

How to find secretive wildlife in reedbeds

Reedbed habitats like this are comprised of a special type of grass called Phragmites and they can be found at places such as Hendre Lake, Parc Tredelerch, Newport Wetlands and Magor Marsh. They're really important places for lots of different wildlife: birds, mammals and insects and plants as well, and some of those animals can be very difficult to see when you visit a reedbed.

The key is to listen for the wildlife, and I am going to go through the bearded tit, the bittern and the kingfisher, because if you learn those sounds, you're very much more likely to see them or certainly encounter them.

So the bearded tit, for example, is a beautiful small colourful bird that goes around in small groups and loves living in reedbed habitats. You can go many, many months or years sometimes never seeing one. But if you listen for the call that's going to increase your chances of encountering one. They have ping-pong-like sound, which sounds just like this...

When you hear that, you need to be looking at the tops of the reeds, because that's where family groups of bearded tits will be flying. And if you're lucky they may well perch on the top of a reed before they carry on flying away.

The next bird is a cryptic heron that lives in the reedbeds. It's the bittern and the bittern generally gives itself away, early in the year throughout the spring time, where the males to give off this booming

Sut i ddod o hyd i fywyd gwyllt cuddiedig mewn gwllâu cyrs

Mae cynefinoedd gwllâu cyrs fel hyn yn cynnwys math arbennig o laswellt o'r enw '*phragmites*' ac fe'u gwelir mewn lleoedd fel Llyn Hendre, Parc Tredelerch, Gwlyptiroedd Casnewydd a Chors Magwyr. Maen nhw'n lleoliadau pwysig iawn ar gyfer amrywiaeth helaeth o fywyd gwyllt: adar, mamaliaid, pryfed a phlanhigion hefyd, a gall rhai o'r anifeiliaid hynny fod yn anodd iawn eu gweld pan ewch i ymweld â gwely cyrs.

Yr ateb yw gwrando am synau bywyd gwyllt, ac rydw i am ganolbwyntio ar y titw barfog, aderyn y bwn a glas y dorlan, oherwydd os ydych chi'n dysgu synau'r adar hyn, rydych chi'n llawer mwy tebygol o'u gweld neu'n sicr dod ar eu traws.

Mae'r titw barfog yn aderyn bach lliwgar a hardd sy'n hedfan mewn grwpiau bach ac wrth ei fodd yn byw mewn gwllâu cyrs. Gallwch chi fynd am fisoedd lawer neu weithiau flynyddoedd heb weld yr un. Ond os gwrandewch am yr alwad, bydd hynny'n cynyddu'ch siawns o ddod ar draws un. Mae'r alwad yn debyg i sŵn tincian, fel hyn...

Pan glywch chi'r sŵn hyn, edrychwch tuag at ben uchaf y cyrs, oherwydd dyna le bydd grwpiau teuluol o'r titw barfog yn hedfan. Ac os ydych chi'n ddigon ffodus, mae'n bosib iawn y byddan nhw'n sefyll ar ben y cyrs cyn iddyn nhw barhau ar eu taith a hedfan i ffwrdd.

Mae'r aderyn nesaf yn grëyr glas cuddiedig sy'n byw yn y gwllâu cyrs. Dyma aderyn y bwn, a bydd y gwrywod yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn a thrwy gydol y gwanwyn, yn

sound, which sounds like someone blowing through a bottle. Here it is...

And when they give off that booming sound you know that there is a male bittern in there saying, "This is my patch!", and they will be attracting a mate, but he's also telling other male bitterns that he is there in that reedbed habitat. Now, unless they fly, they are difficult to see, but in May-June time, if there's young, female bitterns will do feeding flights from the nest to another area where there's some good feeding habitat, maybe for different fishes and eels, and bring that food back to the chicks. So that's a good time in May or June to be looking for bitterns flying over.

The next bird is the kingfisher, a shy bird. Again, you're listening for a dog-whistle like call. And when you hear that, you need to be quick, you need to be looking for a flash of blue or orange as the bird flies past. Here's the call...

And when you hear that, look for the bird flashing past. When they're perching, they often perch in low lying plants and shrubs just above the water. So if you do hear one it's worth just scanning along the water's edge in case there's a kingfisher perched on a branch or something just above the water where it can do some fishing.

And that leads me on to a couple of mammals, the otter and the water vole, because the otter sounds very similar to a kingfisher. It's also got this similar kind of shrill whistle like call, but of course, rather than it flashing past quickly, you may hear it with

dueddol o ddatgelu eu lleoliad drwy greu sŵn "bŵm" rhyfeddol, sy'n swnio fel rhywun yn chwythu pen botel. Dyma'r sŵn hynny...

A phan glywir y "bŵm" hyn, rydych yn gwybod bod aderyn y bwn gwrywaidd o fewn y cyrs yn datgan, "Dyma fy nhiriogaeth i!", ac yn denu cymar, ond mae hefyd yn rhybuddio adar y bwn gwrywaidd eraill ei fod yno o fewn y cyrs. Oni bai eu bod nhw'n hedfan, maen nhw'n anodd eu gweld, ond ym misoedd Mai-Mehefin, os oes cywion, bydd adar y bwn benywaidd yn hedfan o'r nyth i fannau eraill sy'n gynefinoedd da i fwydo, efallai manau lle ceir gwahanol bysgod a llyswennod, ac yna'n dychwelyd â'r bwyd yn ôl i'r cywion. Felly mae mis Mai neu Fehefin yn gyfnod da i fod yn chwilio am adar y bwn yn hedfan uwchben.

Yr aderyn nesaf yw glas y dorlan, sy'n aderyn swil. Tro hyn, rydych chi'n gwranddo am alwad tebyg i chwiban ci. A phan glywch yr alwad hon, mae angen i chi fod yn gyflym ac mae angen i chi chwilio am fflach o las neu oren wrth i'r aderyn hedfan heibio. Dyma'r alwad...

Pan glywch chi alwad glas y dorlan, edrychwch am yr aderyn yn fflachio heibio. Pan nad ydyn nhw'n hedfan, maen nhw'n aml yn sefyll mewn planhigion a llwyni isel ychydig uwchben y dŵr. Felly os ydych chi'n eu clywed, mae'n werth craffu ar hyd ymyl y dŵr rhag ofn bod aderyn yn sefyll ar gangen neu rywbeth tebyg ychydig uwchben y dŵr lle gall bysgota.

Ac mae hynny'n fy arwain at ddau famal, y dyfrgi a llygoden bengron y dŵr, oherwydd mae'r dyfrgi yn swnio'n debyg iawn i las y dorlan. Mae galwad y dyfrgi hefyd yn debyg i chwiban uchel yn gwichian, ond wrth

some splashing, or just hear it in one particular location in the reedbed or the water. And if we're lucky and there is some open water, you want to be looking for a terrier dog sized animal really, very dark brown, on the water surface; the head just above the water, the body often level with the water surface, and if you've got that squeaking as well, then you know that you've got otters.

And finally, the water vole, this wonderful quite large vole that lives in this reedbed habitat. It's been reintroduced to Magor Marsh and can be found in the waterways, the reens and the ditches for example. And when you're walking along, the main way in which you know you've got a water vole is by the plopping sound as it dives into the water with a big plop. Also, when you're walking along walkways, where the water vole may have been feeding, you're looking for a sort of 45 degree bite cut on plants that are growing along the waterway and that's very diagnostic of water voles. And also perhaps little patches along the water's edge, where they may have been depositing some of their poos, after they've been feeding.

So, although reedbed wildlife can be pretty difficult to see at times, by listening for those pinging sounds of the bearded tit, the booming call of the bittern, the dog whistle like calls of the kingfisher and the otter, and also the plopping of the water sound of the water vole, you've got a good chance of encountering these wildlife next time you visit a reedbed here on the Gwent Levels.

gwrs, yn hytrach na'i weld yn fflachio heibio yn gyflym, efallai y byddwch chi'n ei glywed gyda sblash o ddŵr, neu ei glywed mewn un lleoliad penodol o fewn y gwely cyrs neu'r dŵr. Ac os ydych chi'n lwcus a bod dŵr agored gerllaw, chwiliwch am anifail brown tywyll iawn maint daeargi ar wyneb y dŵr; y pen ychydig uwchben y dŵr, y corff yn aml yr un lefel ag wyneb y dŵr, ac os glywch chi'r gwichian hwnnw hefyd, yna rydych chi'n gwybod mai dyfrgi sydd gyda chi.

Ac yn olaf, llygoden bengron y dŵr, y llygoden ddŵr bendigedig, eithaf mawr sy'n byw yn y gwelâu cyrs hyn. Mae wedi cael ei hailgyflwyno i Gors Magwyr ac fe'i gwelir yn y dyfrffyrdd, y rhewynau a'r ffosydd. A phan rydych chi'n cerdded ar hyd y ffosydd hyn, y brif ffordd o wybod bod llygoden bengron y dŵr yn bresennol yw trwy glywed sŵn "plop" wrth iddi blymio i'r dŵr. Hefyd, wrth i chi gerdded, edrychwch am arwyddion o le mae wedi bod yn bwydo. Chwiliwch am laswellt gyda marciau cnoi nodweddiadol ar ongl o 45° sy'n tyfu ar hyd y dyfrffyrdd; arwydd cryf o lygoden bengron y dŵr. A hefyd efallai llecynnau yma ac acw ar hyd ymyl y dŵr, lle mae wedi gwneud ei baw ar ôl bwydo.

Felly, er y gall bywyd gwyllt fod yn eithaf anodd eu gweld mewn gwelâu cyrs ar brydiau, trwy wrando am dincian y titw barfog, "bŵm" aderyn y bwn, galwadau tebyg i chwiban ci gan glas y dorlan a'r dyfrgi, a'r sŵn "plop" gan lygoden bengron y dŵr, mae gennych siawns go dda o ddod ar draws y bywyd gwyllt hwn y tro nesaf y byddwch chi'n ymweld â'r gwelâu cyrs yma ar Wastadeddau Gwent.

