



Nightjar

Description and status

Nightjars are summer visitors to Wales arriving in mid May after migrating from Africa. They like heathland and forest clearings. Nightjar are incredibly hard to see with almost perfect camouflage and are only active for a short time at dawn and dusk when they feed on insects, mainly moths. However, the male defends his territory with a distinctive, purring, night-time song, called 'churring', and hearing this on a warm summer's night can be a magical experience.

In Wales, nightjars are found in parts of South and North Wales generally in clearings in conifer forest or adjacent areas. They need bare ground to nest on when they return from their wintering grounds in Africa, creating a shallow scrape and relying on their astonishing camouflage to keep them hidden.

From being a widespread and common bird, Nightjars declined dramatically through the 20th century as their natural habitats were lost. Numbers have partly recovered since the 1980s where forest plantations are re-stocked, and these now hold 80% of pairs, so management here is critical to maintaining the Welsh population.

Threats

Heathland is a particularly important habitat for nightjars, but much of our heathland has been lost since the 1800s and nightjars have increasingly used the open areas in recently felled conifer plantations. Their numbers have gone up, but this is an artificial system and subject to changes of its own. Nightjars are dependent on the protection, management and restoration of heathlands and the continued availability of clear-fell/young plantations in conifer forests.

Actions required

- Appropriate habitat management work on heathland.
- Restore and re-create lowland heathland currently under plantation forestry. A significant proportion of the population also breeds on commercial forestry sites; the appropriate management of these sites to create clearings and restore heathland is also important.
- Safeguard heathland sites from the effects of inappropriate forestry planting and building development.

Species Champion



Vikki Howells MS
Party: Welsh Labour
Region: Cynon Valley



More information

- www.rspb.org.uk/nightjar

Lead members

giving nature a home

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Pencampwr Rhywogaeth



Vikki Howells AS
Plaid: Welsh Labour
Bro: Cynon Valley

Mwy o wybodaeth

- www.rspb.org.uk/nightjar

Prif aelod

rspb yn rhoi cartref i fyd natur

Troellwr Mawr

Disgrifiad a statws

Mae'r troellwyr mawr yn ymweld â Chymru dros yr haf, gan gyrraedd ganol fis Mai ar ôl mudo o Affrica. Maen nhw'n hoffi rhostiroedd a llennyrch. Mae'n anodd iawn gweld troellwyr mawr gan fod ganddynt guddliw perffaith bron, a dim ond am gyfnod byr ar doriad gwawr a gyda'r nos maen nhw'n weithgar, pan fyddant yn bwyta pryfed, gwyfynod yn bennaf. Serch hynny, mae'r gwryw yn amddiffyn ei diriogaeth gyda chân unigryw, canu grwndi gyda'r nos, a elwir yn 'gân droelli', a gall clywed hyn ar noson braf o haf fod yn brofiad hudolus.

Yng Nghymru, mae troellwyr mawr i'w gweld mewn rhannau o'r de a'r gogledd, mewn llennyrch mewn coedwig conwydd neu ardaloedd cyfagos fel arfer.
Mae angen tir noeth arnynt i nythu ynddo pan fyddant yn dychwelyd o diroedd gaeafol Affrica, gan greu pwll bas a dibynnu ar eu cuddliw anhygoel i'w cadw o'r golwg. Mae eu niferoedd yng Nghymru wedi lleihau'n sylweddol ers y 1950au yn sgil colli cynefin addas ar gyfer eu hamodau nythu 'naturiol', ond mae arolygon yn 2004 ac yn fwy diweddar na hynny wedi dangos bod eu niferoedd wedi cynyddu fymryn.

O fod yn aderyn cyffredin, mae niferoedd troellwyr mawr wedi dirywio'n ddramatig trwy'r 20fed ganrif wrth i'w cynefinoedd naturiol gael eu colli. Mae'r niferoedd wedi gwella'n rhannol ers yr 1980au lle mae planhigfeydd coedwig yn cael eu hail-stocio, ac mae'r rhain bellach yn dal 80% o barau, felly mae rheolaeth yma yn hanfodol i gynnal poblogaeth Cymru.

Bygythiadau

Mae rhostir yn gynefin hynod bwysig i droellwyr mawr, ond rydym wedi colli llawer o'n rhostiroedd ers y 1800au, ac mae'r troellwyr mawr wedi dod i ddefnyddio mwy a mwy o fannau agored mewn planhigfeydd conwydd wedi cwympo.
Mae eu niferoedd wedi cynyddu, ond mae hon yn system artiffisial ac yn amodol ar newidiadau ei hun. Mae sicrhau bod ein rhostiroedd yn cael eu diogelu, eu rheoli a'u hadfer yn hollbwysig i droellwyr mawr, yn ogystal â digon o blanhigfeydd ifanc/ wedi cwympo'n glir mewn coedwigoedd conwydden.

Gweithredu angenrheidiol

- Gwaith rheoli cynefinoedd priodol ar rostiroedd.
- Adfer ac ailgreu rhostiroedd isel sydd dan goedwigaeth planhigfeydd.
- Diogelu safleoedd rhostir rhag effeithiau plannu coedwigaeth a datblygu adeiladau amhriodol.

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