**Ymarfer 19**

We are facing two inextricably linked crises – the climate emergency and the massive decline of nature across the globe. Conserving wildlife and addressing climate change have sometimes seemed like opposites in the environmental world, but both climate and biodiversity are in crisis, and we need to understand the increasing connections between them.

Numerous scientific studies have now looked at the impact of climate change on nature globally and in the UK. There are some apparent positives, such as increasing numbers of certain birds spotted by British birdwatchers over recent decades. We are also seeing ‘new’ species of butterfly and dragonfly.

But the good news is limited. Not only is it too early to say what the impact of some recent immigrants may be on other native species, but globally the impact of climate on nature remains overwhelmingly negative. Extreme ‘heat events’ are bleaching coral reefs. Tropical and sub-tropical forests are drying out, with the result that they become much more vulnerable to wildfire, whether caused by a dry lightning strike or a carelessly tossed cigarette butt.

Anyone who cares passionately about nature would therefore be wise to act on climate change as well, and there is growing evidence of actions that benefit both, such as tree planting, restoring wetlands and creating green spaces in cities.

None of these measures can replace the overriding need to wean our economies off fossil fuels and overhaul our agricultural systems and diets, but we should scale up all available methods before it’s too late.