



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

BIRD NOTES No. 8

NORTHUMBERLAND 'GREY' GOOSE CENSUS 2010 & 2011

This long-running annual monitoring scheme run by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust counts wintering Icelandic Greylag *Anser anser* and Pink-footed Geese *A. brachyrhynchus*. It is based primarily on roost counts, with priority count dates in 2010 of 9/10 October, 6/7 November and 4/5 December, and in 2011-12 of 1/2 October, 5/6 November, 3/4 December and 25/26 February. To meet current arrival dates, Pink-footed Geese are counted in October and November and Greylag Geese, due to their later arrival dates, in November and December. Sites holding both species are counted in all three months. Surveys were mostly undertaken at either dawn or dusk, although some daytime counts were also carried out.

An additional spring census was carried out of as many sites as possible in February 2012. This census will help to determine the distribution of Pink-footed and Greylag Geese during early spring when they are preparing to leave for their breeding grounds.



Pink-footed Geese

Most traditional roost sites were counted during both 2010 and 2011/12, although, for a number of reasons, the Tweed Estuary, Hedgeley Gravel Pits, Branton Gravel Pits, Hallington Reservoir, Colt Crag Reservoir and Derwent Reservoir were not counted. For instance, heavy snowfall in many areas of the county during November and December 2010 caused a number of surveys, particularly in the more remote areas of the county, to be abandoned.

Other geese and swan species were also recorded where present and these have been detailed in tables 2 and 3 below alongside Pink-footed and Greylag Goose.

Table 1. Icelandic-breeding Goose Census: Survey coverage in 2010 and 2011/12

	Number of surveys in							
	October 2010	November 2010	December 2010	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012
Big Waters	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Branton Gravel Pits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caistron Quarry	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colt Crag Reservoir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cresswell Pond	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Derwent Reservoir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Chevington	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	0
Grindon Lough	0	2	0	1	3	1	2	0
Hallington Reservoirs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hedgeley Gravel Pits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holburn Moss NNR	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holburn & Greymare Flashes	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Holywell Pond	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1
Lindisfarne NNR	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Long Nanny	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Maiden's Hall Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Newton Pool	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Prestwick Carr	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	2
Tweed Estuary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0

Table 2. Icelandic-breeding Goose Census: Results of the 2010 Surveys

	Big Waters	Caistron Quarry	East Chevington	Grindon Lough	Holburn Moss NNR	Holywell Pond	Lindisfarne NNR	Long Nanny	Newton Pool	Prestwick Carr	Monthly Total
Count Date											
October	-	-	9 th	-	?	10 th	?	12 th	10 th	10 th	
November	7 th	6 th	7 th	6 & 7	?	6 th	?	-	7,15,26	6 th	
December	5 th	-	5 th	-	-	7 th	-	20 th	16, 20	4 th	
Pink-footed Goose											
October	-	-	2680	-	800	0	2630	30	0	0	6140
November	0	0	1500	0	250	150	660	-	0	0	2560
December	0	-	45	-	-	300	-	0	0	0	345
Greylag Goose											
October	-	-	0	-	0	73	0	0	0	0	73
November	0	98	74	8	0	0	60	-	100	98	438
December	0	-	68	-	-	25	-	0	220	0	313
Greenland White-fronted Goose											
October	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	1
December	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose											
October	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	32	0	442	0	0	0	-	0	0	474
December	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0
Pale-bellied Brent Goose											
October	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
December	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	64	63	0	127

Mute Swan											
October	-	-	0	-	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
November	0	18	0	4	0	4	0	-	0	0	26
December	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0
Whooper Swan											
October	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	-	0	0	10
December	0	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0

Table 3. Icelandic-breeding Goose Census: Results of the 2011-12 Surveys

	Big Waters	Cresswell Pond	East Chevington	Grindon Lough	Holburn & Greymare Flashes	Holywell Pond	Lindisfarne NNR	Maiden's Hall Lake	Prestwick Carr	Whittle Dene Reservoirs	Monthly Total
Count Date											
October	-	-	-	13 th	?	2 nd	?	-	-	20 th	
November	30 th	25 th	5, 25	7, 24, 30	?	6 & 10	?	-	3, 6, 30	22 nd	
December	1 st	-	-	3 rd	?	4 th	?	-	3 & 4	8 th	
January	-	12 th	4, 12	2, 19	-	-	-	-	13 th	19 th	
February	-	-	26 th	-	?	25 th	?	26 th	25 & 26	-	
Pink-footed Goose											
October	-	-	-	2	175	0	2400	-	-	0	2577
November	0	0	3800	0	250	72	5250	-	0	0	9372
December	0	-	-	0	150	0	1675	-	0	1	1826
January	-	47	803	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	850
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	1100	2000	0	-	3100
Greylag Goose											
October	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
November	97	0	400	47	0	0	0	-	2	20	566
December	0	-	-	0	0	11	0	-	14	190	215
January	-	79	310	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	389
February	-	-	0	-	33	0	0	20	40	-	93
Greenland White-fronted Goose											
October	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	-	-	0	1
November	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	-	0	0	2
December	0	-	-	2	0	0	0	-	0	0	2
January	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
European White-fronted Goose											
October	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
November	0	3	31	25	0	0	0	-	0	0	59
December	0	-	-	25	0	0	0	-	2	1	28
January	-	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	1
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	60	0	-	60
Barnacle Goose											
October	-	-	-	7	0	0	0	-	-	0	7
November	2	0	800	3	0	0	0	-	0	0	805
December	0	-	-	1	0	0	0	-	0	0	1
January	-	0	150	1	-	-	-	-	0	0	151
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	30	0	-	30
Canada Goose											
October	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
November	0	0	0	486	0	0	0	-	0	0	486
December	0	-	-	360	0	0	0	-	2	0	362
January	-	0	0	304	-	-	-	-	0	0	304
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	4	-	4

Tundra Bean Goose											
October	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	15	0	15
December	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	14	0	14
January	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	20	0	-	20
Mute Swan											
October	-	-	-	0	0	4	0	-	-	0	4
November	15	0	8	5	0	4	0	-	0	0	32
December	10	-	-	2	0	0	0	-	0	0	12
January	-	0	29	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	29
February	-	-	0	-	0	2	0	0	0	-	2
Whooper Swan											
October	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
November	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	15
December	13	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	13
January	-	1	9	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	10
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
Bewick's Swan											
October	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
December	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
January	-	0	2	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	2
February	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0

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