah.
" 10th	Saw sandmartin feeding its fledged young one in the centre of road on Gwili Bridge.
Aug: 16th	Saw 3 prs House Martins at B.M. Willow Warblers singing & Chiff Chaff.
Sept 23rd	Several House Martins near the house.
" 24th	Heard a sweet monotonous double note & high above Wern Wuad[5] saw a smallish bird flying in circles & darting about as it sang – probably a Woodlark singing its Lulu song.
27th	Saw several Housemartins near Llanarthney. Near Tower[6] found a large grey hawk killing a pigeon, young bird.
October 7th	Thrushes singing.
8th	Read in Times of Starlings soaring high & darting about after flies like swallows.
18th	Saw a large flock of Longtailed Tits & Blue Tits together. Still hear the ? Woodlarks singing daily. Thrushes have been singing about 2 weeks.
end Oct	Ryle saw Fieldfares at Hengil.[7]
Novr 4th	Heard Woodlark over Upper Pond Field.
" 25th	Heard Woodlark, Mistle Thrush & thrush singing.
" 23rd	Saw 4 Jays in Wernwuad field.
" 30th	Saw 4 coots on Bishop's Pond & a widgeon swimming in line ē them.
1942	
Jan : 14th	Heard Wild Geese on Flat.
" 17th	Peewits on Bwlch fields.[8]
" 18th	Thaw & green woodpeckers calling all day.
" 20th	gt Tit singing. Ryle heard Woodlark singing.
28th	Heard Buzzard, Hedge Sparrow singing & saw & heard Woodlark singing in circles above Wernwuad. Hail showers, lines of snow on Mountains, snowdrops out.
Feb 2nd	Missel Thrush & Song Thrush singing.
3rd	Chaffinch, robin, Woodlark, & Blackbird singing.
8th	Saw about 26 Hooper swans on frozen flooded water on flat. V. long necks, active

4. Field to the west of Bryn Myrddin.
5. Field to the east of Bryn Myrddin.
6. Presumably Paxton's Tower.
7. There are several farms with Hengil as part of the name in the north of the parish of Abergwili around Grid Ref SN455249.
8. Most likely Bwlch-bach just below Bryn Myrddin. SN448211.



1942.

June 25th Heard Woodlark on Alltyspyddin side of Hill.
Sept 17th Heard Woodlark near Bonari Field. Capel Dan, Carmarthen
20th Thrushes singing every morning
Dec! 8-18th Many Thrushes singing well all day & the Missel Thrush.

1943.

Jan 10th Heard g! spotted Woodpecker drumming by pond.
12th Heard Great Tit & Nuthatch.
15th Ryle saw Fieldfares nr Hengil Mehaf.
D. Arthur saw large flock of wild geese flying in phalanx down river.
22nd Blackbird singing & Wood pigeon & g! Tit's real song.

March 6th Heard curlew by Towy. Song Thrush sitting in rose on wall by porch.
Saw 5 goldfinches on lawn & 2 long tailed tits in oak by White gate.
25th Heard chiff chaff in drive plantation

April 13th Heard Willow Warbler by Bp's. Ponds.
16th Heard Blackcap nr house & drive plantation.
23rd Heard cuckoo on way to Carmarthen.

A page from the diary.

birds. No black knobs on beaks. V. sweet musical cry while standing & flying & no singing in wing quills. Black legs & dark beaks. Cygnets very dark backs to necks & barred wings, also saw 10 wildduck on Towy and some peewits.

13th Hooper swans still on Bishop's Ponds.
March 9th Heard Woodlark & g! spotted Woodpecker.
" 17th Heard Chiffchaff in oak wood.
April 12th Heard Willow warbler near B.M. Saw a cormorant on ponds. Davy Arthur[9] says there are 20 there till 9am daily catching eels.
13th Larks singing near Abergwili.
Saw 2 black back gulls on Towy nr Towy Castle,[10] oystercatchers & cormorant. Saw swallows & martins by Gwili Bridge, roadman saw them on 10th.
16th Blackcap singing at B.M. east side.
May 5th Heard cuckoo. Ryle heard it 20th April.
9th Goldfinch's nest on end of yew branch.
Saw curlew by river at Tyllwyd.[11]
Many larks singing & many Blackcaps.
10th Cormorant on Bishop's Ponds, also saw some swallows & sand martins & a

9. Lived at Bwlch Bach Issaf overlooking Bishop's Ponds.

10. Towy Castle SN406141.
11. Tyllwyd SN460209.

	sandpiper. The 14 coots not visible. Woodlark singing daily. Saw 1 Flycatcher.
May 1st	Saw Wildduck & 5 ducklings on Pw… …ch.[12]
14th[13]	Heard Swift in Carmarthen.
June 25th	Heard Woodlark on Alltyfyrddin[14] side of Hill.
Sepr 17th	Heard Woodlark near Bonar's Field, Capel Ifan, Carmarthen.
20th	Thrushes singing every morning.
Decr 8-18th	Many Thrushes singing well all day & the Missel Thrush.
1943	
Jan 10th	Heard gt Spotted Woodpecker drumming by pond.
12th	Heard Great Tit & Nuthatch.
15th	Ryle saw Fieldfares nr Hengil Uchaf. D. Arthur saw large flock of Wild Geese flying in phalanx down river.
22nd	Blackbird singing & Woodpigeon & Gt Tit's real song.
March 6th	Heard curlew by Towy. Song Thrush sitting in rose on wall by porch. Saw 5 goldfinches on lawn & 2 long tailed tits in oak by White Gate.
25th	Heard chiff chaff in drive plantation.
April 13th	Heard Willow Warbler by Bp's Ponds.
16th	Heard Blackcap nr house & drive plantation.
23rd	Heard Cuckoo on way to Carmarthen.
May 2nd	Mallard, heron & Cormorant close to small stream where it runs into Towy on Glynmyrddin.[15]
6th	Heard Swallow at Penygraig[16] & Woodlark over Wern Wuad.
13th	Saw 7 heard 2 Swifts, Ryle did on 11th.
19th	Saw Flycatcher on lawn.
June 5th	Redstart on drive railings. Cock bulfinch(sic) by pond.
Sepr 17th	Saw 2 Swallows; heard Woodlark on Merlin's Hill.
24th	Thrush singing at B.M. & Robins.
30th	Chiff Chaff singing near B.M.
Octr 2nd	Woodlark singing on Wern Wuad.
12th	Chaffinch singing his cascade song at B.M.
Decr 13th	Ryle heard Wild geese on flat a few days ago.
24th	Wren, Robin & Hedgesparrow singing spring like day.
30th	Heard Missel Thrush singing.
Jan: 10th	Primroses, Snowdrops & aconites out. V. mild & many birds singing well.
26th	Saw Blackbird singing in Carmarthen.
28th	Heard Blackbird at B.M.
Feb 11th	Greenfinch trilling & many chaffinches singing.
19th	Heard Woodpigeon 7 gt spotted Woodpecker.
24th	Rode to Hengil Bungalow, saw 1 heron, 1 Kestrel, 2 buzzards, 1 white owl, golden plovers, peewits, Fieldfares, Redwings, curlews.
March 28th	Heard Chiff Chaff on Merlin's Hill & Woodlark & Yellow Hammer.
April 3rd	Curlew over Merlin's Hill calling. Saw dipper along Crychiau[17] & heard him sing a long musical bubbling song fitting in c running water, saw him fly down stream, then rise & fly up, soaring steeply c rapid straight flight to a considerable height over the trees.
6th	Heard Willow Warbler.
15th	Heard Cuckoo.
24th	Saw a Redstart hovering under Verandah.
30th	Saw several swallows & Sandmartins by Towy. Saw 2 Herons on Bishop's Ponds. Heard Whitethroat & saw it beside Rly near Ponds.
May 9th	Swifts arrived at Cothi Bridge[18] says Mrs Arthur Jones.
12th	I saw & heard swifts.
June 8th	Saw Flycatcher. Ryle saw them four days before.
July 9th	Saw about 14 small partridges running down lane below Penygraig quarry.[19] Saw a fine demoiselle.
Sepr 12th	Saw swallows for last time, gathered on wires on Penygader.[20] Saw last swifts on 8th August.
Sepr 25th	Saw swallows near Peniel.
Decr 23rd	Thrushes have been singing since Octr & missel thrush a week.
1945 Jan:26th	21 degrees frost. Cats killing birds in snow. Redwing feeding in pig stye, another dead nearby. Starling came down study chimney, 5 found in loft (1 dead).
Jan: 28th	5 Peewits on lawn close to house. Rooks sound springlike in spite of snow & frost.

12. Spelling is unclear but first word is possibly Pwll, so may be a pool on the Towy or a tributary.
13. Given that Swift usually appear around mid May it is to be assumed that these are both retrospective entries.
14. North west side of Merlin's Hill SN455215.
15. Glynmyrddin SN458208.
16. Penygraig SN449219.
17. Stream which runs from near Brechfa Forest to join the river Gwili to the west of Abergwili village.
18. Cothi Bridge SN506218.
19. Penygraig quarry approx. SN452222
20. Penygader is up the lane just above Bryn Myrddin.

	Bittern seen during last 3 weeks on Lash & Capel Dewi.[21]
Jan 30th	Great tit singing after thaw.
Feb 5th	Chaffinch, greenfinch & hedge sparrow singing & missel thrush. V. warm sunny day. A large flock of wild geese seen yesterday & today flying towards sea by A.M.[22] & Ryle & today by Annie Jones.
Feb 9th	Woodlark singing.
Feb 15th	Blackbird singing beautifully.
Feb 17th	Pigeon cooing.
" 19th	? Lesser Spotted Woodpecker tapping.
March 2nd	Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming.
" 22nd	Heard Chiff Chaff by pond.
28th	Heard Gr: Spotted Woodpecker drumming nr stables & saw it fly. Heard Lesser Spotted Woodpecker near St Mary's Church[23] & saw it distinctly.
April 9th	Heard Willow Wren nr Pont Richard Eynon[24] & at B.M.
16th	Swallow on telegraph wires on way to Carmarthen & heard Blackcap singing. Purple beech in leaf.
22nd	Hawthorn in bloom.
May 6th	Saw Flycatcher in chicken run & swifts in Carmarthen & heard cuckoo by river v. faintly. It was heard by Carroll on 2nd may & by Esther Davies mid April.
May 17th	Saw a Redstart on east side of house.
June 21st	Green Woodpeckers fledged. Found a young mole on lawn, cold & almost dead & flyblown, warmed it & gave it milk & combed its fur free of lice & fly eggs & put it warm & nimble down its hole.
June 22nd	Nuthatches & Magpies fledged. Mrs Roberts, Green Meadow told me of a broody hen mothering puppies allowed by the bitch.
Sepr 23rd	Saw 1 swallow near Pantyglien.[25]
24th	Herbert Vaughan counted 28 Red Admirals on an ivy bush at Tenby.
Sepr 27th	Heard Woodlark singing on Parkgwyn & Wren near house.
Octr 23rd	Counted 45 coot on Bishop's Ponds opp: Bwlchbach.
25th	Ryle saw & heard Fieldfares; hail & thunder.
Novr	Ryle woke one night & saw an owl sitting on the top bar of his open window.
23rd	I saw a red squirrel near croquet lawn. Thrushes singing V. sweetly.
1946	
Jan: 6th	Heard thrushes, jenny wren, hedgesparrow singing, heard Raven. Bittern reported near Pibwrlwyd.
Feb 1st	Missel Thrush singing near Court Henry.
" 4th	" " & chaffinch singing at B.M.
9th	Blackbirds singing & greenfinch. Saw a small Woolly Bear near Hen house.
14th	Woodlark singing & many thrushes & blackbirds all day.
March 1st	Brown owl in spare room no 14. I put on light & he sat on the bed. When I opened the window he flew straight out. Must have come down chimney.
25th	Heard chiffchaff in drive plantation, v. weak voice. Next day heard 2 near lawn & pond stronger voices, by 27th they had gone.
April 15th	Saw 2 swallows at Pontrichardeynon & davies said he saw them on Friday 12th. A pair of buzzards are nesting in drive Scotch Fir.
April 19th	Heard cuckoo.
21st	Heard Willow Warblers near tunnel.[26]
28th	Heard Blackcaps & saw sand martins which Alicemargit saw 4 days earlier.
30th	Saw 2 v. young mallard ducklings under scot pine on drive, one ran up to Bee house before I cd. catch it, put it in esther's ditch, lost the other.
May 11th	Saw a swift over Carmarthen. Blackcaps singing.
19th	2 Spotted Flycatchers on croquet lawn.
20th	Corncrake heard by Arthurs on flat.
June 2nd	Ryle heard corncrake on flat.
19th Sepr	Saw many swallows, 2 doz. peewits & heard Chiff Chaff & 3 Woodlarks on way to drysllwyn. Gale & great flood next day.
Decr 24th	Ryle saw 15-20 Geese fly over B.M.
28th	Jones saw about 100 Geese fly north over Penygader.
1947 Jan: 7th	Saw 2 Ravens, 1 gt black back gull, curlews & oyster catchers & 1 cormorant at Llanstephan near the Castle.
Jan 16th	Woodlark, thrush, gt tit, wren all singing.
Jan 22nd	Saw Fieldfare, very cold day.
Jan 30th	2 soft shelled eggs frozen hard in top hen house.
Feb 2nd	Heavy fall of snow.
Feb 3rd	Jones saw a Woodlark in Wern Wuad.

21. Probably Lanlash near Llangathen SN570221.
22. Alicemargit.
23. Catholic Church, Union Street, Carmarthen.
24. Pont Richard Eynon, now demolished railway bridge approx. SN428211.
25. Pantyglien SN457220.
26. Where the railway went underneath the road which led up to Bryn Myrddin.

9th	I saw a snipe by hen house & another about 1 week later in ditch below Penygader. Towy frozen over.
26th	Thaw. Heard gt tit & hedge sparrow.
27th	Heard chaffinch singing & woodpigeons cooing.
March 3rd	Blackbird singing.
5th	Carrion Crow came into chicken yard. V. heavy snow today & yesterday, no trains or posts.
15th	Thomas the Vet saw a Swallow at Pendine in a cowshed on the wall, it flew onto a cow's back, seemed quite strong.
28th	Chiffchaff singing drive plantation & by B. Ponds.
30th	Heard Spotted Woodpecker.
April 17th	Mrs Phillips of Pencnwc heard cuckoo at Golden Grove
19th	I heard swallows at B.M.
20th	Heard Willow Warblers
27th & 29th	Heard Blackcaps
May 5th	Saw a blue butterfly & on 7th a cabbage white. There are 3 badger's earths[27] on top of hill above wood.
8th	Saw 2 sheldrakes, 3 cormorants & heard cuckoo Llanstephan.
9th	Saw 5 swifts over Daren Bridge[28] & 3 buzzards near Tycrieg.[29]
18th	Flycatcher seen by Ryle foot of drive & I saw one 2 days later chicken run & on 25th under verandah.
May 23rd	Mrs A Jones heard a corncrake this week near her house.[30]
Aug 10th	Saw 3 Sandpipers by Towy, 2 Herons & 1 Kingfisher by Bishop's Ponds.
Sepr 10th	Heard chiff chaff.
Sepr 27th	Heard Woodlark & saw Yellow Wagtail. Swallows gone over a week. Heard Gt Tit.
Octr 1st	Heard Wood Lark.
1948 Jan: 26th	Heard Great Tit singing, Chaffinch. Snowdrops.
29th	Heard Hedge Sparrow & Missel Thrush.
Feb 8th	Jenny Wren singing & greenfinch.
11th	Gt Spotted Woodpecker tapping.
13th	Heard one note of a Blackbird.
15th	Pigeons cooing. Saw a Wagtail.
March 21st	Heard chiff chaffs.
April 14th	Heard Willow Warblers & young rooks.
27th	Heard several Blackcaps.
28th	Heard cuckoo but Glenys heard it at Salem 2 weeks ago. A beautiful female Lime Hawk Moth in Ryle's room.
May 10-15th	Swallow seen in Abergwili by Mrs James.
May 17th	I saw & heard a Swift this morning close to B.M.
May 30th	Saw 2 flycatchers by house & chicken run.
Octr 15th	Thrushes singing
18th	White Owl in my bedroom sitting on a chair near my bed.
Decr 26th	Brown owl in schoolroom.
1949 Jan. 13th	Woodlark singing at dawn.
15th	11 Wild Geese flew over stables northward. Primroses out in grounds & field hedges, & snowdrops.
29th	Chaffinch singing. Missel Thrush singing since 24th Jan. Bluetit in dining room on cord of Electric Light control & in & out after food all day.
Feb 23rd	Blackbird singing beautifully evening in Wernwyad Wood.[31]
March 14th	Spotted Woodpecker drumming.
30th	Heard chiff chaff in drive plantation & by ponds.
April 10th	Heard Willow Warbler, saw 4 mallard, 1 kestrel by ponds. Heard lark.
17th	Heard cuckoo near house, Blackcap by Ponds & saw 2 Bl Backs
24th	Saw 1 swallow by Gwili Bridge.
28th	Saw young fledged blackbird.
May 1st	Corncrake by Ponds & field opp: Bp's Mill.
5th	Heard Blackcap, chiff chaff & nuthatch in Penrheol[32] dingle.
8th	Heard Swift in Carmarthen.
12th	Saw & heard Swifts at Nantgaredig.
19th	Saw Spotted Flycatcher in front of house.
June 4th	Heard Woodlark singing softly on Penycraig 12.30am summer time. Young owls near stables.
Sepr 17th	Mr Tims? heard corncrake by Tin Works, opp. Glynaur & near Gwili Villa this week.
29th	Thrushes, chaffinches, chiffchaffs, hedge sparrow singing
Octr 3rd	Woodlark singing near B.M.
Decr 29th	Woodlark singing near B.M. & Missel thrush & Song thrush
1950 Jan 26th	Heard Peewits on pond field.
31st	Greenfinch singing.
Feb 20th	Chaffinch singing & woodpigeon
March 4th	Blackbird singing in garden plantation.

27. Although it is not stated these are presumably on Merlin's Hill above Allt Bryn-Myrddin.
28. Pont Daren SN536284.
29 Ty-crûg SN531268.
30. Mrs Arthur Jones, Nantgaredig.
31. Small wood on southern edge of the field.
32. There are several properties called Penrheol in the area but is most probably the one near Capel Gwyn SN463228.

28th Chiff chaff singing in drive plantation.
April 16th Willow Warbler singing in Wern Wuad horseshoe.
13th Heard young rooks calling in nest.
April 17th Cuckoo was heard at B.M.
18th Saw cuckoo perched on oak on lawn.
28th I heard cuckoo near pond singing well.
May 1st Saw several swallows.
5th Saw 3 swifts over Carmarthen.
13th & 14th Heard Grasshopper Warbler 5am outside my window.
20th Flycatchers come, Redstarts singing. Young Rooks & Carrion Crows fledged.
29th Lucy & W. Jones heard Corncrake in Penybank field.
June 2nd Davies, Hengil Bungalow hears Corncrake daily near his house.
July 3rd Saw Kingfisher & 1 sandpiper by Towy.
Sepr 15th A Manx shearwater found in wet ditch near bottom of drive, weak & cold. Gave it fish & milk & Commander Vaughan came over to identify it. Quite uninjured. Sooty black, 14ins. sq. tail, long wings. White from beak level to tail beneath. Beak pinched thin & curved at tip, legs & feet pink c̄ brown line down edge. He advised us to throw it up near tidal waters. The night before we had had a gale. The claws of its webbed feet v. sharp. On 16th put him over C. bridge & saw him hide himself in grass at edge, very well & lively.

1951

Jan 13th Heard Chaffinch sing part of his song. A snowdrop & a primrose out
15th Several primroses & a celandine out.
20th Heard Great Tit & Nuthatch, robins singing all day.
25th Thrush singing
27th Chaffinch full song.
Feb 1st Blackbird & chaffinch singing & woodlark & Gt Spotted Woodpecker drumming & calling.
April 2nd Heard Greenfinch
8th Heard Chiff Chaff east side of house. Alexanders heard Cuckoo at Capeldewi.
19th Jim Harris heard cuckoo. I heard Blackcap
20th Heard Willow Warbler. First hot day, but strong East winds at nights. Very few birds about, thrushes v. scarce. Plenty of Chaffinches & chiff chaffs. A wild duck has at least 9 young ones on our pond & is often seen c̄ them & the drake on the water.
28th Saw a newly fledged thrush.
May 3rd Saw 5 swifts over Carmarthen. Saw some swallows.
10th Male Redstart on post opp. diningroom window. 10 ducklings seen on pond & the drake. They left after about 1 month.
October 3rd I saw a Buzzard carrying off in its feet part of the nest of wasps out of bank in back lane which it had been digging out all the afternoon: Thrushes & Blackbirds Very Scarce.
Novr 5th Saw a nice flock of long tailed tits in pink May opp. my window.
Feb 12th Heard Chaffinch, Hedge Sparrow & wren have been singing.
18th Heard Greenfinch, hedge sparrow, great tit, thrushes & nuthatch all singing well.
19th Heard 2 Blackbirds singing.
March 1st Woodpigeon cooing.
3rd Lark singing by Gwili
9th Blackbird & Curlews
13th Heard Chiffchaff in drive plantation. Saw 2 long tailed tits.
16th Heard Chiffchaff below the house in the oak wood. Blackbird singing well after rain.
April 3 Little Owl in Saddlefield Hedge.
9th Heard Willow Warbler east of B.M.
13th Heard Blackcap " "
18th Heard Great spotted Woodpecker drumming at Bryn Towy
24th Heard Cuckoo on Merlin's Hill.
29th Saw a Swallow at Broad Oak.
May 1st Saw a fledged thrush on road opp. Lowndes House. Saw an orange tip butterfly.
12th Saw Sandmartin by Gwili Bridge.
May 14th Saw Swifts at Abergorlech, Mr Davies says they arrive 9 dyas ago.
June 16th Saw a pied flycatcher male on posts of billy's run in Wern Wuad.
Aug 21st Heard Missel Thrush & Chiff Chaff.
Octr 2nd Heard thrush at Abergwili & saw many swallows high over Bishop's Pond. Heard Woodlark.
Octr 14th Saw a ?Kestrel killing a young W. pigeon under Verandah
1953 Jan 8th Great tit & nuthatches singing.
Jan 16th Missel thrush & robins & nuthatches singing.
23rd Greenfinch singing
Feb 5th Saw many Peewits above St. Clears Rd. & 2[33] 2 Ravens 3m beyond Whitland.

33. Split over two lines so is presumably a writing error and not 22 birds.

6th	Heard curlews on flat.
18th or 19th	Missel thrush, thrushes, hedge sparrow, tomtits, robin & wren singing.
22nd	Heard several Wild Geese calling & flying around on flat near Pwllpenrheol & again on 25th.
28th	Green Woodpecker calling. Many primroses out.
2nd March	Heard Yellow Hammer on Pantyglien. Celandines at Gillyglyd. Woodpigeons cooing at B.M.
March 24th	Heard Chiff Chaff in Esther's plantation.
April 4th	A swallow was seen.
19th	Heard several Willow Warblers.
21st	Saw Flycatcher on lawn netting.
23rd	Heard cuckoo on Hill.[34]
24th	Heard Blackcap at Bryn Towy. 25th at B.M.
27th	Saw many sandmartins over Bp's Ponds.
May 11th	Heard Corncrake in newly reseeded field behind Welfield garden belonging to Cwm,[35] alongside cattle track to Cwm railed off.
Sep 15th & 16th	Heard Chiff chaff.
6th Decr	Ryle saw a Woodcock in garden & also a few days before
1954. Jan 16th	Heard Green Woodpecker & Nuthatch.
17th	Heard Missel Thrush & Blackbird.
24th	Chaffinch & Great Tit singing.
Feb 8th	Great Tit, greenfinch singing after thaw. Last week swans frozen on Towy & week before ponies on Precelly Mts & a cow c̄ nose frozen to the ground. Ryle saw a snipe in Saddlefield.
11th	Heard wildduck on our pond, evidently nesting.
21st	Heard Spotted Woodpecker, Wood pigeon & many thrushes.
March 3rd	Blackbird singing beautifully in spite of snow & cold, in evening after thaw.
17th	Heard Chiff Chaff on common beyond Pentunnel.
24th & 25th	Chiff chaff singing near house.
April 15th	A wild duck & about 12 ducklings walking down drive to Ponds, helped them across road & over the bank.
21st	Heard Cuckoo on Cystanog.
23rd	Heard Willow Warbler very poor.
1st May	Blackcap singing at Bryn Towy.
9th	Swifts in Carmarthen.
17th	House Martins at Cilsane Mill.
19th	A white House Sparrow at Trecwn c̄ a couple of brown feathers in tail.
June 15th	Heard a young raven calling in a high voice c̄ many rapid calls, the parents' croke & then 2 parents & the young one flew out of elm on lawn. Heard yellow hammer close to plantation in Esther's field.
June 26th	Ryle heard Corncrake opp. Bishop's Mill[36] & 2 weeks ago on Flat opp. Wern Wuad.
1955	
Jan 23rd	Chaffinches, robins, tits, nuthatch & greenfinch singing & missel thrush.
24th	Thrush & Green wood pecker heard. Ryle has heard Blackbird.
March 17th	Blackbird singing at Ff.ddrain[37] Curlews calling daily on wet field near Llwynteg.[38]
April 1st	Chiffchaff singing at Ff.ddrain
3rd	Larks & Woodlarks singing.
10th	Willow Warbler by Tunnel & on 11th & 15th at Brynteg.
15th	Heard Blackcap at Bryn Towy. Mr Davies of Abergorlech has seen the Flycatcher & Swallows have been seen on Towy & Sandmartins.
23rd	Swallows over Ffynonddrain (sic).
24th	Many Blackcaps singing at Bryn Towy. Saw a Heron rise off stream behind Cwmdu[39] & heard Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming.
May 6th	Heard cuckoo behind Bryn Teg & one call on 1st May.
15th	Swifts over Carmarthen.
22nd	Heard cuckoo behind Bryn Teg, not heard since 6th May.
July	Saw a Nuthatch eating bread in Ffynnonddrain
Sepr 12th	Saw a humming bird hawk moth feeding on my salvias. It has been fine & extremely hot from 4th July to 8th Sepr c̄ rain on about 2 or 3 days. Drought severe cows nearly dry & have to be fed in some places. A plague of large white butterflies esp in Devon & Wales, cd be heard eating Kale in Devon. On 8th drought broken c̄ heavy showers & thundery.
Sepr 25th	Heard Chiffchaff.
Octr 2nd	Heard Woodlark & peewits.
Decr 3rd	Heard Great Tit singing & on 17th & thrushes
18th	Heard Peewits calling near Ffoshelig.

34. Merlin's Hill.
35. Cwm SN442217. Sighting would have been somewhere to the south east of the farm.
36. Bishop's Mill SN435214.
37. Ffynonddrain SN401218.
38. Llwynteg SN403220.
39. Cwmdu SN411221.

1956

Jan 15th Missel thrush & great tit singing at Bryn Towy.

29th Thrushes & great tit singing at Bryn Teg & woodlark near Plough & Harrow.

30th Chaffinch singing at Bryn Teg.

Feb 6th Woodlark, thrushes & Hedge Sparrow singing.

7th Blackbird singing at Elim.

March 16th Mr Davies has heard the Blackcap at Abergorlech

22nd Skylark singing near Plough & Harrow.

27th Heard Chiff Chaff in Llwynteg Wood.

April 15th Saw Heron & 2 Wildducks by stream under Llwynteg Wood.

18th Heard Willow Warbler on Llwynteg.

24th Blackcap singing on Llwynteg.

23rd Swallows over Bryn Teg.

28th Jim heard cuckoo at Bryn Towy.

29th Heard Swifts in Carmarthen.

May 6th Saw 6 swifts in Carmarthen

20th Heard cuckoo near Llwynteg Wood on Waunllanne.

June 1st Spotted Flycatcher at B.M.

Sepr 9th Heard Chiffchaff

" 11th Many House Martens clinging to Bryn Teg wall & on roof & c swallows on Electric wires.

20th Most of the swallows & all the house martens left.

24th Heard Chiffchaff & Woodlark & Nuthatch.

Decr 28th Heard Nuthatch & Green Woodpecker at B.M. & Fieldfare

31st Heard thrush & Great Tits

1957. Jan 27th Heard Thrush, missel thrush, great tit, hedge sparrow & robin. Saw snowdrops & 2 primroses.

Feb 6th Heard Blackbird singing & hedge sparrow

11th Blackbird, chaffinch singing well.

March 10th Heard curlew on Llwynteg early & a lark over my house

24th Heard 3 Chiffchaffs, woodpigeons & hedge sparrows.

April 2nd Heard Willow Warbler.

21st Heard Cuckoo & Blackcap at Ross & Green Woodpecker.

May 4th Saw 5 swallows over Llwynteg.

May 12th 13th & 14th Heard cuckoo near Trevaughan.

18th Saw 2 House Martins at Elim.

19th Heard swift at Ffynonddrain & saw 5 in Carmarthen.

June 2nd Heard & saw Cuckoo at Ffynonddrain.

June 5th Mrs M Griffiths heard Corncrake l bank Towy below Carmarthen Bridge.

June 10th Saw a cock Redstart nr Penylan & 2 bullfinches near Alltyferin.

17th 2 young House Martins clinging to wall under my eaves & being fed by parents every minute, they cd fly quite strongly. 3 hedge sparrows singing all evening.

July 30th Swifts at Whitland.

Sepr 17th Saw about 1000 golden plover on moor above Gwyth Grug, winter plumage blackish above & greyish white below, pointed wings, rapid flight. Seven peewits c them.

Sepr 20th At Ferryside saw many curlews, peewits, 7 cormorants, Redshanks, 5 godwins, 3 turnstones c brown patterned backs, black band round chest, v. tame & busy at water edge. 1 Wheatear.

Decr 27th Thrush singing at Ffynondrain.

Jan 24/'58 Saw a snipe at Elim[40] by the ditch close to the Bridge & the caretaker said he saw it 5ft up a tree where he puts bread for birds!

31st Song Thrush, Missel Thrush, Hedge Sparrow, Nuthatch, Lark, Great Tit, Blue Tit singing at Ff.ddrain.

Feb 15th Lark singing & heard Curlew Ffynnonddrain.

23rd Storm Cock, chaffinch, Hedge Sparrow singing & pigeon Blackbird singing in C. a grand song.

March 31st Heard Chiff Chaff at Tin Works & in Ffynonddrain dingle. Blackbird & larks singing.

April 20th Blackcap singing at Bryn Towy.

21st Willow warbler singing in Ffynonddrain dingle.

26th Heard swallows over B.Teg & saw them 27th Llwynteg

May 2nd Saw House martens at Penylan. Many Blackcaps singing & Willow Warblers.

May 4th Heard Cuckoo at Ff.ddrain & Swifts in Carmarthen

May 13th Saw a fledged Robin in Parish Lane

29th Heard Woodlark singing at Midnight. House Martens clinging to Wall under my eaves, but nesting under Miss Thomas's eves.

31st Woodlark singing at Midnight near Llwynteg.

June 18th House Marten's nest being built under my S. eaves & big enough to sit on

July 16th A sparrow stole the marten's nest & laid 2 eggs & I got the tiler to pull down the nest.

October 5th Mr S. Davies writes of having seen 2 avocets flying over the estuary at Gwbert. Also having seen a Crossbill at a spot where his

40. Elim Chapel, Ffynnonddrain SN403216.

	brother has often seen them near Rhydcwmerrau.
Novr	Heard Hedge Sparrow, Chaffinch, Great Tit & Nuthatch at Ross. Heard Woodlark at Bryn Teg.
Decr 27th	Heard Storm cock[41] at Ffddrain
28th	Blackbird singing outside St Mary's Church
1959	
Feb 1st	January 30th Great Tit singing.
	In Carmarthen Missel Thrush singing loudly.
2nd	Thrush singing in Carmarthen & at Ffddrain.
	Heard dog fox near Tower Hill.
Feb 6th	Hedge Sparrow singing
14th	Greenfinch singing.
15th	Thrush, Great Tit, several chaffinches, missel thrush singing.
16th	Woodlark & Lark singing.
17th	Blackbird singing at sunset at B.M.
26th	Heard Curlews calling after dark. Primroses coming out.
Mch 1st	Heard Curlews. Hedge Sparrows, Gt tits, larks, yellow hammers singing. Picked Celandines & snowdrops.
27th	Chiff chaff at Ross
April 25th	Cuckoo singing on Merlin's Hill loudly.
30th	Linnets in my garden.
May 4th	2 Pied Flycatchers on my paddock netting
2nd	Swallow at Glasdyr.
5th	Swifts in Carmarthen.
17th	Heard Blackcaps singing at Brynteg.
23rd	Saw Redstart at B.M. seen a 2 weeks ago by Richard Vaughan
30th	Flycatcher at B.M. by Pond.
June 1st	Swallows began building in shed above Tess's kennel.
	Foxes said to have bred in oak wood below B.M. drive & Ieuan nearly caught a cub on High Rd near his house
July	1 Vixen & 2 cubs trapped & then killed crossing Parish Lane on way to get meat at Goddard's. 1 cub killed by cars by W. Mill & 1 Badger by Palace Wall.
August 16th	About 200 swallows on Telegraph lines near Solva.
	Heard Chiff Chaffs on the move.
	3 young swallows still sleep on edge of their nest facing inwards c tails hanging out in shed.
Sepr 23rd	Many House Martins at Tintern.
1960	
Jan 1st	Thrushes singing & Great Tit.
	Shan persecuting a Toad in BM stable yard.
Jan 10th	Tess killed a rabbit c Myxamatosis in Llwynteg Wood.
16th	2 hedge sparrows singing & saw 2 peewits near home.
31st	Missel Thrush & Gt Tits singing at Bryn Towy.
Feb 1st	Woodlark singing behind Bryn Teg.
14th	Chaffinch singing in spite of hard frost & severe cold.
27th	Heard Green Woodpecker at B.M.
March 2nd	Blackbird singing
3rd	Lark behind Bryn Teg. Curlew calling flying over. Chaffinches & Great Tits singing.
5th	Greenfinch singing at Ffynonddrain.
12th	Missel Thrush singing & Curlews at Ff.ddrain.
16th	Heard Chiffchaff in Llwynteg Wood.
	Hen Blackbird spends her time sitting on hinge of Tess's window & lets me come quite close.
April 9th	Willow warbler singing at Ffddrain.
April 25th	Heard Cuckoo, Blackcap at Ross.
28th	Several swallows at Ross.
May 5th	2 swallows have come back to my shed.
8th	Swifts in Carmarthen.
	Foxes at dustbins in Carmarthen & Cardiff.
22nd	Heard Spotted Woodpecker on Llwynteg tree.
June 11th	Saw a Flycatcher at B.M. where it has a nest.
11th	A beautiful privet hawk moth came into my room & spent some time on my vase of flowers, I let it out on 12th at dusk.
	Blackcaps singing everywhere.
October 5th	Heard Woodlark singing.
Novr 26th	Many thrushes in full song at Ffynonddrain.
	Nuthatches calling.
Decr 24th	Robin & Wren singing at Ffynonddrain.
1961	
Jan 8th	Heard Great Tit & Woodlark
	Robin has returned for food after several days absence.
Jan 15th	Missel Thrush singing in Carmarthen
19th	Thrushes singing at Ffynonddrain.
Feb 2nd	Chaffinch singing.
15th March	Heard Chiffchaff at Ffynonddrain
16 March	2 buzzards, treecreeper, chiffchaff, great tit, green Woodpecker, blackbird, missel thrush, thrush on Merlins Hill
20 March	Owl in yew tree by Penygraig quarry.
8th April	Heard Chiffchaff at B.M.
14th April	Blackcap at Ross
26 "	Cuckoo at Ross & heard on 21st.
29 "	Saw swallows
May 6th	Swifts at Chasewood.
"	Ravens at May Hill c nest.

41. Missel Thrush.

Dec[r]	Saw a dead Badger on Tunnel, killed doubtless by a car.
Jan 1st	Birds fed ℂ crumbs on Diningroom window, thrush, 2 blackbirds, 2 nuthatches, great tit, blue tit, wagtail, chaffinch
1962	
April 10th	Curlew on Tegfynyth.
" 22nd	Miss Duncan heard the cuckoo.
May 2nd	Heard cuckoo at Ross.
" 14th	Heard chiff chaff at Ffynonddrain.
" 15th	Heard Willow Warbler "
May 15th	Heard swallows & opened shed door for them & heard them inside.
May 27th	Heard Blackcaps sing at Tregonnings Portiscliffe & was told the Nightingale had been heard at Llanstephan.
Dec[r] 2nd	Thrushes singing at Ffynonddrain.
Jan 27th	An exhausted Bittern was found on the road between Laugharne & Pendine.
Feb 24th	Heard thrushes & Robins singing in spite of extreme frost & snow lying.
Feb 25th	A fox was found run over opposite the high school, killed by a car.
March 4th	V. slight rain & a Blackbird singing in wood behind my garden
March 17	Heard Chaffinch singing at Ffynonddrain.
April 7th	Heard several chiff chaffs singing at B.M.
April 19th	Heard several Willow Warblers singing here & at B.M. Mrs Sanderson has heard cuckoo several times at B.M. Following this week I heard cuckoo at Ffynonddrain & at B.M. several times.
6th May	Saw several swallows on line at Ffynonddrain.
21st May	Saw swifts at Gorslas lake & at B.M.
26th May	Saw a flycatcher at B.M. & heard Blackcap.
1964	
Feb 2nd	Heard ~~great~~ a spotted Woodpecker in oak on lawn. The snowdrops & 1 crocus are out & it is v. mild. Heard thrush & robin singing
Feb 21st	Thrushes, blackbirds & great tit singing
March 20th	Heard several blackbirds singing.
27th	Richard Vaughan saw a lesser spotted woodpecker & heard its note
28th	I heard Chiffchaff in turning to Bryn Towy. Richard saw a willow tit at Llanstephan & a heronry in some blackthorns on lime rocks.
19th April	Several people hear the cuckoo today & Jones heard her 3 days ago. I Heard the Willow warbler & the chaffinch singing.
12th May	Heard the Cuckoo
22nd August	Saw a number of housemartens flying round the house & calling.
	Heard a Woodpecker calling in oak wood below the house, probably a green woodpecker & saw a green Woodpecker on the path.
28th Aug	Mr Davies saw about 100 swallows flying low in a southerly direction, followed by groups of about 30 following
11th Feb 1965	Heard a Spotted Woodpecker drumming.
29th March 1965	Heard chaffinch & chiff chaff
27th April	Heard many willow wrens singing.
29th April 1965	Heard the cuckoo singing in upper pond field.
3rd July 1965	A young swift came into the sittingroom, it had eyelashes & light colour eyebrows & its beak opened nearly as far as the eyes. It had a spiderlike insect[42] on it which clung to its feathers tenaciously & buried in them, I failed to catch it. The swift had feathered legs & a pale grey bill.
17th Jan 1966	Heard a spotted Woodpecker on lawn.
12th March	Heard the Chaffinch singing the spotted Woodpecker calling & the nuthatch singing
11th March	Chiff Chaff singing in trees above tunnel.
March	Blackbird & chaffinch singing. Great tit, nuthatch singing.
April 26th	Heard the Willow Wren by the pond.
28th	Heard the cuckoo call up on Penygader.
May 6th	Saw some swallows.
June	Cuckoo & Corncrake at Llanegwad by Mrs Brunker.
August 22nd	Evans Penpolion says Wasps nests in hedge were 8ft apart Purple Beech leaves began falling.
1967	
Feb 12th	Heard the great tit singing.
March 26th	Heard chiffchaff in drive plantation.
31st	Heard willow warbler by Railway & by the pond.
April 27	Heard cuckoo on lawn. Swallows have been seen over Talley lake
May 11th	& arrived at B.M. back yard & stable.
May 1st	Saw 4 rabbits on lawn.
March	Heard the g[t] spotted Woodpecker drumming & a chaffinch singing.
March 28th	Heard a chiffchaff singing in drive wood & a blackbird singing.
April 19th	Saw 2 swallows in Back yard & next day 2 more down by stables.
25th May	Saw 3 swifts near the Catholic Church.
25th June	Saw a flycatcher on sundial on lawn.
17th Sepr	Found a golden crested wren hopping on floor in my bedroom.

42. Louse-fly or Flat-fly, *Crataerina pallida*, is host specific to the swift and is presumed to have evolved with the bird.

4th Jan 1969	Heard the geese flying up the valley.
Jan 10th	Heard great tit singing & heard nuthatches singing.
March 10th	Heard many chaffinches singing & saw one primrose on drive.
April 13th	Heard many willow warblers sing
April 25th	Heard many chiff chaffs sing
May 7th	Purple Beech came out. Heard swallow call over field at Pantyglien.

1970

April 28	Heard the Missel thrush, chiff chaff & green woodpecker singing.
29th	Purple Beech in leaf.
May 14	Heard the Cuckoo in oak in Saddlefield.
1971 April 13th	Heard the Willow Warbler & the Chiff Chaff.
April 27th	Heard cuckoo on Merlin's Hill.

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NOTES

1. Carmarthenshire Archive Service (CAS) Acc. No. 7730.
2. Primarily with the first Atlases of 1968-72 and 1981-84 although there were several smaller surveys but these usually concentrated on specific species. For those interested in more detail there are many articles in the back issues of *Bird Study* freely available on the BTO website – *www.bto.org*
3. From 1982-1991, compiled by Carmarthenshire Bird Club from 1992 onwards.
4. Probably Mary Saunders from Court Henry.
5. CAS, Bryn Myrddin/137.
6. Grey Owl – Archibald Stansfeld Belaney (September 18, 1888–April 13, 1938). He was born near Hastings. Hastings Museum has a permanent display on 'Grey Owl'. See *http://canadianicon.org/table-of-contents/grey-owl-white-indian/* for more information. As a British native living in Canada, he was most notable as an author and one of the 'most effective apostles of the wilderness'. He was on tour in England in 1935-36 and again in 1937-38.
7. See *www.beddingtonfarmlands.org.uk* for a history of the sewage farm.
8. Regularly reported in the *London Bird Report*, published by the London Natural History Society (LNHS).
9. I contacted the LNHS but there is no record of Mary Edith Morris either as a member or having any communication with them.
10. Local naturalist John Brunker took part. See *The Carmarthenshire Antiquary*, Vol. III, part I, pp. 115-116 for his list of species recorded. See also CAS CDX 259/9 & 11 for further nature notes by him.
11. CAS CDX/36.
12. See Maria Augusta Trapp, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, for her account of the events that followed.