

FLEDGEMORE 
NEST RECORDING GROUP

**Colour ringing starling
(*Sturnus vulgaris*) in
VC41**

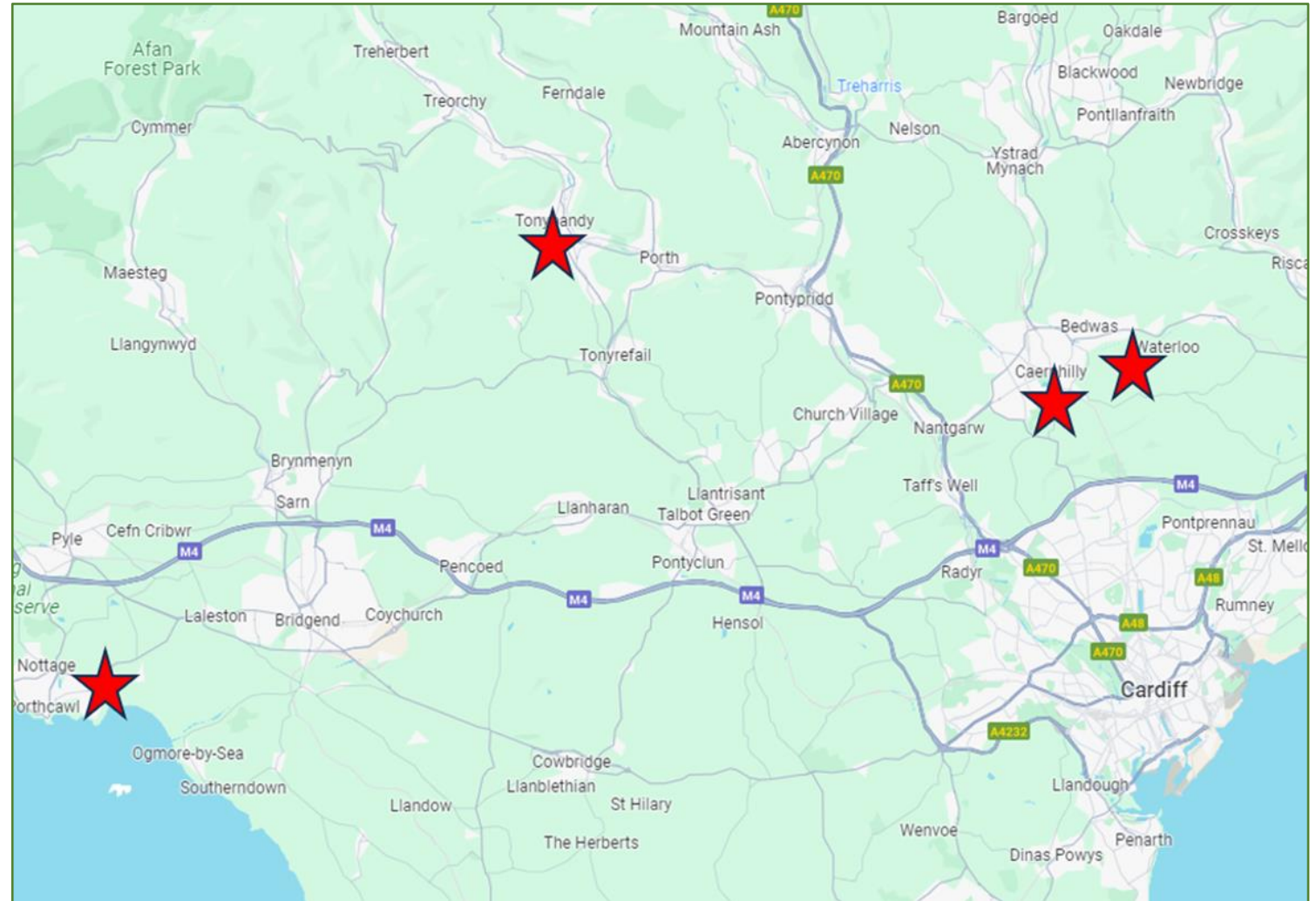
A large flock of starlings flying in a circular pattern against a blue sky. The birds are densely packed in some areas, forming a thick, dark ring. The background is a clear, light blue sky with a few wispy clouds near the horizon. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of trees or a landscape.

Why starlings?

- Red listed in the UK due to a rapid decline in the population since 1980's
- 53% decrease in UK population between 1995 and 2020 (64% in Wales)

Who and where?

- Wayne Morris - Newton
- Martin Thomas - Tonypandy
- Andrew Bevan - Caerphilly
- Trevor Fletcher - Rudry



How and when

- Capture using baited walk-in traps
- Colour ringing of ADULT birds during the breeding season (April to August inclusive)
- BTO metal ring applied to adult and young birds all year around



Ageing and sexing adults



Next step...

Re-trapping Adults for Survival (RAS)

RAS gathers information which is analysed by BTO to produce estimates for **adult survival** rates and **re-encounter** rates.

Currently 23 starling RAS projects in UK/Ireland - none in Wales!

UK RAS data provides 'good' survival data for starling, enabling survival trends to be produced (a steady rise in survival to 2021 from a low in 2007).

What we need for a RAS project

- Re-sight 40- 50 colour ringed starling during the breeding season in a well-defined study area (may include those birds ringed in 2023).
- Continue to install boxes in suitable locations to encourage loose colonies and monitor nests /colour ring adults at these sites.



We need help!!

If you spot a white darvic ring with **three black letters**, starting with **T** or **V**, **REPORT** your sighting , including your name, details of the ring , date, time and location (name and grid reference) of the sighting to:

starlingsightings@outlook.com

Diolch yn fawr/ Thank you

