

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2011 No 1

MONTHLY SUMMARY – JANUARY

4th March 2011



HIGHLIGHTS

Taiga Bean Goose
Greenland White-fronted Goose
Sooty Shearwater
Red-necked Grebe
Bittern
Grey Phalarope
Little Auk
Great Grey Shrike
Hooded Crow
Waxwing
Mealy Redpoll
Arctic Redpoll
Hawfinch

Four at North Sunderland on 3rd.
Four at Woodhorn from 15th.
An unusual winter sighting of one at Cresswell on 11th.
Noticeable winter influx.
Sightings at Cresswell, Druridge, East Chevington and Gosforth.
Single North at Druridge on 8th.
Several records both alive and dead.
Single in Harwood Forest from 9th.
Single near Weldon Bridge on 8th.
Many sightings especially in S/E.
Influx with sightings at several sites.
First county record since 1996 with one at Widdrington Tip from 3rd to 8th.
A popular duo at Morpeth from 16th.

CONTENTS

The next **indoor meeting** is at Newcastle Falcons on Thursday 10th March at 7pm **Tracking Migration by Nick Moran**.

The next **Field Trip** is to Kielder on March 20th.

Descriptions Wanted for 2010 rarities.

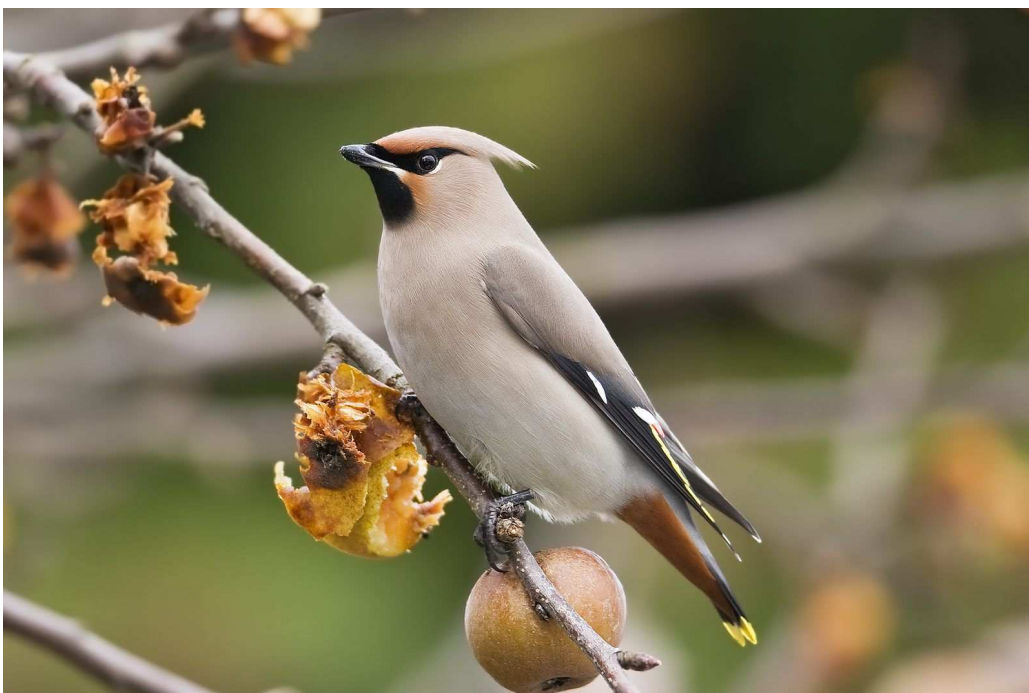
Not Bothered – two intrepid birders scour North Tyneside.

Result of the **record cards** survey.

Bring out your dead – an appeal for corpses.

Indoor Meetings - March 31st **Fundraising talk** for Atlas and **Members' Night** contributions requested.

Seaton Sluice Watch Tower



A handsome Waxwing at Cramlington
by Colin Bradshaw

WEATHER

1st to 7th: The month began with fine weather but some wintry showers, especially in the east, and sharp frosts. On 5th, southward-moving weather fronts gave heavy falls of snow to many areas. By the end of 6th there was as much as 50 cm in higher parts of the north-east. This was followed by an exceptionally cold night. The following nights were almost as cold.

8th to 14th: During the evening of 8th heavy snow spread to parts of Yorkshire. The 9th and 10th were bitterly cold, especially near the east coast in a strong north-easterly wind. From 12th to 14th, the very cold spell came to an end as rain and less cold air spread in from the south-west although most places experienced a further interval of snow. There was also some localised freezing rain and fog became widespread at times.

15th to 24th: Temperatures rose closer to average, although there were still some sharp frosts and fog at times. Bands of rain spread in from the west. In addition it was still cold enough for the rain to turn to snow at times.

25th to 31th: The last week started with a ridge of high pressure bringing generally settled, albeit rather cold, conditions with overnight frosts in many areas. However on 27th weather fronts moved southwards bringing rain. During 28th further fronts moved in from the west bringing another spell of rain, followed by a return to a cold north to north-westerly airflow from 29th to the end of the month. Many areas were dry with plenty of sunshine during these last few days, although there were reports of 10 to 15 cm of fresh snow in parts of Northumberland on 30th.

CLASSIFIED LIST

The following account consists of unchecked reports. The species/subspecies marked * require descriptions.

A complete list of all sightings that need notes is included in the NTBC website www.ntbc.org.uk under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2009 page 224.

The Inland and Coastal Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) tables are at the rear of the bulletin. These contain counts additional to those in the Classified List.

TARGET SPECIES

The target species for 2011 are Gadwall, Snipe and Stonechat.

Please report all records for these species.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Five flew N at Southfield Lea (Cramlington) on 2nd (DM) and two flew over High Heaton (Newcastle) on 24th. By far the largest gathering was 167 taking off from QEII Lake just after dawn on 16th to feed in fields to the north of the lake (CDH). Other gatherings were 43 at nearby Woodhorn on 21st (RHAr//Mar), 36 at Capheaton on 19th (STE), 32 in the Tweed Estuary on 14th, 12 at Mount Carmel (Norham) on 23rd (MHu) and ten at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 24th (DM). One to nine were at Arcot Pond, the Blyth Estuary, East Chevington North Pool, Elswick Wharf, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Grindon Lough, Hauxley, Linton Pond, Newcastle Quayside, Ovingham, West Hartford and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.



A juvenile Whooper with Mute Swans
QEII Lake on 26th January
by Ron Armitage

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Three flew N at dusk at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (PCF). The only large gathering was that in the Linton area peaking at 43 on 1st, with 37 still present on 23rd (TB/IRD *et al.*). Elsewhere 17 (seven juveniles) were at Mount Carmel (Norham) on 23rd (MHu), 18 (three juveniles) at Harper's Heugh (Budle Bay) on 1st (JR), and 14 (four juveniles) at Hепple on 21st (TRD). One to six were at Catcleugh Reservoir, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Eshott, Ingram, Killingworth Lake, Linton Pond, Newton Pool, Otterburn, QEII Lake, Swallow Pond, West Ord and Woodhorn.

***Taiga Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis fabalis*

Four were at Burnhouse Moor Farm (North Sunderland) on 3rd (MSH/CGK).

***Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis rossicus*

One was amongst 2,000 Pink-footed Geese at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (TB).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Northerly movement was noted during the month with 304 over Alexandra Park (Cramlington) on 18th (DM), 240 at Cheswick Black Rocks on 19th, 230 at Cocklawburn on 17th, 200 at Berwick Little Beach on 5th (MHu), 200 at Rothbury on 26th (TRD/JD), 72 at East Ord on 13th (MHu), 70+ over Northburn (Cramlington) on 16th with 50 there on 26th (PJA/LJM), 50 at Ordley on 2nd (BNR) and Blyth Harbour on 11th (BB), 40 at St Mary's Island on 13th (BB), 36 at Black Knowe on 27th (SW), 35 over Inner Farne on 18th (MH/AA), 25 at Kittybrewster (Blyth) on 1st (DM/STH/PJA) and 23 at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF). One to 37 were at Big Waters, Cheswick, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Hepple, Newton Pool, Tughill Links, Wark and the Whiteside tetrad.

Eurasian White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Eight were at Newton Flash on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA) with seven on Newton Pool with Greylag Geese on 11th (TRD/JD).

Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*

A group of four were in Woodhorn/Ashington Hospital area from 16th-26th (AT/MSH/JGS *et al.*).

An un-raced bird was feeding with Greylag Geese in fields next to the River Tyne at Bywell on 30th (AA).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

On 17th 150+ flew NW at Ross Village and 100+ flew N at Spindleston on 20th (MSH/JCD). Smaller N movements were 25 at Thirwell Common on 6th and 15 at Druridge Pools on 3rd. Eight flew S at Ordley on 18th. The highest counts were 1,050 briefly at the Beehive Flash (Earsdon) on 19th before flying off N (MNC), 327 near Druridge Pools on 25th (MSH), 310 in the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), 275 at Newton Flash on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA), 270 at Caistron on 21st (TRD), 265 at Outchester Farm (Waren Mill) on 3rd (CGK/MSH), 250 in fields N of Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR), 221 at Crowhall Farm (Holywell Dene) on 1st (MSH), 183 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo), 152 at Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (PRM), 127 at Elford on 17th, 114 at Yarrow Slake on 26th and 76 at Prestwick Carr on 2nd. One to 25 were noted at Annstead Farm (Seahouses), Berwick Hill, Big Waters, Cresswell, Fenham-le-Moor, Hauxley NR, and QEII Lake).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

The highest counts were 172 at Ladyburn Lake on 4th (TRD/JD), 98 at Angerton Lake on 30th (MSH), 40 at Caistron on 19th (STE), 30 at QEII Lake on 16th (CDH), 28 at Grindon Lough on (PRM), 22 at Leazes Park Lake (Newcastle) on 4th (DM) and 21 at Newburn Riverside CP on 9th (PCF). One to nine were at Druridge Pools, West Ord and Woodhorn Flashes.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

On 8th a group of 14 was on the north side of Budle Bay (TRD/JD). Two were in the Woodhorn/QEII Lake area from 1st-16th with one present until 27th (DM/STH/PJA *et al.*).



Barnacle Goose at QEII Lake on 27th January
by Peter Fletcher

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*

300 remained on Holy Island throughout the month (IK). Two were near QEII CP on 1st (DM/STH/PJA). Two were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 1st (DM/STH/PJA) and at Easington Demesne on 3rd (MSH/CGK) and a single was in the Blyth Estuary on 2nd (MSH).

Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

On 1st 12 flew N at Stag Rocks (TRD/JD). At Fenham Flats 3,004 were present on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA). 1,100 were at Ross on 8th (TRD/JD), 300 at Easington Demesne on 3rd (MSH/CGK) and 60 were at Elford on 17th (MSH). One to 14 were noted from Annstead Farm (Seahouses), Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Meadow Haven (Berwick) and Newbiggin Golf Course.

A gathering of 223 at Boulmer Flash on 14th was mainly comprised of pale-bellied birds (JSB/EC). At Cocklawburn 29 un-raced birds grazed in coastal fields on 12th (Mhu).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Fenham Flats held peaks of 950 on 8th (TRD/JD) and 698 on 6th (AA/MH), and 131 were in Budle Bay on 6th (MH/AA). A count of 32 at Beal saltmarsh on 15th was unusual for this section of Lindisfarne NNR (IK). Further south, 13 were at Cresswell Pond on 28th (MT/NT), six at East Chevington on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA), six at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (HRS), and one to three at the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island and Elswick. Two were at Bothal Pond on 20th (AT) and Prestwick Carr on 16th (PCF), and further inland two were at Branton GP on 15th (IBDa/KDa).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

About 500 at Doddington on 2nd was a large number for that area (TRD/JD). Other peak counts were 500 at the 'rocket field' (Holy Island) on 6th (JMA), 440 at Cresswell Pond on 1st (DM/STH/PJA), 285 at Druridge Pools on 31st (IDR), 267 at Hauxley NR on 15th (HRS), 260 at Bell's Pond (Cresswell) on 1st (IRD), 223-250 at Alnmouth and Bothal Pond, and 105-134 at Castron, Gosforth Park NR, QEII Lake and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Counts of 52-64 also came from Capheaton and Linton Ponds, and 38-40 at Derwent Reservoir and Grindon Lough. Two to 15 were at nine further sites.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Peak concentrations were 18 at Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (PRM), 13 at Castle Island on 16th (DM/STH/PJA), 12 at Castron on 21st (TRD), eight at St Mary's on 13th (BB), seven at the Blyth Estuary on 2nd (MSH), seven at QEII Lake on 16th (CDH), four at Druridge Pools on 15th (IDR), four at Linton Ponds on 16th (CDH), four at Marden Quarry on 15th (KWY), four at Summerhouse Lane Pond (Newbiggin) on 9th (STH/MHp), and three at Holywell Pond and Ladyburn Lake. Singles were also at Hauxley Reserve and, less typically, Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Gadwall is a **target species** for 2011. Please report all records.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Peak concentrations were 530 at the 'rocket field' (Holy Island) on 2nd and 510 there on 27th (IK), 325 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 19th (SR), 226 at Druridge Pools on 15th (IDR), 170 at St Mary's on 13th (BB), 150 at Doddington on 2nd (a large count for that area; TRD/JD), 76-90 at the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Elswick, Linton Ponds and Woodhorn Flashes, 52-60 at Big Waters, Castle Island and Grindon Lough, and 25-42 at Arcot, Backworth and Middle Ord Ponds (Berwick), Capheaton, Derwent Reservoir, Elford, Hartburn Reservoir, Haughton Strother GP and Hauxley Reserve and Monk's House and Newton Pools. One to 16 were at four further sites.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

The Tweed Estuary held 214 on 14th (MHu), 210 were in Budle Bay on 3rd (CGK/MSH), 200 at Espley on 15th (TAC/MLC), 164 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 4th (MR), 150 at Marden Quarry on 9th (KWY), 115 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo), 76-88 at Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Newcastle Leazes Park, 44-65 at Cresswell, Linton and West Allotment Ponds, and Hauxley Reserve, and 17-38 at Arcot and Middle Ord Ponds, Byker, Jesmond Dene, Newcastle Exhibition Park, QEII CP Lake, Wark and Woodhorn Flashes. One to 14 were at 14 further localities.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

231 were counted at Fenham Flats on 6th (AA/MH) and 23 were there on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA). Elsewhere, a pair was at Druridge Pools on 27th and 31st (SWA/IDR/AT), and a duck at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (IRD).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Ten were at the 'rocket field' (Holy Island) on 2nd (IK/SR/AH), six at Budle Bay on 3rd (CGK/MSH) and four to five there on 11th and 29th (AT), three at Low Newton on 18th (AA/MH), two at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR) and Monk's House Pool on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA), St Mary's Wetland on 3rd (MT/NT), and West Allotment Pond on 19th (MSH), and singles at Backworth Pond on 2nd (MNC) and Druridge Pools on 14th-15th (IDR).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Swallow Pond attracted 18 on 28th (CGK), 15 were at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (PCF), four at Linton Ponds on 16th (PCF), three at Ladyburn Lake, Newton Pool and Woodhorn Flashes, and one at Whittle Dene Reservoirs. More unusual, and probably the result of hard weather, were three at Bates Minewater Treatment Plant (Blyth) on 2nd (MSH) and singles at Tweedmouth Dock on 2nd (MHu) and the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Killingworth Lake held peaks of 134 on 16th (LJM) and 118 on 27th (IF), 87 were at Ladyburn Lake on 25th (MSH), 72 at Marden Quarry on 15th (KWY), 46 at QEII Lake on 16th (CDH), 40 at Capheaton Lake on 19th (STE), 31-38 at Linton Ponds, Newcastle Leazes Park, and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, 13-20 at Castle Island, East Chevington, Holy Island Lough, Newcastle Exhibition Park, West Allotment Pond and Woodhorn Flashes. One to seven were also at six further sites. Less typical were 22 at Bates Minewater Treatment Plant (Blyth) on 2nd (MSH), four at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), three at Tweedmouth Dock on 2nd and two on 23rd (MHu), and singles at the Blyth Estuary and Spittal Bay.



Tufted Duck at Killingworth Lake
3rd January by Peter Fletcher

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Ten were at Beadnell Bay between 1st-6th (JPL), three were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd and one on 30th (MHu).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

About 250 were off Cresswell on 13th (SWA), 230 were at Newbiggin on 9th (STH), 120 at Fenham-le-Moor on 8th (TRD/JD), 36 at the Tyne Estuary - North Shields Fish Quay on 30th (DMT), 21-26 at Blyth South Harbour, Dodd's Well (Berwick), Meadow Haven (Berwick), and 12-19 at Cheswick Black Rocks and St Mary's. One to six were also off Druridge Links and Whitley Bay.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

One flew S at St Mary's on 26th (MSH). A peak of 52 was noted at Stag Rocks on 18th (AA/MH) with seven to 12 on three dates between 14th-28th (DGB/AJH/RNa), 12 were at Ross Back Sands on 17th (MSH), six at Holy Island on 30th (SR/AH), three off Cresswell on 28th-29th (ADMc/MT/NT) and two there on 8th-9th and 13th (TRD/JD/JR), two at St Mary's on 3rd and 8th (MT/NT), and singles at Cocklawburn, Fisherman's Haven and Spittal Bay.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

About 350 were off Cresswell on 13th (TRD/JD), 70 at Stag Rocks on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA), 50 at Holy Island on 3rd and 30th (IK), 40 at Newbiggin on 3rd (STH/MHp), 37 at Cambois on 22nd (ASH), 30 at Cheswick Black Rocks on 3rd (MHu), and 19 off Druridge Links on 31st (IDR). Three to eight were also at Meadow Haven (Berwick), Ross Back Sands, and Seaton Sluice.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Three flew N at Beadnell on 1st (JR). Four were feeding in Druridge Bay on 27th (AT), three were off Cresswell on 13th (SWA), and one was at Stag Rocks on 30th (MSK/NEWT).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

The largest concentrations were 158 at the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu), 122 at Beadnell Bay on 2nd (ASJ), 54 at Caistron on 21st (TRD), 36 at Capheaton Lake on 19th (STE), 32 at Low Newton on 18th (TRD/JD), 28 at QEII Lake on 16th (CDH), and 22 at West Ord on 23rd (MHu). Counts of ten to 17 came from Branton GP, Castle Island, East Chevington, Killingworth Lake, Seahouses and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, five to nine at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Fisherman's Haven, Grindon Lough, Horncliffe, Howick, QEII Lake, St Mary's and Wylam, and three to four at Dodd's Well (Berwick), Hauxley Reserve, Hipsburn, Ladyburn Lake and Newton Pool. One to two were at 12 further sites.



A pair of Goldeneye at Caistron
21st January by Tim Dean

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

A 'redhead' was regularly reported at Whittle Dene Reservoirs between 1st-29th (AA/MR/SR *et al.*).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

One flew N and eight S at Cambois on 11th (MSH) and three flew S at Hauxley Reserve on 25th (STE). Ladyburn Lake held 14 (seven drakes) on 13th (JMA), 13 on 25th (MSH) and six to ten on three dates between 4th-23rd, 12 were at Holy Island Harbour on 30th (IK), six at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 9th (MHu), and five at Blyth Harbour, Cresswell Pond and Spittal Bay. Three to four were at Cheswick Black Rocks, Druridge Links & Pools, Fenham Flats and Newbiggin, and one to two at Beadnell Bay, Budle Bay, Cambois, East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve, Stag Rocks, Tweedmouth and Tynemouth. Less usual was one on Holy Island Lough on 14th (IK).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

15 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 11th (SR), 13 between Newburn-Wylam on 29th (AJN), 12 at Horncliffe on 12th (MJC), ten at Branton GP on 15th (IBDa/KDa), nine at Foxton (JR), eight at Newcastle Leazes Park and the Tweed Estuary, six to seven at Airy Holm Reservoir, Morpeth, Stakeford and the Tweed Estuary, and three to five at Chatton, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry, Newburn, Ovingham-Prudhoe and Thropton-Rothbury. One to two were at 14 further localities.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Two-hour TTVs to Acton (Blanchland) on 23rd and Blanchard Moor on 31st both produced counts of 61 (RMH). Other high counts were 40 at Langleeford (Harthope Valley) on 7th (TRD/JD), 31 at Asholme Common (Whitfield Moor) on 5th (BNR), 28 at Fellhouse Fell (Plenmeller Common) on 24th (MH/AA) and 17 at Beldon Burn-Riddlehamhope on 30th (BNR). On 23rd ten in the Emblehope tetrad were the only birds counted during a 2-hour TTV (MJC). One to nine were noted at Coanwood, Emblehope Moor, Foulplay Knowe, Harwood Shield, Linhope, Longframlington Common, Riddlees Cairn, South Hope Burn, Wellhope Moor and Willyshaw (Whitfield Moor).

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

On 25th 20, including 11 males some of which were lekking, were at Haltonlea Fell (SG). Visits to Swinhope Shield on 23rd and 30th produced 12 males and nine males and two females respectively (ASH). Four were at Acton (Blanchland) on 23rd (RMH), three males at Fellhouse Fell (Plenmeller Common) on 6th, two males at Barhaugh Burn on 19th and a male at Plenmeller on 24th.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

A 2-hour TTV visit to the Clennel tetrad noted 13 on 13th (MJC), eight were at Widdrington on 13th (TRD/JD) two at Lucker on 29th and one at Haughton on 4th.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

The species was again very well reported this month with peak counts of 36 in three coveys at Newham on 6th (MRS), 31 at Druridge Pools in two coveys on 3rd (IDR), 27 at Lesbury on 13th (IBDa/KDa), 23 in the Cresswell Pond area on 7th (ADMc) and 21 in Druridge Bay on 1st (MT/NT). Counts of 15 came from Chevington Burn dunes on 8th (ADMc), Fenham-le-Moor on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA) and Fenham Flats on 29th (AT). 14 were at Bell's Dunes (Cresswell) on 28th (ADMc), 11 were at Hemscoth Hill Farm (Cresswell) on 1st (DM/STH/PJA), North Sunderland on 3rd (CGK/MSH) and West Ord on 9th (MHu) with ten at Beal on 9th (TAC/MLC). One to nine were noted from Acklington, Blyth, Callerton Pond, Chibburn Farm (Widdrington), Doddington, East Dissington, East Ord, Eshott, Holy Island, Kentstone (Beal), Kirkley, Lucker, Maiden's Hall, Ponteland, St Mary's Island, Spittal House Farm (Newbiggin) and Woodhorn Flash.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

On 6th 23 were counted in a 2-hour TTV at Happy Valley (Wooler) (MJC) and 16 were counted in a 2-hour TTV at Maiden's Hall on 20th (MJCo). Nine were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (IDR) and up to seven all month in an Old Hartley garden (RJP). One to four were noted at Chibburn Farm (Widdrington), Druridge Bay CP, East Chevington, Holywell Pond, South Middleton, The Dod (Cheviots), Warkworth and a Beatty Avenue (South Gosforth) garden on nine dates.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

One flew S at Newbiggin on 28th (MT/NT). The peak counts were 23 in Druridge Bay on 9th with 14 there on 8th (ASJ/IDR), 11 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 29th (AT) and ten at Cresswell on 13th (SWA/TRD/JD). Three were off Newbiggin on 8th/9th, Cheswick Black Rocks on 19th and in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 25th. One to two were noted at Berwick, Blyth Harbour, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Seaton Sluice and Stag Rocks.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

A single was in Druridge Bay on 13th (SWA).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Singles flew N at Newbiggin on 5th (ADMc) and through Inner Farne Sound on 16th (MH/AA). Two were off Druridge Links on 8th (IDR) and 13th (SWA), with singles off Ross Back Sands on 17th (MSH), Stag Rocks on 18th (AA/MH), off Cresswell Pond on 27th (ADMc) and Druridge Links on 31st (IDR).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

One flew N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA). Birds returned to several breeding sites during the month with ca. 25 pairs around the Farne Islands on 29th (AT), 30 birds in Coves Bay (Holy Island) on 14th (IK), 11 pairs at Old Hartley on 16th (ASJ), 17 birds on Tynemouth cliffs on 28th (DMT), six pairs at Whitley Bay cliffs on 16th (ASJ), ten at Bamburgh Castle on 13th (JPL) and three at Union Bridge (Berwick) on 14th. One to five were noted from Bamburgh Golf Course, St Mary's Island, Spittal Burn and Point (Newbiggin) and an unfortunate tide-line corpse found at Druridge on 13th.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Light N movement was noted on 26th with four at St Mary's Island in 30 minutes (MSH) and three at Newbiggin (AT). On 1st two flew at Beadnell and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) and singles at Druridge Links and Newton Bay on 23rd, Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 28th and Druridge Links on 31st.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The peak roost counts were 89 at Blyth South Harbour on 29th, 76 at North Shields Fish Quay on 22nd (DMT) and 14 at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 9th (MHu). Eight were in Newton Bay on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA) and six were at QEII Lake on 16th (CDH) and Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (PRM). One to three were noted at Amble Weir, Berwick, and Berwick Pier, Druridge Bay, Elswick Wharf, Hagg Bank (Wylam), Hipsburn, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Leazes Park and Millennium Bridge (Newcastle), Northumberland Park (North Shields), Riding Mill, St Mary's Wetland, Spittal. Tweedmouth Lifeboat Station, Wark, Wylam and flying over South Gosforth.

***Continental Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Four of this race were at QEII Lake on 25th and two on 21st (MSH) with a single at Killingworth Lake on 27th (IF).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

The peak count at Blyth Harbour was 66, including 34 immatures, on 9th (DMT). 15 colour-ringed birds were noted here during the month (BB). Counts of 28 came from Berwick Pier on 9th and the Meadow Haven roost (Berwick) on 30th (MHu). On 23rd 12 were in Newton Bay (DM/STH/PJA). One to five were noted offshore in Cresswell Bay, Druridge Bay, Spittal Bay (Berwick) and at Newbiggin Point, Newton Point and Stag Rocks. On 29th a bird was seen carrying nesting material.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Two were at Gosforth Park NR on 8th (IK per SRB) and a single was seen there on several dates during the month. Singles were at East Chevington on 2nd/12th (MH/AA), Cresswell Pond on 8th/27th/29th/30th (CB/ADMc/ASH), Druridge Pools on 13th (TRD/JD), QEII Lake on 21st (RHAr/MAR) and Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (PRM).



A striking pose from the Druridge Pools Bittern
13th January by Tim Dean

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

The over-wintering bird survived the worst of the weather and was seen again on Beal shore on 4th (IK).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

The peak count was 14 in the Tweed Estuary on 14th (MHu). Four were at Backworth on 16th (CGK). One to three were noted at Arcot Pond, Cramlington (Brockwell Centre and Horton Burn), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Cramlington, Holywell Dene, Guyzance Mill, Kenton, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Newbiggin Golf Course, QEII Lake, Warkworth, Whittle Dene Reservoirs and Woodhorn Flashes.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak counts were six at Caistron on 21st (TRD) and four in the Blyth Estuary on 2nd (MSH) and Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 11th (MHu). One to three were noted on Amble Braid and at Fenton (Wooler), Holywell Dene, Horncliffe, Ladyburn Lake, QEII Lake, Rothbury, Seaton Sluice, Tweedmouth Dock and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Four were at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 29th (AT). Two were off Stag Rocks on 14th (JSB/EC). Singles were in Blyth South Harbour on 1st/4th (DMT/BB), St Mary's Island on 6th (MSH) and Druridge Bay beach on 31st (MJCo).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Three were off Ross Back Sands on 17th (MSH). A well-watched bird was in Blyth South Harbour from 5th-31st (BB *et al.*).



A Red-necked Grebe
Blyth South Harbour
27th January
by Tim Dean

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

The peak count was of 12 at Stag Rocks on 14th (JSB/EC) where up to eight were seen on eight further dates. A count of eight in Holy Island Harbour was the highest so far of the winter (IK). Six were at Ross Back Sands on 17th (SR/AH) and singles were off Snab Point on 28th and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 29th.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Three birds were up in the air together at Low Waskerley on 11th (IFo), while on 14th single birds were seen at Lemington and Heddon on the Wall (SR/AA) and other singles were at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo) and at Ovingham on 25th (BNR).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Single female/ringtails were seen at several sites during the month and a male was seen at another site on 28th (*per SW*).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

A female was hunting at one site on 5th (MH) and a male was at Kielder on 21st (MJC). On 22nd a single bird was noted at Midway Nick (TRD/JD).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Two birds were seen at Scotland Gate (SLB/MSK) throughout the month, and other pairs were at Castle Island (DM/STH/PJA), Morpeth (ADMc), Ross Village (MSH) and at Walbottle (MH/KR/LR). Single birds were noted at over 30 sites.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

10 were at Haltonlea Fell on (SW), nine birds were seen at the Happy Valley (Wooler) on 6th (MJC) and in the West Allen Valley on 24th (MH/AA), eight were at Kilham on 24th (TRD/JD). 75 records of one to five birds were received this month.

Falcon *sp*

An unidentified falcon species was seen at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 24th (SR).

Kestrel *Falco tinninulus*

Up to three birds were noted regularly on Holy Island during the month (IK); two were seen at Cramlington, East Chevington, Fenham-le-Moor, Ross Village and Seaton Delaval. 44 records of single birds were received.



A Kestrel and a full moon

Three photographs from a sequence
by Peter Fletcher

Prestwick Carr

17th January

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

A juvenile and a female were noted regularly on Holy Island (IK) and two were seen at Fenham Slake on 16th (IBDa/KDa). Single birds were seen at nine further coastal locations (ADMc *et al.*).



A Merlin at Holy Island
by John Clark on 23rd January

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

On Holy Island up to four birds were noted (IK *et al.*). A pair from over the Cumbrian border chased away a female at one site on 26th (SW). Pairs were seen on the Farne Islands (AT), West Chevington (JSB/EC) and Widdrington Tip (NF). There were 38 records of single birds this month.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Three birds were at Backworth Pond on 1st (CGK); two birds were at Cresswell Pond on 28th (ADMc). Single birds were seen at Big Waters on 22nd (AJN) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 26th (SR).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The highest counts this month were 37 at Druridge Bay CP on 20th (NF), 21 at Backworth Pond on 14th (MNC) and 16 at Woodhorn Flashes on 8th & 29th (STH). Up to 12 birds were at a further 16 sites.

Coot *Fulica atra*

The highest counts this month were 135 at QEII CP on 1st (DM/STH/PJA) and 130 at Killingworth Lake on 16th (LJM). 28 were at East Chevington, 22 at Woodhorn flash and 20 were at Leazes Park (Newcastle). One to eighteen were at a further nine sites.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

A regular flock at St Mary's peaked at 196 on 18th (ASJ) and 107 roosted at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA). Cocklawburn held 86 on 17th (MHu), 50 were in Cullercoats Bay on 14th (MN), 15 at Beadnell on 1st and singles at Druridge Links and Pools and Hauxley NR.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Blyth South Harbour had 230 on 1st, 193 on 9th and 300 on 15th (DMT). There was a peak of 106 in the Cheswick area on 19th (MHu) and 48 at Little Beach, Berwick on 5th; 14-26 occurred at Ellington, Monk's House Pool and St Mary's.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

About 200 were at Prestwick Carr on 16th (PCF) and at Newcastle Town Moor on 20th (STE) with 150 in the Cullercoats Bay/St Mary's area for much of the time. Small flocks were noted at Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond and Wallsend.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

About 100 were at North Shore, Holy Island on 3rd (IK); 16-20 were at the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond and Newbiggin. Single figures were noted at Berwick, Bondicarrs, Budle Bay, Cheswick, Cocklawburn, Fenham-le-Moor and the Tweed Estuary. Inland, one was on a flooded field at Outchester Farm, Waren Mill on 3rd (CGK/MSH).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Coastal flocks increased in number with 500 in the Coquet Estuary on 31st (JMA), 300+ at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (IRD/DM/STH/PJA), 220 at St Mary's Wetland on 31st and 200 at East Chevington on 13th (JMA); smaller numbers were seen at Berwick, Druridge, Hauxley, QE11 CP, South Middleton, the Tweed Estuary and Warkworth. As the month progressed more were found inland including 200 at Prestwick Carr on 16th (PCF), 130 at Castron on 21st, 120 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th and 80 at Coanwood on 19th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Fenham Slake had 2,500 on 16th (IBDa/KDa); 210 were at St Mary's on 18th (ASJ), 140 roosting on the pier in the Blyth Estuary on 14th (BB) and 120 in Budle Bay on 1st (TRD/JD). Bamburgh, Beadnell, Berwick, Bondicarrs, Cocklawburn, Cresswell and Seaton Sluice all had 15-67 at times.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Regular flocks peaked at 150 at Berwick Little Beach on 16th (MHu) and 128 at St Mary's on 18th (ASJ); 12-38 were noted at Blyth Harbour, Cheswick, Druridge Links, Fisherman's Haven, Low Newton, Newbiggin and Spittal. Two at St Mary's on 13th and one in Blyth Harbour on 21st were colour-ringed - details awaited.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

At Stag Rocks there were 76 on 2nd and 54 on 23rd (ASJ/DM *et al.*) and about 50 roosted on the Farne Islands on 29th (AT). Cheswick, Fisherman's Haven and Low Newton held 10-24 at times and six or fewer appeared at Berwick, Bondicarrs, Cocklawburn, Druridge Links, Newbiggin and St Mary's. One was at Cresswell Pond on 27th (ADMc), a very rare record for the site with only two others in the last 25 years.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Berwick Little Beach had 410 on 16th (MHu), 300 were at Fenham-le-Moor on 8th (TRD/JD) and still 250+ in the Blyth Estuary on 2nd (MSH). The peak at St Mary's was 98 on 13th, 89 were on floodwater at Annstead Farm (Seahouses) on 3rd and 80 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 1st. Also 51 at Elswick Wharf on 5th, 39 on Holy Island on 2nd and 27 or fewer at Beadnell, Cheswick, Cresswell Pond, Dodd's Well, Druridge Bay CP, Hauxley NR and Low Newton.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

One was at Cresswell Pond on 22nd/23rd (TB *et al.*).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Singles were found at Haughton Strother GP on 3rd (MR) and Nafferton Farm on 9th (MR).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

At West Hartford 18-19 were present throughout with also 25 on 30th (DM/LJM/STH/PJA); also 19 at Backworth on 22nd (CGK). Eight or fewer were seen at Castron, Doddington, Ellington, Killingworth, Newbiggin, Prestwick Carr, St Mary's Wetland, Warkworth and Widdrington Tip.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

The most were at Druridge Links & Pools: 9+ on 3rd and six on 8th (IDR). Two to three were found at Branton GP, Clennel area, Ellington, Holywell Dene, Morpeth, Netherwitton, Newbiggin, Tranwell Woods and Widdrington and singles at a further 12 places.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Two were present throughout at Rocket Field Pools (Holy Island) (IK) and one visited St Mary's on 8th (MT/NT).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

In the Berwick area 40 were at Fisherman's Haven and 40 at Dodd's Well on 30th (MHu); 20 were in the Blyth estuary on 14th (BB), 20 at Low Newton on 18th (JD) and ten at Fenham-le-Moor on 8th. Five or fewer were noted at Budle Bay, Newbiggin and St Mary's.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

At Druridge Pools & Links 128 were in fields on 3rd (IDR) and 105 roosted at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA); 74-75 were at St Mary's on 16th and 31st (MT/NT/JMA), 70 at Hauxley NR on 15th (HRS) and 35-58 at Amble, Blyth estuary, Cocklawburn and Newburn. Smaller counts were made at another 14 locations.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Three were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 18th and 20th (JWA/JSB/MR) with singles noted there on five other days; one was seen on the R. Coquet at Thropton on 20th and 31st (JD). One flew S over The Victory Pub (South Gosforth) at 23:30 on 13th (MJC).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

One was with a small group of Redshank on the Tweed Estuary on 1st (BWG).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One was in Budle Bay on 1st (TRD/JD) and 20th (JPL).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

The WeBS count at the Tweed Estuary produced 110 on 14th (MHu) and 98 roosted at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA). Blyth South Harbour, Boulmer Flash, Druridge Pools and Elswick Wharf had 54-65 at times with small numbers at Doddington, Ellington, Newcastle city centre and St Mary's.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The peak at St Mary's reached 61 on 19th (MT/NT) and 46 were at Berwick Little Beach on 2nd (MHu). Apart from 22 at Newbiggin on 1st, 11 or fewer appeared at Beadnell, Cheswick, Cresswell Pond, Low Newton and Stag Rocks.

***Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One flew N off Druridge Links on 8th (IDR).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

The only record noted was of one at Blyth South Harbour on 8th & 9th (BB/DMT). Wintering numbers are now very low at the two regular sites with specifically no sightings recorded this month at North Shields Fish Quay.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The sea roost between Tynemouth and Cullercoats saw the peak count of 4,160 on 21st (DMT) with a WeBS count on the Tweed Estuary recording 1,030 on 14th (MHu). The maximum count noted on the Tyne Estuary up to the North Shields Fish Quay was 311 on 9th (DMT). Groups of up to 150 were noted at Arcot Pond, Caistron, Druridge, Elswick Wharf, Exhibition Park, Hadston, Jesmond Dene, Leazes Park, Tynemouth and Whitley Bay. Two over South Middleton on 29th (IDR) in the Cheviots were of interest as the species is decidedly uncommon in the uplands in winter. Various ringed individuals were still present with East German, Finnish & Lithuanian birds present at St Mary's with a Danish-ringed bird at Killingworth Lake which had previously been noted there in November 2009 (MSH).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

The peak count of 18 was at Newbiggin on 9th (ASJ) with smaller numbers present on other dates. The only other multiple count was of two at Woodhorn Flash on 15th (STH). The over-wintering adult was still present at Briardene until at least 7th (PCF/JPD) with another adult at Killingworth Lake on 19th (MSH) and a second-winter at QE II CP on 1st (DM/STH/PJA).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The sea roost between Tynemouth & Cullercoats provided the peak count with 850 noted on 21st (DMT). An inland gathering of 581 was noted at South Charlton bog on 3rd (TAC/MLC) with 122 at Druridge Links & Pools (IDR). The regularly watched sites only saw small numbers with peak counts of only 30 at the Tyne Estuary up to North Shields Fish Quay on 9th and only four at Blyth South Harbour on 1st (DMT). Otherwise only one to three noted at Arcot Pond, Grindon Lough, Jesmond Dene and South Middleton.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

As always, very scarce in January. Singles were noted over Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo) and on Whitley Bay beach on 21st (TS). The wintering adult at Southfield Green (Cramlington) was present all month (DM).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argentatus*

The peak gathering was at Backworth Pond on 1st when 1,040 were present (CGK). The regularly watched sites provided the other main counts with 830 offshore at Tynemouth on 28th, 754 at Blyth South Harbour on 9th and 282 on the Tyne Estuary up to North Shields Fish Quay on 8th (DMT). A WeBS count on the Tweed Estuary saw 72 present on 14th (MHu). Otherwise up to eight noted at various sites.

'Northern' Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argentatus*

Three adults of this Northern race plus a first-winter were found at Blyth South Harbour on 9th (DMT) with two adults at Cresswell Pond on 13th (TRD/JD) and another adult at North Shields Fish Quay on 1st (DMT).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

The main count noted this month was 154 at Cambois on 11th (MSH) with peaks of 139 at Blyth South Harbour on 9th and 92 at the Tyne Estuary up to North Shields Fish Quay on 22nd (DMT). Almost half of the birds at Blyth & North Shields were first-winters. At Budle Bay 21 were noted on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA) with 18 at Goswick Sands on 3rd (MHu). Up to ten were at a wide variety of sites, coastal and inland. The inland birds were predominantly wandering first-winters.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

The Farne Islands witnessed a mass early return again with 20,000 on the cliffs on 29th (AT). These early winter returns are normally short-lived with birds soon venturing back out to sea again. Movements of birds North were witnessed at St Mary's Island with four in 30 minutes on 26th (MSH) and two at Druridge on 3rd (IDR). Otherwise one to three noted at Bamburgh, Cocklawburn, Cresswell, Fisherman's Haven and Meadow Haven (Berwick), Newbiggin and Tyne Estuary.

Razorbill *Alca Torda*

Two to three were found at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 23rd and 28th (DM/STH/PJA/AJH) with a single at the Farne Islands on 29th (AT).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Two were off Broad Sands (Cresswell) on 9th (ADMc) with another two N at Newbiggin on 27th (AT). There were also two corpses found on the north shore of Holy Island on 14th (IK) with another corpse on the beach at Blyth on 27th (JD). This latter bird was very fresh having been retrieved headless from a scavenging Great Black-backed Gull.

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

The peak count was 150+ at North Blyth on 2nd (MSH) with 69 at Blyth South Harbour on 1st, 55 at North Shields Fish Quay on 30th (DMT) and 50 at Tyne Green (Hexham) on 4th. Numbers at New Delaval peaked at 44 on 19th and 30+ at High Chibburn (Druridge) on 3rd with one to 13 at four further locations

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Small numbers but well reported with the maximum being 15 at Whittle Dene on 22nd (SR), 11 at Killingworth on 30th (LJM), 9 at Ellington on 2nd (TB) and 6 at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 29th (MNC). Five were at Barhaugh Burn on 19th and Spartylea on 31st, 4 at Hagg Bank (Wylam) on 22nd with three at Kilham, Newbiggin, Parson Shields, Ross and Rothbury. Two were found at four further sites with singles at four places in Jesmond Dene and another four locations.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

A number of large gatherings with around 1,000 birds at Harpers Heugh (Budle Bay) on 1st (JR), 600 at Wylam on 14th (MH), 500 at Eshott on 8th and Warkworth on 24th (MJC), 300 at Netherwitton on 16th and 200 at Acklington on 8th (JR). 180 were at Woodhorn Flashes and Walbottle on 8th, 150 at Kiln Pit Hill with TTV counts of 109 at Happy Valley (Wooler) on 6th, 81 at Maiden's Hall on 20th and 67 from a Clennel tetrad on 13th. One to 50 birds were found at 11 further widespread localities.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

The maximum count of 21 was at Prestwick Village on 12th (PCF), 10 at Fenham-le-Moor on 23rd (DM), 9 in the observer's garden at Whitley Bay on 18th (MT/NT), 8 nearby at Marden Quarry on 29th (MNC), and seven at Hagg Bank Wylam on 22nd (BNR) and Hedley on the Hill on 30th. One to four were at Dinnington, High Chibburn (Druridge), Jesmond Dene, Maiden's Hall and regularly throughout the month in gardens at Whitley Bay, Walbottle and at New Delaval (Blyth). Early breeding was noted with a pair incubating in the observer's garden at Holy Island on 30th (IK).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Birds were seen regularly in the Chevington Pools area throughout the month with the peak being four on the 25th (ADMc). The resident pair at Holy Island were also present all month with food caching noted near a roost site on 1st (IK). Two were hunting at Hauxley and Cresswell Pond on 9th (BB) with singles at all the above sites on various dates and at Druridge Bay CP, Ellingham, Fenrother, Holywell Dene, Kirkwhelpington, Yellow Rigg, Stublick, Warkworth, Wellhope Moor, West Chevington and Widdrington. One casualty, presumably from the weather, was found dead on Newbiggin Golf Course.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One was at Druridge Lane (Widdrington) on seven dates from 8th to 28th (IDR/JSB/EC) with singles at Whittle Dene on 22nd (SR) and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 29th (TB).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Reports generally of calling birds with the peak being three males at Great Whittington on 28th. Two were at Ordley on 6th (BNR), Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 10th (MNC) and around a Stamfordham garden all month (EC). Single birds were at Tyne Green (Hexham) on 2nd, Guessburn (Stocksfield) on 4th, Branton on 6th, Woolsington on 14th, Loughbrow (Hexham) on 21st, Borough Woods (Morpeth) and Ellington on 27th and Valley Park (Cramlington) on 30th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

A single sighting from the Budge Hide (Druridge Pools) on the 27th (SWA).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

All records were of single birds with eight sightings throughout the month at various locations in Jesmond Dene (STE/MJCo) possibly indicating more than one individual. Single birds were also at Gosforth Park NR on 1st, 12th and 23rd (AJN/MNC), Tughall Hall on 1st (JR), Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 1st & 2nd (LJM/DM) and Wylam on 14th (MH).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Two birds were at Swallowship Wood (Hexham) on 16th (AJH) with a single there on 21st. One bird was also at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st (TB), Gosforth Park NR on 10th and 12th (*per* SRB/MNC) and calling at Redpath on 23rd (TRD/JD).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Well reported with the largest counts of eight on a two-hour TTV on the Great Dodd (Kielder) on 21st (MJC), six at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 19th (MNC) and five at Whiteside (Scotchcoulter tetrad) on 2nd, Catcleugh Reservoir on 27th, Harwood Forest on 28th and Lewisburn (Kielder) on 30th. Four birds were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th and on a TTV at Killingworth Village on 30th with three north of Blackburnhead (Kielder) and at Ogle, Riding Mill and Spindlestone. Two were at Backworth, Higham Dykes, Jesmond Dene, Little Benton (Newcastle), Prestwick Carr and Widdrington tip. Singles were reported from a further 28 widespread localities.

* **Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

A single bird was reported from the favoured locality of Harwood Forest on 21st (ADMc) and 23rd (MT/NT).

Addition to November 2010 bulletin. Singles were noted in clear fell in the Tarsset Forest on 7th (MD) and at Paddaburn (Wark Forest) on 21st (MD). One was also found on the Otterburn Ranges on 13th in a high-impact area for artillery & rockets (JCD). All three sightings were as a result of BTO Atlas fieldwork.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A large pre-roost gathering of 68+ occurred at Walbottle Brick Works on 14th (MH) whilst a flock present at Marden Farm (Tynemouth) all month peaked at 40+ on 24th with 35 at Murton Village on the same day (MN). Another roost gathering at Paddy Freeman's (Jesmond Dene) peaked at 30 on the 4th (STE) with 14 at Hagg Bank (Wylam) on 22nd (BNR), 8 at Maiden's Hall on 8th (JR) and 7 at Druridge links and pools on 3rd (IDR). One to five were at these and another three locations.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

The peak counts were five at Callaly on 13th (ASJ), three at Gosforth Park NR on 12th (MNC) and Tranwell Woods on 17th (ADMc) with two at Capheaton, Ellington, Haughton Mains, Morpeth, Parson Shields, Pegswood, Thrunton Wood, Spindleston and Scotland Gate all month. Singles were at a further 13 widespread locations.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A count of 730 at Parson Shields / Williamston N on 19th included a flock of 630 moving N down the valley (BNR). 2-hr TTV counts returned 64 at a Clennel tetrad on 13th and 57 in the Happy Valley (Wooler) tetrad on 6th (MJC) with 48 at Holywell Dene on 22nd (MT/NT) and 43 at Druridge links and pools on 23rd (IDR). Nine to 57 were counted daily at New Delaval (Blyth) during the month with 16 – 25 at Killingworth Lake, Otterburn Ranges, South Middleton and Widdrington.

Two birds showing characteristics of the Nordic race ssp *monedula* were at Wark (North Tyne) on 25th (PRM) with singles at Killingworth Lake on 3rd & 26th (PCF) and Snab Point (Cresswell) on 27th (AT).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

The largest counts were 200 at Belford on 6th (JMA), 120 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo), 110 at QEII CP on 16th (CDH) and 100 at Castron on 20th, Hipsburn on 13th and North Charlton on 22nd. 50 were next to the A1 at Fenwick and Fairmoor (Morpeth), 48 on a TTV in Happy Valley (Wooler) and 40+ at Druridge links and pools. Four to 30 were at Bamburgh Green, Otterburn Ranges and Chibburn Farm (Widdrington).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

22 were in the Tyne Estuary up to the fish quay on 23rd (DMT), 21 at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 3rd (MNC), 18 on a TTV at Maiden's Hall on 20th, 13 at Rothley Crossroads and Happy Valley (Wooler) with 12 at Shilford and Chibburn Farm (Widdrington). One to nine were at Blanchland Moor, Druridge, Harwood, Leazes Park (Newcastle), three locations on Otterburn Ranges, South Middleton, West Chevington and a Walbottle garden.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

A single bird was found near Ghyllheugh on 8th at High Hedley Farm and flew off SW towards Todburn after being digi-scoped (NFO).

Raven *Corvus corax*

On 22nd five were found on a two-hour TTV in the Paddaburn tetrad (MJC) with two reported from Howick and Lucker on 1st (JR/JHa), Harthope Valley on 7th (TRD/JD), Slaley Hall on 11th (RMH), Hareshaw Head (Bellingham) on 23rd (ADM), Linhope on 30th (TAC/MLC) and on TTVs at Emblehope and Bloody Bush (Kielder) on 23rd and 30th (MJC). Singles were reported from Acton (Blanchland), Brownieside, Dod Hill, Featherwood, Ridleeshope and Spring House (Slaley).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

The peak count was 23 at Lewisburn (Kielder Forest) on 30th (MJC) with 2-hr TTVs by the same observer returning counts of ten to 19 birds from seven tetrads in the area and 17 from the Paddaburn tetrad. Three were also in the Emblehope Moor tetrad with other sightings all being singles at Acklington, Valley Park (Cramlington), Elswick, Jesmond Dene, Newbiggin and Whittle Dene.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

An impressive 38 were trapped and ringed at Spindleston on the 20th and 27 trapped and ringed on the 29th (MSH/JCD) with ringing at Ellington Pond catching 21 birds on 30th (IDR/JF). Two-hour TTVs found 34 at Killingworth on 30th (LJM) and 26 at Happy Valley (Wooler) on 6th (MJC). 28 were at Barns Park (Cramlington) on 22nd (DM), 25 at Mount Pleasant on 21st (SWA), 22 at Holywell Dene on 3rd and 19 there on 24th (MT/NT). Elsewhere one to 12 birds were recorded from a further nine widespread localities.

Great Tit *Parus major*

At Holywell Dene 28 were counted on 24th, 23 on 3rd and 14 on 17th (MT/NT). 15 were found over 1km at Prestwick Carr on 30th and 13 on 8th (PCF). Trapping and ringing at Spindleston returned 12 on the 20th and 11 on the 29th (MSH/JCD). Elsewhere 11 were at Barns Park (Cramlington) on the 22nd with one to five at a further eight widespread localities.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Counts in Kielder Forest produced the largest numbers, the peak being 44 on a two-hour TTV north of Blackburnhead tetrad on 21st with 33 on the Great Dodd and 21 in the Bloody Bush tetrads. Other counts found a peak of 39 at Lewisburn and 17 in the Forest Lodge area. 38 were counted on TTV in Happy Valley (Wooler) on 6th and 35 in the Paddaburn tetrad on 22nd (all MJC). Ten singing males were noted at Kirkley Hall on 22nd (IK), 7 birds at Killingworth Village on 28th (CGK) and 5 at Druridge links and pools (IDR) and trapped and ringed at Spindlestone (MSH/JCD). One to four were at a further 11 widespread locations.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Three were at Prestwick Carr on 8th with two there on 20th & 30th (PCF). Two were also reported from Linden Hall on 8th (NFO), Gosforth Park NR on 21st (IK) and Mitford on 24th (MJC). Singles were at Arcot Hall, Swallow Pond and in gardens at Linden Hall and Scotland Gate throughout the month.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

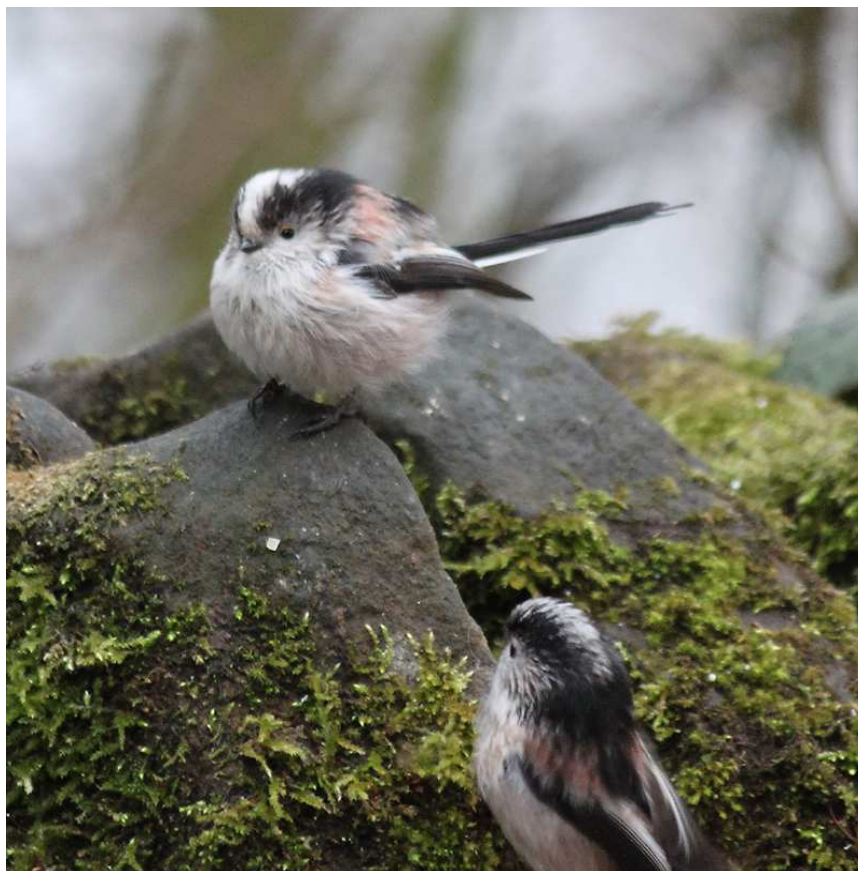
Four were found at Mitford on 17th (ASJ), three at Scotch Gill on 9th (ADMc) and Linden Hall on the 29th (NFO) with two at High House and Borough Woods (Morpeth), Mitford on various dates and Horncliffe on 12th. Singles were also recorded in the Mitford – Morpeth, Linden Hall area, Letah Wood (Hexham) and Newminster Cottage.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

The exodus caused by the weather is clear to see with only four reports consisting of 160 at Monk's House on the 1st (JRD/TD) with the same observers finding a single at Ross on 8th, then reports of singles heard moving over at 22.05h in Wark (North Tyne) on 16th (PRM) and, to the observer's surprise, on King's Moss at Quarry House Moor on 17th (MH).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest gathering by far was a single flock of 35+ at Widdrington Tip on 9th (PRM). Other large tribes included 17 near Budle Bay on 1st (JR) 15 at Morpeth on 24th (MJC) 14 at Druridge Pools on 8th (IDR) and 13 at Alexandra Park (Cramlington) on 30th and Backworth on 16th (DM/CGK). Ten to 12 were also reported from a Cramlington garden, Ellington, Happy Valley (Wooler), Jesmond Dene, Kirkley Hall, Mitford, Prestwick Carr, Woosington and Wylam and one to nine from a further 20 widespread localities.



Long-tailed Tits
Bolam
by Peter Fletcher
6th January

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Nine to 11 individuals braved the arctic conditions. Two were at Spindlestone on 1st and 7th and singles at three separate Cramlington localities, Gosforth, Hauxley NR, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Killingworth, New Delaval (Blyth) and Whitley Bay.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

In Cramlington nine at the Burton House PH car park on 14th increased to 44 by 27th (PJA/ASJ/MT/NT) and 28 were in Lamb Street on 11th (LJM). At Prestwick Carr numbers fell from a peak of 33 on 19th to 15 by 28th (PCF). At least 20 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 4th (RGW) and 20 at Benton on 29th (per IF). Other flocks included 15 in Jesmond Dene on 28th, 12 in the Freeman Hospital grounds on 31st, ten at Little Benton and six at Woodhorn windmill on 16th. One to three were also at Alnwick, Corbridge and Morpeth.



Two views of one of our most popular winter visitors, Waxwings

Top a photograph of a bird eating fruit at Cramlington by Colin Bradshaw and below an unusual picture of birds on the ground by Norman Tuck on 27th January

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Seven were found in Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 25th (SWA), five in the Happy Valley tetrad (Wooler) on 6th (MJC) and four at Linden Hall on 13th (ASJ). Three were at Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) and Jesmond Dene on 2nd and one to two at a further 17 localities including two at Catcleugh Reservoir on 27th and singles inspecting a nest hole at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 19th and a re-trap at Spindlestone on 29th which had been ringed as an adult in February 2007 making it at least five years old.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Lewisburn (Kielder) and Ogle (MJC/MRS) and singles at Arcot Lane, Backworth, Dilston, Hareshaw Head (Bellingham), Holywell Dene, Milbourne, Preston Tower, Rothbury, Stamfordham and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

This species was either under-recorded or, more likely, decimated by the severe weather. Six at Prestwick Carr on 8th was encouraging (PCF), however other reports suggest a decline with three at Jesmond Dene and South Middleton and one to two at only eight other localities.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Up to 2,000 roosted in an Alnwick garden all month (per NNBC), 250 were at Shilford on 1st (BNR), 200+ at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF) and at Cramlington on 8th (DM) and 153 at South Charlton bog on 3rd. A Garden Bird Watch count produced 94 at Hipsburn on 3rd and 65 were at Spartylea on 31st. Elsewhere 27-51 were reported from a further six localities. Up to 18 visited a Whitley Bay garden and two to five were noted at a further two localities.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Five were found in the Clennel tetrad (Upper Coquetdale) on 13th and on the R. Coquet from Thropton-Rothbury on 20th (MJC/JD). Two pairs were resident on the Ouseburn between Ouseburn Park and Jesmond Dene during the month (DHWD) and two at three localities in Jesmond Dene, Happy Valley (Wooler) and Haughton Strother (Humshaugh). Singles were reported from Cottonshopeburnfoot, East Dissington, Harehaugh Hill, Langleeford (Harthope Valley), Lucker, Morpeth, Plessey Woods, Scotch Gill Woods, Wark (N. Tyne), West Woodburn and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Almost all records received this month were from gardens, with a count of 22 at Hipsburn the largest of these (TAC/MLC). Up to 18 visited a Walbottle garden (KR/LR) and likewise 16 at Mount Pleasant and ten at Whitley Bay. Seven were at Druridge Pools / Links on 3rd and six at Ellington Pond on 15th. One to four were reported from a further seven localities including a bird in full song at Chapel House on 15th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

The highest count was 180 at Brownieside on 28th (TRD) followed by 105-130 at Capheaton, Hole (Bellingham) and Scotchcoulter. In addition 65-82 were also reported from Grindon Lough, Otterburn Ranges (Silloans), Plessey Woods, South Charlton bog, West Chevington and West Ord and 50-54 from Healey, Lampert, Scots Gap and Widdrington. Up to 44 were reported from a further 22 widespread localities.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

It was typically scarce this early in the year, although six at Killingworth village was the observer's highest count during the winter Atlas (LJM). Four singing at Holy Island village on 28th and two likewise at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 17th were the only other multiple counts. Singles were reported from a further six localities including singing birds at Kenton on 22nd and South Gosforth on 13th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Very scarce this month, the highest count 42 at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 19th (MCN). Lesser numbers 20-25 were also reported from Blyth (Meggie's Burn), Capheaton, Earsdon, Scots Gap and Tynemouth and 11-15 from Killingworth village, Ouseburn Park, Walbottle / Blucher and Woodhorn Flashes. Up to ten were reported from a further 12 localities.



A handsome Mistle Thrush at Tynemouth
by Colin Bradshaw

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly well reported this month with seven at Woodhorn Flashes on 26th the highest count (PRM). Cocklawburn had five on 12th (MHu) and four were at both Silverlink Biodiversity Park (North Shields) on 29th and West Fleetham on 2nd. Well inland three were reported from Kirkheaton and Spartylea and one to two were noted at a further 12 widespread localities.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Again it was rather scarce after the prolonged spell of snow and ice. Six in Holywell Dene on 3rd (MT/NT) and four in a Walbottle garden on 9th and at Maiden's Hall on 20th (KR/LR/MJCo) were the highest counts. Three were in Jesmond Dene on 2nd and two at Brierdene (Whitley Bay), Druridge Pools/ Links and South Middleton and singles at a further four localities. Singing was noted from 13th.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Reported from only three localities this month as the decline continues. Two males were at Cresswell on 17th (ASJ), two (a pair) at Low Hauxley on 25th (STE) and a female at Druridge Pools on 25th-28th (MSH/JSB/EC). Stonechat is a **target species** for 2011. Please report all records.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Two were at Holywell Dene between 3rd-17th (MT/NT) and Ellington Pond on 30th (IDR/JF). Singles were also at Heaton Park and gardens at South Gosforth and Whitley Bay.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Gatherings included 70+ at Brown's Point (Whitley Bay) all month (MN), ca. 60 at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (RHAr/MAR), 40 at Collingwood Grange (Cramlington) on 15th (DM) and North Shields on 19th (ASJ), 36 at Crow Hall Farm (Holywell Dene) on 24th (MT/NT), 35 at a Marden Estate (Tynemouth) garden all month (ASJ), 30 at a Hipsburn garden during month (TA/MLC) and Battlesteads Hotel (Wark) feeding station on 16th (CB), 26 at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 30th (DM) and 18 at Druridge Pools and Links on 23rd (IDR). One to ten were at a further six typical urban localities.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

40 were found at Lowmoor Crossing (Fenham-le-Moor) on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA), 30 at Linden Hall on 13th (ASJ), 25 at Big Waters on 20th (BB), 12 at Kirkley on 20th (MRS) and a Hipsburn garden on 26th (TAC/MLC), ten at Branton all month (IBDa/KDa), East Fleetham near Seahouses on 3rd (CGK/MSH), a Warkworth garden on 22nd (JMA) and Scaffold Hill Farm on 31st (JPD), nine at Druridge Links and Pools on 23rd (IDR), eight at Newham on 6th (MRS) and at a feeding station at Battlesteads Hotel (Wark) on 16th (CB), seven at Milbourne on 14th (MRS) and up to eight at a Riding Mill garden during month (BNR). One to five were also at Butterlaw (West Newcastle), Cheswick, Harlow Hill, Haughton Mains, Haughton Strother GP, Lucker and Wark.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Two were on roof tops at Battle Hill (Hexham) on 11th (BNR). Singles were observed at Jesmond Dene on 9th and 13th (MJCo), Newcastle City Centre (Eldon Garden) on 13th, R.V.I. on 19th, Bigg Market on 24th all month (DM), Blyth Estuary on 14th (BB) and St. Mary's Island on 21st (LMO).

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

100 were at Woodburn on 15th (TS). Other large gatherings were 39 at Q.E.II CP on 23rd (RHAr/MAR) and 30+ at Lynemouth on 18th (MSH). Seven were at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF), six arrived at Ordley from north-east (local weather movement) on 2nd (BNR), five were at Newbiggin beach on 29th (STH) and four at Cresswell on 13th (TRD/JD). One-two were also at Dinnington, Druridge Links and Pools, East Chevington Pools/Burn and St. Mary's Island.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Numbers were low. 15 were flushed by a low-flying Buzzard over the moor edge at Agarshill Fell (Whitfield) on 5th (MH). Singles were at Newbiggin beach on 3rd (AT), St. Mary's Island on 17th (MT/NT) and Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (PRM).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Two were at Beadnell on 1st (JR). Singles were found at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 1st (DM/STH/PJA), Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 1st (TRD/JD), St. Mary's Island on 2nd and 22nd (MT/NT), Blyth South Harbour on 16th (DM/STH/PJA), Low Newton on 18th (TRD/JD), Spittal Point (Newbiggin) on 22nd (STH) and the saltmarsh at Fenham-le-Moor on 24th (DM/STH/PJA).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

120 (mostly males) were feeding on a game crop at Haughterslaw Farm (Quarry House Moor) on 17th (MH), 120 at Harwood Village (Harwood Forest) on 31st (EC), 90 at Wallridge on 31st (EC) 80+ at North Seaton (Ashington) on 15th (MSH), 55 at Ros Castle on 9th (ASJ), 50 at Whittle Dene on 20th (ASJ), 45 at Lewisburn (Kielder) on 30th (MJC), 39 at Druridge Links and Pools including 32 at High Chibburn Farm on 23rd (IDR), 32 at Clennel during an Atlas visit on 13th (MJC), 28 along a km of Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF) and 26 at Happy Valley (Wooler) on 6th (MJC). One to 25 were at a further 15 widespread localities. 16 were ringed at Spindleston on 29th (MSH/JCD).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

50 were at North Shop north of Wylam on 6th (SRB), 40 were amongst a mixed finch flock at St. Nicholas Park (Gosforth) all month (AJN), 20 at Dilston (Corbridge) on 12th (RB/MB), 15 at Catton on 2nd (BNR), 12 at Branton on 10th (IBDa/KDa), ten at Ordley on 10th (BNR), eight at Ellington Pond on 15th (IDR/JF) and Grindon Hamlet on 17th (AA), six at Bedlington on 2nd (ASH), Mill Haugh on 16th (ALT) and one to five at a further 15 widespread localities. Gardens were popular with 21 at Corbridge on 3rd (MR), 20 at Heddon Steads on 7th (IK), 17 at Cramlington on 15th (STH), eight at Rothbury on 8th and 31st (TRD/JD), seven at Linden Hall all month (NFO) and one to three at Alnwick, Cramlington, Ellington, Hexham, Hipsburn, Kenton, Marden Estate, Riding Mill, Scotland Gate, Swarland and Whitley Bay.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

110 were roosting in Laurels at Berwick Station on 27th (MHu), 30+ at Preston Cemetery (North Shields) on 26th (MNC), 25 at Linden Hall on 22nd (NFO), 15 at a Whitley Bay garden on 11th (MT/NT), ten at a Barns Park (Cramlington) garden on 22nd (M), eight at a Beacon Hill (Cramlington) garden on 1st (DM/STH), Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 25th (MT/NT) and Riding Mill on 28th (BNR), six at Berrington Lough on 15th TAC/MLC) and Dinnington on 29th (PCF). One to three were at a further seven widespread localities.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

100+ were observed at Widdrington Tip on 2nd (NF), 62+ at Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (PRM), 50 at Woosington Ponds on 12th (SRB) and Preston Cemetery (North Shields) on 26th (MNC), 34 at Brierdene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 22nd (MT/NT), 32 at a Whitley Bay garden on 11th (MT/NT), 30 at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 10th (DM) and West Mulley on 28th (SWA), 28 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF), 25 at Darras Hall on 4th (PCF) and one to 20 at a further 13 widespread localities.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Gatherings involved 80+ at Bassington Industrial Estate (Cramlington) on 14th (LJM) and Big Waters on 20th (BB), 60 at Branton GP on 5th (IBDa/KDa) and Blackburnhead (Kielder) on 21st (MJC), 53 at Great Dodd (Kielder) on 21st (MJC), 50+ at Choppington Woods almost daily (SLB/MSK) and near the entrance to Newcastle United Academy training ground at Little Benton (Newcastle) on 23rd (LMO). 47 were noted at Paddaburn during an Atlas visit on 22nd (MJC), 45 at Pauperhaugh on 8th (NFO) and the Dod (Cheviot Hills) on 29th (IDR/JF), 42 at Newcastle Airport on 2nd (PCF), 40+ at East Cramlington LNR on 11th (LJM), Haughton Strother GP on 16th (MR) and Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 28th (CGK), 38 at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (PCF), 32 at Lewisburn (Kielder) on 30th (MJC), 30 at Tranwell on 17th (ADMc) and 27 north of Blackburnhead (Kielder) during an Atlas visit on 21st (MJC). One to 25 were at a further 33 widespread localities including gardens at Cramlington, Dinnington, Gosforth and South Gosforth.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Largest flocks involved 200 in a stubble field at Seahouses on 14th (JSB/EC) and Swallow Pond on 31st (JPD), 110 at Wallridge on 20th (EC), 55 at Charity Bank on 5th (TRD), 34 at Bates Minewater Treatment Project (Blyth Estuary) on 1st (DM/STH/PJA), 25 at Heddon Steads on 7th (IK). 15 at Holy Island on 14th was the first group back here after big freeze in December 2010 but poor compared with several hundred normally present in winter (IK). Eight were at Newbiggin GP on 1st (DM/STH/PJA) and Holywell Dene on 14th (TS).

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

40 at Newton Links on 6th (*per* NNBC), 13 at favoured Hemscotthill Links (Cresswell) on 5th (SRB) and five at Bates Minewater Treatment Project (Blyth Estuary) on 1st (DM/STH/PJA).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis caberret*

Birds continued to find Widdrington Tip attractive this month with a maximum of 40 on 8th (CB). Elsewhere, 14 were at Doddington on 2nd (TRD/JD), 11 at Harehaugh Hill on 28th (TRD), ten at a Corbridge garden all month (MR) and Harwood Forest on 24th (MSH), eight at Happy Valley (Wooler) during an Atlas visit on 6th (MJC), six at Gosforth Park NR on 8th (IK), North Seaton on 16th (DM/STH/PJA) and Bellingham on 23rd (ADM). One to four were also noted at Branton GP, a Cramlington garden, near Epsley Hall, Holystone Common, Linden Hall and Rushy Knowe (Kielder).

Common 'Mealy' Redpoll *Carduelis flammea flammea*

Favoured Widdrington Tip saw numbers vary from 30 on 2nd (NF), 20+ on 3rd (AT), ten on 4th (IDR/TRD/JD). 100 on 8th (CB) and 11 on 27th (NF). Elsewhere, 20 were at Wooler on 6th (SVM/AJM), two at a Corbridge garden all month (MR) and Swallow Pond on 1st (JPD) and singles at Doddington on 2nd (TRD/JD), Branton GP on 5th and 22nd (IBDa/KDa) and Druridge Bay CP on 10th (CN).

Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis homemanni*

One belonging to subspecies *exilipes* 'Coues's', was noted amongst the Redpolls at Widdrington Tip between 3rd-8th (AT/TRD/JD/CB).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Breeding occurred throughout Kielder Forest with fledged juveniles included in the followed Atlas counts:- 72 at Great Dodd on 21st, 69 at Upper Lewisburn on 30th, 53 north of Blackburnhead on 21st, 35 at Lewisburn on 30th, 28 at Blackburnhead on 21st and Bloody Bush on 30th, 27 at Emblehope on 23rd, 20 at Blakehope Nick on 23rd (MJC/MSH). Breeding was also observed at Harwood Forest during month with a peak count of 32 on 23rd (MT/NT). Elsewhere, 76 were recorded at Paddaburn on 22nd (MJC), 43 at Scotchcoulter (Whiteside) on 2nd (MC), 30 in the Butterburn/Paddaburn area during an Atlas visit on 22nd (MJC), seven at Allenheads on 23rd (ASH), six at Churnsike on 16th (TAC/MLC) and Beldon Burn on 30th (BNR). One to five were at Addycombe (Rothbury), Borough Wood (Morpeth), Catcleugh Reservoir, Cottonshopeburnfoot, Dod Hill, Great Dour, Hareshaw Head (Bellingham) and Spartylea.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

16 were counted on a half-mile walk around Wylam on 18th (EC). Nine were at Branton GP on 9th (IBDa/KDa) and Midgeholme on 26th (SW), eight at Meggie's Burn (Blyth) on 3rd (BB), six at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 22nd (DM) and Eland Hall (Ponteland) on 23rd (IK), five at Newbiggin Sewage Works on 1st (DM/STH), Elford on 3rd (CGK/MSH), Chapel House (Newcastle) on 20th (SR) and Kilham on 24th (TRD/JD), four at Lucker all month (Hu), Shildonhill on 2nd (PCF), Happy Valley (Wooler) on 6th (MJC), Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF), Longframlington Common on 14th (MT/NT), West Mickley on 28th (SWA), Silverlink Biodiversity Park (North Shields) on 29th (CGK) and Holystone on 30th (TRD/JD). One to three were at a further 31 widespread localities.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Two birds were seen in the Abbey Mills Farm area of Morpeth on 16th (MW). A well observed individual was noted here on 17th (ADMc), Highford Bridge (Mitford) on 17th (CN) and Mitford on 17th (ASJ), Abbey Mills Farm on 18th (ADMc) and Morpeth on 18th (BB), Abbey Mills Farm on 22nd-26th (ADMc/PRM) and Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 27th (TRD/JD).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Birds were observed virtually daily at Blyth South Harbour with a peak of seven on 5th (BB *et al.*). Two were at St. Mary's Island on 9th (JPD) and inland, one at Bloody Bush (Kielder) on 30th (MJC).

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus*

One was found in a stubble field at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 29th, the first noted since severe weather drove off large flocks in late 2010 (IK).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

70 were in a stubble field west of Shilbottle on 26th (KVB), 64 at Cheswick on 24th (MHu), 50 at East Fleetham near Seahouses on 1st (JR), 45 at Fenham on 2nd (ASJ), 34 at Thirston New Houses on 22nd (NFO) and Norham on 23rd (MHu), 30 at Fenham-le-Moor on 23rd (DM/STH/PJA) and one to 20 at a further 14 widespread localities.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Ten were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 29th (TB), three at Fenham-le-Moor on 23rd DM/STH/PJA) a Dinnington garden on 30th (PCF) and one to two at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Links, Ellington Pond, Maiden's Hall, Plenmeller Common and Upper Lewisburn (Kielder).

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes****Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

Two were found at Middleton Hall on 7th with one on the small pond there and the other nonchalantly walking down the road where it happily posed for photos (TRD/JD).



The Middleton Muscovy Duck
by Tim Dean on 7th January

Speckled Teal *Anas flavirostris*

The bird last seen in November turned up again with sightings at Marden Quarry on 9th (KWY) and St Mary's wetland on 13th and 22nd (BB/MT/NT).

Hybrids

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

Three hybrids were found on 26th on the Tweed Estuary at Yarrow Slake (MHu) with a single at Killingworth Lake on 27th (IF).

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Those observers marked with an asterisk after their name(s) have submitted records online using the club spreadsheet. Copies are available by emailing Dick Myatt at dick@dickmyatt.co.uk.

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Lindsay McDougall (Swans to Geese, Game birds, Divers to Herons), Graeme Bowman (Ducks), Trevor Blake (Birds of Prey to Rails), Ian Forsyth (Waders to Skuas), Tim Dean (Gulls to Auks, Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Doves to Dunnock), Mike Richardson (Robin to Warblers), Dee McKeown (Flycatchers to Buntings), Julie Roper/Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts). Thanks again to Ann McKeown for typing the section Flycatchers to Buntings. Thanks to Barbara Welch of NNBC for providing data. Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett Sscmagpie@aol.com

Distributed by Alan Watson apusx@blueyonder.co.uk

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please send all record cards to Tim Dean, 2 Knocklaw Park, Rothbury NE65 7PW, to arrive on, or preferably before, the 8th of the month following that in which the records were collected. Please write cards legibly to ensure that your sightings are correctly recorded.

E-mail: Members are encouraged to e-mail their records on an Excel-style spreadsheet. Please e-mail Dick Myatt at dick@dickmyatt.co.uk for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and Grid references: The use of standard location names and the inclusion of grid references greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at Sscmagpie@aol.com

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

The NTBC bulletin can be received electronically or as hard copy. The electronic bulletin arrives earlier than the printed version, it is in colour and we save the cost of printing and stamps. Ask for an e-mailed bulletin from jo.bentley@waitrose.com.

IINDOOR MEETINGS

The next meeting is, as usual, at Newcastle Falcons on Thursday 10th March at 7pm.

Tracking Migration by Nick Moran.

Nick is the Bird Track organiser for BTO. A fascinating meeting is in prospect. The highlights of 2010 will be discussed together with the forthcoming spring migration and recent developments in the Birdtrack Project.

FIELD TRIPS

The next trips are;

Kielder on March 20th. Crossbills and several raptor species should be seen on this popular trip.

A trip to the **Harthope Valley** is planned in May .

These trips are ideal as an introduction to young people to the local countryside and, of course, to the birds of our area. So why not bring along your friends and family.

For further information please contact Trevor Blake Email: trevor.1958@live.co.uk

NTBC WEB SITE

The Club website is an excellent resource for all interested in birds in the north east. There are numerous interesting sections, including a photograph gallery, site information and trip reports together with extensive reference information for birding in our area.

The site is at www.ntbc.org.uk

If you have any ideas or things you would like to see or hear about on the site then let Chris know on 0751 582 5024 or email christopher.knox@o2.co.uk.

NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The club sightings web page gives listings of birds seen locally. Adding a sighting is simple. A short email is all that is needed. If anyone would like to be added as a contributor please contact Alan Tilmouth at ntbcorg@gmail.com. The sightings page can be found at <http://ntbsightings.posterous.com>.

ATLAS FUNDRAISING EVENING

The club has organised an additional Indoor Meeting on 31st March 2011 at Kingston Park. The evening is open to members and non-members to raise funds for the forthcoming Atlas. Our speaker will be Martin Garner, author and identification guru, who will be delivering what is sure to be a stimulating talk on

The Next Frontiers of Birding in Britain.

Tickets are £5 and are available to collect at Indoor Meetings from Alan Tilmouth or by post (£0.25 p&p). Send cheques payable to NTBC to Alan Tilmouth, 12 Stowe Gardens, Pegswood, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 6TH.

The Club are looking for volunteers to help with the fundraising needed for the publication of the Atlas book(s). If you have a few spare hours over the next year or so why not contact any committee member.

MEMBERS' NIGHT

We are now looking for members who may be interested in making a short presentation for Members' Night in April on any subject of ornithological interest. Please contact any member of the committee.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2011

Annual subscription is £23. For membership inquiries please contact jo.bentley@waitrose.com.

SEATON SLUICE WATCHTOWER

Essential Repair Work on Seaton Sluice Watchtower will be carried out week commencing 28th February, this work may occur over a couple of days depending upon the weather. Part of the work will be to install a new lock on the watchtower door and this will necessitate new keys being issued to members. The committee has decided to offer a replacement key to all members who hold a current key free of charge. £2.50 to cover the costs of key cutting will be levied for any members who do not currently have a key but would like one.

Please bring old keys to the Indoor Meetings on 10th March or 14th April or alternatively post them with a SAE to:

Alan Tilmouth, NTBC, 12 Stowe Gardens, Pegswood, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 6TH.

RECORD CARDS QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks to all 50 members who replied to this questionnaire. The results are summarized below and will greatly assist the Committee in formulating future policy in this area.

Please note, not everyone replied to all questions.

1 Should NTBC seek to retain (45 responses)

a) the record cards	1	
b) the data contained on the cards	23	51%
c) both.	20	44%
No	1	

2. Should NTBC enter into data sharing arrangements with one or more of the options available to us and in doing so make the data available to the public (minus any sensitive breeding information)? (43 responses)

Yes	36	84%
No	7	16%

3. If a searchable product containing all past NTBC bulletins was produced would you purchase a copy? (46 responses)

Generally Positive	25	54%
Yes	14	
Probably	11	
Generally Negative	21	46%
Possibly	3	
No (including probably not)	18	

A number of members replied "Yes, as long as the price is right" – all of these were classified as "Probably".

NOT BOTHERED! - NORTH TYNESIDE YEAR LIST 2010

Like most of these things it started off with someone saying "I think I'll keep a list for North Tyneside next year" within earshot of several other North Tyneside Birders probably while out for a quiet drink at the festive season. Fatal mistake that, as it was bound to be taken as a challenge although no-one would actually admit to this! So two intrepids started out their lists on 1st January 2010 although it was suspected that a third was also angling that way but not really admitting such initially. A fourth birder kept well and truly silent and non-committal, even lasting like this until the end of the year. So Chris Knox, Alan Janes (who 'came out' early in the year) & Mike Hodgson were off and running. We cannot give the name of the non-existent fourth birder but he did see at least two extra species that the other combatants didn't see!

Like the true gentlemen we are, lots of information on sightings passed between the listers and sites were freely disclosed as to the best chances for seeing certain species within the boundaries of North Tyneside. The 'rules', although not formally written down, allowed species seen whilst standing within North Tyneside boundaries to be admitted on to lists. How else would you get Manx Shearwater? We believe that a North Tyneside Year List probably hasn't been done before but stand to be corrected.

Year Listing is a stupid pastime but quite good fun at the same time! During the year we discovered or re-discovered many excellent birding places in our immediate area, amassed a number of sightings for both the bird club records and the ongoing Atlas and were surprised by what we didn't know about our local patch. Marsh Tit is mega rare but Pallas's Warbler just about annual! There are probably more breeding pairs of Fulmars than Garden Warblers and you can see a long way with a telescope from our very own 'Hawk Mountain'!

Of course 'to win' you have to get out into the field and see the birds and in such an intense non-competition like this, woe betide the birder who doesn't act upon information received immediately. One lister didn't hurry out for Black-throated Diver in January or Puffin in the summer and paid the price – no others were seen! Another failed to go and watch a pair of Long-eared Owls feeding their fledged young just a couple of miles from his home feeling confident that he would find his own autumn immigrant. Fool! Everyone was skating on thin ice with Tawny Owl until a mutual friend located a regular roosting bird in December. Tree Sparrow can be tricky and white-winged gulls are just plain difficult nowadays!

So to the results! The three managed totals of 171, 172 and 177 but it should be borne in mind that two of the three work full-time and the third is just a Grumpy Old Birder who does little to make a living! These totals are not really significant because we know now that a combined total of 189 species at least was recorded in North Tyneside in 2010. Not bad for such a relatively small area which has huge chunks of urban/suburban habitat, loads of people and seemingly many more cars, cats, dogs and other impediments conducive to birding!

And the 'Not Bothered' bit? Well, that became a standard reply text message between the listers when told of a species they hadn't seen yet, usually followed by them turning up at the site within milliseconds!!! If anyone wants to take up the challenge in 2011 please feel free as we shall not be listing this year (perhaps!).

AJ/CGK/MSH

CORPSES - bring out your dead

Dan Gordon of The Great North Museum spotted the photograph of the dead ringed Stone Curlew in the last bulletin and has said:

“It is exactly the sort of specimen that the museum would be interested in collecting. We are keen to get as representative a sample of the local bird community as possible so anything (fresh!) is welcome, but these rarer records are of special interest ”

So if you have a specimen please contact;

Daniel Gordon
Keeper of Biology
Great North Museum:Hancock
Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4PT
Tel: ++ (0) 191 222 6784
Fax: ++ (0) 191 261 6753
e: daniel.gordon@ncl.ac.uk
e: daniel.gordon@twmuseums.org.uk

DESCRIPTIONS WANTED FROM 2010

Given below is a full list of sightings in 2010 where no documentation has yet been forwarded to the County Recorder. These are all species where the County Records Committee has deemed it pertinent to have a description due to the species' rarity in the county. The Birdguides website has been gleaned for any rare sightings together with all submissions to NTBC via email submissions or record cards.

All sightings given need written documentation for the County Records Committee to pass judgement and for the records to pass into the official annual report 'Birds in Northumbria 2010'. Descriptions need to be forwarded by late May to allow the records committee meeting in July time to vet them. A complete list of all species needing notes is included in the NTBC website www.ntbc.org.uk under the County Records Committee section. This is also replicated in Birds in Northumbria 2009 on page 224. A copy of the Rarity report form can be downloaded from the website and is also printed with month's bulletin.

Many of these outstanding records may well be due to the observers feeling that they are unable to document the sighting in full due to the brevity of the sighting which is particularly a problem with sea-birds and birds of prey. 2010 was a bumper year for scarce migrants with Hobby, Barred Warbler and Great Grey Shrike all featuring strongly. It would be disappointing if these influxes were not shown in the annual report for want of descriptive notes.

Hopefully many of these records will be written up in order for them to appear in 'Birds of Northumbria 2010' as the observers may only now be aware that I am still waiting for a description. I have given the initials of those observers who I know were involved in the sighting (although not necessarily the finders) but would welcome descriptions from anyone who happened to see the bird in question.

March is a good time for people to buckle down to writing , No Atlas work and Spring still over the horizon!

Thanks
Tim Dean

Descriptions Required

4	Tundra Bean Goose	11 – 16	Grindon Lough	26/01/10	02/02/10	AA/SJH/PRM
4	Tundra Bean Goose	2	East Allerdean	25/02/10	?	?
4	Tundra Bean Goose	1	East Chevington	28/02/10		PHH
4	Tundra Bean Goose	1	Druridge	07/03/10		ADMc
5	Taiga Bean Goose	12	Grindon Lough	26/01/10		Aco
5	Taiga Bean Goose	10	East Allerdean	25/02/10		?
5	Taiga Bean Goose	1	Bradford Kaims	02/03/10		PRM
5	Taiga Bean Goose	1	Hauxley	04/03/10		JA
5	Taiga Bean Goose	8	Spindlestone	06/03/10		MW
10	Ross's Goose	1	Doddington	08/11/10	16/11/10	AW
10	Ross's Goose	1	Newton Flash	29/11/10		GW
10	Ross's Goose	1	Howick	03/12/10		SS
14	Egyptian Goose	1	Whittle Dene Res	09/10/10	13/10/10	GT / SR
15	Ruddy Shelduck	2	Cresswell Pond	17/08/10		?
22	Green-winged Teal	M	Druridge Pools	26/02/10	01/03/10	PRM
33	Ring-necked Duck	M	Branton GP	30/10/10		Ida/KDa
67	White-billed Diver	1	Stag Rocks, Bamburgh	18/01/10		GS
87	Leach's Petrel	1	Blyth	08/11/10		?
92	Continental Cormorant	1	Whittle Dene Res	30/01/10		PRM
92	Continental Cormorant	6	Blyth South Harbour	31/01/10		PRM
92	Continental Cormorant	1	Hauxley	22/04/10 & 29/04/10		JA
92	Continental Cormorant	2	QE II CP	18/11/10 & 18/12/10		AT
105	Great White Egret	1	Monk's House	05/11/10		Rna
105	Great White Egret	1	Alnwick	12/11/10	14/11/10	KH/TRD/JD
105	Great White Egret	1	Jockey's Bridge / Branton / Hedgeley GP	17/11/10	25/11/10	Ida / Kda
109	White Stork	1	Chatton	17/04/10	18/04/10	MSK
110	Glossy Ibis	1	Cresswell Pond	15/10/10		ADMc
112	Honey Buzzard	1	Shirlaw Pike	25/05/10		MS
112	Honey Buzzard	M	Slaley	25/08/10		BNR
112	Honey Buzzard	M	Hexham	26/08/10		BNR
112	Honey Buzzard	M	Bywell	03/09/10		BNR
112	Honey Buzzard	1	Slaggyford	16/09/10		BNR
112	Honey Buzzard	1	Holywell Pond	17/09/10		ASJ
113	Black Kite	1	Budle Bay	04/06/10		?
113	Black Kite	1	Rennington	05/06/10		?
115	White-tailed Eagle	Imm	Linton	28/03/10		PG
115	White-tailed Eagle	Imm	Prestwick Carr / Bellasis Bridge	31/03/10	01/04/10	PCF/GB
115	White-tailed Eagle	1	Staple Island, Farne Islands	28/08/10	12/09/10	FIW

Wing-tagged

125	Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Glorum	06/01/10	Jha	
125	Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Bradford Kaims	11/01/10	Jha	same as above
125	Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Murton	15/03/10	DB	
125	Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Longhirst GC	26/12/10	TB	Probable
125	Rough-legged Buzzard	1	Hebron	27/12/10	TB	
134	Hobby	1	Newbiggin, Beldon Burn	22/05/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	St Mary's Island	27/05/10	?	
134	Hobby	1	Shilford	28/05/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	2	Corbridge, Farnley	31/05/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	Newton Pool	09/06/10	GW et al	
134	Hobby	1	Haughtrother Wood	14/06/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	East Chevington	25/06/10	PHH	
134	Hobby	1	Hallington Reservoir	28/06/10	PRM	
134	Hobby	1	Killingworth	02/07/10	MIM	
134	Hobby	1 st Sum	Holywell Pond	03/07/10	?	
134	Hobby	1	Ordley	06/07/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	Snope Burn	10/07/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	Haughton Strother GP	11/07/10	MR	
134	Hobby	Juv	Druridge Pools	15/07/10	MSK	
134	Hobby	1	Grindon Lough	18/07/10	PRM	
134	Hobby	1	Blanchland	20/07/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	Oakpool / Hollybush	24/07/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	Ad	Tynemouth	15/08/10	PRM	
134	Hobby	?Ad.2 Juv	Softley	05/09/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	Holy Island	05/09/10	CP	
134	Hobby	1	Barhaugh Hall, Shawhead	05/09/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	Juv	Hemscott Hill, Cresswell	07/09/10	TB	
134	Hobby	1	Rising Sun CP	22/09/10	SPP	
134	Hobby	1	Parson Shileds / Williamston N	25/09/10	BNR	
134	Hobby	1	Holy Island	26/09/10	IBDa / Kda	
134	Hobby	Juv	Druridge Pools / Links	29/09/10	IDR / DE	
149	Common Crane	1	Warkworth	10/03/10 & 23/03/10	PT	
149	Common Crane	1	Acklington	14/04/10	KS	
149	Common Crane	3	West Monkseaton	23/04/10	?	
149	Common Crane	2	Whitley Bay	16/11/10	MNC	11:30 South
149	Common Crane	2	Newbiggin	16/11/10	GCP / JC	11:10 South
157	Stone Curlew	1	Holy Island	01/05/10	Ida/KDa	
157	Stone Curlew	1	Holy Island	12/12/10	LJ	Dead. Photo
170	Dotterel	1	Murton	10/05/10	NNBC	
185	Temminck's Stint	1	Woodhorn Flash	23/05/10	SJM	
190	Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Newton Pool	11/09/10	GW	
230	Grey Phalarope	1	Newton Point	12/09/10	GW	
230	Grey Phalarope	1	Newbiggin	24/09/10	GW	
230	Grey Phalarope	2	Emmanuel Head, Holy Island	23/10/10	TRC	
230	Grey Phalarope	2	Emmanuel Head, Holy Island	11/11/10	RA	

233	Long-tailed Skua	Juv	St Mary's Island	12/08/10	?
233	Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Newbiggin	29/08/10	STH/GB/JGS
233	Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Newbiggin	30/08/10	GB/STH/JGS et al
233	Long-tailed Skua	Juv	Snab Pt, Cresswell	24/09/10	PRM
233	Long-tailed Skua	Juv	St Mary's	26/09/10	DRW
233	Long-tailed Skua	1	Newbiggin	09/11/10	?
240	Sabine's Gull	Juv	Holy Island	26/09/10	IK
242	Bonaparte's Gull	Ad	Tynemouth	29/08/10	?
264	White-winged Black Tern	Juv	Cresswell Pond	15/09/10 & 18/09/10	TB/MSK/PRM/IF/KWR
276	Black Guillemot	1	Howick	30/08/10	SS
309	Pallid Swift	1	Newton	06/10/10	?
311	Alpine Swift	2	Alnmouth	23/03/10	PRM
311	Alpine Swift	1	Whittle Dene Res	18/06/10	BRG
323	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	Wylam, Hagg Bank	07/12/10	BNR
332	Woodlark	1	Inner Farne	19/11/10	FIW
341	Red-rumped Swallow	1	Gosforth Park	20/04/10	per SRB
351	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	1	Low Newton	13/03/10 & 02/04/10	GW
351	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	1	Boulmer	01/04/10	PRM
351	Scandinavian Rock Pipit	1	Newbiggin	15/11/10	AT
352	Water Pipit	1	Whittle Dene Res	24/03/10	MR
373	Bluethroat	1	Inner Farne	27/09/10	FIW
386	Desert Wheatear	M	Seahouses	14/11/10	RY
419	Marsh Warbler	1	Hauxley	17/06/10	18/06/10
419	Marsh Warbler	1	Newbiggin	08/09/10	IF/TM et al
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	St Mary's	31/08/10 & 09/09/10	DD/SJM/TRC/AGI/PHH
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Newton Pool	05/09/10	Pha
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Cresswell Pond	07/09/10	JSB
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Hauxley	30/09/10	MH/AA
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Druridge Pools	30/09/10	IDR et al
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Cambois	30/09/10	ST
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Cullernose Pt	02/10/10	SS
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Straight Lonnen, Holy Island	02/10/10	04/10/10
430	Barred Warbler	1 st Win	Howick	29/10/10	TRC / TF
441	Greenish Warbler	1 st Win	Newbiggin	08/09/10	10/09/10
451	Iberian Chiffchaff	1	Druridge Bay CP	14/09/10	PRM
451	'Siberian' Chiffchaff	1	High Newton church	10/10/10	FG
451	'Siberian' Chiffchaff	1	High Newton church	09/11/10	GW
457	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	Holy Island	10/09/10	CP
457	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1 st Win	St Mary's	09/10/10	AC
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Hogswood Moor, Kielder	30/01/10	MD
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Harwood Forest	23/03/10	09/04/10
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Shildon Pt, Blanchland	14/04/10	TS / AT
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Bamburgh	27/09/10	MJS
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Cambois	08/10/10	09/10/10

Photo

?

ST

481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Harwood Forest	13/10/10	14/10/10	NF
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Tarset Forest	07/11/10		MD
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Otterburn Ranges	13/11/10		IK
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Paddaburn, Wark Forest	21/11/10		MD
481	Great Grey Shrike	1	Featherstone Castle, Coanwood	28/11/10		?
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	2	Brunswick	21/02/10		GB
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	1	Corbridge	23/02/10		MR
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	1	Grindon Lough	10/04/10		PRM
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	1	Wideopen	17/10/10		GB
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	1	Wark	03/12/10		PRM
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	1	Killingworth Lake	06/12/10 & 16/12/10		GB / PCF
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	1	Rising Sun CP	15/12/10		SPP
489	Nordic' Jackdaw	1	Weetslade Colliery CP	18/12/10		GB
519	Common Rosefinch	1 st yr M	Howick	22/05/10		SS / JAR et al
521	Northern' Bullfinch	F	Straight Lonnen, Holy Island	10/11/10 & 20/11/10		IK / NNBC
521	Northern' Bullfinch	M	Wark	20/11/10		PRM
521	Northern' Bullfinch	M & F	Straight Lonnen, Holy Island	11/12/10		IK
521	Northern' Bullfinch	F	Old Widdrington Tip	17/12/10		NF
558	Ortolan Bunting	3	Inner Farne	07/09/10	11/09/10	FIW
563	Little Bunting	1	Greymare Farm, Belford	08/04/10		CL
568	Corn Bunting	1	Embleton GC	12/05/10		STE

Photo

Photo

COASTAL WEBS COUNTS: NORTHUMBERLAND

January 2011

Site	TOTAL	MHU	Tweed Estuary	Tweed: A1 By-Pass to	MHU	M. Hutchison	AC	RP	AC	RP	Budle Pt - Seahouses	Seahouses - Beadnell	Badnell - Howick	Howick - Boulmer	Boulmer - Alnmouth	Aln Estuary	Alnmouth South	Coquet Estuary	Amble - Chevington	Cressingwell - Newbiggin	Newbiggin - Cambois	Blayth Estuary	Blayth Estuary - Seaton	Tyne North Pier - Fish Quay	Walsend (north bank) only	DMT	DMT	PF	PF
Counter		14	16	16	12	MHU	12	16	16	16	RP	MLC	KR	SS	AB	TAC	RP	EC	TW	MSK	MGA	RC	LJM	KVB	DMT	DMT	PF	PF	
Red-throated Diver	36			15				4																					
Little Grebe	10		5																										
Great Crested Grebe	1			1																									
Red-necked Grebe	3																												
Slavonian Grebe	6																												
Cormorant	303	7	7	4	40			4										44	11										
Shag	97			16				6																					
Grey Heron	44	16	2	1	8													2	1										
Mute Swan	50	32		1	4			4										4											
Whooper Swan	17			3																									
Pink-footed Goose	1,829	220		1609				800																					
Greylag Goose	523	310		207				125																					
Canada Goose	9		9																										
Barnacle Goose	42			42																									
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	95			95																									
Light-bellied Brent Goose	4,039			29	3820			230										2											
Shelduck	1,819			1751				710										350	2										
Wigeon	1,843			727																									
Gadwall	1																												
Teal	1,140		22	369				71																					
Mallard	962	214	60	2	419			185										7											
Pintail	136		1	136																									
Pochard	25	1																											
Tufted Duck	4			4																									
Elder	1,056	6		24	298			116										82	34	27									
Long-tailed Duck	42			33				9																					
Common Scoter	371			52	150			71																					
Goldeneye	433	158	70	26	26			6										10											
Red-breasted Merganser	93		1	8	59																								
Goosander	15	8	7																										
Moorhen	7		1																										
Coot	7	3		2																									
Oystercatcher	1,983	5		53	808			45										5	72	70									
Ringed Plover	101			51				28																					
Golden Plover	1,200			66	1132																								
Grey Plover	341			1	147																								
Lapwing	654	139	1	1	39			200										150											
Knot	3,778			1	3563			23										8	19										
Sandpiper	182			52				25										2	8										
Purple Sandpiper	160							49										3	4										
Dunlin	1,310			8	810			9										1	39										
Snipe	1																												
Bar-tailed Godwit	728			581				70																					
Curlew	2,080	14		18	1464			28										17	7	2									
Redshank	1,264	110		1	373			48										18	57	4									
Greenshank																													
Turnstone	317	3		2	27			12										1	15										
Black-headed Gull	3,909	1030	7	1	365			nc										25											
Common Gull	341		82	1	115													4											
Herring Gull	1,022	72	5	14	172			nc										12											
Great Black-backed Gull	269	8	1	4	20			nc										2											
Kingfisher	1																												
ADDITIONAL SPECIES																													
Fulmar	46	2						2																					
TOTALS - WILDFOWL	15,055	979	184	124	9,836			228										503	48	66									
- WADERS	14,100	271	1	150	9,047			191										207	273	76									
- GULLS & TERNS	5,541	1,110	95	20	672			0										0	43	0									

M. G. Anderson
R. Chilton
L. J. McDougall
D. M. Turner
P. Fletcher
M. L. Cadwallender
J. Bentley
K. Redgrave / M. Freeman
S. Sexton
A. Brunt
T. Brewis
A. Craigs
R. Poyer
T. Watson
M. Kitching / S. Barratt
M. G. Anderson
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