



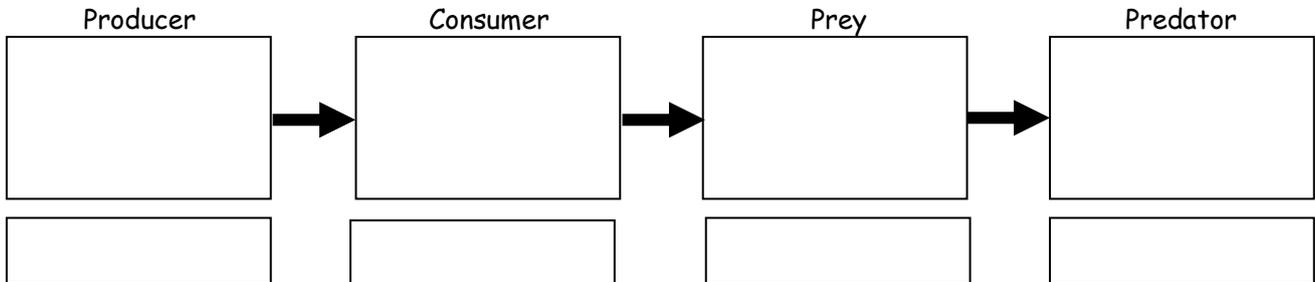
Penmoelallt... a woodland lost in time.

Way Station 5  
www.merthyrnats.org.uk  
GPS location: N 51°46.45  
W 003°25.59  
O.S co-ordinates: SO 016 093

# BIRDS

## Try these activities!

1. Can you make a food chain with a bird in it? Look at the other side of this leaflet for help. Draw your answer in the boxes below. Write names for your drawings underneath them.



2. Many birds in the wood like to eat insects. Think of 6 insects that might be found in the wood and then tick them off when you see them. Maybe have a competition with your friend and see who can find all of their insects first! If you can't spot the real thing, walk along the 'Broad Walk' and look at the insects carved into the trees (there are 10 in total).

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

## 3. Tempt birds into your own garden by making them this tasty recipe:

- Mix 3 heaped tablespoons of warm lard with some bird seed, raw peanuts, raisins, and grated cheese.
- Thread some string through the bottom of an empty yoghurt pot and tie a thick knot inside.
- Press the mixture into the pot and leave in the fridge until it hardens.
- Remove the yoghurt pot and hang the solid mixture outside in the garden.

4. Birds come in many different colours. Look out for feathers on the ground as you walk around the wood. How many different colours can you find? Use the websites on the back of this leaflet to identify which bird each feather comes from. Try making a scrapbook of all your finds.

**How to spot a bird**

- Sit quietly.
- Don't make any sudden movements.
- Use some binoculars.
- Use a bird book or access the RSPB website to identify the birds you spot.

## 5. Bird feeders can be expensive so have a go at making your own!

- Cut a hole halfway up the side of a large plastic bottle which will be big enough for birds to get the seed out.
- Make small holes in the bottom of the bottle so that rain water can drain away.
- Tie some string around the bottle's neck and hang it up somewhere in your garden.
- Fill the bottle with bird seed up to the bottom of the hole.



Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, without whose help, the Penmoelallt Woodland Project would not have been possible.



# BIRDS: some information



## Wren

- Length: 9-10cm
- Nest: Hedges, sheds
- Eggs: 5-8, white
- Food: Insects, seeds
- Song: Rattling notes, harsh 'chuck' sound



## Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

- Length: 14-15cm
- Nest: High, tree hole
- Eggs: 3-8, white and shiny
- Food: Larvae, spiders, insects
- Song: Piercing 'kee kee' sound
- Other: Shy, males have red cap



## Coal Tit

- Length: 11-12cm
- Nest: Holes close to the ground
- Eggs: 8-9, white with brown spots
- Food: Insects, seeds.
- Song: High 'pitchoo' sound
- Other: Forms feeding flocks with other species in winter



## Buzzard

- Length: 50-60cm
- Nest: Woodland or farmland trees
- Eggs: 2-5, white, brown-purple blotches
- Food: small animals and birds



## Willow Warbler



- Length: 10-11cm
- Nest: Woodland
- Eggs: 3-9, white with red-brown speckles
- Food: Insects, spiders, berries
- Song: Downward scale, 'hoo-eet' sound
- Other: Here Apr-Sept

- Song: Cat-like 'me-uw' sound
- Other; Britain's most common bird of prey

## Cuckoo

- Length: 32-34 cm
- Nest: Takes 10 seconds to lay one egg in another bird's nest
- Eggs: 1-20, similar to host's eggs
- Food: Insects, especially hairy caterpillars
- Song: 'cuc-oo' sound
- Other: Here Mar-Sept, In the RED category of threatened species



Many other types of bird live in or visit Penmoelallt Wood.

These include:

The Blue Tit, Wood Warbler, Dunnock, Great Tit, Shrike, Willow Tit, Red Kite, Sparrow Hawk, Nut Hatch and many more. Sit quietly and you may hear and see some of them!

## Remember to keep the Countryside Code!

- Be Safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates & property as you find them.
- Leave machinery and livestock alone.
- Protect plants & animals and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.

## You want to know more?

Visit these websites:

- <http://www.rspb.org.uk/youth/>
- <http://www.nwf.org/Kids.aspx>
- <http://kids.yahoo.com/animals/birds>
- [www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/birdsong.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/birdsong.shtml)