

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

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

**Bulletin 2013 No 9**

**MONTHLY SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER**

**5th November 2013**



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## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Goosander	Another high count of 294 on the Tweed at New Water Haugh
Balearic Shearwater	Further notable passage this month
Storm Petrel	One past St Mary's on 10th
Little Egret	Still at least ten in the Berwick area up to 20th
Red-necked Grebe	A popular juvenile at the Tweed estuary up to 22nd
Honey-buzzard	One noted over Fawdon, Newcastle on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Hobby	One emaciated juvenile found dead at Big Waters on 20th
Spotted Crake	Still at East Chevington on 13th after a six-week stay
American Golden Plover	A moulting adult at St Mary's from 19th to 22nd
Ruff	Another high count of 89 at East Chevington on 1st
White-rumped Sandpiper	An adult at East Chevington from 1st to 9th
Pectoral Sandpiper	Several individuals this month
Long-tailed Skua	Notable passage this month
Common Tern	High roost count at Budle Pt of 280 on 21st
Arctic Tern	High roost count at Budle Pt of at least 170 on 21st
Wryneck	Single on Holy Island on 8th
Swallow	A large roost of 6,000 at Holywell Pond
Yellow-browed Warbler	Large Influx. Record day count of 52 in county on 26th
Barred Warbler	One ringed on Holy Island on 27th
Blyth's Reed Warbler	One at Half Moon Slack, Holy Island on 28th
Thrush Nightingale	An excellent find on Holy Island on 7th
Bluethroat	A popular bird at St Mary's from 25th to 28th
Red-breasted Flycatcher	Another popular bird on Holy island on 25th and 26th
Richard's Pipit	An excellent inland record of one over Wark calling on 8th
Two-barred Crossbill	A juvenile at Grindon Lough on 14th. Part of a national influx
Little Bunting	One at the Snook on Holy Island from 25th to 29th

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### Bulletin Writers

There was an excellent response to the request for bulletin writers. Thanks to all who offered to help.

## AGM

The new NTBC Constitution was agreed at the AGM in October.

## COMMITTEE

Steve Anderson has joined the committee.

Dick Myatt and Alan Tilmouth have left the committee and are thanked for the great work they have put in over the years into the running of NTBC.

## INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meeting is on Thursday 14th November and should be a fascinating insight into a major reserve on our doorstep.

**RSPB Geltsdale Nature Reserve: Whinchats, Hen Harriers & Upland Management** – An illustrated talk by RSPB Reserve Site Manager, Steve Westerberg.

One of this autumn's  
Yellow-browed Warblers

St Mary's

26th September

Jack Bucknall



## 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](http://www.ntbc.org.uk) under the County Records Committee section and in Birds in Northumbria 2011 page 228.

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

### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

One flew N at St Mary's on 18th (JPD). Peak gatherings were 114 at New Water Haugh on the River Tweed on 3rd (MHu), 112 at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), 92 at QEII CP Lake on 22nd (CDH), and 22-40 at Bolam and Killingworth Lakes, Castle Island and West Ord. Ten to 11 were at Newcastle Leazes Park and Greenlee Lough, and one to seven at 12 further sites.

### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The first of the autumn were eight at East Chevington on 9th (IRD) and five to six there on 11th-12th (IFo/MSH), followed by 14 at Snab Point (TF/JFa) and two S at Stag Rocks on 14th (DHH). Stronger southerly movement involved 47 at Ridsdale on 16th (MD), 210 at St Mary's on 17th (ASJ), 200-205 at Holy Island (IK) and St Mary's (SPP) and 93-110 at Big Waters (GB) and Druridge Pools (STH/PJA) on 18th, 19 at Spittal on 20th (MHu), 250 at Lucker on 21st (MSH), and 100 at Byker on 30th (SPP), while 70 flew SW at Monkseaton on 19th (MSH), 20-32 W at Elswick and Prestwick Carr on 21st-22nd (PCF), 400 N at Holy Island on 20th (ADM), and 90 N at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo). Numbers at Budle Bay rose from 1,800-2,000 on 18th-19th (DGB/TRD/JD) to 3,100 by 21st (CGK), 97 at East Chevington on 17th (MSH) rose to 1,500 by 22nd (JPD/MPF), and 50-68 were at Branton GP (IBDa/KDa), Fenham Flats (TRD/JD) and Grindon Lough (AJ) on 18th, and ten were at Doddington and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

50 flew S at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS) and 40 NW at St Mary's on 23rd (MSH/AC). Peak counts were 539 at East Chevington on 17th (MSH), 300 at Brandon Ponds on 5th (JMA), 220 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 4th (IFo), 112-135 at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa) and Colwell (AJR), 52-65 at Arcot, Backworth, Cocklawburn, Holywell and Linton Ponds, and 32-34 at Big Waters and the Tweed Estuary. Two to four were also at Newcastle Leazes Park and QEII CP Lake.

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

49 flew S at Mootlaw Quarry on 1st (ALT). QEII CP held 469 on 22nd (CDH), 375 were at Linton Ponds on 18th (STH/PJA), 82 at Holywell Pond on 18th (MSH), 59-60 at Backworth Pond (MNC) and Marden Quarry (KWY), and 32-48 at Bothal Pond, Newcastle Leazes Park, the Tweed Estuary and West Ord. Two to 11 were also at Berwick, Grindon Lough and Newcastle Exhibition Park.

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

On 26th, 110-130 flew S at St Mary's (SRB/JPD/MPF), five S at Druridge Pools (MJC) and one was at East Chevington (IFo), while three flew N at Newbiggin (ADM); on 27th, a total of 74 in several small groups were noted at East Chevington (ADM); and eight flew S at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Northerly movement of pale-bellied *hrota* race birds involved a total of 102 N at Seaton Sluice, including 54 on 6th (SSWT) when 47 flew N at St Mary's (JPD/MSH) and 19-24 N at Embleton Bay (JEd), Hadston and Snab Point (JSB/EC), and seven flew N at Newbiggin on 13th (TRD/JD). At Lindisfarne NNR, 30 were noted on 18th (TRD/JD) and 2,600 were present by the end of the month (IK).

Records of un-raced birds concerned 170 at Fenham Flats on 5th (JDL) followed by 350 on 11th (JDL) and 1,128 on 22nd (IBDa/KDa), 500 at Chare Ends (Holy island) on 29th (CGK/PS), and seven at Newbiggin on 13th (ASH).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Budle Bay held 270 on 21st (CGK), and two were at the Blyth and Tweed Estuaries on three dates (DM/MHu *et al.*).

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

The only report was of two at Bakethin Reservoir on 4th (MD).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was an average 789 N and seven S (SSWT), 248 flew N at St Mary's between 6th-20th (JPD) and 200 moved N at Newton Point on 25th (TRD/JD). An estimated 10,000 were at Lindisfarne NNR by the end of the month (IK), 110 at Grindon Lough on 2nd increased to a peak of 680 by 29th (PRM), 140 were at Big Waters on 27th (AJJ *per* GB), 35-78 at Arcot Pond, Derwent Reservoir and East Chevington, and 11-15 at Greenlee Lough and Monks' House Pool. One to nine were at nine further sites, including Mootlaw Quarry (the first record for the site; ALT).

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Two flew S at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT). Peak counts were 60 at Big Waters on 29th (GB), 25 at Arcot Pond on 16th (SPP), 18 at Linton Ponds on 22nd (CDH), and five to eight at East Chevington (TRD) and Marden Quarry (KWY). One to two were also at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Castle Island, Grindon Lough, Newton Pool and St Mary's Wetland. Active display was noted at Big Waters on 9th and 11th (GB).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

An above average (for September) 1,491 flew N and 34 S at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), while a total of 275 flew N at St Mary's between 6th-20th (JPD), and 263 were noted during a pelagic trip from North Shields on 21st (PRM). Budle Bay held 700 on 21st (CGK), 438 were at Monks' House Pool on 21st (MSH), 300 at East Chevington on 12th (MSH), 217-272 at Arcot Pond (GB), Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Grindon Lough (SJH), and 120 at Holy Island 'rocket field'. Counts of 30-45 came from Backworth and Holywell Ponds, Earsdon, Howdon and St Mary's Wetlands, Hallington, Longhirst Flash and Tynemouth, and ten to 21 from Bothal and Middle Ord Ponds, Castle Island, Newton Pool and the Tweed Estuary.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Six flew N at St Mary's on 14th (JPD) and four N at Newbiggin on 13th (JR). Largest concentrations were 206 at East Chevington on 4th (JPD), 170 at Grindon Lough on 29th (PRM), 138 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 12th (SR), 109-110 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Holywell Pond (MSH), and 50-88 at Big Waters, Bothal and Brandon Ponds, Earsdon, Longhirst Flash, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Leazes Park, St Mary's, on the river Tweed between A1-Horncliffe, and the Tweed Estuary. Counts of 30-49 came from Airy Holm Reservoir, Byker, Cocklawburn, Duke's and Middle Ord Ponds, Kielder village, Leaplish, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Wark, and 15-24 at Arcot and Linton Ponds, Castle Island, Newcastle Civic Centre, Newton Pool, Prestwick Carr and QEII CP Lake, and Tynemouth. A total of 100 young birds were released by a gamekeeper at Mootlaw Quarry on 28th (ALT). A new brood of one was noted at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD).

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

A total of 23 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 18 N on 6th and five N on 18th (SSWT), five flew N at St Mary's (JPD) and two N at Newbiggin (ASH) on 6th, three flew N at Newbiggin on 25th (ADM<sub>c</sub>), and two S at Tynemouth on 7th (SPP). Peak site counts were 16 at Grindon Lough on 8th (SJH), 15 at Cresswell Pond on 24th (ADM<sub>c</sub>), 15 at East Chevington on 29th (NFO), and three at St Mary's Wetland (ASJ). One to two were at Big Waters, Holy Island, and Monks' House and Newton Pools.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Two were at Bothal Pond on 9th (TF/JFa), and singles were at Arcot Pond on 5th and 8th (LJM), East Chevington north pool on 2nd and 17th (ADM<sub>c</sub>), and Hauxley Reserve on 4th (JPD/MPF/AS).

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice between 6th-23rd (SSWT). Peak counts were on the low side, with 18 at Monks' House Pool on 14th (MSH), ten at East Chevington on 4th (JPD), nine at Arcot Pond on 16th (SPP), four at Big Waters (GB) and Bothal Pond (TD/TF/JFa), and two at Grindon Lough (PRM).

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT). Counts were on the low side, with a peak of only five at Big Waters on 10th (AJJ *per* GB), two at Bothal (TD) and Cresswell (IFo) Ponds, Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Greenlee Lough (MRS). Singles were at Castle Island, Grindon Lough and Ladyburn Lake.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

A total of seven flew N at St Mary's between 6th-14th (JPD). Peak counts were 87 at East Chevington on 22nd (JPD), 61 at Tynemouth Boating Lake on 29th (KWY), 66 at Castle Island on 22nd (DM), 58 at Ladyburn Lake (IFo), 40-45 at Brandon and Cresswell Ponds and Killingworth Lake, and 22-28 at Bothal Pond, Greenlee Lough, Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, and QEII CP Lake. Ten to 15 were at Airy Holm, Derwent and Hallington Reservoirs, and two to six at four further sites, while one was at Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary).

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Singles flew N at Seaton Sluice and St Mary's on 6th, when one also flew S at the latter site (JPD/SSWT), and one flew S at Tynemouth on 7th (SPP). Five (two drakes) were at East Chevington on 17th (NFO) and a drake was on the River Tweed at New Water Haugh on 17th (MHu).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

120 were at Cheswick on 12th (MHu), 50 at Hartley on 5th (SPP), six to eight at Berwick North Shore and the Tweed Estuary, and one to two at St Mary's and Whitley Bay.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was an above-average 604 N and 26 S, including 511 N between 6th-12th but few thereafter (SSWT), and a total of 168 flew N at St Mary's between 6th-20th (JPD). About 300 were off Cresswell on 24th (TRD), 230 at Cheswick on 12th (MHu), 140 at Cocklawburn on 3rd (MHu), 45 were noted during a pelagic trip from North Shields on 21st (PRM), and 15 were at Stag Rocks (GRo). One to seven were also at Goswick, Holy Island, Snab Point and Whitley Bay.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Northerly movement involved four at St Mary's (JPD) on 10th and singles there on 6th (MSH) and 25th (AAM/AJ), three at Seaton Sluice between 6th-14th (SSWT), and one at Newbiggin on 13th (JR). Five were at Stag Rocks on 27th (GRo), two at Newbiggin on 10th (ASH), and one at Bamburgh on 28th (JHa).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Singles were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 26th (SR) and a confidential site in the north of the county on 3rd (JD).

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

One flew S at St Mary's on 26th (JPD/MPF), 14 were at Bamburgh on 28th (JHa), ten at Holy Island on 26th (TRD/JD) and two there on 15th (ADM), and six at East Chevington on 24th (TRD).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Nine flew N at Holy Island on 9th (MJC/ADM), and three N at Seaton Sluice between 6th-23rd (SSWT). New Water Haugh on the River Tweed attracted 126 on 3rd (MHu) rising to 294 by 17th (BWG); 126 were counted along the R. Tweed between A1-Horndcliffe on 22nd (TBr), 99 were at Branton GP on 22nd (IBDa/KDa), 59-64 at Berwick Little Beach and the Tweed Estuary (TRD/JD/MHu), and 36-46 at Berwick North Shore and West Ord (MHu). Nine to ten were at the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island and Doddington, and three to five at Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir and Holy Island. One to two were also at Beal, Foxton Bends, Stag Rocks and St Mary's.

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

The only records came from the Rothbury area with five at Addycombe on 20th and one at Gowk Hill (east of Craggside) on 26th (TRD/JD).

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

On 15th 34 were present at Flotterton (Coquetdale) and on 8th 17 were at Callaly (JR). 12 were near the *Beehive* Flash (Earsdon) on 7th (JPD). Eight were at Overthwarts (Edlingham) on 9th and seven at Beal Road Ends on 29th.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Three coveys totalling 29 were at Beal on 8th (MJC) and 13 were at Embleton on 3rd (JEd). Counts of 11 came from Whittingham on 8th (JR) and Beal Road Ends on 22nd (MJC/ADM). Ten were at Doddington on 14th (JD) and nine juveniles at Big Waters on 6th (AJJ). Five were at High Newton and four at Dinnington.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

At Bellasis Bridge 32 were present on 28th (PCF) and 23 were at East Bolton on 8th (JR). Four were in a Walbottle garden and at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

During the month 25 flew N and 41 flew S at Seaton Sluice, which was well below the September average (SSWT). The peak movements at St Mary's Island were 19 N and six S on 20th in 2 hours 45 minutes and nine N and one S in two hours on 18th. A further six flew N and two S on 14th with six being noted on 7th and four on 10th (JPD). At Newbiggin 18 flew past on 26th in two periods of sea-watching totalling 2 hours 40 minutes (ASH). Two flew N at Snab Point on 6th and one was noted flying S from a pelagic trip off Amble on 8th. Offshore the peak counts were 21 in Druridge Bay on 12th (DHH), 20 off East Chevington on 24th (TRD/JD), 19 in Alnmouth Bay on 23rd (RPo), nine off Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 27th (JDL) and eight off Cresswell on 24th (TRD). One to five were noted from Alnmouth, Cheswick, Goswick, Newton Point, Snab Point, Spittal Bay, Stag Rocks, Warkworth and from a pelagic trip from North Shields.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

At St Mary's Island two flew S on 7th (JPD/ CGK *et al.*) and on 26th (PRM) and singles flew N here on 14th and S on 18th (JPD). Two were off Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 27th, where one was present on 3rd (JDL).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

At Seaton Sluice two flew S from 11th-13th (SSWT) and nearby two flew S at St Mary's Island on 26th (JPD/SPP). One was noted at Newton Point on 11th (IBDa/KDa).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Noticeable N passage occurred on 6th with 200/h at Newbiggin (ASH), 100 in 1 hour at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 45 at St Mary's Island in 1 hour (MSH) with a 'blue phase' being noted here (JPD) and 43 in 1 hour at Snab Point (JR). At Newbiggin Point a further 27 flew N in 1 hour on 13th (JR). On 14th eight flew N and two S at St Mary's Island and two flew N at Stag Rocks (DHH). Two juveniles were still in nests on Whitley Bay cliffs on 1st (IJ) and one to two were noted on three further dates at Newbiggin, Newton Point, Snab Point and Stag Rocks. A 'blue phase' bird flew N at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

At Seaton Sluice 29 flew N and one S from 6th-14th, well below the September average (SSWT). At St Mary's Island on 6th at least 28 flew N from 07:15- 16:00h (JPD/AC/MPF). Eight also flew N here on 10th (JPD). At Newbiggin 18 flew N from 6th-14th (ASH/JR/GB) with a further two N on 26th (ASH). Five were noted flying N on a pelagic trip from Amble on 8th and on 6th three flew N at Tynemouth, two flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) and one flew N at Embleton Bay. Seven were seen at Newton Point on 14th (IBDa/KDa). Five were seen at Tynemouth on 10th. One to two were noted on two further dates at Newton Point and Snab Point.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

At Seaton Sluice 403 flew N and two S during the month, well below the September average. On 6th 167 flew N and on 7th 177 flew N in 1 hour (SSWT). Also on 6th 230/hour flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) (IK), a minimum of 139 flew N at St Mary's Island (AC/JPD/MSH), 54 flew N at Embleton Bay (JEd), three at Snab Point and one flew N at Newbiggin. 100 flew N in 1 hour at Tynemouth on 7th (CB). Smaller reported N movements were eight on a pelagic trip from Amble on 8th, five at Newbiggin on 13th with three there on 10th/26th and two at Spittal (Berwick). Five flew S at St Mary's Island on 10th. At Snipe Point (Holy Island) 300 were feeding close inshore on 13th (IK) and nearby 120 were off Emmanuel Head on 10th (SR). At Stag Rocks 60 were present on 13th (DHH) and 54 on 1st (IBDa/KDa). 19 were off Newton Point on 11th (IBDa/KDa). Six were at Goswick on 22nd and three were noted on a pelagic trip from North Shields on 21st.

**\*Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Singles were seen flying N at Stag Rocks on 1st (IBDa/KDa), St Mary's Island on 6th (AC/JPD/MPF/AS) and Newbiggin on 13th (ASH).

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Singles were seen flying N on a pelagic trip from Amble on 8th (DM *et al.*) and at St Mary's Island on 10th (AC).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

On 6th 2,500 flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 150 flew N at St Mary's Island in 1 hour (MSH) and 73 flew N in 1 hour at Snab Point (JR). At Stag Rocks on 14th 874 flew N and 195 S (DHH) and at Seaton Sluice hourly counts produced 400 N on 19th and 250 N on 13th (SSWT). Also on 13th 122 flew N in 1 hour at Newbiggin (JR). Peak S movements at Holy Island were 1,100/hour on 19th and 600/hour on 28th (IK) and here on 15th ca.60 were seen moving both N and S (ADM). 500 were in a large feeding frenzy off Stag Rocks on 18th (TRD/JD), 200 were noted between Stag Rocks-Budle Point on 20th (ADM), 150 were offshore at The Snook (Holy Island ) on 20th (ADM) and 60+ were feeding offshore at North Blyth on 1st (LJM). One to 30 were noted offshore at Alnmouth, Berwick Little Beach, East Chevington, Low Newton, Newbiggin, Newton Point, Snab Point, Spittal Bay and Whitley Bay.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Seaton Sluice 31 flew N in one hour on 14th (SSWT). The peak counts were 154 at Blyth South Harbour on 3rd (STH), 58 at Amble Harbour on 8th (DM *et al.*), 49 on the Tweed from the A1 road bridge to Horncliffe on 22nd (TBr), 35 at Castle Island on 22nd (DM/STH/IFo), 29 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo), 26 at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd (JMA) and 19 in the Tweed Estuary on 16th (PRM). In the Berwick area 14 were at Meadow Haven on 16th and North Shore on 18th (MHu). Ten were at East Chevington North Pool on 8th (DM/STH/GB/IFo) and seven were at Fontburn Reservoir on 24th. One to five were noted at Bothal Pond, Elswick Wharf, Kitty Brewster (Blyth), St Mary's Island and Whitley Bay.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

In the Berwick area 18 roosted at Meadow Haven on 16th, 12 were at North Shore on 18th and Cheswick on 24th, six in Spittal Bay on 13th (MHu) and five at Little Beach on 18th, when a juvenile was at Stag Rocks (TRD/JD).

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One was at East Chevington North Pool on 7th (SRB).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Ten were in the Whiteadder Water/New Mills area of the Tweed Estuary on 20th (TBr), nine were nearby at New Water Haugh on 14th (BWG) with one to eight being noted in the estuary on six further dates (MHu *et al.*). Four were at Beal on 22nd (MJC/ADM) and three at Alnmouth on 1st (ASJ), Longbridge End (Lindisfarne NNR) on 20th (IK) and in Budle Bay from 21st-23rd (CGK). Singles were noted at Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Fenham Flats and Warkworth Gut.



**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The peak counts were 34 in the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 21 at Howdon Wetland NR on 5th (CB), 11 at Castle Island on 22nd (DM/STH/IFo), seven at Elswick Wharf on 24th (DM) and six at Old Hartley on 22nd (DM/STH/IFo). One to four were noted at Arcot Pond, Berwick North Shore, Chollerford, Goswick, Holy Island, Holywell Dene, Longhirst Flash, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Newton Pool, St Mary's Island and Wark.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Large post-breeding counts were 23 at East Chevington North Pool on 21st (ADM), 19 at Big Waters on 5th/9th (GB), 14 at Hedgeley GP on 5th, 13 at Bothal Pond on 7th (TD) and ten at Bakethin Reservoir on 26th (MD), Castle Island on 22nd (DM/STH/IFo) and Ladyburn Lake on 3rd (IFo). Eight were at Hauxley NR on 11th (IFo), seven at Airey Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 12th (IFo) and six at Arcot Pond on 22nd (DM), Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 26th (SR) and Cresswell Pond on 29th (ADM). One to four were noted at Alnmouth (Lion Bridge), Cresswell Pond, Beal, Branton GP, Cocklawburn Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Holy Island Lough, Holywell Pond, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds, Newton Pool, QEII Lake, St Mary's Wetland, Warkworth and unusually Exhibition Park (Newcastle).

Further breeding details are as follows:

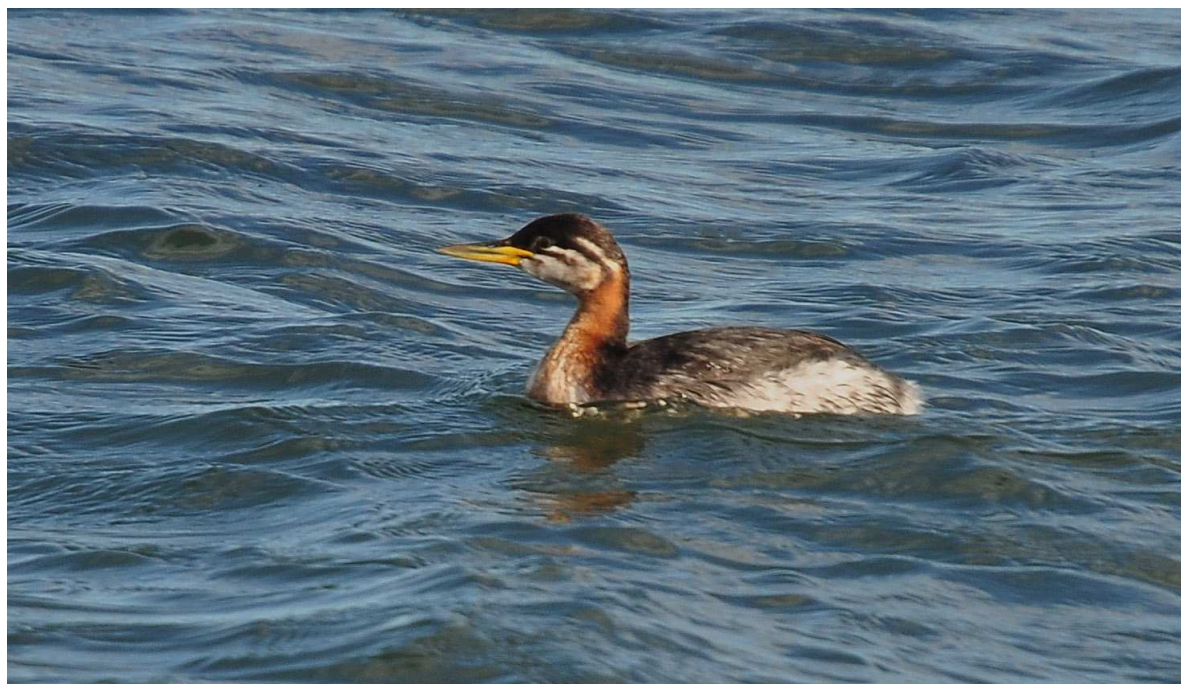
Location	No. of broods	No. of Young	Observer/Comments
Bakethin Reservoir	1	1	JMA on 17th
Hedgeley GP	1	2	JMA on 5th
Nelly's Moss Lake Craggside	1	1	TRD/JD on 17th

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

One flew S at Stag Rocks on 14th (DHH). Ten adults were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 12th (SR) and seven including immatures at Bothal Pond on 2nd (TF/JFa) and Killingworth Lake on 10th (LJM). Five were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd with four remaining here throughout the month (IFo). Three, including a juvenile, were at East Chevington North Pool on 7th (SRB). Singles were noted at Airey Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Amble Braid, Branton GP and Cresswell Pond.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 26th (SSWT). Two immatures were in the Tweed Estuary on 26th with one being noted there on 16th/18th/20th/22nd (MHu/TRD/JD).



A Red-necked Grebe on the Tweed estuary  
Tim Dean on 18th September

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

Two were in the Common Scoter flock offshore at Cresswell on 24th (TRD) and one was off the east shore at Holy Island on 15th (ADM).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two juveniles were noted at a site in the south of the county.

**Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

A bird flying SE at Fawdon Metro Station (Newcastle) on 28th was thought to be of this species (MRS).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Two birds were at Low Waskerley on 28th and singles were noted there on several dates (IFo). An untagged juvenile was seen at Holywell Grange and it landed on a pylon at Seghill before drifting W on 3rd (SPP): other singles were at Slaley on 4th (RMH) and Derwent Reservoir on 29th (IFo).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Two birds, a female and a juvenile, were at Cresswell on 1st (ASJ) and two birds were at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 7th (SRB). Singles were noted at Druridge on 1st (ASJ), Prestwick Carr on 3rd (per PCF), St Mary's Island on 7th and Tynemouth (AC *et al.*), East Chevington on 8th (ASJ), Druridge Pools on 9th (AA) and at Cresswell on 13th (TRD/JD).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

A single bird was observed at Warenford on 12th (JHa).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Two birds were at Big Waters on 5th (GB). Single birds were noted at 16 sites during the month.

A Sparrowhawk  
Cresswell Pond  
29th September  
Alan Hart

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

At Edlingham on 9th five birds were up in the air together (MJC). Four birds were seen at Slaley Hall on 8th (RMH), Derwent Reservoir on 10th (IFo), Darras Hall (Ponteland) on 12th (CW) and at Arcot Pond on 28th (STH). One to two birds were noted at 11 sites during the month.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetuss*

An adult female and a juvenile were at Kielder Dam on 4th (MD) and singles were at Hallington on 2nd (AJR) and at Derwent Reservoir on 12th and 15th (IFo).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Up to five birds were on Holy Island on several dates (MJC/ADM), three birds were seen at Swallow Pond on 3rd (JPD) and Bellasis Bridge on 21st (PCF). Two birds were at Ingram Mill on 5th (JMA) and single birds were noted at Elsdon on 1st (JR), Snab Point (Cresswell) on 6th (JR), River Tweed Estuary and West Hartford on 22nd (PRM/DM *et al.*).

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

One inland record of a single bird at a site on 21st and 29th (ALT). The rest of the sightings came from coastal sites including birds at Seaton Sluice on 9th (SSWT), Fenham-Le-Moor on 11th (JDL), Monks' House Pool on 17th (JDL), Bamburgh on 28th (BRS) and Holy Island on 28th and 29th (MJC/CGK/PS).

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

A very emaciated freshly dead juvenile was found at Big Waters on 20th (AJJ *per* GB).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Up to two birds were on Holy Island during the month (IK) and two birds were at an inland site on 1st (ALT) and at Budle Bay on 21st (CGK). Singles were reported from 14 sites.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Big Waters had three birds, 2 adults and a large dusky juvenile, on 9th (GB), and two birds were at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD) & East Chevington on 27th (ADM). Single birds were at Arcot Pond, East Chevington, Holywell Pond and Swallow Pond.

**Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana*

The bird from last month was seen at the North Pool (East Chevington) until the 8th (TD/IJ *et al.*)

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

35 birds at Arcot Pond on 5th (LJM) and 31 at Big Waters on 5th (GB) & 30 at Bothal Pond on 19th (IRD) were the highest counts this month followed by 29 at Backworth on 28th (CGK). One to thirteen were at birds were at 11 other sites.



**Coot** *Fulica atra*

The highest counts this month came from QEII CP with 143 on 22nd (CDH) and 120 at Killingworth Lake on 10th (LJM). 65 birds were at Woodhorn Flash on 22nd (CDH), 27 at Big Waters on 29th (GB), 25 at Bothal Pond on 7th (TD) and 22 were at Arcot Pond on 1st & 25th (DM). One to thirteen were at four other sites.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The high-tide roost at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) held the largest group by far, with 500 counted on 20th (IK), whilst at nearby Budle Bay some 140 were noted on 22nd (CGK). In the south 68 were at St Mary's on 12th (ASJ) and 49 at Hauxley NR on 4th (JPD). Counts of 20 to 22 came from Berwick North Shore and the Tweed Estuary mid-month (MHu) whilst single-figure reports came from the Blyth Estuary, Cramlington and Whitley Bay, with a further single remaining inland at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (IFo).



The popular American Golden Plover at St. Mary's  
Jonathan Farooqi  
20th September

**American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*

A moulting adult was found at St Mary's on 20th (James Spencer), occasionally moving to outlying rocks off nearby Hartley (SPP *et al.*), and was reported until the 22nd at least (AC *et al.*).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

The large autumn flock at St Mary's increased from 800 on 5th (AC) to 1,500+ on 16th (ASJ) and peaked at 3,000 on 27th (AC). The high-tide roost at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) totalled 1,500 on 28th (IK). Much smaller flocks included 225 at East Chevington on 12th (ASJ), 65 at Newcastle Town Moor on 30th (GB), 56 at Grindon Lough on 25th (PRM), 50 at Whittle Dene Reservoir on 26th (SR) and 42 moving S over Derwent Reservoir on 29th (IFo). Apart from 28 at Billylaw (Ord Moor) on 1st (MHu) single-figure reports came from Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Castle Island, Cottonshope Head (Otterburn Ranges), Cramlington and Low Newton.





Part of the St. Mary's Golden Plover flock at St. Mary's  
Alan Jack on 13th September

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Only single-figure reports this month, with a high of six at St Mary's Island on 24th (AC). Four flew N past St Mary's Island on 6th (JPD) and three were noted heading N past nearby Seaton Sluice on the same date (SSWT). One to three were also noted at Boulmer, East Chevington, Hauxley beach, Holy Island and Newbiggin (flying N) but without doubt the most remarkable record was of a juvenile present at Derwent Reservoir between 24th-27th (IFo).

#### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Well reported, especially from East Chevington where there were 700 on 1st (ASJ) and 795 on 9th (IRD). High counts elsewhere included 675 at Bothal Pond on 9th (TF/JFa), 486 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 21st (SR), 420 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), 340 at Grindon Lough on 25th (PRM), 268 at Cocklawburn on 20th (MHu), 225 at St Mary's on 2nd (ASJ), 202 on the Tyne between Elswick Wharf-Newcastle Business Park on 24th (DM) and 200+ at Warenford on 22nd (PRM). The Tweed Estuary also held 158 on 20th (MHu) and ca.150 were at Hartley West Farm (near Holywell Dene) on 27th (RJP), whilst 70-85 were also noted at Castle Island, St Mary's, Scaffold Hill Farm (near Swallow Pond) and Swallow Pond.

#### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Up to two remained at one confidential site, with the last bird seen here on 14th. A juvenile was on East Chevington north pool on 21st (ADMc).

#### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Coastal groups included 100+ at St Mary's Island on 5th (SPP), 92 at Berwick north shore on 18th (MHu), 76 at Cocklawburn on 12th (MHu), 39 on a small pool near the caravan park at Amble on 7th (JR) 30 at Berwick Little Beach on 18th (TRD/JD) and 28 at Cresswell on 28th (JR). A peak of 12 was counted at Cheswick on 12th (MHu) whilst inland, 11 on 3rd was the highest of several counts at Grindon Lough during the first part of the month (SJH) and five on 5th was the peak of several counts at Derwent Reservoir during the month (IFo). Low single figures were noted at five further sites.

#### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A count of 21 on Fenham Flats (Lindisfarne NNR) on 5th was noteworthy (JDL), whereas singles were the order of the day at Beal, Cresswell Pond, Druridge, East Chevington, Grindon Lough (flew W calling on 4th), Overthwarts – flying S (near Edlingham) with the latest sighting being one at St Mary's Island on 21st (PRM).

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Estuary counts included 106 at Yarrow Slake on the Tweed on 5th (MHu) and 82 on the Blyth on 8th (LJM). Some 77 were at Hauxley NR on 4th (JPD/MPF) and 38 were on a small pool near Amble on 7th (JR), otherwise, single-figure reports came from Big Waters, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir (last on 7th), Grindon Lough, near Holywell Dene, Prestwick Carr, St Mary's Island and on the Tyne near Newcastle Business Park.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

High numbers continued from last month with East Chevington commencing with the monthly high of 83 on 1st (ASJ), with 20 here the next day (TRD/JD), 15+ on 7th (TF/JFa), 14 on 17th (NFO), five on 22nd (TF/JFa) and a single on 24th (TRD). Castle Island also briefly attracted a large flock with 57 on 13th (PG), whilst the nearby Blyth estuary held 27 on 11th (STH) and 26 on 21st (GB) with counts in the teens being made here on several other dates during the month.

The Coquet estuary also held 21 on 4th (JPD), ten on 9th (ASH), 22 on 22nd (JPD) and 24 on 24th (RPo). Ten were noted at both Cresswell Pond and Fenham-le-Moor during mid-month and one to five were logged at Big Waters, Coroner's Meadow (Tweed), Druridge Pools, Fenham Flats, Grindon Lough, Howdon Wetland NR (first record here), Longhirst Flash, Seaton Sluice (two N), Spittal Bay (Berwick), Tweed Estuary, Tynemouth Boating Lake (very unusual here), West Ord and Yarrow Slake (Tweed).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Holy Island typically held the majority with ca.200 noted on 26th (TRD/JD), whilst 20-22 were seen in Budle Bay during mid-month (CGK/TRD/JD). The only other double-digit reports involved 11+ at Newbiggin Beacons on 25th and ten circled East Chevington north pool before heading off S on 24th (ADM). Seven were at St Mary's Island on 24th (IJ) and six were recorded at Hauxley NR on 11th (IFo) and on the Tweed Estuary on 22nd (PRM). One to five were also reported from Berwick north shore, Blyth Estuary, Cheswick, Cresswell Pond, Goswick, Hauxley beach and Tynemouth. The most unusual report involved one feeding on the 'scrape' for several hours at Big Waters on 4th (AJJ/JCD *per* GB).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

The WeBS count of 62 at Berwick North Shore on 18th (MHu) was the highest, then a peak of 52 at St Mary's on 21st (PRM) and 27 feeding along the high tide line in Newbiggin Bay on 25th (IFo). Ten were in the Blyth Estuary at Kitty Brewster on 22nd, six at Whitley Bay on 1st, six in the Tweed Estuary on 20th and one to three at Cresswell, Low Newton and Stag rocks.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Stag Rocks held the most with 110 on 22nd (CGK); 20 were at Boulmer on 29th. Two to four were noted at Berwick, the Blyth Estuary and Low Newton.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Present at East Chevington throughout with a peak of 89 on 1st (ASJ), down to 64 on 4th (JPD), 35 on 9th (IRD) and 17 on 22nd. The most at Cresswell Pond was nine on 15th, seven were at Long Nanny on 4th and up to seven were at Grindon Lough during 2nd to 9th; three were at Newton Point on 25th. Singles appeared for one day each at Arcot Pond, Budle Bay, Blyth Estuary, Charlton Mires Flash, Derwent Reservoir, Newbiggin, St Mary's, Seaton Sluice and the Tweed Estuary with a further one at Grindon Lough on 29th.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Six were found at Amble Braid on 1st (ASJ) with two there on 4th, three were at St Mary's on 5th (AC/SPP) and five on 6th (JPD). Three were at East Chevington on 7th (STH) and two on 8th and 13th and singles irregularly from 5th to 29th. Two were at Boulmer on 14th and at least two in the Berwick area on 18th; singles occurred at Cresswell Pond on 4th, R Blyth estuary on 11th and 22nd, Warkworth Gut on 14th, Monks' House Pool on 19th and Whittle Dene on 27th.

A Curlew Sandpiper  
St. Mary's  
5th September  
Jack Bucknall

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

An estimated 300 were at St Mary's on 5th (SPP) with 120 there on 7th (JPD) and 210 on 19th (ASJ). Berwick North Shore had 80 on 18th (MHu) and the most at Hauxley was 25 on 11th. Eight were at Cocklawburn on 12th and five or fewer were at a further five typical locations.

**NB.** The entry for 16 at Backworth Flash on **5th August** should have been St Mary's.



A summer plumage  
Dunlin

St. Mary's

by Alan Jack

13th September



**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Amble Braid held at least 350 on 4th (JPD/MPF/AS), whilst in the Blyth Estuary 256 were present on 1st (AC) down to 190 on 22nd (IFo/DM/STH). The WeBS at Berwick North Shore produced 170 on 18th (MHu) and 122 were feeding along the high tide line in Newbiggin Bay on 25th (IFo). St Mary's held 90 on 12th, Holy Island 50 on 26th and the peak at East Chevington was 37 on 26th. Fenham-le-Moor, the Tweed Estuary and Wansbeck Estuary had 20-22 at times and one to 11 occurred at a further 11 places at or near the coast. The only reports well inland concern up to seven at Grindon Lough on a few dates and up to five at Derwent Reservoir on several days.

**NB.** The entry relating to Backworth Flash in **August** should be deleted. An incorrect location was submitted, it should have been St Mary's.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

One was near Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 1st then singles at Stag Rocks on 18th and 21st with three there on 29th.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Six were found at Fenham Flats on 5th (JDL). At East Chevington three were present on 7th/8th and two during 9th to 13th (STH *et al.*); two were also at Warkworth Gut on 13th (TRD/JD). Singles were at Backworth on 7th (AC/CGK/TW), at Cresswell Pond on 11th (IFo) and Goswick on 22nd (PRM).

**\*White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

An adult was at East Chevington North Pool from 2nd to 9th (ADM/JT *et al.*).

**\*Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Two juveniles arrived on 4th: one at Grindon Lough remaining to 8th (PRM) and one at East Chevington staying to 5th (JPD/MPF/AS *et al.*). A juvenile visited Bothal Pond on 9th (TF/JFa) and another was at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (ADM *et al.*).



Pectoral Sandpiper  
Cresswell Pond  
Jonathan Farooqi  
22nd September



**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A total of four flew S past Seaton Sluice Watch Tower between 1st and 23rd. At Derwent Reservoir three were present to 6th with two remaining to 9th (IFo). Singles were at Ingram Bridge on 5th, Snab Point on 13th, the Tweed Estuary on 22nd and, lastly, in Newbiggin Bay on 25th (IFo).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Three were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 22nd (AA). Singles were found at Branton GP on 3rd, Derwent Reservoir on 5th, Longhirst Flash on 7th, Bothal Pond on 11th and at St Mary's on 21st.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

There were five reports of singles: at Cresswell Pond on 2nd and 4th (JPD), at East Chevington on 3rd (IFo *et al.*), at Budle Bay on 14th (DHH), Grindon Lough on 14th (PRM) and in the Tweed Estuary on 17th (MHu).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Nine were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (JPD) after three on 2nd and 4th, seven at Beal Road Ends on 1st (SR/AH) and five at Beal on 8th(MJC); inland four were at Derwent Reservoir on 6th/7th (IFo) and two to three there until 27th. Three were at Yarrow Slake on 3rd and 17th, at Longbridge End on 20th and at Fenham Flats on 26th and two at Bothal Pond on 7th, Budle Bay on 21st and at Yarrow Haugh on 21st. Singles appeared at times at another 13 widespread locations.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Singles visited Bothal Pond on 7th (TD) and Monks' House Pool on 25th (DGB).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

The Tweed Estuary held 224 on 20th (MHu), 145 were in Budle Bay on 21st (CGK), 120 at St Mary's on 12th (ASJ) and 108 at Berwick North Shore on 18th (MHu); 74 were along R Tyne between Elswick Wharf and Newcastle Business Park on 24th and the high-tide roost at Hauxley NR contained 33 on 11th. Nine were at Castle Island on 22nd, two at Whitley Bay on 1st and two over Big Waters on 19th. Late records well inland were of four at Grindon Lough on 2nd with one there on 4th and one at Derwent Reservoir on 5th.

**Jack Snipe** *Limnocryptes minimus*

A small influx was apparent in the second half: on Holy Island singles at Chare Ends on 19th and 27th (IK) and The Snook on 28th (MJC), one at Newbiggin Moor on 20th (ADMc), one at Backworth on 28th (CGK) and one at St Mary's on 29th (AC).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

There were no reports this month.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Again Grindon Lough held the most with a peak of 38 on 4th (PRM); 21 were at Cresswell Pond on 26th (IRD) and 20 at Mootlaw Quarry on 21st (ALT), with 12-15 at Backworth, Big Waters and Hauxley NR. The peak at East Chevington was ten on 5th, ten were at Bothal Pond on 11th, ten at Alnmouth on 23rd and ten at Doddington on 28th. Four to seven appeared at Charlton Mires, Derwent Reservoir, Monks' House Pool and Prestwick Carr and one to two were found at a further eight places.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower two adults flew N on 6th and a juvenile did so on 23rd. Singles were off Holy Island on 5th (JDL) and 7th (IK), adult at Tynemouth on 10th (SPP), adult S off Berwick Pier on 16th (MHu), adult at St Mary's on 18th (SPP) and one at Bamburgh on 25th (JHa).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower of 118 (52 N, 66 S) was well below average. St Mary's figured prominently, including 58 S during 09:45 to 16:20 on 10th (JPD), 11 S on 6th and 18 on 14th; also on 10th 30 were noted past Tynemouth (SPP). Nine were in Embleton Bay 'all day' on 6th, eight at Newton Point on 14th, six at Newbiggin on 26th and three to five from another eight sites. One or two were seen occasionally from a further nine watch points.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Five, an adult and four juveniles, were at Tynemouth on 10th (SPP), the adult and two juveniles lingering in King Edward's Bay for ten minutes. Two flew N and one S, all juveniles, at St Mary's on 6th (JPD/AC). At Seaton Sluice one adult and one juvenile flew N on 7th (MHp/BB) and a juvenile moved N there on 1st (SSWT). A juvenile flew N at Snab Point on 7th (JR).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

At St Mary's at least 19 flew N from 07:15 to 14:00 (AC/JPD) when seven moved N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, the most on a single day at those places. Five went past Tynemouth on 10th and four to five were seen on pelagic trips on 8th and 21st. Otherwise things were quiet with just one to three irregularly at Embleton Bay, Newton and Stag Rocks.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

On pelagic trips from Amble and North Shields respectively, 15 were noted on 8th (*per* CGK) and three on 21st (PRM); the only record from Seaton Sluice was a single on 1st (SSWT).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*/ **Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

The total recorded passing N at Seaton Sluice was 65, a low monthly record (SSWT).

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Two records only comprising three seen on an Amble pelagic trip on 8th and one at Newbiggin on 13th (TRD/JD).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

At least 50 were seen on an Amble pelagic trip on 8th and one to three on various dates at Berwick (Spittal Bay), Cresswell/Cresswell Snab Point and Newbiggin (TRD/JD/MHu).

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

Three were recorded at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 17th (JDL).

**Black Tern** *Chilidoniias niger*

Four flew N at Tynemouth on 7th (SPP). Three-four juveniles roosted at Budle Point on 21st/22nd (CGK) and single juveniles were at nearby Bamburgh Stag Rocks on various dates from 8th-21st (IBDa/KDa/TRD/JD/BRS). Elsewhere, singles were at East Chevington on 7th (SRB/TF/JFa/ADM), on an Amble pelagic trip on 8th (AC) and Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 10th (SR).



A Black Tern at Budle Point  
by Chris Knox  
21st September

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Totals of 63 moving N and 54 S were recorded at Seaton Sluice from 13th-18th but few were seen there beyond that date (SSWT). Gatherings of 68 occurred in the River Tweed Estuary on 1st (MHu), ca.60 at Holy Island on 15th (ADM), ca.40 at Cocklawburn on 3rd (MHu) 30-35 at East Chevington on 1st-2nd (TRD/JD/ASJ), 24 at Berwick Pier on 18th (MHu), 20 at Hauxley beach on 1st, some carrying food to Coquet Island (TRD/JD), and 12 at Berwick Spittal Bay on 2nd (MHu). One-six were recorded elsewhere, on various dates up to 29th, from many localities along the coast between St Mary's Island in the south and the River Tweed Estuary.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

At Seaton Sluice 11 moved N and 5 S between 7th-14th (SSWT). The Budle Point roost contained an impressive 280 in the evening of 21st (CGK) and gatherings of 40-60 were recorded at nearby Bamburgh Stag Rocks from 18th-21st (TRD/JD/BRS). Two-six were seen on various dates at Alnmouth, East Chevington, St Mary's and from a pelagic trip from North Shields (GB/TRD/JD/ASJ/PRM/DM *et al.*).



**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

All records came from Bamburgh Stag Rocks and nearby Budle Point where birds lingered late in the season presumably due to the benign weather conditions. On 1st, two were present there (IBDa/KDa) but from 18th-23rd a maximum of 15 were recorded, including up to four juveniles (CGK), as they rested on the rocks or commuted between the two sites (AA/TRD/JD/ADM /BRS/RPo). Surprisingly, no sightings came from the usually favoured localities of St Mary's and Tynemouth.

Roseate Terns  
Budle Point  
21st September  
Chris Knox

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Ten were recorded moving N at Seaton Sluice from 6th-12th (SSWT). The very notable gull/tern roost at Budle Point held 170+ on 21st (CGK) and elsewhere, 38 were at Berwick Spittal Bay on 2nd (MHu) with 15+ at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 21st (BRS). Singles were noted on three dates in the Berwick area (MHu).

**\*Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

An adult/ 2nd-summer bird, flew N at Tynemouth Pier on 7th (SPP) and single juveniles were recorded on a pelagic trip out of Amble on 8th (AC) and moving N at St Mary's Island on 14th (JPD/TD/BR).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Poorly reported with only two small gatherings noted, comprising 37 on Blyth Harbour Pier on 3rd (STH) and ca.30 feeding near Berwick Pier on 16th (MHu). One-five were present at Cresswell Snab Point, Low Newton and Newbiggin on various dates (TRD/JD). No large-scale movements were apparent at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Concentrations of 550 were on a newly ploughed field at Shiremoor on 14th (CGK) and at West Ord on 22nd (TBr) with, elsewhere, a monthly maximum count of 474 at Howdon Wetland NR on 8th (CB) and 400 at the Budle Point roost on 22nd (CGK). Smaller gatherings of 80-330 came from Berwick North Shore, Big Waters, Castle Island, Leazes Park, Linton Ponds, QEII CP Lake, St Mary's Island, the River Tweed Estuary, Tynemouth and West Hartford (JMA/GB/DM/MHu/CDH/IJ). A mix of adults and immatures at Bothal Pond on 7th and 22nd numbered up to 70 (TD) and 31 were seen at Jesmond Dene on 15th (MJCo) with six to 23 at four other localities.

A Bonaparte's Gull from last month  
Maurice Hepple's photograph of a short-staying  
visitor at Cresswell on 14th August

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

A monthly total of 101 came from Seaton Sluice comprising 18 moving N and 83 S, the latter including a feeding party of 80 1st-winter birds on 14th (SSWT). Elsewhere, 44 flew N off Newbiggin Point on 13th (ADMc), 15 fed offshore at Newbiggin on 14th (GB) and six, including two juveniles, were off Newbiggin Point on 13th (ASH), these four records probably comprising birds from a single mobile large group. Singles were seen elsewhere at East Chevington on 4th (JPD/MPF/AS), Hauxley NWT on 7th (PCF) and on a pelagic trip from North Shields on 21st (PRM).



**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

The two Woodhorn Flash ponds held a total of 21 on 1st (ASJ) and the maximum number recorded at the favoured Newbiggin South Bay was 17 on 17th (STH); at the latter locality, seven on 13th comprised four adults, one 2nd-winter and two 1st-winters (TRD/JD). Elsewhere, one-two were noted at Berwick North Shore, Big Waters, Blyth Harbour, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond/Snab Point, QEII CP, St Mary's Island and Whitley Bay GC.



Mediterranean Gulls at Newbiggin by Alan Jack

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

By far the largest gathering was 5,600 in the evening roost at Budle Point on 22nd (CGK) and elsewhere, a significant flock of 1,500 followed tractors on farmland at Ingoe on 12th (ASJ) and 900 were noted at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 21st (SR). Other three-figure counts of up to 400 came from Doddington, East Bolton and West Ord (TBr/JD/MHu/JR).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

A maximum of 158+ was counted in the Budle Bay roost on 22nd, an increase on last month's maximum of 120 (CGK) and during the first week, counts of 74 and 37 came from Yetlington and East Bolton respectively (JR). At Elswick Wharf on the River Tyne, 21 were present on 24th (DM) and one to four frequented Castle Island, Cramlington, East Chevington, Exhibition Park, Grindon Lough and West Hartford.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The Budle Bay concentration, seen following the plough and resting in the bay, was recorded at 2,000+ on 21st although only 120 occupied the gull roost there on 22nd (CGK). A WeBS count on the River Tweed Estuary on 20th recorded 696, with 280 roosting at West Ord on 1st, 240 roosting at Ord Moor on 22nd and 86 at Berwick, North Shore on 18th (all MHu). On 1st at Big Waters, a steady movement W, totalling 50 adults/immatures, occurred during the morning (GB) and a similar number were at Linton Ponds on 22nd (CDH). Four to 17 were noted elsewhere at Castle Island, Jesmond Dene, Leazes Park, St Mary's Island, West Hartford and Whitley Bay.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The largest gatherings were 176 at East Chevington North Pool on 4th (JPD) and in the gull roost at Budle Point with 70 on the evening of 22nd (CGK). WeBS counts on 20th and 18th on the River Tweed Estuary and Berwick, North Shore included 14 and nine respectively (MHu). Three were at Castle Island on 22nd (DM/STH/IF) and two at Grindon Lough on 8th-9th (SJH).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

The maximum count for the month was 36 at Howdon Wetland NR on 1st (CB) with four at Holywell Pond NR on 18th (MSH), three at Bellasis Bridge, Jesmond Dene, West Hartford, two at Cresswell Pond, New Water Haugh (River Tweed), Walbottle and one at Bolam and Cramlington.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Around 200 were in one field at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) on 15th (RJP), 150 at East Bolton on 8th (JR) with one to ten at Jesmond Dene, Newton Pool, St Mary's Island, Whitley Bay and Woodhorn.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Gardens at Dinnington had four on 23rd (PCF) and at Walbottle two on 15th (KR/LR).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

A juvenile was at Druridge on 8th (ASJ), one at West Allotment on 9th (AC) and one at Cresswell Pond on 12th (ADMc).

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

A single report of one on the fence near the hide at Cresswell Pond on 24th (TRD).

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two were present all month at Shiremoor (CGK) with singles at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo), Holywell Grange on 3rd (SPP) and Big Waters on 4th (GB).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Two called at Bedlington (west) on 2nd (ASH), Wark (North Tyne) on 22nd (PRM), Waren Mill (near Bamburgh) on 23rd (CGK), Newton Red House on 25th (PG) and Walbottle on 29th (KR/LR). Singles were at Bamburgh, Big Waters, Bedlington, Jesmond Dene, Mitford Hall, Prestwick Carr, Stagshaw and Wark.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

A juvenile hunted at Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 19th (IK) with one south past Tynemouth on 26th (SPP) and one at Crow Hall Farm (Holywell Dene) on 30th (MNC).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

A single bird circling over Church Point (Newbiggin) on 10th (STH) was the only report.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

The only multiple count was of two on the Edlingham Burn at Overthwarts on 11th with singles there on 9th & 12th (MJC) with one seen regularly at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) between 20th & 27th (JD) and at Jesmond Dene on 13th & 30th (MJCo). Singles were also at Berwick, Branton GP, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, Lower Ouseburn, Newton Pool, Seaton Sluice, Tynemouth, Wark and Warkworth.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

One was at North Dunes (Holy Island) on 8th (MJC).

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

At Overthwarts on Edlingham Burn one was present on 3rd and 9th (MJC) with one at Bakethin on 26th (MD).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Up to two were in a Holywell garden during the month (RJP) with two at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 5th (GB), Wallington Hall on 14th (PRM) and Holy Island on 25th (MJC/ADM). Singles were at Valley Park (Cramlington) on three dates, Bamburgh, Jesmond Dene, Netherton Park (Stannington), Newbiggin and Walbottle.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

The largest count was of 41 at Swallow Pond on 2nd (JPD), 19 at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) on 15th (RJP), four at Jesmond Dene on 29th (MJCo) with three at St Mary's Island on 24th (IJ) and regularly in the observer's garden at Walbottle during the month (KR/LR).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Three were at Overthwarts (near Edlingham) on 12th (MJC) and at Big Waters on 19th (AJJ *per* GB) with two at Prestwick Carr on 1st, Grindon Lough on 7th, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 8th, Hepple on 24th, West Hartford on 26th and East Sleekburn on 29th. Singles were at Valley Park (Cramlington) all month and six other locations.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Large gatherings on 450+ at Garden Village (Gosforth) on 21st (MJC), 200 at Big Waters on 11th (GB) and 181 at Swallow Pond on 18th (JPD) with 11 the highest count for the month in a Walbottle garden and nine at Jesmond Dene on 15th.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

One hundred were at Shipley on 5th (JMA), 28 at Amble on 14th and four at Holy Island on 29th (SR/AH).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A flock of 167 at Garden Village (Gosforth) on 21st was noted as having 5% with white wing linings (MJC). Six were at Jesmond Dene on 22nd and two in the observer's garden at Walbottle during the month.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

One was at Newbiggin Moor between north shore and beacons on 30th (ADMc).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Just two reports of four at Blaxter Quarry (Otterburn) on 10th (IRD) and three at Ingram on 21st (AJ).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

A peak count of 13 at Bakethin on 4th (MD), more than six were at Bamburgh on 14th and 21st (BRS), a total of five at three locations on Holy Island on 25th (MJC), three at Wark (N Tyne) on 30th (PRM) and one to two regularly at Holy Island and nine other widely spread localities.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

The highest count for the month in a Walbottle garden was five (KR/LR), four in Jesmond Dene on 15th (MJCo) and present at Newton Pool on 1st (IJ).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Three were in the observer's garden at Walbottle on 8th (KR/LR) and in Jesmond Dene on 15th (MJCo).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

More than ten visited a garden at Fulbeck (Morpeth) during the month (TD), up to three in an Old Hartley garden (RJP), at Prestwick Carr on 14th, Wark on 30th with two at Bamburgh, Jesmond Dene and Walbottle.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

A peak of four at Prestwick Carr on 21st with two or more present regularly during the month (PCF/JSB/EC), three at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 8th (NFO), two at Big Waters, Lucker, Newton and singles at Branton GP, Brierdene (Whitley Bay), High Newton, Newbiggin Ash Lagoons, Linton Ponds, Slaley Hall and Sleek Burn.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two was the only multiple count at Linden Hall on 28th (NFO) with singles there on 14th and in the observer's garden at Rothbury during the month and Thrum Mill on 27th (TRD/JD).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Movement south was noted with 210 over the Snook (Holy Island) early a.m. on 28th and 163 on 29th (MJC), 120 at St Mary's on 29th and 65 on 17th (ASJ), 60 present in a single field at Backworth on 28th (CGK), 45 SW in two hours at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 21st (ALT) and 44 at Cocklawburn on 20th (MHu). 24 were at Ingoe Moor on 22nd, 22 at Prestwick Carr on 28th, 17 at Winter's Gibbet (Harwood), 15 at Grindon Lough on 27th and 11 at Cottonshope (Otterburn Ranges) on 15th. Two to seven were at many of the above locations and Boulmer, Cramlington and Overthwarts.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Six were at Cocklawburn pond on 3rd (MHu), four at Grindon Lough on 5th (SJH), two south at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools on 21st (GB) with a single found five miles offshore on a pelagic on the same date (NEWT) and the last at Big Waters on 25th (GB).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

A large roosting flock at Holywell Pond on 3rd was estimated at 6,000+ (MSH/CS/CGK) dropping to 2,000+ on 5th but re-building to 3,000+ on 7th as passage continued. The roost at Big Waters was 600 on 3rd and 500 on 4th (GB) with 300+ feeding or drinking at Longhirst Flash on 22nd (TD) and 220 on wires at Black Heddon on 5th (ASJ). Counts over 100 came from Druridge Pools, Great Whittington, Otterburn, Prestwick Carr and Wark with 14-80 from eighteen widespread localities and one to ten from a further seven. A poor breeding season was reported from Holy Island where 40 pairs fledged ca.115 young, one pair hatching six! (IK). Late young were noted at Powburn Café, three on 5th (JMA) and Cottonshope Head (Otterburn Ranges), four on 15th (JR) with the last sighting being three on the 29th at Holy Island. (STH).



Swallows at St. Mary's on 13th September by Alan Jack

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

A flock of 200+ drank at Longhirst Flash on 22nd (TD), 75 were at Blaxter Quarry (Otterburn) on 10th (IRD), 70 on wires at Great Whittington on 21st (ALT), 50+ at Swallow Pond on 12th (JPD), 32 at East Ord on 15th (MHu), 30+ at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 1st (DM) and 30 at Big Waters on 11th (GB). One to 25 were at thirteen other widespread localities with late broods still at Yearle on 22nd, Beadnell and Alnwick Leisure Centre on 27th (SVMAJM/PL/JMA).



**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest tribe was 16 at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 16th (DM). Counts of ten came from Dinnington and Hauxley NR, nine were at Prestwick Carr, seven at Valley Park (Cramlington) and six at Lower Ouseburn and Prior's Park. Three to four were also reported from Jesmond Dene, an Old Hartley garden and Slaley Hall.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

One on Holy Island on 22nd (MJC/ADM) was followed by two at St Mary's Island on 24th (JPD). There was a substantial influx on 25th when up to 17 were noted on Holy Island (IK/MJC/ADM/SR), numbers at St Mary's Island increased to eight + (JPD/MPF/A.Swan) and five were on the Farne Islands, five at Newbiggin and three to four at Druridge Pools. Elsewhere on 25th singles were reported from Brierdene (Whitley Bay), Cambois, Hauxley NR, High Newton, Prior's Park (Tynemouth), Seaton Sluice and Whitley Bay Cemetery; a day total of at least 45 birds. Two apparently 'new' arrivals were at St Mary's Island on 26th (GB) when four were also at Druridge Pools (MJC) and another at Tynemouth Haven. Birds continued to be reported to the month end, with Holy Island the prime location. Numbers here fluctuated somewhat, perhaps suggesting on-going passage, counts including five on 26th, nine on 28th and 12 on 29th (STH *et al.*), when another was at Beal Road End car park. Elsewhere three to four remained at St Mary's into October, the Brierdene bird was still present to 29th and 'new' birds were reported from Bamburgh and Cambois on 28th and Newbiggin on 29th. Singles were again at Prior's Park (Tynemouth) and Tynemouth on 30th.



Two Yellow-browed Warblers on 25th September at St. Mary's

Top on a wet railing by Alan Janes and right one found dead by Chris Knox



**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Up to four were noted at Wallington Hall (JMA/PRM) and three in Jesmond Dene (MJCo). One to two were also reported from Arcot Hall, Craggside, Edlingham, Kielder, Morpeth (Carlisle Park), Rothbury, Slaley Hall and Wark (North Tyne).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

One to two were reported from Edlingham, Rothbury, Stamfordham, River Tweed Estuary and Wallington Hall.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Good local counts included 11 at Prestwick Carr (PCF) and ten at Bakethin (MD). Seven were on Holy Island on 29th (MJC/ADM) and one to three at a further four localities.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The highest of six counts from Grindon Lough from 4th-9th was 362 on 7th (SJH *et al.*). There were also 200 at West Stonefolds on 7th (JMA), 100+ at Prestwick Carr on 5th, 90 at Catton on 20th, 75 at Carrshield, Cullercoats and Newcastle (Town Moor) and 50 at Housesteads. Three to 30 were noted at a further four localities.



A Starling at Seahouses by Steve Barrett on 12th September

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Up to four were noted at Rothbury (TRD/JD) and two at Balkehopeburnhaugh. Singles were reported from Edlingham, Elsdon, Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene (Benton Bank Bridge and Waterfall) and Spindleston.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Six at St Mary's Island on 24th and three at Jesmond Dene on 22nd. There were also some small arrivals on Holy Island from 26th onwards.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

The first autumn arrival was a single bird at Holy Island (Snook) on 25th (ADM).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

30 arrived at Holy Island on 25th, followed by 36 on 29th (MJC/ADM). Inland three flew E at Ridsdale on 23rd and 17 were feeding on Rowan berries at Bakethin on 26th (MD).

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

The first autumn arrivals were 11 at St Mary's and four at Seaton Sluice on 24th (ASJ). On Holy Island, 61 arrived on 25th (MJC/ADM), there were four here on 28th and 21 on 29th. Five were at Bamburgh on 25th.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

About 35 in the west of the county at Greenhaugh on 12th was the largest gathering (RMH). 20+ were at Elsdon on 23rd (PG) and 12 at Henshaw Common (Bardon Mill) on 18th (AJ). Elsewhere ten were noted at Newcastle (Town Moor) on 5th, six at Newbiggin on 29th and one to three at a further three localities.



**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Three were at Longframlington Common on 5th (JD) and two at Big Waters on 4th and 13th. At Exhibition Park (Newcastle) there was one on 3rd and 5th and two on 9th and further singles were at Swallow Pond from 2nd-4th and at Yearle on 8th. On the coast two were noted at Prior's Park on 7th and singles at Berwick Pier on 18th and Holy Island on 20th and 25th. A very late individual was well inland at Wark (North Tyne) on 30th.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

The peak count from Holy Island was 26 on 25th (MJC) with five to nine noted on a further four dates. Prestwick Carr recorded 11 on 28th (PCF) and one to four were noted at three further localities.

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*

A first-winter was found at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 7th (TF/JFa/IBDa/KDa).

A record photograph of the Holy Island Thrush Nightingale  
7th September by Jonathan Farooqi

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

A female / juvenile was at St Mary's Island from 25th-28th (SPP/PRM *et al.*).



The much visited Bluethroat at St. Mary's  
photographed by Jack Bucknall  
25th September

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*

A first-winter graced the Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 25th-26th (MJC/ADM *et al.*)

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Two were at Tynemouth on 7th (CB). Another was at Tynemouth on 26th and from 25th-29th one to two were noted on Holy Island.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Two were on Holy Island on 25th (MJC/ADM) and a single from 28th-29th. Inland, further singles were noted at Newcastle (Town Moor) on 5th and Big Waters on 6th.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Inland, there were three at Prestwick Carr on 14th (PCF) and two at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 21st (ALT). St Mary's Island had one on 20th and three from 24th-26th (ASJ/JPD) and two still present on 28th. On Holy Island singles were noted on 8th and 29th.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Highest counts were five at East Chevington on 7th and at Seaton Sluice on 24th (STH/ASJ). Four were reported from Druridge Pools on 18th and three at Cocklawburn on 24th. One to two were also noted at Bamburgh, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley NR, Holy Island, Holywell, Low Newton, Newbiggin, Prestwick Carr, St Mary's and Warkworth Gut.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Small numbers were noted along the coast from 3rd when ten+ were at Dunstanburgh Castle (JEd). Seven were at Newton Point on 4th and six at Seaton Sluice on 7th. Elsewhere on the coast one to three were reported from a further 12 localities. Inland one to two were noted at Backworth, Cottonshope (Otterburn Ranges), Grindon Lough, High Carrick, Howdon Wetland NR and Newcastle (Town Moor)

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*

18 were trapped and ringed throughout the month at Bamburgh (BRS). Also one to four were seen throughout the month at an Old Hartley garden, St. Mary's Island and a Walbottle garden.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

180 were noted across Holy Island on 20th (ADM). 50 were at Heighley Gate garden centre (Morpeth) on 9th (LJM), 40 throughout the month in a Tynemouth garden (ASJ) and 25 at Horton Grange (Blagdon) on 28th (PCF).

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

120 was the highest total for the month at Black Heddon on 12th (ASJ). 16 were at Cresswell on 26th (ASJ) whilst one to ten were at a further ten sites through the month.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Five came in to roost at East Chevington on 17th (NFO) whilst one to four were seen at a further 11 sites throughout the month.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Four were at Whittle Dene on 12th (SR) whilst one to three were at a further 21 sites through the month.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

An impressive 80 were at Low Newton on 29th (JPL/RNa). 40 were at Newbiggin on 3rd (IFo), 28 at Grindon Lough on 7th (SJH), 25 at Prestwick Carr on 21st (PCF), 18 at Earsdon on 16th (MNC) and one to ten at a further seven sites throughout the month.

**White Wagtail** *M. a. alba*

Three were at Seahouses on 8th (DHa) and a single was at Holy Island Village on 29th (JPD).

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

An interesting record concerned a single bird flying low west over a Wark garden at 13:50 hours on 8th. It was seen and heard to call three times. (PRM).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

There were three records for the month, all of singles, at Bakethin on 4th (MD), Holy Island on 25th (MJC) and Newton Pool on 1st (IJ).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

216 flew south in small groups throughout the month at Tynemouth (ASJ). 110 Were at The Snook (Holy Island) on 28th (MJC), 90 in fields at St. Mary's on 25th (ASJ) and 50 at Grindon Lough on 14th (PRM). Groups of between one and 40 were seen heading S throughout the month at a further 20 sites.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Six were at Tynemouth on 25th (KWY) and one to five at a further five sites throughout the month.

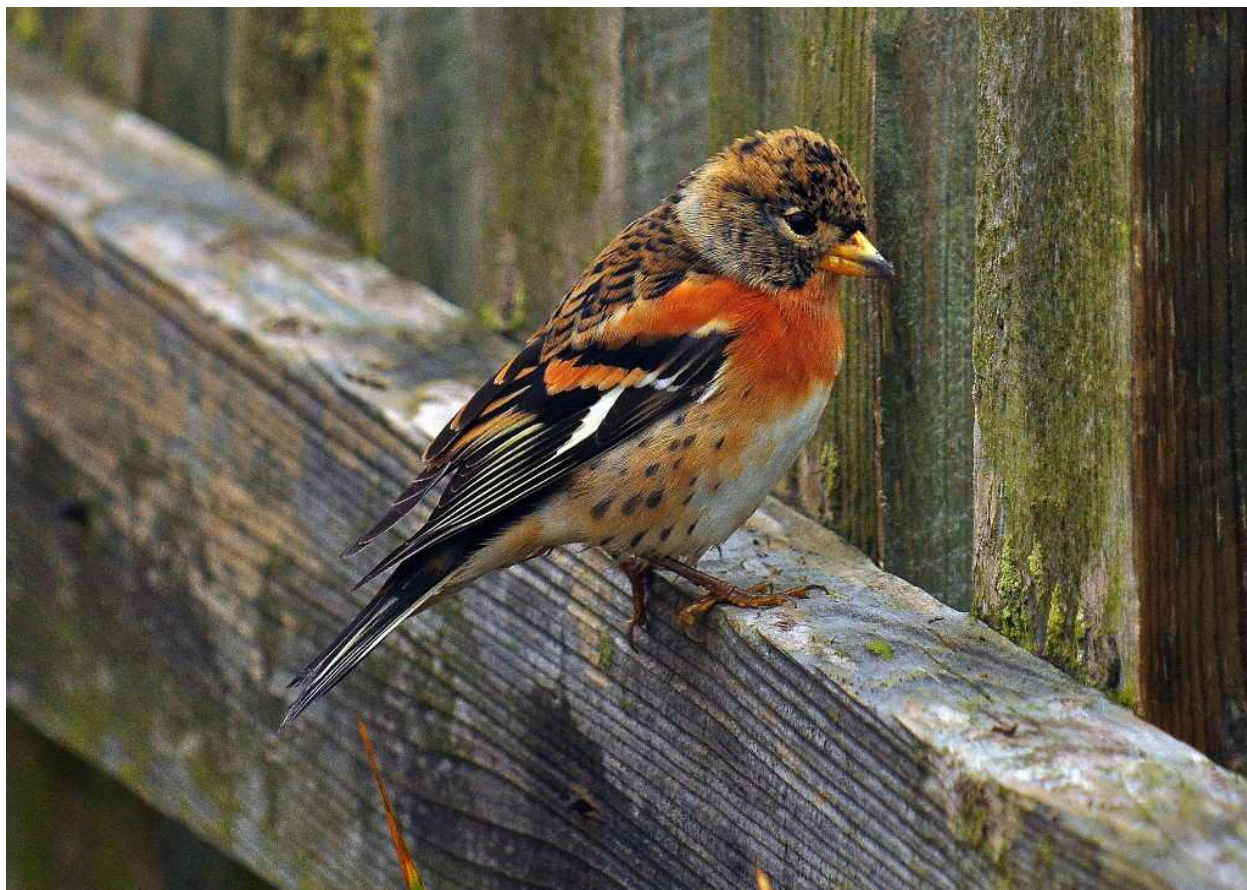
**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

15 were at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 21st (ALT), seven in a Walbottle garden on 1st (KR/LR) and five throughout the month in an Old Hartley garden.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

The largest group of returning birds were 19 on Holy Island on 29th (MJC/ADM). Three were at St. Mary's on 25th (ASJ) and singles at Broomhill on 30th (MD) and Hauxley on 28th (RB/MB).





One of the first Brambling arrivals of the autumn  
by Jack Bucknall  
St. Mary's  
25th September

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

60 were at Lynemouth on 26th (ASJ), 53 at Cresswell on 26th (ASJ) and 30 at St. Mary's on 25th (ASJ). One to 20 were seen at a further four sites throughout the month.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

A charm of 150 were at Big Waters on 13th (AJJ per GB), 120 were at both Cresswell Pond on 3rd (IFo) and Swallow Pond on 2nd (JPD). 100 were at Arcot Pond on 16th (SPP) and St. Mary's Island on 27th (MSH) whilst one to 60 were at a further 11 sites throughout the month.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

50 were at Bakethin on 26th (MD) and ten were at Prestwick Carr on 28th (PCF) whilst one to nine were at a further nine sites throughout the month.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

Flocks totalling 450 birds were present throughout the month in fields at Chare Ends (Holy Island). 300 were at St. Mary's on 24th (ASJ), 150 in stubble fields on Crow Hall Lane (Cramlington) on 10th (PJA/LJM) and 120 at Lynemouth on 26th (ASJ) whilst one to 70 were seen at a further ten site throughout the month.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

20 flew east at Prestwick Carr on 27th (PCF) whilst one to 11 were seen at a further six sites throughout the month.

**Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera*

A single juvenile was perched on a stone wall along Stanegate (the road along the southern edge of Grindon Lough), at 07.15h, giving a 'nasal trumpet call' for 15+ seconds before then flying off W giving a 'chip-chip-chip' call on the 14th. It was later looked for in Muckle Moss area but not relocated (PRM).

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Ten were at Bakethin on 26th (MD), three at Holy Island on 25th (SR) and singles at Sleafy Hall (RMH), St. Mary's Island (MSH) and Wark (PRM) throughout the month.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A high count of 20 were at Bakethin on 20th (MD), 11 at Black Heddon on 5th (ASJ) and ten at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF). One to six were noted at a further 16 sites throughout the month.



**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

The first returning birds were singles at Holy Island North Shore on 13th (IK) and a female on the beach at Warkworth Gut on 14th (NFO). Four were at Newbiggin Beacons on 26th (ADMc/AT) and singles were at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 23rd (SSWT) and Whitley Bay on 25th (ASJ).



A Snow Bunting at Budle Point  
by Chris Knox

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

The first returning birds of the autumn were two that arrived from the east at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 18th (IK). Two were also at Snipe Point (Holy Island) on 27th (SR) and one at Goswick on 22nd (PRM).

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

The month's highest count was three at Holywell Dene on 16th (RJP) and at Holy Island on 29th (SR/AH) whilst two were at Black Heddon on 12th (ASJ) and a single bird at Wark on 8th (PRM).

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

A single bird was at The Snook (Holy Island) on 25th (ADM) and interestingly another, possibly the same, bird was at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on the 29th (SR/AH).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*

19 were at St. Mary's on 27th (ASJ), 16 at The Snook (Holy Island) on 14th (MJC) and between one and seven at a further four sites throughout the month

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN****Escapes****Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*

One was found at Big Waters on 17th and remained the following day (AJJ / GB).

**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

The four adults seen last month remained at East Chevington until at least 17th (IRD / MSH / JPD) before heading back to Derwent Reservoir again where they were located on 23rd (IFo). Their tour of the county will presumably resume next month.

**Hybrids****Saker Falcon x Gyr Falcon** *Falco cherrug x Falco rusticolus*

A large falcon thought to be this falconer's cross was seen repeatedly stooping at birds on the N Pool at East Chevington on 21st (ADMc). It eventually managed to take a Black-tailed Godwit and departed to the west.

**Birds of Unknown Origin****Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

A group of five were heard at Heaton Park (Newcastle) on 20th and seen well there on 24th (TW). They relocated to Gosforth Garden Village on 26th where they were seen flying S (MJC). This is the largest group seen in the county, possibly a sign of birds spreading from the stronghold around Hartlepool. Also recorded this month were one at Prince Road, Wallsend on 4th and two at Richardson Dees Park, Wallsend on 22nd (JPD). If sightings continue in the Newcastle area the species may need to be re-assessed as genuinely feral birds reaching the county as opposed to the previously thought escapees.

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

**Apologies for any accidental omissions****BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION**

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Mute Swan to Ruddy Duck), Lindsay Mcdougall (Red Grouse to Black-necked Grebe), Trevor Blake (Honey-buzzard to Crane), Steve Holliday (Avocet to Godwit) Ian Forsyth (Turnstone to Skua), Eddie Crabtree (Puffin to Great Black-backed Gull), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Feral Pigeon to Red-rumped Swallow), Mike Richardson (Cetti's Warbler to Pied Flycatcher), Phil Allott (Duncock to Corn Bunting), Dan Turner (WeBS Coastal Counts) and Steve Holliday (WeBS Inland Counts).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

**RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please e-mail Dick Myatt at [dick@dickmyatt.co.uk](mailto: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 [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

2013-2014 subscriptions are now overdue. A membership form is attached to this bulletin. Don't forget to use Gift Aid. It costs you nothing.

For membership enquiries please contact [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## 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. Please submit any new content for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## NTBC SIGHTINGS PAGE

The Sightings Page contains current sightings by members. Access is from the NTBC website.

Members need to submit a request to be added to the website, specifying the email address they wish to post from before they can submit sightings to [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## RED KITE BREEDING SURVEY 2014

2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the start of the re-introduction programme of this spectacular species, absent as a breeder from the north east for some 170 years.

A total of 94 birds from the booming Chilterns population were released over a four-year period in the Derwent Valley with the aim of re-establishing Red Kites as a breeding species across Durham and Northumberland.

Since then I'm sure many members will have enjoyed their presence in the region even though comparatively few seem to get north of the Tyne Valley.

As members will probably realise, after a good start things have not gone as well as hoped. The species has really struggled compared with Britain's other re-introduction projects which have all been very successful.

The project has led to only four breeding records so far in Northumberland and even in the core area in the Derwent Valley and immediately adjacent areas the number of nesting pairs has flat-lined for the past three years. During the first two seasons we believe that kites suffered from the severe winters and were in poor condition for breeding while last spring's very cold conditions cannot have helped.

But there is a more sinister aspect. I am sure that everyone will know that several kites have been found illegally poisoned in Hexhamshire and in County Durham and we suspect that others have also died through persecution. It's really appalling that in the 21st Century we still have people using banned poisons, mainly carbofuran, to wipe out raptors.

Despite these setbacks, the Friends of Red Kites, the voluntary group now responsible for monitoring the population, is planning a major breeding survey in 2014 when we are hoping for better things.

Many club members turned out last March to check localities in the county even though it turned out to be one of the worst days of late winter with freezing temperatures, biting easterly winds and snow cutting off some areas which we planned to check.

We are now appealing for volunteers to take part during 2014. The idea is to allocate particular areas, probably clumps of tetrads where kites have occurred, for coverage. Volunteers will be asked to cover them once a month through from the display period in February/March to end of breeding in June/July in close co-operation with FoRK's ringing team.

Volunteers will choose their own days to operate to take account of weather conditions and their own availability. We realise that it will be a major commitment for everyone concerned but it will enable folk to get to know new or less-frequented birding areas and provide, of course, the opportunity to record many other species. The County Recorder will, I'm sure, bless you!

FoRK will provide copies of maps for areas to be covered and will also, if people feel it is necessary, organise a short training/discussion sessions for those taking part. Anyone who can help with the survey or wants to discuss it can contact me by e-mail at [ianisland@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ianisland@blueyonder.co.uk) or on 0191-2676974 or at any club meeting

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PS

2014 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the release of the first Red Kite chick in Gateshead's Lower Derwent Valley and the 5th Anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Red Kites.

We have plans to celebrate. One of which is a Photographic competition, which is open to Members, non-Members and Young Persons. Details are on our website at: <http://www.friendsofredkites.org.uk/page14.htm>

## NORTHERN EXPERIENCE PELAGIC

Members may be interested in a four-hour sailing around the Farnes and up to Holy Island that Northern Experience are running on Saturday December 7th.

Departing Seahouses Harbour at 10:00h, target species will be **Harbour Porpoise, Grey Seal, Black Guillemot, Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter, Slavonian Grebe, Red-throated** and **Great Northern Diver** etc.

Cost £35/person.

01670 827465

or [martin@newtltd.co.uk](mailto:martin@newtltd.co.uk) to book.



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