

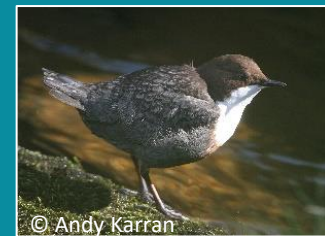


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Natur  
**Gwent**  
Wildlife Trust

# Dipper

## *Cinclus cinclus*

## Species Action Plan



The dipper is a year-round resident, with a northerly and westerly distribution in the UK. In Gwent, they are fairly common on suitable watercourses, and most strongly associated with the smaller, rocky watercourses of the uplands. They have a unique lifestyle among the songbirds, as they are able to wade, swim and dive in running water. These behaviours allow the dipper to catch underwater prey, including aquatic invertebrates and small fish, which are typically consumed below the surface.

Dippers nest in both natural and man-made structures along water courses. Common locations include natural crevices in caves, waterfalls and riverbanks, as well as cavities and ledges in artificial structures such as bridges, walls, weirs and culverts. They will readily nest in artificial nest boxes, if suitably positioned. With their dependence on riverine habitats and prey, dippers can be a good indicator of the quality of water and are relatively easy to monitor.

### Status

❖ Green List (Wales) | Amber List (UK) - Birds of Conservation Concern

### Threats

- ❖ Declines in water quality, with increased pollution and acidification
- ❖ Climate change and extreme weather events such as flooding and drought
- ❖ Feral mink predation
- ❖ Loss of nest sites (e.g. due to bridge repairs)

### Current Action

- ❖ BTO ringing and nest record schemes
- ❖ Nest box installations

	Objectives	Action
A	No net loss of occupied area for existing populations	1,2,3,5
B	Populations increasing in occupied area, abundance and viability	1,2,3,5
C	Water quality levels improved through strengthened Government Policy (cross borders)	1-5
D	Knowledge and understanding of the species increased, leading to appreciation, sense of responsibility and action	1-5

	Key Actions	Target
1	Support existing annual surveys for dippers and water quality monitoring. Establish/support training programme	2025
2	Produce/distribute advice booklet and work with key stakeholders to ensure appropriate habitat management	2025 2030
3	Undertake survey and mapping to identify populations, key areas and opportunities to build connectivity	2027
4	Increase awareness through media and publishing platforms, talks, events and training	2030
5	Promote nature-based solutions and riparian habitat management to reduce flooding, erosion, pollution	2030

**Lead:** Gwent Wildlife Trust

**Key partners:** TBC