



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

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SUMMARY

The year commenced with a fine mild day giving no indications of the memorable weather to follow. Rain often persistent and heavy fell during the next three days causing severe flooding in many areas by the 4th. On the 5th the wind freshened from the north east as a cold front moved south and the rain turned to snow. Inland up to a foot of snow had fallen by dark when temperatures dropped to well below freezing. During the following six days temperatures rarely exceeded freezing point and night temperatures as low as -21.7°C were recorded in the county. Virtually all standing water froze as did the surface of most of our rivers. The thaw during the following week was fortunately gradual and intermittent. A more usual January weather pattern had developed by the 21st. with nearby Atlantic Lows controlling events and the last weeks weather was unsettled and mixed.

The weather affected not only the birds but also bird watchers, and few observations were made during the most severe conditions. As the thaw set in it was apparent that the usual vulnerable species were scarce in many areas but surprise survivors were the Jesmond Dene Kingfisher, at least three Blackcaps and several flocks of Long-tailed Tits.

Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were seen at three localities, and a Bittern found frozen to the ice at Plessey Woods was successfully rehabilitated. Brent Goose numbers built up at Lindisfarne to about 1200, small numbers being found elsewhere. A Grey Phalarope was present briefly at St. Marys towards the end of the month.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver Sp.

Small parties of up to five noted at usual coastal localities during the month. Oiled birds were noted on Cresswell Pond on the 3rd (BG) and in Blyth estuary on the 13th (HG). Eight were off Holy Island on the 1st (BNR), ten between Seaton Pt. and Howick Dene on the 21st (ETN/JRN), and 25-30 in Druridge Bay on the 23rd. when several also flew N ES/WTL.

Black-throated Diver

A single was off Holy Island on the 1st (BNR) and three off Budle Point on the 24th (BRS).

Great Northern Diver

Singles present off Holy Island on the 1st (WAK et al) off North Shields fish quay on the 14th (DMT) and off St. Marys on the 17th (ME/CB).

Little Grebe

Few reports, singles being noted at Berwick on the 3rd and at Holywell Dene on the 27th. Two at each of Wansbeck estuary on the 1st and at Matfen on the 31st.

Great Crested Grebe

The only report was of a single off Beadnell on the 24th (BRS).

Red-necked Grebe

One-two noted off Holy Island, Budle Point and Ross Links on several dates during the month.

Slavonian Grebe

Two noted off Holy Island on the 1st (DGB/BNR). Nine were noted between Budle Pt. and Stag Rocks on the 24th (BRS).

Black-necked Grebe

Two were off Budle Pt. on the 24th (BRS).

Fulmar

Well established at usual breeding sites by the end of the month. Three pairs noted sitting on Berwick's main bridge.

Cormorant

Up to 45 noted in Blyth harbour on the 6th and a maximum of 39 roosting at Amble on the 10th (HG/NWR et al). Up to 16 noted in the Wansbeck estuary during the month (JR). One-two noted on the Coquet at Felton (ETN/JRN).

Bittern

A bird found with its feet frozen in the ice at Plessey Woods on the 10th was kept in captivity for two weeks prior to being released at Leighton Moss (GJ et al).

Heron

Surprisingly well reported even after the severe weather, one-three being noted at 25 localities. Five-six noted during the last week at Alnmouth, Warkworth and Annstead.

Mute Swan

A maximum of 270 noted in the Tweed estuary on the 13th (AH). 25-30 regularly noted in Coquet Estuary and at Cresswell Pond. Blyth estuary attracted as many as 67 on the 9th numbers reducing there to only 14 by the 25th (LJM/HG et al).

Whooper Swan

Between 20 and 30 frequented Prestwick Carr throughout the month (PWW/DY et al). 34 were noted on the Tweed at Carham on the 23rd (BL/AMB). 15 were at Whittle Dene on the 16th (JSB) and 13 at Druridge on the 31st (DY/SY). Smaller flocks moved about the area during the month, the county total being obviously many less than usual.

Bean Goose

A single bird was at Holywell Pond on the 6th (DGW).

Pink-footed Goose

17 with Grey Lag at Glororum on the 3rd with 40 present at Budle Bay by the 24th (BRS). On the 30th nine joined Grey Lag near Stannington (AHB) and eight were near Chathill (DGB). On the 10th a single S at Alnmouth and four at Boulmer (LGM). One was at Whittle Dene on the 27th (MPF).

White-fronted Goose

Four were with Grey Lag at Budle Bay 10th-24th (KDS/DR/BRS). A single bird was in a field between Amble and Warkworth on the 22nd (NWR).

Grey Lag Goose

Up to 1000 were estimated to be present in the Budle Bay area during the month (DGB) but as many as 1500 were counted there on the 10th (DBR). A maximum of 287 noted at Grindon on the 31st (BL). On the 1st 80 were near Warkworth Lane and 120S over North Seaton (LGM/SWA). A maximum of 121 noted at Whittle Dene on the 23rd, 130 at Doddington Bridge on the 30th and 36 at Druridge on the 31st. Passage S was apparent on the 10th when over 200 S in total off Boulmer and Alnmouth (IK/LGM) 35 over Horton (LJM) and 59 over Westerhope (BG). A further 50 S over Acklington (NWR) the following day.

Canada Goose

Ten were with Grey Lag near Bradford Pool on the 24th (BRS).

Brent Goose

Many reports from Holy Island indicate that 1000 present on the 1st increasing to about 1200 by the 23rd. Several light bellied birds were noted away from the Lindisfarne area. A single bird was present at St. Marys on the 4th and two there from the 10th until at least the 31st (DGW/IC etal). A total of at least 22 flew N off Boulmer on the 10th (IK/LGM), six were noted in that area on the 16th (ES/WTL) and five very tame birds on the shore there on the 30th (AH). Five were noted at Druridge on the 16th and seven there on the 31st. (AMB/DY/SY).

Shelduck

Maximum counts from the Lindisfarne NNR area were of 455 on Fenham Flats and 300 at Budle Bay both on the 24th (LGM/BRS). 15-20 were in the Coquet estuary area throughout the month (TAC/AH etal). Up to five at Boulmer and at Cresswell during the second half of the month.

Wigeon

Numbers decreased in the Cresswell/Druridge area from about 350 on the 1st to less than 200 by the 30th (AMB/JR/LGM etal). Numbers fluctuated at Grindon where as many as 400 noted on the 31st. (BL). 120 were on Seaton Burn on the 30th (JAM) and about 50 at Whittle Dene throughout the month.

Teal

Over 200 were in the Cresswell/Druridge area on the 1st decreasing to about 80 by the months end (AHB etal). Few were noted during the freeze but by the 18th 70 were noted at Backworth (PRW) and on the 24th 60 at Whittle Dene, 90 at Holy Island Lough and 44 on Gosforth Park Lake. 60 were on Grindon on the 31st (LGM).

Mallard

About 200 frequented the Cresswell/Druridge area throughout the month. Numbers peaked at about 250 off St. Marys on the 13th and about 70 were noted in Budle Bay and off Seaton Point during the last week. 200 at Whittle Dene on the 1st increased to about 250 by the 16th decreasing to about 150 by the months end. The freeze concentrated 123 on the Tyne at Hexham on the 16th. The thaw saw the return of birds to Gosforth Park where 53 on the 24th and about 80 were at Grindon by the 28th.

Pintail

Single record of a drake at Grindon on the 31st (LGM).

Pochard

With inland waters frozen many resorted to the estuaries including up to 130 in the Blyth estuary on the 9th and 13th (HG) 20-30 were in the Tweed estuary throughout the month, and smaller numbers were noted in the other usual estuaries. Numbers decreased in the Cresswell/Druridge area from about 110 on the 3rd to about 20 by the end of the month. 60 were noted at Whittle Dene on the 3rd but only six on the 23rd.

Tufted Duck

A similar pattern of records to that of Pochard. Blyth estuary attracted a maximum of 170 on the 9th, a maximum of 70 in the Tweed estuary on the 13th and up to 30 in the Coquet estuary. The Cresswell/Druridge population decreased from 145 on the 1st to only 20 by the 30th, and 350 at Whittle Dene on the 1st reduced to 23 by the 27th.

Scaup

The largest concentration noted was surprisingly of only five in Amble harbour on the 9th (ME/CB), but two-three noted during the month in the Tweed estuary, Seahouses, Druridge, Amble and St. Marys areas.

Eider

200-250 regularly noted off Bamburgh and Amble. Up to 50 off St. Marys during the last week, and up to seven noted in the Tyne estuary mid month.

Long-tailed Duck

About 30 between Budle Pt. and Stag Rocks on the 24th was easily the largest count. One-three noted at Seahouses, Blyth, Druridge Pool (on the 30th) and St. Marys.

Common Scoter

Very few noted, the only concentrations being 30 off Hadston on the 1st (LGM) and 20 off Stag Rocks on the 24th (BRS).

Velvet Scoter

A single noted in Budle Bay on the 10th (DBG).

Goldeneye

160-180 were in the Tweed estuary throughout the month, 150 at Whittle Dene on the 3rd left the area during the freeze, about 15 having returned by the months end. A maximum of 57 on the 22nd noted off St. Marys. 43 were in the Wansbeck estuary on the 3rd, and 13 in the Blyth estuary on the 10th. Small parties noted along the Tyne as far up-stream as Hexham, and on the Coquet a single at Felton on the 20th. Up to 10 were at Grindon during the last week.

Smew

A single 'redhead' just out of the county at Hoselaw on the 30th (TAC/JR).

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 20 in the Tweed estuary on the 13th (AH). Two-six regularly noted off Holy Island and in the Tyne estuary where they were watched fighting over sand eels (BNR/DHT etal). Six N off Hauxley on the 1st. (HRS).

Goosander

Well reported from the Tyne with for example 19 noted between Styford and Wylam on the 17th and 21 counted between Prudhoe and Stocksfield on the 22nd (BNR/MPF). At Whittle Dene 35 present on the 3rd were mainly males, but of 22 on the 27th half were females. (ES/MPF etal). Only a single drake was in the Tweed estuary during the month and three noted in the Coquet and Aln estuaries. 95 were on Hoselaw on the 30th (TAC/JR).

Hen Harrier

Presumably the same ringtail noted at Warkworth Line and Chevington on the 1st and at Cresswell Pond on the 23rd (LGM/RJ). Another female noted at Elwick on the 24th (AD) and over the A1 South of Belford on the 28th (DGB). A ringtail also noted on several occasions during the last week at Holywell (JEF/DGW etal).

Sparrowhawk

Noted at a total of 39 widely scattered localities.

Buzzard

A single bird at Barhaugh on the 31st (LGM).

Kestrel

One-three noted at 50 scattered localities.

Merlin

Singles noted on or near the coast at Holy Island, Hauxley, Boulmer, near the 'Beehive', Cresswell and Tynemouth. Inland sightings at Felton on the 13th, Twice Brewed on the 28th and Akeld on the 29th.

Peregrine

Singles noted at Priors Park on the 17th (MC et al), near Cheviot on the 23rd (PW) and near Bradford Pool on the 24th (BRS).

Red Grouse

An interesting observation on the 6th at West Nubbock, no doubt occasioned by the severe weather, was of nine birds in a hawthorn bush apparently eating the buds. (JPB).

Red-legged Partridge

Ten at Calder on the 24th (AMB).

Partridge

Several coveys of up to 17 noted, and 36 together near Backworth on the 7th.

Water Rail

Singles noted during the month at Blaydon and Priors Park.

Moorhen

Small numbers noted at usual coastal ponds and estuaries, but as many as 29 in the Wansbeck estuary on the 1st declining to 14 by the 11th (JR). Unusual arboreal sightings were of singles at the top of a dead mature elm tree at Stocksfield on the 7th (BNR), and of one climbing around about 25 feet up a spruce near to the Wansbeck at Mitford on the 23rd (AH).

Coot

200 at Cresswell on the 1st reduced to about 100 by the 30th (AMB/LGM et al). 70 were in the Tweed estuary on the 13th, 42 in the Coquet estuary on the 19th (AH), and 20 in the Blyth estuary on the 9th (HG). 60 had returned to Whittle Dene by the 27th (MPF).

Wader Count 10th/11th January

The severe weather caused problems, but nevertheless most of the coast was covered on the actual or alternative dates.

Seahouses - Beadnell (MLL), Beadnell - Howick Burn (DLW), Howick Burn - Boulmer (IK), Boulmer - Alnmouth (ES/WTL), Birling Carrs - Coquet estuary (PWW), Amble - Chevington Burn (NWR), Newbiggin - Wansbeck estuary (JR), Wansbeck - Blyth estuary (JBD), Blyth estuary (LJM), Hartley - Briar Dene (MLL), Briar Dene - Tynemouth (MC).

Oystercatcher

A total of 747 counted during the coastal wader counts, 100 were at Berwick on the 13th (AH) and 150 - 180 regularly noted at St. Marys (DGW et al).

Ringed Plover

A total of 181 counted during the coastal wader counts. The maximum count in Blyth estuary was of 40 on the 3rd (SWA). 30-35 were at Berwick on the 27th (JDL).

Golden Plover

About 250 at Boulmer on the 10th (IK), 300 between Beadnell and Seahouses on the 24th (MLL) and 200 at St. Marys on the 6th (JPL) were the only large flocks noted. Flocks of 60 or less were noted at Holy Island, Cresswell, Hadston, Hauxley, Seaton Hirst and Tynemouth. Ten were with Lapwing at Warlaw Blanchland by the 31st, one of which was heard to sing (per BL).

Grey Plover

62 noted during the coastal waders counts. Up to 10 noted at Berwick and Blyth estuaries during the month.

Lapwing

Small flocks were noted in coastal localities during the severe weather, but none were reported from inland localities until after the thaw. 50 had returned to Grindon by the 21st increasing to 150 by the 31st (MLL/BL) and several flocks of up to 40 were seen elsewhere during this period.

Knot

1,678 noted during the coastal wader counts, including as many as 1,112 between Newbiggin and the Wansbeck on the 11th and 450 between Boulmer and Howick Haven on the 10th. At least 600 were noted roosting on St. Marys Island on the 16th (JDM).

Sanderling

107 noted during the coastal wader counts including 43 between Tynemouth and St. Marys on the 11th. 116 were noted at St. Marys on the 4th (DGW), over 100 at Meggies Burn on the 9th (MSH) and 60 at Berwick on the 13th (AH).

Purple Sandpiper

311 noted during the coastal wader counts included 166 between Beadnell and Seahouses and 62 between Blyth and Wansbeck estuaries. Over 200 were noted at Seaton Sluice on the 18th (MN) and up to 80 noted off Stag Rocks during the month.

Dunlin

1,621 noted during the coastal wader counts despite the important Seahouses-Budle Pt. stretch not being covered. Concentrations during the month included maxima of 2,200 - 2,400 at Berwick 'Little Beach' on the 13th (JDL), 500 in Blyth estuary on the 3rd (SWA), 576 at St. Marys on the 4th (DGW), and 330 in Coquet estuary on the 10th (LGM).

Ruff

Single birds in the Meggies Burn area on the 9th and 10th (MSH/JEF), and at North Shields on the 10th (DMT). One at Backworth on the 26th and 27th (JEF).

Jack Snipe

Singles at Backworth on the 23rd (WAK) and Derwenthaugh on the 24th (PWD).

Snipe

15 in Warkworth Gut was the largest concentration noted but many reports of one-six from other coastal localities throughout the month.

Woodcock

Up to three at Priors Park during the month. One-two noted at Bamburgh, Holywell, Acklington, Felton, Briardene, Jesmond Dene, Kirkley Hall and Gosforth Park.

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were in Budle Bay on the 24th (BRS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

89 noted during the coastal wader counts. 40 were at Berwick on the 13th (AH).

Curlew

156 noted during the coastal wader counts. 76 were gathered at Monks House on the 30th (JR) and 30-40 regularly seen in the vicinity of St. Marys.

Redshank

519 noted during the coastal wader count. Up to 100 noted in Blyth estuary during the month.

Turnstone

759 noted during the coastal wader count. The maximum high tide roost count at St. Marys was of 275 on the 4th (DGW)

Grey Phalarope

A single bird present at St. Marys on the 28th and 29th (KIB/WAK).

Black-headed Gull

Easily the largest gathering noted was of 1,500 at Newbiggin on the 11th (JR). The pale mantled individual noted at North Shields in December was present again there on the 4th (DMT).

Common Gull

Few were noted during the first two weeks especially inland where they reappeared from around the 23rd. The largest inland flocks noted were of 400 at Reaveley on the 24th and 350 at Ovington on the 31st.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

An adult was in the Tyne estuary on the 30th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

A first year bird noted at North Shields on the 6th and 11th (DMT) and an adult there on the 9th (AMB).

Glaucous Gull

From the many observations made it would appear that one adult and at least three immatures were present during the month at North Shields. Immatures were also noted during the month at Amble, Hartley and Boulmer, and interestingly a sub-adult was watched following the plough at Cramlington on the 27th (per BL). A further observation on the 31st of a bird thought to be a Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrid at North Shields (DMT).

Kittiwake

A maximum of 70 noted on the 31st at North Shields (DMT). About 50 at Blyth harbour on the 17th (MSH) with smaller numbers recorded elsewhere.

Guillemot

Odd birds noted close inshore during the month between Alnmouth and St. Marys.

Razorbill

The only report was of a single lightly oiled bird at St. Marys on the 20th (DGW).

Little Auk

One was found at Alnmouth on the 30th (ETN/JRN)

Stock Dove

Well reported two-ten birds being noted at ten localities. In addition 19 noted at Warkworth Lane on the 1st, 11 at Boulmer on the 10th and 16 at Blagdon on the 16th (LGM)

Woodpigeon

Many flocks of several hundred noted near to the coast during the severe weather early in the month. 2,000 were feeding in a Felton turnip field on the 7th (ETN/JRN). Steady S passage was noted over Acklington on the 9th when nearly 3,000 counted and over Bamburgh the following day when at least 10,000 estimated (NWR/DGB).

Collared Dove

Flocks of 15-19 noted during the month at Stocksfield, Stakeford, Tynemouth and Cambois. A pair of regular visitors to a Benton garden are so tame that they can be fed from the hand (MC).

Barn Owl

Several reports all of single birds, many hunting during the day, from the following localities : Berwick, Newton, Brenkley, Druridge, Cramlington, Backworth, Ashington and Scots Gap.

Little Owl

The only report was of one near Woodhorn on the 1st (WAK).

Tawny Owl

Seen or heard at eight usual localities, including Jesmond Dene where one flew past a 'first footing' observer at midnight, on new years eve!

Short-eared Owl

Still conspicuous with one-three noted at 21 localities mostly coastal. Five-six were present in the Holywell/Earsdon area throughout the month (MH/MN et al). On the 10th one was noted circling St. Marys lighthouse, and at Boulmer one arrived off the sea and was later seen fighting with a resident bird (DRS/IK).

Kingfisher

One was seen at Blagdon Pond on the 1st (PWD) and the Jesmond Dene bird survived the month despite the arctic conditions (MPF).

Green Woodpecker

Singles noted at Wylam, Belsay, Stocksfield and Warren Mill.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Noted at 13 localities including gardens at Ponteland, Morpeth and Axwell Park.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Singles reported from Close House on the 1st (BG), Widehaugh Hexham on the 10th, and Bywell where one visited a bird table on the 14th (per BL).

Skylark

All records were coastal many small parties noted on the coast or flying south during the first ten days. Up to 180 were in the Cresswell area and 130 at Boulmer during this period (BG/LGM/AMB), and on the 6th as many as 948 counted moving S from the St. Marys area (DGW). No large concentrations were noted after the thaw, except in the Cresswell/Druridge area where about 300 present on the 16th (AMB).

Meadow Pipit

Small flocks of up to 10 noted at several coastal localities, a single at Cramlington on the 17th being the farthest reported inland.

Rock Pipit

Over 20 at Meggies Burn on the 9th and 14 between Beadnell and Seahouses on the 24th (MSH/MLL). One-two noted at North Shields, St. Marys and Berwick.

Grey Wagtail

One-two noted at eight localities including North Shields fish quay and Shields Road Byker.

Pied Wagtail

1-2 noted at eleven coastal localities.

Waxwing

Singles reported from Fenham on the 13th (per MH), West Moor on the 17th (BG) and at Kirkhill, Morpeth during the last week (per BL).

Dipper

A species likely to have suffered badly during the freeze the only records received after the thaw concerned two at each of Wark and Bardon Mill and singles at Stocksfield and Plessey Woods.

Wren

Noted as scarce by many observers after the freeze, one-three were however noted at thirteen localities. In addition as many as 15 counted in Jesmond Dene on the 23rd and six in the Cramlington/Blagdon area on the 17th (MPF/LGM).

Duncock

Very few reported during the month.

Robin

Scarce away from human habitation many winter atlas counters finding none or very few in the rural areas after the freeze.

Stonechat

Some at least survived the hard weather with three at Stag Rocks, a pair at Warkworth Gut and singles at Seahouses and Boulmer being noted on the 24th.

Fieldfare

The largest flocks were noted during the first three days and included 105 at Warkworth Lane, 60 at Radcliffe and 80 at Little Bavington. Few were recorded during the following week, but odd birds frequented gardens. Several small flocks were noted thereafter but the county population did not appear to return to last months level.

Song Thrush

Judging by the very few reports and winter atlas comments many must have perished or left the area during the hard weather. Odd birds were noted during the freeze at several coastal localities feeding on snails and amongst the seaweed.

Redwing

About 30 in the Tynemouth area during the first two weeks, but other reports were mainly of one-four and no more than twelve seen together elsewhere. None were reported from very far inland, and several individuals resorted to gardens as others were found dead or dying during the first fortnight.

Mistle Thrush

One-four noted at 14 localities during the month.

Blackcap

Males were noted in gardens at New Hartley on several dates 1st-31st (DMI), at Wylam 1st-6th (per BG) and the Monkseaton bird noted last month continued to visit until the 14th, presumably the same bird visiting a nearby garden on the 25th (JPL). A female was noted at Byker on the 27th (PW).

Goldcrest

Presumably badly affected by the severe weather, only small numbers being noted at scattered localities during the month, twelve around Hallington area on the 30th being easily the largest concentration reported.

Long-tailed Tit

Apparently coping well with the cold weather flocks of six-twelve being noted after the thaw at Holywell, Bywell, Felton, Stocksfield, Hexham, Gosforth Park and Plessey Woods with smaller flocks being noted at six other localities.

Marsh Tit

Up to eight noted at Bolam and Wallington, one-three being noted at Powburn, Sheepwash, Silverhill, Felton and Apperley Dene.

Willow Tit

Singles noted at Kirkley Hall, Holywell, Killingworth, Gosforth Park, Cramlington (two locations), Plessey Woods and Brenkley.

Coal Tit

Noted in small numbers around habitation during the cold spell. One-two noted feeding on nuts in gardens at Felton, Morpeth and Benton. Three were at Hauxley on the 1st when eight feeding at Bolam Lake car park.

Blue Tit

Seemingly scarce in rural areas after the thaw but still quite numerous in gardens etc.

Nuthatch

Eight-nine noted at Bolam and Wallington during the first week. One-two were noted visiting bird tables throughout the hard weather at Stocksfield, Mitford and Bywell others were seen at Hexham, Bothal church yard and Matfen.

Tree Creeper

Noted at 12 localities after the thaw, including one singing at Eachwick on the 24th (BG etal).

Magpie

Several small flocks of up to nine reported. An interesting observation at Stocksfield was of a roost in Hawthornes near Merryshields Wood, 57 birds counted by late afternoon on the 31st (BNR).

Jackdaw

The largest flocks noted were of 200 at Druridge on the 16th when 70 at Housesteads and 370 at Bardon Mill (AMB/CGM).

Rook

Many thousands noted on several dates flying to roost at Twizell near Belford (AH). Seemingly unaffected by the severe weather many flocks of several hundred in rural areas and as many as 4000 near Warkworth on the 30th (AMB).

Hooded Crow

Up to three in Coquet estuary and between Hauxley and Cresswell throughout the month. Singles also noted during the last fortnight at Carham, Berwick, Elwick and Gosforth Park.

Carrion Crow

Sizeable flocks of about 30 at Cresswell on the 24th, 60 at Gosforth Park on the 10th and 85 on Blanchland Moor on the 30th.

Starling

Many flocks of several hundred noted at coastal localities during the month. Over 5,000 were at Cresswell on the 16th (AMB) and 1,700 between Seahouses and Beadnell on the 24th (MLL).

Tree Sparrow

A mixed flock of about 300 'finches' at Druridge on the 2nd were mainly this species (MSH), about 50 being noted there on several later dates. Up to 50 also noted at Cambois and Hauxley, many smaller flocks being noted at other coastal localities.

Chaffinch

Several small flocks of up to 40 noted during and after the hard weather at widespread localities. Easily the largest gathering was at Hexham where 500 counted in trees at Tyne Green on the 24th (KD). 50-80 also noted at Wooperton, Jesmond Dene and Cambois.

Brambling

The largest flocks were noted during the first three days when up to 120 at Hauxley and 100 in the Cresswell area. Reports thereafter were widespread but mostly on or near to the coast, and mainly of small flocks or single birds. Between the 9th and 11th about 50 were at Bamburgh and Cambois and 60 at Alnmouth. 45 were at Calder on the 24th.

Greenfinch

Numbers generally low but 100 at Hadston on the 1st (LGM), 50 at Cambois grain silo on the 9th (LJM) and about 200 roosting in grounds of All Saints Church at Newcastle on the 12th (IK).

Goldfinch

One-seven noted at ten localities on or near to the coast during the month. A flock of 10 was at Styford on the 16th (BNR).

Siskin

Odd birds were noted on bird tables at Hexham, Seaton Delaval and Stocksfield, but as many as 23 fed on nuts in a Ponteland garden on the 9th (BDG/EMG). 18 were at Bolam Lake on the 3rd, nine at Felton on the 4th and one searched for food on the shore at North Shields on the 14th.

Linnet

Flocks of 30-60 regularly noted at Seaton Sluice, Hadston, Hartley, Cullercoats and Cambois. 400 noted on Holy Island on the 1st (BNR).

Twite

About 60 were still present in Coquet estuary area during first week reducing to about 20 mid month (PWW/MPF et al). Several reports of small numbers from other coastal localities including two-three at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Boulmer and Druridge. Maxima of ten at Tynemouth, Seaton Sluice and Hartley between the 9th and 11th. 15 were at Kitty Brewster estate, Blyth on the 9th (LJM) and four S at Holywell on the 13th (DGW).

Redpoll

One-three noted at ten widespread localities.

Bullfinch

Ten in the Tranwell area on the 9th (AM) was the largest concentration but one-five noted at 13 other localities during the month.

Hawfinch

Three noted near to Wallington on the 3rd (BNR), a single at Hexham on the 8th (KD) and two at Stocksfield on the 22nd (MPF).

Lapland Bunting

Singles noted at Cresswell on the 1st (AMB) and Longhaughton Steel on the 10th (LGM) when two at St. Marys (ES/WTL).

Snow Bunting

A maximum count of 80 on the 9th at Ross Back Sands (DGB). 44 were at Cresswell on the 1st (LGM) but no more than six noted there subsequently. Maxima of 12 at Boulmer and six at Bamburgh during the month, and a single bird at Meggies Burn on the 10th and two as far inland as Killingworth on the 12th (JDM).

Yellowhammer

Seemingly numerous after the severe weather. The largest flock was of 180 on stubble at West Farm, Dipton on the 24th (BNR) but up to 70 were at High Fell Farm near Walbottle on the 17th (MH). Elsewhere flocks of 15-30 noted from the 9th on at Acklington, Seaton Delaval, Harton, Druridge, Stocksfield, Whittle Dene, Holywell and Tynemouth.

Reed Bunting

20-30 noted at Chevington, Hauxley and Holywell during the first three days. Singles and small flocks of up to seven were noted at several coastal localities during and after the freeze. Odd birds visited suburban gardens during the worst of the weather.

Corn Bunting

Largest gatherings were of 15 at Druridge on the 16th and 21 at Shortridge Hall, Warkworth on the 30th (AMB). Two-four noted at St. Marys, Hauxley and Cresswell.

All February records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth, NE61 2AN in Voous order and by 8th March at the latest please. Send SAE for supply of record cards.

List of Contributors :

C.M. Adamson	M.P. Frankis	M. Nattrass
S.W. Anderson	B. Galloway	ET & JR Norris
CS & IJ Armstrong	H. Garrod	S.P. Ray
A.M. Bankier	LS & TP Goodwin	J. Richardson
A.H. Banks	BD & EM Green	N.W. Richardson
K.I. Barratt	A. Heavisides	D.B. Rosair
D.G. Bell	I.G. Henderson	B.N. Rossiter
M. Bell	M. Henry	H.E. Saunderson
A. Belshaw	M.S. Hodgson	W.G. Savage
J.S. Booth	D.H. Howey	D.R. Shannon
C. Bradshaw	D.M. Iredale	K.D. Shaw
J.P. Brogdon	W. Jordan	E. Slack
T.A. Cadwallender	W.A. Kelly	D.L. Sowerbutts
M. Carruthers	I. Kerr	A. Stripson
M. Carter	J.P. Lindsay	D.M. Turner
I. Chadwick	B. Little	D.E. Walker
T.L. Crilley	W.T. Logan	R. Walton
P.W. Davidson	J.D. Lough	P. Watson
K. Dawson	M.L. Lovett	P.R. Weighill
A. Donnison	J.A. Martin	P.W. Wests
K. Dures	L.J. McDougall	B. Williams
M. Eccles	J.D. McElwee	D & S Younger
J.E. Ferguson	L.G. McFarlane	

Indoor Meetings - March and April, 1982

Thursday, March 11th. Siberian migrants in Autumn

Last Autumn proved to be one of the most interesting for rare Siberian and Asian species turning up on the Northumberland coast so this meeting is being devoted to the subject with contributions from Bryan Galloway, Alan Heavisides, Mike Hodgson, Keith Dures, and we hope, people from the audience joining in.

Species to be covered include rarities such as Radde's Warbler (2nd Northumberland record), Paddyfield Warbler, Pallas's Warbler and many others so this should be one of our most interesting meetings of the session.

Thursday April, 8th Members Night

Three members will be presenting talks and slides about personal experiences for Members Night, out last meeting of the current session.

Ken Dawson will be telling about a trip in Turkey while Jim Parrack has been birding in Corfu. Kathleen Barratt has been to a field study centre in the South-West and will be giving a short talk about it. Members who have heard her highly original and witty contributions on previous occasions will know we are in for another treat.

Bulletin Note

Val McFarland who gave our recent superb talk and slide presentation on Lapland is off to warmer climes in the autumn and has invited TBC members to join a two-week expedition she and Barry Barnacal are leading to Kenya.

The visit from October 23rd to November 7th is being planned to take in as many types of habitat as possible ranging from tropical rain forest to dry savanna and some spectacular mountains in pursuit of birds, butterflies and game, as well as visiting the country's famous Rift Valley lakes. The price which covers air fares from London, hotels, all meals, entrance charges, mini-bus travel and guides will be £1,035 and any members interested should contact Val at the Cedars, Quaker Lane, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside, for further details. Looking further ahead Val and Barry are leading a two-week expedition Florida from April 9th next year which will cost £540 exclusive of meals which she estimates will cost about an extra £7 or £8 a day.

RSPB/BTO SURVEY OF BREEDING WADERS OF WET MEADOWS

Since my notice appeared in a previous bulletin some observers have volunteered to participate in this project but there are still areas where observers are needed. Districts where it is thought suitable terrain may exist - wet or ill-drained pastureland - below 600' a.s.l. - probably in pockets rather than extensively are :

- R. Glen/Bowmont Water (Kirk Yetholm - Kirknewton-Coupland)
- Ancroft area (Coal Burn, Allerdeanmill Burn)
- Coastal fields and links from Waren Mill - Beal R.E. (Lindisfarne NNR).
- R. Coquet from Weldon Bridge - Rothbury
- R. Breamish/Till (Ingram Fowberry)
- R. North Tyne (Bellingham - Kielder Reservoir)
- R. North Tyne (Chesters - Wark)
- R. Rede (Redesmouth - Deadwood)

To establish in the first instance the extent of any suitable habitat it would be helpful if visitors to the above parts of the county could note any promising areas and let me know their whereabouts. If the number of likely sites is very large it may be practicable to survey a sample.

Specific sites or areas within which it is known wet pastureland is to be found and which are still without cover are :

- Holy Island (farmland)
- Eglingham Burn/Kimmer Lough
- Elsdon Burn (a potentially very good site is at its confluence with the R. Rede)
- Rayburn Lake
- Havannah Pond, Nr. Dinnington
- Med Burn, Nr. Darras Hall
- Nr. Rudchester, Heddon-on-the-Wall
- Parts of the subsidence affected areas between
 - Widdrington - Pegswood - Woodhorn

The project involves defining a "study area" similar, in fact, to a Common Bird Census Plot, (as large or as small as an observer wishes) in any of the above localities centered on wet or ill-drained pastureland. Three visits are to be made spanning the breeding season to record breeding waders and other species attracted by the wetness of the habitat. In terms of time the survey is not particularly time consuming or difficult. Anyone who would like to take part should contact me - as soon as possible please.

Geoff Macfarlane, 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6LJ (Tel 733654)

B.T.O. WINTER ATLAS

Could all outstanding record cards be sent to me as soon as possible please -
Geoff. Macfarlane, 31 Wreay Walk, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6LJ.

TREVOR HALLAM

It is with great sadness that we have to report the tragic death of Trevor Hallam who was struck down by a vehicle, while out jogging in Bahrein on Christmas morning 1981.

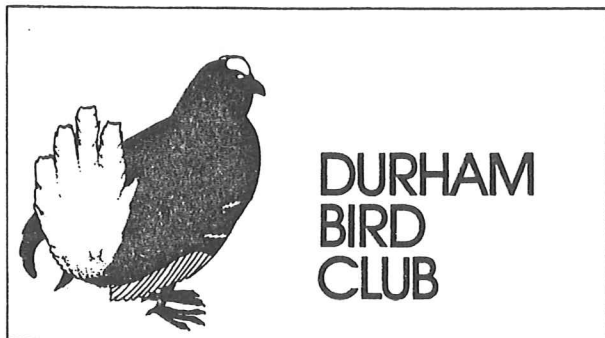
Trevor joined the TBC and later the Northumbrian Ringing Group in 1969 when he came to work at Blyth Power Station. He and Barbara lived at Amble until 1972, moving to Fife when Trevor transferred to Longannet Power Station. In 1974 they bought the Snook House on Holy Island and in October of that year went off to Bahrein to help run the Power Station.

Every August the family returned to the Snook to carry out major works in preparation for their eventual return to England in August, 1982.

We were looking forward to welcoming them both back to the area full time and his untimely death has left us all very much poorer.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Barbara and their son Peter.

Brian Little



"Birds in Durham, 1980", the latest in the annual series of reports on birds seen in the area between the Tyne and the Tees - County Durham as it was before local government reorganization - has just been published by the Durham Bird Club. Although, as usual, something over 220 bird species were noted in the area during 1980 only one, Cirl Bunting, had never been recorded in the county before. 1980 was thus rather less spectacular than 1979, which saw no less than six new bird species added to the county list. But the report is not merely concerned with rarities; it attempts to record in some detail the status of the full range of species which occurred in the county, and also provides information on ringing work carried out during the year. A folding map shows some of the main localities where observations of interest have been made and there are seven illustrations by Ken Baldridge. The report is available from Mr D.L. Sowerbutts, Basement Flat, 27 Western Hill, Durham City DH1 4RL at £2.00 plus 19p postage and reports for earlier years can also be obtained from the same address.

The prices of earlier reports are as follows

Entitled "Durham County Bird Report"

1971	25p + 19p postage
1972	50p + 19p postage
1973	60p + 19p postage
1974	40p + 19p postage
1975	40p + 24p postage

Entitled "Birds in Durham"

1976	85p + 19p postage
1977	£1.00 + 19p postage
1978	£1.25 + 19p postage
1979	£1.75 + 24p postage

If you would like to purchase any of these please send your order, using the form below, together with a cheque or postal order (payable to Durham Bird Club) to Mr D.L. Sowerbutts, Basement Flat, 27 Western Hill, Durham City DH1 4RL. Please note that some years are in short supply and orders will be dealt with on a first-come first-served basis. Where possible, delivery will be made by hand or at Club meetings (please specify which Club on order form) and any overpayment made on postage will be refunded.

To Mr D.L. Sowerbutts, Basement Flat, 27 Western Hill, Durham City DH1 4RL

Please supply me with the following bird reports

1971 (25p + 19p)	copy/copies	1976 (85p + 19p)	copy/copies
1972 (50p + 19p)	copy/copies	1977 (£1.00 + 19p)	copy/copies
1973 (60p + 19p)	copy/copies	1978 (£1.25 + 19p)	copy/copies
1974 (40p + 19p)	copy/copies	1979 (£1.75 + 24p)	copy/copies
1975 (40p + 24p)	copy/copies	1980 (£2.00 + 19p)	copy/copies

I enclose cheque/postal order for.....(payable to Durham Bird Club)

I can collect reports at a meeting of

Name.....

Address.....

.....
.....

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

SALES

In addition to the latest edition of Birds in Northumbria 1980*, members might like to know that earlier bird reports are obtainable from Mrs. J.P. Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. These and other items are listed below with prices and postage :

Birds in Northumbria

1972	60p + 35p postage	Northumberland Birds Part I	1.40p + 35p postage
1973	75p + 35p postage	Northumberland Birds Part II	1.75p + 35p postage
1974	85p + 35p postage	Sparrowhawk Paper	50p + 22p postage
1977	1.25p + 35p postage	Oystercatcher Paper	30p + 22p postage
1978	2.50p + 35p postage	Birds of Lindisfarne	75p + 22p postage
1979	2.75p + 35p postage	Access Guide	25p + 22p postage
Watchtower Keys	£1.00 each	Prints : Red-backed Shrike	50p + 35p postage
postage	16p	Radde's Warbler	50p + 35p postage
Club Badges	£0.55 each	Ringed Plover	50p + 35p postage
postage	16p		

If you would like to purchase any of these please send your order, using the form below, together with a cheque or postal order (payable to the Tyneside Bird Club) to Mrs. J.P. Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE25 8JL. Please note that some items are in short supply and orders will be dealt with on first-come first-served basis. Where possible, delivery will be made by hand or at Club meetings and any overpayment made on postage will be refunded.

To Mrs. J.P.Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE25 8JL

Please supply me with the following :

<u>Item + (year if applicable)</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Postage</u>	<u>Total £</u>
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I enclose a cheque/postal order for (payable to The Tyneside Bird Club)

I can collect my purchases at the Club Meeting on(Date)

Name

* Birds in Northumbria 1980 costs
£2.75 + 35p postage.

Address

.....

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TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

FEBRUARY, 1982

SUMMARY

A generally mild month, winds predominantly light and from the south-west quarter. Rainfall was light and infrequent and except during a frosty period mid month, temperatures generally remained above average for the time of year.

An unmemorable month with few unusual birds recorded. At the beginning of the month Brent Goose numbers were exceptionally high at Lindisfarne, as many as 1,800 being estimated to be present.

A pair of Smew were reported to have been on the sea off Stag Rocks on the 22nd. Several Glaucous and Iceland Gulls and a single Mediterranean Gull were recorded. Three little Auks were found during the month.

Several Waxwings frequented Newcastle suburbs, Long-tailed Tit numbers remained unusually high but several species numbers have obviously been depleted by the earlier severe weather.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver sp

Small gatherings noted throughout the month at usual localities. On the 1st up to 60 were noted off Druridge and about 20 off Seaton Sluice (BB/MPF et al). A total of 43S and one N off St. Marys during the morning of the 6th (DGW). On the 14th a total of 35 noted in the Warkworth/Amble area (JCD). A total of 134S and 23N noted off Seaton Sluice including 95S on the 6th (SSWT).

Black-throated Diver

Two were close inshore at Druridge Bay on the 1st (BB). Singles were noted off Stag Rocks on the 21st and 28th (ES/WTL/BRS), and one off Ross on the 28th (DGB). Observers please note that the records committee are unlikely to accept flight records of this species unless they can be convinced by the observer that the record is without doubt.

Great Northern Diver

Singles noted N off Seaton Sluice on the 1st (MPF), S off St. Marys on the 2nd and 6th (DGW), and off Stag Rocks on the 21st (BRS).

Little Grebe

The only records concerned two at each of Arcot Ponds, Whittle Dene and Capheaton 20th-22nd.

Great Crested Grebe

One noted on several dates at Druridge Pool between the 6th and 15th (TAC et al). One-two noted at Whittle Dene throughout the month but two pairs noted there on the 13th (LGM). Singles also noted off Ross on the 28th (MGW) et al) and at Hallington on the 20th (JCD/AMB).

Red-necked Grebe

One was well inland at Whittle Dene being noted there on the 13th and 20th (LGM/JCD/AMB). One-three noted throughout the month off Holy Island, Stag Rocks and Seahouses.

Slavonian Grebe

At least ten were on the sea off Ross on the 28th (DGB/MGW etal). One-two noted during the month off Holy Island, Seahouses and Bamburgh, and less usually one off Old Hartley on the 1st (KIB).

Fulmar

Numbers increased steadily at Tynemouth to 81 on the cliffs by the 23rd (DGW etal) 50-60 noted at Bamburgh and Howick Haven and about 100 at Dunstanburgh (ADM etal)

Gannet

Eight S and six N off Holy Island on the 28th (MGW etal) when a single N off Chevington (MH), and seven N and one S on the 13th off Seaton Sluice were the only records.

Cormorant

Inland records included singles at Capheaton on the 13th (DRH) and at Derwent Reservoir on the 13th and 28th (AHB/IC/BW). Five as far up the Tweed as Carham on the 10th and one at Felton on the 24th (ETN/JRN). 28 roosted in Amble harbour on the 8th (NWR).

Heron

A maximum of nine at the Warkworth roost on the 6th (ES/WTL). One-three noted at 17 scattered localities. At a heronry near Morpeth five birds were nest building on the 13th, and one nest climbed to contained a first egg (AH/JR).

Mute Swan

The maximum count from Berwick was of 150 on the 9th (AH). Up to 20 were at Cresswell and 17 at Holywell during the month (ES/PRW etal). Small numbers at other usual waters.

Whooper Swan

Up to 35 noted during the month in the Holywell area and on the Tweed around Cornhill. Up to 20 were present at Holy Island and in Druridge Bay area throughout the month. 15-18 noted on several dates at Capheaton and at Shaftoe Crags and West Learmouth. Seven were at Linnheads Lake on the 20th (JCD/AMB).

Bean Goose

On the 13th three were at Rayburn Lake (AH/JR) and a single at Whittle Dene (LGM/JCD).

Pink-footed Goose

All noted were in the company of Grey Lag. Eight were seen in the Budle Bay area on the 7th (DGB), five at Druridge on the 6th (ME/ES/WTL) and a single at Holywell 10th - end of the month (CED etal).

Grey Lag Goose

Numbers fluctuated at the main localities during the month with maxima recorded of 850 at Budle Bay, 500 at Whittle Dene on the 27th when 300 at Grindon, 80 in the Tweed valley and 50 at Druridge. Small skeins were noted moving around the county during the month.

Canada Goose

Maxima of 46 at Colt Crag on the 20th (JCD/AMB), and 20 at Capheaton on the 13th (DRH). A party of eight were present at Budle Bay 7th-28th (DGB etal). Two were at Carham on the 7th (JLP) and three at Blaydon Pond on the 28th (IC/BW).

Barnacle Goose

Four were noted with Grey Lag at Budle Bay on the 7th (DGB).

Brent Goose

The nature conservancy recorded as many as 1,800 on Fenham flats early in the month, this accounting for virtually the whole of the European breeding population of light bellied birds. Numbers had however decreased dramatically later in the month only about 20 being noted in the area during the last few days. The two birds present at St. Marys were last seen on the 19th (DGW). Six were with Grey Lag at Druridge on the 6th (ME).

Shelduck

Up to 200 noted in Budle Bay and 60 on Fenham flats during the month. Maxima of 33 in the Coquet estuary on the 16th and 11 at Cresswell on the 13th. A single bird was in the Tyne estuary on the 2nd.

Wigeon

Numbers increased in the Cresswell-Druridge area from around 150 early in the month to about 420 by the 28th (MLL et al). Grindon attracted a maximum of 225 on the 26th and Derwent Reservoir 170 on the 13th. About 100 regularly seen in the Budle Bay area and 80 were at Seaton Burn on the 27th. Smaller flocks were noted at other usual waters.

Teal

The largest count was at Druridge/Cresswell with around 250 present mid month. Numbers were generally low elsewhere with 25-40 being noted at Budle Bay, Gosforth Park, Holywell Pond, and Backworth. Less usually 18 were on the Tyne at Hexham on the 23rd.

Mallard

Between 400-500 were on the sea in Druridge Bay on the 15th (CED). 200-250 were regularly noted at Holywell, Budle Bay and Boulmer. Small flocks of up to 70 were noted at the usual inland waters during the month.

Pintail

Numbers fluctuated at Cresswell Pond during the month with a maximum of nine noted there on the 7th and five on the 28th (AMB/MLL et al). At Grindon two on the 13th increased to five by the 27th (ES/JSB et al). A pair were with Mallard on the sea at St. Marys on the 1st (ME) and a single female at Bothal Pond on the 23rd (MLL)

Shoveler

Up to three at Cresswell and Holywell ponds, two at Grindon and singles at Backworth and Blaydon during the month.

Pochard

Numbers fluctuated at most waters but 30-50 regularly noted at Holywell, Cresswell, Bothal and Colt Crag.

Tufted Duck

40-60 regularly noted on the Northumbrian Loughs, Angerton, Cresswell and Holywell. About 30 also present at Bothal, Bolam Lake and Whittle Dene.

Scaup

The largest concentration was of only six off Newton on the 13th (PWD). Five were on Hadston Lake on the 6th (JSB) and two regularly off St. Marys (DGW). Single females were reported from inland localities at Holywell 20th-23rd (CED/MH), at Whittle Dene on the 11th (PRW) and at Hallington on the 24th (RW).

Eider

200-300 noted regularly in the Craster and Bamburgh areas. Up to 100 in Amble harbour, 30 off Cresswell and 50-60 regularly between Seaton Sluice and St. Marys with odd birds as far south as the Tyne. Interestingly most observers recorded Eider numbers during the coastal counts and a total of 2,210 noted on the 6th/7th, between Budle Point and the Tyne

Long-tailed Duck

About 30 off Stag Rocks during the month, up to 12 off Ross and odd birds off Holy Island. Singles noted also off Hadston, Hartley and Seaton Sluice.

Common Scoter

Largest flock was of about 100 off Warkworth on the 14th (JCD). 64 were noted between Alnmouth and Birling Carrs on the 7th. A maximum of only 36 noted off Bamburgh during the month (BRS etal).

Velvet Scoter

A single S off Seaton Sluice on the 6th (SSWT) and two off Ross on the 28th (DGB).

Goldeneye

The maximum count in the Tweed estuary was of 215 on the 10th (ETN/JRN). 57 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 14th (LGM), 25 at Capheaton on the 28th (BG) and 83 at Whittle Dene on the 20th (JCD/AMB). Flocks of 10-25 noted at several localities during the month on the Tyne between Newburn and Hexham. Singles and small flocks were noted at other usual localities, odd birds displaying towards the end of the month.

Smew

A pair were reported to have been seen off Stag Rocks on the 22nd (per BL).

Red-breasted Merganser

18 were between Birling Carrs and Alnmouth on the 7th (ETN/JRW) and up to 10 off Holy Island (JDL/etal). One-three were noted at seven localities between Budle Pt. and Druridge. Less usually one-six regularly noted in the Tyne estuary during the month (DMT etal).

Goosander

Whittle Dene attracted fluctuating numbers during the month with up to 20 on several dates and as many as 40 on the 22nd (MR/HES). Several were seen on the Tyne including 10 between Bywell and Ovingham on the 14th and 13 at Wylam on the 15th (BNR). Maxima elsewhere included 12 at Catcleugh, 12 at Derwent Reservoir, eight at Caistron, six at Guyzance and five at Angerton.

Observers are reminded to look out for numbered wing tags.

Hen Harrier

All sightings referred to 'ringtails'. One was seen frequently at Holywell 4th-9th (MN/KIB etal). Singles also noted at Newsham on the 7th (MSH etal), Hexhamshire Common on the 6th (LGM), Red Row on the 10th (DRH) and Ross on the 28th (DGB).

Goshawk

A bird was observed well near Stocksfield on the 14th feeding on a pigeon kill (BNR).

Sparrowhawk

Noted at 35 localities. Interesting observations included three chasing a single starling at the Matfen roost (RW). A female landed on the back of a Lapwing which was feeding in the flooded field at Backworth, it hung on for about two minutes seemingly trying to drown it! After trying to lift its prey the Sparrowhawk flew off, the stunned Lapwing apparently recovering and flying off shortly after (PWD).

Buzzard

Singles were noted near Powburn on the 3rd (DBR) and near Healey on the 28th (IC/BW).

Kestrel

Noted at 50 localities including as many as six in the Cramlington area and four within a mile near Hexham. A pair were present by the 27th, and one was calling, at a Crag site in the Cheviots (JR/TAC).

Merlin

Singles noted during the month at Backworth, Holywell, Whitley Bay, West Monkseaton, Jesmond Dene, Cresswell and Lynemouth. Further inland singles were at Grindon Lough and near Bellingham on the 13th and at Belsay on the 21st.

Peregrine

An immature bird was at Whittle Dene on the 20th (AMB/JCD).

Red Grouse

Small numbers in usual moorland areas.

Black Grouse

Single blackcock noted at Sweetthope and Harwood.

Water Rail

The Priors Park individual remained throughout the month (MC). A single bird noted at Holywell on the 28th (PWD).

Moorhen

23 were counted in the Wansbeck estuary on the 25th (MLL). Maxima of 12 at Holywell and eight at Cresswell during the month.

Coot

The maximum count made at Seaton Burn was of 202 on the 28th. About 130 were present at Cresswell and 30 at Whittle Dene all month.

Wader Count 6th/7th February

Excellent coverage this month.

Budle Pt-Seahouses (DRH), Seahouses - Beadnell (MLL), Beadnell - Howick Burn (MF), Howick - Boulmer (IK), Boulmer - Alnmouth (ES/WTL), Alnmouth - Birling Carrs (ETN/JRN), Birling Carrs - Coquet estuary (PWW), Amble - Chevington Burn (NWR), Chevington Burn - Cresswell (TAC), Cresswell - Newbiggin (SWA), Wansbeck - Blyth (JBD), Blyth estuary (LJM), Collywell Bay - Briardene (JPL), Briardene - Tynemouth (MC).

Oystercatcher

A total of 857 counted during the coastal wader counts. Birds were noted returning to breeding areas by mid month, 17 being noted near Hepple by the 14th when two at Grindon (BG/LGM). Two were at Warden on the 21st, 14 at Bardon Mill on the 27th and three at Brenkley on the 28th (KID/EAS/LGM).

Ringed Plover

A total of 138 noted during the coastal wader counts. Away from the counted stretches, 37 were at Berwick on the 17th (JDL) and 12 at Backworth on the 22nd (CED etal).

Golden Plover

Inland flocks included 500 at Whittle Dene on the 6th (BG), 300 at West Edington near Morpeth on the 7th (AH) and 150 near Hepple on the 14th (BG). A few were back in breeding areas on Hexhamshire Common by the 6th (LGM) and eight were displaying at High Green on the 28th (JCD). On the coast 200-300 were noted at Monks House, Beadnell, and Boulmer and up to 180 at St. Marys.

Grey Plover

86 noted during the coastal wader counts. Over 50 were in fields to the north of Boulmer on the 6th (ES/WTL) and 25 counted in Budle Bay on the 20th (ETN/JRN).

Lapwing

Back in inland areas in good numbers by the end of the first week when flocks of up to 500 were widespread. Larger concentrations included up to 5000 at Whittle Dene and near Morpeth 1500 - 2000 at Dilston, West Edington and Hepple and 1000 at Bothal. A few noted back in breeding areas from the 6th on.

Knot

Out of a total of 2241 noted during the coastal count on the 7th as many as 2000 were noted between Colywell Bay and Briar Dene and 200 at Newbiggin.

Sanderling

Only 81 noted during the coastal wader count. 30 were at Berwick on the 17th (JDL).

Purple Sandpiper

On the 7th 277 out of a coastal wader count total of 352 were between Budle Pt. and Howick none being recorded in the St. Marys area. 172 had however been recorded the previous day in that area. About 30 were still in the Seaton Sluice area and 80 at Bamburgh at the months end.

Dunlin

A total of 1981 noted during the coastal wader count, the largest concentration of 508 occurring between Boulmer and Alnmouth. Up to 200 noted during the month at Berwick and 400 at St. Marys during the first half.

Snipe

The only record was of a single bird at High Rochester on the 14th (DBC). None were noted at Derwenthaugh during two visits (AHB).

Woodcock

The only record was of one at Jesmond Dene on the 4th (MPF).

Black-tailed Godwit

One-two were noted on several dates from the 7th on in Budle Bay (DGB/ETN etal). Singles were also noted on the 13th at Holy Island (PWD) and on the 17th at Berwick (JDL).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Only 47 noted during the coastal wader count. 22 were at Berwick on the 17th (JDL) and 13 at Boulmer on the 21st (MSH).

Curlew

133 noted during the coastal wader count included 46 at St. Marys which were regularly noted around Holywell. Up to 100 noted during the month in Budle Bay and Holy Island. 68 were at Holystone on the 14th (BG etal).

Redshank

597 noted during the coastal wader count. 60-80 regularly noted at Cresswell, Blyth and St. Marys. 90 were at Yarrow Slake on the 10th (ETN/JRN). 37 were noted following the plough at Low Hauxley on the 16th (NWR).

Turnstone

1218 noted during the coastal wader count on the 6th/7th.

Mediterranean Gull

An immature bird noted at the fish quay on the 19th and at Seaton Sluice on the 21st (DBR)

Black-headed Gull

The pale mantled individual noted at North Shields on the 13th (BM).

Common Gull

550 at Stocksfield on the 5th was largest gathering noted, although up to 500 were at North Shields on the 6th. During the month flocks of 200-300 were noted at Bolam, Canada, New Deanham and West Benridge.

Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Three immatures were reported from North Shields on the 18th (DBR). A single at Wylam on the 12th (BNR).

Herring Gull

A maximum of 400 noted at the fish quay during the month (DMT).

Iceland Gull

A first winter bird was noted at North Shields between the 2nd and 20th., (DMT/DBR/WAK). An adult was seen at Seaton Sluice on the 6th and 14th and in Blyth harbour on the 21st (MH/IC/BW).

Glaucous Gull

Summarising the records from North Shields it would appear that one adult and four immatures were present during the month (DMT etal). First year birds were also noted in the St. Marys area, Seaton Sluice, Cresswell Pond and Coquet estuary.

Great Black-backed Gull

About 50 were in the St. Marys area all month.

Kittiwake

Almost daily counts were made at the fish quay where numbers fluctuated widely with a maximum of 311 noted on the 21st (DHT, etal)

Guillemot

Odd birds noted close inshore and off Seaton Sluice during the month.

Little Auk

Birds were found dead at Druridge on the 1st (BB) and at Ross on the 28th (DGB). A lightly oiled bird was found making its way to the Whitley Bay leisure pool entrance on the 25th (MN).

Puffin

Singles noted off Stag Rocks and Holy Island.

Stock Dove

Six were at Ryall on the 7th (RW). One-four noted at West Edington, Bedlington, Holywell and Seaton Deleval.

Woodpigeon

The largest flocks were of only 200 being noted at Boulmer and Reaveley Greens.

Collared Dove

15-20 noted at Gosforth and Jesmond Dene.

Barn Owl

Single noted at Berwick Hill, Horsley and Harton. One was found dead near Sharperton on the 14th (BG).

Tawny Owl

One-two heard at eight localities.

Short-eared Owl

Fewer than last month, one-three being noted at 13 localities. Inland records included a pair at Greenhead on the 20th and singles at Threestoneburn on the 12th and on the Till near Wooler on the 17th.

Kingfisher

One at Jesmond Dene all month (MPF) and one on the Blyth near Plessey Woods on the 4th (per LJM).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two noted at ten usual localities.

Skylark

Birds noted singing in coastal districts from the 7th on and in moorland areas from the 27th. About 100 were on Holy Island on the 27th (BL).

Grey Wagtail

Six at Morpeth sewage works on the 23rd. One-two noted at Jesmond Dene, Felton and Queen Elizabeth Park.

Pied Wagtail

28 at Morpeth sewage works on the 23rd was easily the largest gathering.

Waxwing

Three were noted in the Fenham area between the 4th and 22nd, two of which were observed courting, the male feeding the female berries (MH/ES/AMB). Up to five birds frequented the Cochrone Park/Coast Road area 12th-26th (ICD/MPF).

Dipper

A return to a more usual number of records one-two being reported from 17 usual riverine localities.

Wren

Odd birds noted at scattered localities but still scarce in most areas.

Dunnock

Scarce away from suburban gardens.

Robin

As with Dunnock and Wren.

Stonechat

Three at Warkworth on the 14th (JCD) and a single at Holywell 20th-21st (CED/SC).

Fieldfare

Small flocks of up to 40 noted at 12 localities during the month. The largest flock was of about 200 at Wallington on the 21st (per BL).

Redwing

Very scarce about 40 being recorded in total, 10 near Mitford 8th-10th being the largest flocks.

Mistle Thrush

On the 28th, 10 were at Marden Park (JDM) and nine at Bamburgh. One-three at eight other localities.

Blackcap

The only record was of one in a Morpeth garden 16th-26th (per BL).

Goldcrest

Small flocks, mainly of four-six birds, noted in usual woodland areas.

Long-tailed Tit

Again unusually conspicuous. Flocks of 10-20 being noted at seven localities, smaller parties mostly of five-ten being seen at 13 other localities.

Marsh Tit

Noted at Bolam, Wallington, Mitford, Angerton and Felton.

Willow Tit

Reported from Cramlington, Plessey Woods, Holystone, Bolam and Wallington.

Coal Tit

Small flocks at usual woodland localities. A bird was energetically singing at Felton from the 14th on (ETN/JRW).

Nuthatch

Well recorded during the month one-six being noted at Bolam, Wallington, Mitford, Close House, Stocksfield, Hexham, Matfen, Capheaton, Bothal and Cheeseburn near Stamfordham.

Treecreeper

This species seems to have survived well one-four being noted at 24 scattered localities.

Magpie

Several small flocks and pairs noted. 22 flew out of a copse at Eltringham on the 20th (PRW).

Rook

Flocks of up to 1000 noted at Warkworth and near Shilbottle.

Hooded Crow

Two at Cresswell and up to three in the Coquet estuary during the month., (AMB/TJ et al) and a single at Budle Pt on the 21st (BG).

Tree Sparrow

Largest flocks noted were at Cresswell where up to 40, near Belsay where 33 on the 11th, and at Shankhouse where 69 on the 7th. Many small flocks noted elsewhere.

Chaffinch

Large flocks of 270 at Lemmington Mill on the 2nd (DGW) and 200 at Slaley on the 6th (BNR). 90-120 were noted at Belsay, Hallington and Alwinton, smaller flocks being quite widespread. Several birds were noted singing well from about the 14th on.

Brambling

The largest flock was of about 70 at Hallington on the 20th (JCD/AMB). 25-40 were noted at Rothbury, Jesmond Dene and Belsay, only odd birds being noted elsewhere.

Goldfinch

A charm of 20 at Canada on the 28th (AMB), one-two being noted at six other localities.

Siskin

33 at Stocksfield on the 14th (BNR) was easily the largest flock noted. 13 were at Ovington on the 6th (RW) and one - four noted at Morpeth, Hexham, Corbridge and Chirdon Burn.

Linnet

100 on Holy Island on the 27th (BL) and 30 at Stamfordham on the 11th (EB) were the only sizeable flocks noted.

Twite

A flock of 20 near West Monkseaton on the 6th (MGW/PAW) was the only record.

Redpoll

15-20 over Holy Island causeway on the 24th (JDL), eight at Shankhouse on the 7th and one at Holywell on the 10th were the only reports.

Bullfinch

Six were on Hexham golf course on the 22nd, two-four being noted at eight other localities.

Hawfinch

Up to five noted in the Hexham area (KD/ES/WTC)

Lapland Bunting

Two on Holy Island on the 27th (BL).

Snow Bunting

13 at Budle Point on the 20th (BG) and 11 on Ross Back Sands on the 28th (DGB).

Yellowhammer

Still rather conspicuous but in smaller flocks than last month, 50-60 being noted at Acklington, Shankhouse, Hexham and Felton and 20-40 at Stamfordham, Seaton Burn and Bamburgh with several smaller gatherings elsewhere.

Reed Bunting

Up to 20 noted at Holywell. Few noted elsewhere, but one noted visiting a Stocksfield bird table on the 18th (BNR).

Corn Bunting

The only records were of one at Cresswell on the 7th, and 12 with yellowhammers near the Cramlington-Shankhouse road on the 7th.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

S.W. Anderson	A. Heavisides	E.T. & J.R. Norris
C.S. Armstrong	M. Henry	S.P. Ray
E. Bagshaw	R. Henson	J. Richardson
A.M. Bankier	M. Hepple	N.W. Richardson
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K.I. Barratt	M.S. Hodgson	D.B. Rosair
D.G. Bell	S. Humble	B.N. Rossiter
J.S. Booth	D.I. Johnson	G.S. Rushbrooke
B. Bullough	R.A. & T. Johnson	H.E. Saunderson
T.A. Cadwallander	W.A. Kelly	W.G. Savage
M. Carruthers	I. Kerr	D.R. Shannon
I. Chadwick	J.P. Lindsay	E. Slack
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J.P. Deacon	J.A. Martin	R. Walton
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M. Eccles	L.G. McFarlane	P.R. Weighill
M.P. Frankis	A.D. Mould	P. West
B. Galloway	M. Nattrass	B. Williams
L.S. & T.P. Goodwin	D.W. Nicol	D & S Younger
G.K. Gordon		Bamburgh Ringing Station
		Hauxley Ringing Station
		Seaton Sluice Watchtower

All March records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth, NE61 2AN in Voous order and by 8th April at the latest please. Send S.A.E. for supply of record cards.

B.T.O. Winter Atlas Project :

The first winter of this important project appears to have gone very well and at the time of writing a steady flow of completed record cards and sheets is being received. Would anyone still with records to be submitted please do so (to me) as soon as possible.

To date the highest number of species recorded in one 10 kilometre Grid Square on a single visit is 90 in the Berwick square. One visit to another square paid off with 2000 Grey Lag Geese, 7 Pink feet, 2 Sparrowhawks, 2 Buzzards, 1 Peregrine, 1 Barn Owl, 2 Tawny Owls, 2 Short-eared Owls, 2 Green Woodpeckers and 3 Great-spotted. During November there were about the Farne Islands up to 2000 each of Shags and Guillemots, 1800 Eiders and a Chiffchaff. Nuthatches have been reported from a remarkable number of squares - it may be possible to say a little more about this bird and some other species once all the information has come in.

It is always encouraging to see a project start well and I have little doubt the next two winters will attract ever greater support. My thanks to all those who have taken part.

Geoff Macfarlane, 34 Wreay Walk, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6LJ

BTO/RSPB Survey of Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows

The response from members to appeals for assistance with this survey has been most encouraging and a large proportion of the sites identified in the area as being of actual or potential interest have been allocated to observers.

There are, however, certain areas where cover is needed urgently - even if this means settling, for say, only one or two visits instead of the stipulated three. Sampling, too, of some of the more extensive areas would also be very useful if the alternative is having no records at all from them. The areas where cover is still required are :

R. Glen/Bowmont Water (Kirk Yetholm - Kirknewton - Coupland)
Ancroft area (Coal Burn, Allerdean Mill Burn)
Coastal fields and links from Waren Mill - Beal R.E. (Lindisfarne NNR)
R. Coquet from Weldon Bridge to Rothbury
R. North Tyne (Bellingham - Kielder Reservoir)
Eglingham Burn / Kimmer Lough

Sandy Bankier has agreed to attempt covering some of the sites in the vicinity of Doddington, Chatton and along the R. Breamish but would be very grateful if anyone likely to be visiting these areas could take some of them on. He has identified the promising areas from a February visit so the preliminary work has largely been done.

Geoff Macfarlane 31, Wreay Walk, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6LJ
Tel: 733654.

Indoor Meetings

Members night on 8th April will be the last indoor meeting of the current session, until we start again on 9th September, 1982.

Outdoor Meetings

An outdoor meeting in the Eastern Cheviots on Monday 3rd May, 1982 is proposed. Shared private cars would be used and it is intended to meet at or near Threestoneburn. Would those interested please ring Sandy Bankier on 650411 (7.30 am to 4.00 pm), as soon as possible.

Nature Conservancy Council report - Seabird Movement at Coastal Sites around
Great Britain and Ireland 1978-1980

The results of a survey of seawatching at coastal sites, including Seaton Sluice, is available for £2.00 post free from P. Hope Jones, Nature Conservancy Council, 17 Rubislaw Terrace, Aberdeen AB1 1XE.

Ringling Recoveries

If any ringers have interesting recoveries which they wish to be included in the 1981 ringing report in Birds in Northumbria, would they please send me details.

T.A. Cadwallender, 27 Sycamore Ave, Guide Post, Choppington,
Northumberland.

Accounts - October 1981 - September, 1981

Whilst members will note that a surplus of £274.37 was made last year, it was largely due to the excellent sales of Birds of Lindisfarne (£452.50). Without these extra publications and the hard work of selling other TBC items the Club COULD NOT SURVIVE IN ITS PRESENT FORM. Compare annual subscriptions last year - £1341 - with annual expenditure - £1879 - the £500 plus, and an additional percentage to cover inflation has to be found every year.

Each Ordinary member for their £5 subscription received last year :-

12 copies of the Monthly Bulletin	£2.25	}	Junion members (£4) please note !!
1 Birds in Northumbria	Approx. £2.30		
8 speakers/meetings			
survey participation			
use of library/watch tower etc.			

John Day

TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1981

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

£

£

INCOME

Members Subscriptions (263 members at 30.9.81)	1,341.00	
Sales - Birds in Northumbria - 1980 (to N.H.S.)	312.50	
- Birds in Northumbria - 1979 and previous years	173.05	
- Birds of Lindisfarne	452.50	
- Badges, Keys, etc.	14.50	2,293.55

EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions (BB, BTO, RSPB)	26.00	
Printing Membership Cards	22.14	
Indoor Meetings	85.76	
Monthly Bulletins	572.40	
Survey Expenses	34.77	
Officers Expenses	79.93	
Birds in Northumbria 1980 - Printer	1,030.00	
- Artist	15.00	
Miscellaneous	13.55	1,879.55

SURPLUS FOR YEAR

414.00

Less adjustment on stock valuation

139.63

ADJUSTED SURPLUS FOR YEAR

274.37

=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 1981

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance as at 1st October 1980	1,419.96
Surplus per Income and Expenditure Account	274.37
	1,694.33
	=====

Represented By:-

ASSETS

Stocks - Birds in Northumbria, etc. (at cost)	700.00
Debtors - (N.H.S. - Birds in Northumbria 1980)	312.50
Cash - At Bank	1,675.77
- In Hand	191.06
	1,866.83
	2,879.33

Less

LIABILITIES

Creditors - Birds in Northumbria 1980 - Printer	1,030.00
- Subscriptions for 1981/82 prepaid	155.00
	1,185.00
	1,694.33
	=====

HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have prepared the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account on the basis of the books, vouchers and other information supplied to me, and they are hereby certified to be in accordance therewith.

.....
BRIAN ARMSTRONG, I.P.F.A.

2nd March 1982



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne & Wear. Tel: North Shields 75928

MARCH, 1982

SUMMARY

The weather was rather unsettled during the first week. A depression to the west caused winds to freshen from that quarter on the 10th, becoming quite strong over the following two days, snow and hail falling lightly in the east but heavier in the west where some drifting occurred. The weather improved thereafter and there was little rain as a ridge of high pressure remained centered on the south of the country.

Wader and wildfowl numbers dropped during the month, but Redwing and Fieldfare flocks increased in number and size as they moved east out of the country. A few Waxwings remained in the Newcastle suburbs.

The first summer visitors recorded during the last week included Sandwich Tern, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Wheatear and Black Redstart.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver sp

Numbers were unexceptional during the month, the largest concentration being noted off Stag Rocks where a maximum of 15 on the 7th (TAC). A total of 26 were recorded at Seaton Sluice and up to four were noted off Holy Island.

Black-throated Diver

Singles noted close inshore at Stag Rocks on the 6th and 20th (MH/ES/WTL) and off Holy Island on the 29th (BB/MH). Two were in Blyth Bay on the 14th (MH).

Little Grebe

Numbers increased to nine at Arcot Ponds by the 31st (LJM). Three were at Cresswell Pond on the 28th (PW), and one-two at eight other waters.

Great Crested Grebe

A maximum of six noted at Holywell Pond during the month. Pairs were noted at Seaton Burn, Langley Dam and Hallington and singles at Whittle Dene, Derwent Reservoir, Kielder Reservoir, Cresswell and Holy Island.

Red-necked Grebe

Singles were noted off Holy Island on the 7th and 29th, then later in full summer plumage (BB/MH/JDL), and off Stag Rocks on the 28th.

Slavonian Grebe

Two-three noted off Stag Rocks and one off Holy Island during the month.

Fulmar

103 were sitting on Tynemouth cliffs by the 22nd (DMT).

Gannet

Two N off Boulmer on the 14th, 19N off Embleton on the 18th and 20N off Seaton Sluice on the 30th were the only records.

Cormorant

Up to three birds showing the characteristics of the continental form were noted in the Coquet estuary, two were also seen at Berwick and one at Cresswell Pond. The only large concentration was of 36 at Blyth on the 22nd. One-two were seen regularly at Whittle Dene, and single birds seen at Seaton Burn and over Seaton Delaval.

Heron

Two heronries visited near Morpeth contained several nests with young by mid month, details later (AH/TAC et al). 13 were gathered at Wark on Tweed on the 13th and one-two noted at 13 other localities.

Mute Swan

A maximum of 125 noted at Berwick during the month (AH/JDL). Numbers fluctuated at Ellington pond between 14 and 23. (KIB et al). 26 were at Blyth on the 22nd (HG). Small numbers were at other usual waters. An immature bird found choked by fishing line at Amble on the 2nd (JMA).

Whooper Swan

Up to 52 were regularly noted in the Holywell area until at least the 27th, and 44 were at Wark on Tweed on the 14th (JDL). 15-20 were noted during the last week at Druridge Pool, Chevington Burn, Holy Island Lough and Capheaton. Smaller flocks of nine or less were noted at ten scattered localities.

Pink-footed Goose

Up to 48 were noted just over the border at Hoselaw mid month (SJH/AMB). Three were at Whittle Dene on the 13th, and a single remained at Holywell until at least the 27th (MH et al).

White-fronted Goose

Two European race birds were at Whittle Dene on the 13th (LGM/JCD).

Grey Lag Goose

600-700 were noted at Hoselaw, Lucker and Budle Bay during the month. Numbers declined at Whittle Dene from a peak of 580 on the 7th to about 150 mid month. Grindon attracted a maximum on the 27th when 203 present. 230+ grey geese flew SW over Styford on the 23rd. 180 were in Coquetdale at Snitter on the 6th and 100+ at Holborn Moss on the 7th. Up to 18 were regularly seen at Holywell and up to 90S over there on the 7th.

Canada Goose

34 were at Hallington on the 11th and eight at Budle Bay on the 7th (LGM/TAC). A single bird was in the Hadston - Cresswell area 9th-26th, and one was at Allenheads on the 20th (LGM).

Brent Goose

A single dark bellied bird was off Berwick on the 10th (JDL).

Shelduck

Up to 300 were in Budle Bay during the month. A maximum of 36 were noted between Hauxley and Cresswell on the 28th (PW et al). Up to 13 were noted off Boulmer and in Blyth estuary. A single bird was at Grindon Lough on the 5th (SJH/DGW).

Wigeon

A total of 275 were noted on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 13th, but 263 were at Grindon alone on the 18th. (LGM/MLL). A monthly maxima of 186 were in the Cresswell - Druridge area on the 20th (AMB). 50-70 regularly noted at Whittle Dene and Bothal Pond.

Gadwall

A single drake noted at Holywell on the 15th and 17th (MH et al) and a pair at Cresswell on the 21st (LGM).

Teal

Numbers fluctuated at Cresswell-Druridge where a maximum of 176 noted on the 7th (TAC). Maxima elsewhere included 139 at Holy Island Lough on the 7th (JDL), 104 at Gosforth Park on the 3rd, 44 at Backworth on the 8th, 31 at Brenkley on the 6th and 30 at Grindon on the 13th, numbers declining noticeably everywhere from mid month.

Mallard

A maxima of 87 noted Cresswell-Druridge on the 20th. Up to 55 noted at Holywell and about 30 at Angerton and Wallsend Swallow. 67 were at Holy Island Lough on the 7th. A nest containing nine eggs were found at Old Hawkhill on the 24th (per JMA).

Pintail

Up to three were noted at Grindon during the month, a drake there on the 8th appearing to be paired with a female Mallard (MLL). Two S off Hauxley on the 20th (HRS).

Shoveler

A maximum of 17 at Grindon on the 4th declined to two by the 25th (SJH/MLL etal). Eight were at Cresswell Pond on the 6th and up to five drakes at Holywell on the 10th (KIB/ES etal). Two drakes were at Wallsend Swallow on the 14th (FM).

Pochard

Maxima of 23 at Chevington Burn on the 9th when 22 at Bothal, 19 at Arcot Ponds on the 13th, 16 at Cresswell on the 6th at Holywell on the 8th and at Seaton Burn on the 26th, 13 at Grindon on the 4th and 10 at Hartburn on the 11th. Odd birds were noted elsewhere.

Tufted Duck

75 at Arcot Ponds on the 13 was the largest concentration when 64 were at Hartburn. 30-45 were noted at Seaton Burn, Holywell, Bolam, Northumbrian Loughs and Whittle Dene.

Scaup

Four were off Chevington Burn on the 9th (LGM). Single drakes were off Briar Dene on the 5th and 6th and at Holywell Pond 4th-27th (DGW/AMB etal). Females were on a pond at Radcliffe on the 20th and off Hauxley on the 27th (HRS).

Eider

The largest concentrations were of 510 between Beadnell and Howick Burn on the 15th (DLW/MAF) and 161 between Beadnell and Seahouses on the 20th (MLL). Up to 70 were noted off Seaton Sluice. Live birds with fishing hooks through their bills were noted at Amble on the 4th and North Shields on the 18th.

Long-tailed Duck

A maximum of 15 noted off Stag Rocks on the 7th (TAC). Two noted frequently off Holy Island, and off Druridge on the 27th (JDL/ES etal). A single bird associated with Eider off Seaton Sluice 5th-14th (KIB etal).

Common Scoter

Five N off Seaton Sluice on the 30th (SSWT). 43 were near Alnmouth on the 14th (ETN) and 100 near Boulmer on the 20th (ES/WTL).

Velvet Scoter

Four were off Stag Rocks on the 7th (TAC) and one S off Seaton Sluice on the 22nd (SSWT).

Goldeneye

The largest concentrations were of 55 on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 13th, 45 at Holywell on the 4th, 40 at Berwick on the 11th and at Heddon on the 4th, 36 at Pawston Lake on the 13th and 30 at Bakethin on the 7th. Smaller numbers noted at other usual localities.

Red-breasted Merganser

20 were in the Holy Island harbour area on the 29th (BB/MH). Up to seven were noted off Alnmouth and Berwick. Up to four in Druridge Bay, and three on Druridge Pool on the 13th. A maximum of five noted in the Tyne estuary area mid month and a total of four noted during the month off Seaton Sluice.

Goosander;

15 were at Derwent Reservoir and Whittle Dene on the 6th. (AHB/ES/WTL). A total of 13 noted on the Tyne between Bywell and Wylam on the 14th (BNR) and 14 at Carham on the Tweed on the 13th (AMB). Pairs were noted in usual riverine localities during the month. A drake was on Hauxley pool on the 27th.

Hen Harrier

Single ringtails noted at Grindon on the 5th (SJH), at Holywell on the 15th and 17th (MH/TMM), at Allendale on the 20th (LGM) and at Harwood Forest on the 28th (PG).

Sparrowhawk

Two-three regularly attracted to the Matfen Starling roost. One-two noted at thirteen localities.

Buzzard

One noted hunting at Chevington Burn on the 5th (NWR).

Kestrel

Many pairs and some single birds noted at 49 localities.

Merlin

Singles noted at Holy Island, Budle Bay, Boulmer, Chevington Burn, North Seaton and Callerton. A pair returned to a Cheviot site on the 22nd, being seen briefly mating on the 26th (AH/AMB).

Peregrine

Singles noted during the first fortnight at Budle Bay, Lowmoor Point and near Slaley.

Black Grouse

Two noted at each of Threestoneburn, Harwood Forest and near Plenmeller.

Red-legged Partridge

Two at Reaveley Greens on the 14th (AMB).

Water Rail

The Priors Park individual was present all month (MC). One was at Hauxley on the 14th (HRS).

Moorhen

12 at Backworth on the 8th was the largest concentration. Eight-ten were noted at Holy Island Lough, Arcot Ponds and Cresswell Pond.

Coot

A maximum of 120 at Cresswell Pond on the 13th (KWR et al), 92 at Whittle Dene on the 5th 63 at Wallsend Swallow, and 100+ at Seaton Burn on the 26th when several noted on nests. 30-40 were noted at Hartburn, Rayburn Lake, Holy Island Lough and Berwick harbour.

Wader count 14th/15th

Coverage was incomplete this month, the following stretches being covered :-

Budle Pt-Seahouses (DRH), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLL), Beadnell-Howick Burn (DLW/MAF), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), Alnmouth-Birling Carrs (ETN), Birling Carrs-Coquet estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (NWR), Wansbeck-Blyth estuary (JBD).

Oystercatcher

A total of 740 were counted between Budle Pt and Blyth estuary. 70 were at St. Marys on the 2nd (DGW). Many pairs were noted back in breeding areas and inland concentrations included 129 at Carham on Tweed on the 13th (AMB), 60 at Caistron on the 18th (RNC) and 26 at Kielder Reservoir on the 7th (BNR).

Ringed Plover

Only 100 were noted between Budle Pt. and Blyth estuary. Numbers increased to 12 at Backworth by mid month, several being noted displaying. Two were at Gosforth Park on the 17th (RJ).

Golden Plover

150 at Boulmer on the 27th was the only sizeable flock noted on the coast. Inland 200 were on Alnwick Moor on the 25th, 150 at Corbridge on the 11th, up to 135 at Berwick Hill by the 27th, 130 near Catton on the 20th and 100 near Haltwhistle on the 27th. Several smaller flocks were noted elsewhere. A number were noted in Northern race plumage. A pair were holding territory on Blanchland Moor on the 27th.

Grey Plover

Six at Longhoughton on the 7th (TAC), and seven between Amble and Chevington on the 5th (NWR). Three-five noted at Boulmer, Hauxley and Blyth.

Lapwing

The largest flock noted was of 300 at Whittle Dene on the 5th (BNR), 100-200 were noted during the first fortnight at Seaton Sluice, Druridge and Backworth. 270 were on Holy Island on the 7th. Birds were noted displaying from mid month, and a bird noted sitting at Bog Houses by the 20th.

Knot

81 were noted at St. Marys on the 2nd, 78 between Beadnell and Seahouses on the 20th and 120 at Lindisfarne on the 24th.

Sanderling

A maximum of 100 were at St. Marys on the 27th (ES/WTL et al), 116 at Berwick on the 10th (JDL), and 72 between Chevington and Amble on the 5th (NWR), very few being noted away from these areas.

Purple Sandpiper

178 were noted between Budle Pt. and Howick Burn. A maximum of 98 were at Seaton Sluice on the 6th (DGW et al), 20 at Hauxley on the 21st (HRS) and a few at other usual localities.

Dunlin

215 were noted between Budle Pt. and Blyth estuary. 114 were at St. Marys on the 2nd but few thereafter (DGW et al). Numbers fluctuated at Backworth with a maximum of 30 there on the 7th (SC et al).

Ruff

One at Backworth from the 4th increased to two by the 24th and three by the 28th. (AMB/KWR/JEF et al). Singles were near Seahouses on the 20th (MLL) and on Holy Island on the 24th (TMM).

Jack Snipe

Singles at Backworth on the 13th (MSH) and near Haltwhistle on the 27th (LGM).

Snipe

Many more reports than during last month. Up to 50 were at Holywell on the 26th (TMM). Maxima of 17 at Backworth and 11 near Stocksfield. One-six noted at 12 other localities.

Woodcock

Singles noted at Jesmond Dene, Gosforth Park, Corbridge, Pawston Lake, Lilburn Burn and Capheaton roding being observed from the 22nd.

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were together in Budle Bay on the 7th (TAC).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Only 39 noted between Budle Pt. and Blyth estuary. 34 were at Berwick on the 24th (JDL).

Whimbrel

An early record of one at Holy Island on the 7th (JDL).

Curlew

130 noted between Budle Pt. and Blyth estuary. A maximum of 210 noted on Holy Island on the 24th (JDL). Up to 22 frequented the Holywell area. 36W at Corbridge on the 15th. Pairs seen and heard in breeding territories from the 7th on.

Redshank

379 noted between Budle Pt. and Blyth estuary on the 14th/15th. 192 were at Berwick on the 10th. Inland, 30 were on Alnwick Moor on the 25th (JMA) and up to eight at Backworth. Two were at Grindon on the 15th (BWR).

Greenshank

Three noted at Black Low, Fenham on the 24th (JDL).

Turnstone

471 were noted between Budle Pt. and Blyth estuary. Away from the counted areas, 232 were at Berwick on the 10th, 95 at St. Marys on the 2nd and 41 in the Tyne estuary on the 20th.

Black-headed Gull

Over 4,000 roosted at Black Low, Fenham on the 3rd (JDL). Up to 700 roosted at Grindon and 300 at Broomlee during the last week (LGM et al). About 200 were at breeding sites at Ryal and Newton from mid month.

Common Gull

600 roosting at Broomlee on the 27th was the largest gathering. Between the 20th and the month's end 300-400 were noted near Kirkley Hall, Stocksfield and Capheaton and 150-250 at Wallington, Alnham, Nafferton, and High Mickley smaller parties being quite widespread.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Singles were noted at St. Marys, Grindon and Cresswell 6th-9th. A few N off Boulmer on the 14th, and one-two at seven localities from the 20th on.

Herring Gull

Up to 700 frequented the Tyne estuary area during the month.

Iceland Gull

Possibly the same adult was noted at Seaton Sluice and Blyth harbour on several occasions during the month. Immatures were seen at Blyth harbour, Seaton Sluice and in the Tyne estuary.

Glaucous Gull

Probably two third year and three first year birds noted in the North Shields-St. Marys area. One ringed first year bird had been trapped on a Durham tip during the 81/82 winter. Two immatures and an adult were noted at Boulmer during the month, and a second year bird was at Amble 13th-14th.

Kittiwake

A maximum of 111 noted at the fish quay, 65 were noted at the warehouse colony and 25 on Tynemouth cliffs (DMT). 150 were on Dunstanburgh cliff by mid month (MCAC).

Sandwich Tern

The only record was of a single N off Druridge on the 25th (CB).

Guillimot

Odd birds noted close inshore between Cullercoats and Hartley.

Razorbill

Two noted off Stag Rocks and a single off Seaton Sluice.

Little Auk

One was seen alive on Boulmer beach on the 7th (MH), and another was found alive in a Cramlington back garden on the 15th (KDS). Birds were found dead on the 20th at Blyth (MH) and Holy Island (AJH).

Stock Dove

Pairs were noted displaying at three crag sites in Coquetdale on the 31st (IK). Eight were at Chevington on the 28th and seven at Capheaton on the 13th (RW). One-four were noted at eight other localities.

Barn Owl

Singles were noted near Ponteland, Howden, Boulmer, Ancroft and Haggerston.

Little Owl

A pair were noted near Vindolanda on the 4th and one near Mitford on the 27th.

Tawny Owl

A tape recording played shortly before dusk attracted up to five birds in eight breeding areas (SJH). A nest containing three eggs was found at East Cawledge Park on the 24th (per JMA). Four other birds were seen or heard.

Long-eared Owl

Two noted near Bamburgh on the 16th (AJH).

Short-eared Owl

One-two were noted at 25 scattered localities. Two pairs were displaying in the Cheviots by the 28th (AMB).

Kingfisher

Singles noted on the Aln at Alnwick and on Guessburn near Stocksfield (per JMA/BNR).

Green Woodpecker

One at Corbridge on the 24th (MR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Three together at Gosforth Park, and singles at Holywell Dene, Seaton Delaval Hall and Broomley Woods.

Sand Martin

Two were over Derwent Reservoir on the 28th (DBR).

Meadow Pipit

Several hundreds moved NW over Bamburgh on the 21st smaller numbers moving through there on the 28th (BRS). 30 were at Hauxley on the 27th (HRS). About 80 were at Callerton on the 26th (MH), and many song flighting at Threestoneburn and Blanchland Moor by the 27th/28th (BNR/AMB).

Rock Pipit

About 25 were on Berwick little beach on the 24th (JDL).

Water Pipit

A single bird on Hauxley beach on the 27th (HRS).

Pied Wagtail

An aberrant individual was noted at Boulmer on the 14th and 27th (IK/BG/KIB). The most striking features were a white head and pink legs and bill !

Waxwing

Up to four were seen on several dates between the 15th-28th in the Cochrane Park/Coach Lane area (GSR/KIB etal). Three were in the Fenham area 1st-5th (MH).

Dipper

A pair were noted nest building on the R. Allen on the 13th (SJH), and the first egg was laid in a Lilburn Burn nest on the 28th (AMB).

Wren

Several seen, but generally scarce everywhere.

Dunnock

Many reported singing from the 1st on.

Robin

Noted singing at a number of localities by mid month, a pair noted nest building at Corbridge by the 24th.

Black Redstart

A male was noted in the St. Marys area 22nd-24th (IDM/JEF etal).

Stonechat

Pairs noted at Warkworth on the 14th and Threestoneburn on the 28th. A single bird at Hadston on the 28th.

Wheatear

First noted on the 25th when two at St. Marys and one at Tynemouth (SY/KIB etal). Singles were inland at Greenhead on the 26th (AJH) and near Bellingham on the 28th (JCD). Singles also noted at Boulmer and Holy Island 27th - 29th.

Blackbird

There was little sign of emigration usually evident by an increase in numbers on the coast late March. 12 in the Crooked Lonnen at Holy Island on the 28th (JDL) were presumably passage birds.

Fieldfare

Small flocks noted during the early part of the month numbers greatly increasing from the 25th on when large flocks of 800+ at Stagshaw, 700 at Stamfordham, 600 at Black Heddon, 200 at Wallington, 100 at Alwinton and 70 at Ford Castle.

Redwing

No more than 15 noted together until the 11th when 100 near Stocksfield Hall. On the 28th 200 at Stamfordham and 400 at Black Heddon were with Fieldfare. On the 31st several parties of up to 200 flew NE over Alwinton and Harwood and odd birds were noted on the coast.

Chiffchaff

Two warblers thought to be of this species were at Alnmouth on the 20th (ES/WTL) and one was at Corbridge on the 30th (MR).

Willow Warbler

One was noted singing near Lesbury on the 28th (IGH).

Goldcrest

Between the 27th-31st up to six at Bamburgh, ten at Hauxley and 12 at Holy Island (BRS/HRS/JDL).

Long-tailed Tit

Three pairs were noted near Bywell and High Mickley and two pairs at Kirkley Hall. One - Two noted at Cragside, Wylam and Morpeth.

Marsh Tit

Noted at Bolam, Wallington and Dipton.

Willow Tit

Noted at Brenkley and Corbridge.

Coat Tit

Noted in small numbers at usual localities. Three were at Hauxley on the 20th (HRS).

Blue Tit

15+ moved through Bamburgh on the 21st (BRS). At Gosforth Park seven trapped and ringed on the 6th and a further 21 on the 13th (MSH).

Great Tit

A good number present at Gosforth Park where 31 trapped on the 6th and a further 20 on the 13th (MSH).

Nuthatch

Noted at Bolam, Wallington, Matfen and Hexham.

Magpie

A maximum of 93 noted roosting in the Stocksfield Hawthorn copse on the 12th. On the 27th only two birds were present, two of ten nests in these trees contained eggs. (BNR). Four pairs were noted mating in Hawthorn bushes at Darras Hall on the 28th (TPG). 15 were at Warkworth Lane on the 9th (LGM) and 14 roosted together at South Newsham on the 15th (MH).

Hooded Crow

Singles were noted throughout the month at Holy Island, Cresswell-Druridge, Hauxley and Coquet estuary.

Starling

The Matfen roost continued throughout the month (RW). A flock of 1,000 were at Hauxley on the 27th (HRS).

Tree Sparrow

10-20 noted at Cresswell, Earsdon and Shankhouse. 30 were at Seaton Delaval on the 8th (MH).

Chaffinch

300 were feeding in a newly sown field on Alnwick Moor on the 21st (per JMA). 80 were at Hallington on the 6th and 40 at Aydon on the 25th.

Brambling

20 were noted with Chaffinches at Hallington on the 5th (KDS/DGW).

Goldfinch

30 were feeding in an old quarry at Alnwick Moor on the 23rd (per JMA) and 15 at Reaveley on the 21st (AMB). Two-eight being noted at eight other localities.

Siskin

Birds continued to visit gardens at Hexham, Rothbury, Stocksfield and Matfen. Flocks of 40 at Rugley on the 19th (JMA) and 35 at Weldon Bridge on the 7th (BB). Nine were at Killingworth on the 25th (LJM).

Linnet

Flocks of up to 200 on Holy Island, 40 at Newbrough and 30 at Holywell during the month.

Twite

Six were at Low Newton on the 18th (MCAC) and a single bird near Plennmeller on the 27th (LGM).

Redpoll

Five at Hadston on the 20th and flocks of 50 at Threestoneburn and 20 at Backworth on the 28th (AMB/KWR).

Crossbill

Five noted at Harwood on the 6th (ES/WTL) and two at Rugley on the 19th (per JMA).

Bullfinch

One-two at Felton, High Rochester, Wallington and Gosforth.

Hawfinch

Up to four at Eastburn, Hexham during the month (KD). Pairs also noted in Jesmond Dene 28th-31st and at Wallington on the 7th (HPF/CB).

Snow Bunting

Seven noted at Budle Bay on the 6th (MH) and at least three at St. Marys on the 29th (KIB etal).

Yellowhammer

Flocks had largely dispersed by the beginning of the month but 12 were at Shaftoe Crag on the 21st (TPG/LSG).

Reed Bunting

Ten at Holywell was the only flock noted. The Stocksfield bird noted last month became a regular visitor to a garden bird table (BNR).

Corn Bunting

One singing at Druridge on the 19th (WAK) was the only record.

List of Contributors

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All April records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth NE61 2AN in Vooos order and by 8th May at the latest please. Send SAE for supply of record cards.

Coastal Wader Counts

Excellent coverage was obtained throughout this last winter. The information collected has been passed on to the B.T.O. and is used in the monthly bulletins and annual report. It is hoped that enough volunteers will again come forward so that we can continue this useful exercise. Would present counters please let me know if they are willing to participate again this coming winter.

Alan Heavisides.

Isabelline Wheatear, September, 1980

Graham Bell, Farne View, The Wynding, Bamburgh has been asked to write an account of this rare visitor for British Birds. Would any members who saw this bird and took field notes at the time please contact Graham as soon as possible.

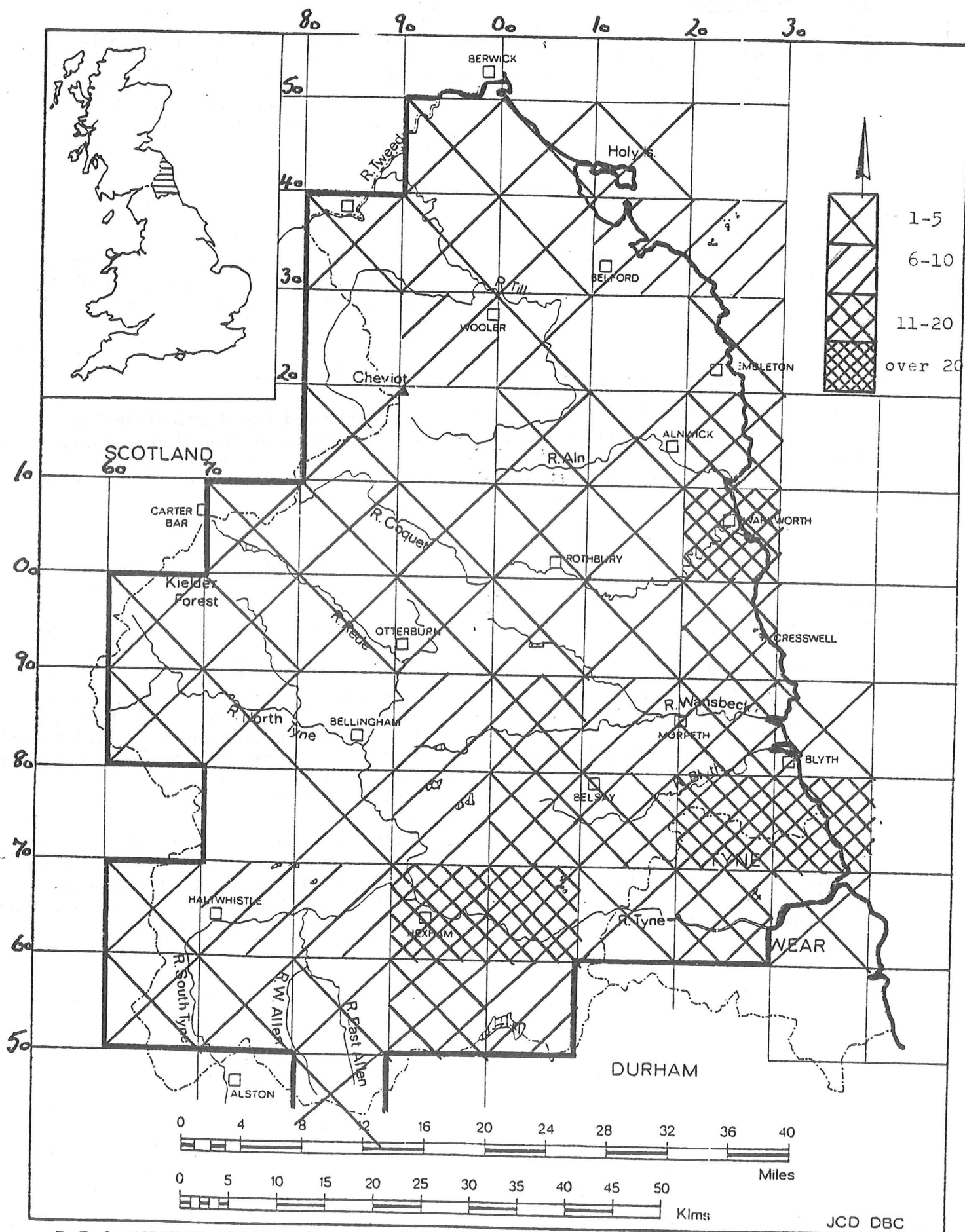
B.T.O. Winter Atlas Project 1981/1982

Despite the scarcity of birds over most of the county and the difficulties of travelling far during mid-winter the first year's results of the Winter Atlas Project have been most encouraging. 408 'visit' record cards (i.e. where a minimum of one hour was spent in a particular 10 Kilometre Grid Square on one occasion) had been received by 11 April and sufficient additional records to complete at least 150 supplementary record sheets.

The distribution of cover, based on visit cards only, is illustrated by the accompanying map. Whilst it is inevitable cover will tend to be concentrated along the coast and in the south-east during the winter as a reflection of bird concentrations and of observers, the severity of the 1981/1982 winter undoubtedly exaggerated this effect. If the next two winters are more typical there should be more birds remaining inland and more observers able and willing to go after them. It should, therefore, be possible to obtain more even coverage. The 10 Kilometre Grid Square producing most visit cards -41- was NZ06 (Stocksfield), unexpectedly an inland square but one which held large numbers of birds throughout the winter and in which a relatively large number of observers live. It may also be of interest to learn that one dedicated observer succeeded in spending almost two hours in the field at the height of the arctic weather and never saw a single bird !

The data must now be checked, sorted and prepared for computerisation by the B.T.O. This will inevitably be a mammoth task which is unlikely to be completed for several months. When however, the final print-outs are available it may be possible to comment on the distribution of particular species, hopefully before November when the next season's fieldwork commences.

Geoff Macfarlane
31 Wreay Walk
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B.T.O. WINTER ATLAS - Number of Visit record cards received for each 10 Kilometre Grid Square

JCD DBC



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne & Wear. Tel: North Shields 75928

APRIL, 1982

Summary

The weather was rather unsettled during the first week. The wind freshened from the NW over the Easter weekend giving rise to low temperature and snow showers on the 11th and 12th. High pressure to the south dominated the weather map during the next fortnight and mild bright weather was enjoyed. The pattern changed during the last two days as the wind freshened again from the NW accompanied by showers and sleet at times.

Coastal passage was unremarkable but most summer visitors were recorded back in breeding areas by the months end. Interesting wildfowl included Gadwall, Garganey and both Ferruginous and Mandarin ducks. Two Ospreys were reported on the 4th. Wader passage was apparent, an Avocet was noted, and the bird of the month a Lesser Golden Plover was found at Allenheads on the 3rd but unfortunately departed that day.

Interesting passerines included Shore Larks, Blue-headed Wagtail, several White Wagtails and Black Redstarts. A Golden Oriole well inland at Langlee on the 21st was surprising, and a Great Grey Shrike was found near Morpeth on the 15th. As the summer visitors arrived Fieldfares moved east through the county in large flocks.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red throated Diver/Diver Sp

A maximum of 20 were in Druridge Bay on the 24th (ES/WTL). Seaton Sluice recorded a total of 20 mostly N during the month. One-five were noted moving N or on the sea at six other localities during the month.

Black-throated Diver

One was noted in full breeding plumage off Seaton Sluice on the 3rd (SSWT).

Great Northern Diver

Two were on the sea off Chevington Burn on the 17th (MH).

Little Grebe

Pairs were noted at Holywell, Newton, Ryal and Seaton Burn. Ten at Arcot Pond on the 4th reduced to about five by the months end. Five were at Rayburn Lake and three at Swallow Pond during the month. Singles were also noted at Calder and Grindon.

Great Crested Grebe

At Holywell four pairs mid month reduced to two pairs by the months end, (CED etal). Pairs were noted displaying or nest building at Seaton Burn, Havannah Pond, Langley Dam and Bakethin reservoir (two pairs). In addition two pairs were noted at Hallington and Whittle Dene and a single bird on Derwent Reservoir. At the coast, one was on Druridge Pool on the 10th and on Hauxley Pool on the 3rd and 4th.

Red-necked Grebe

A single bird was at Holy Island on the 3rd and 4th (IK/DBR).

Slavonian Grebe

The only record was of one at Holy Island on the 9th (BRS).

Black-necked Grebe

Up to four pairs were noted at the usual breeding site late in the month.

Fulmar

About 60-65 pairs were noted on Bamburgh Castle and Tynemouth cliffs. Eight were on ledges in Craster quarry and three on a crag near Ford Castle.

Manx Shearwater

Only noted at Seaton Sluice where one N on the 12th and 50N on the 25th (SSWT).

Gannet

A steady N passage noted off Hauxley on the 11th of up to 100/hour, Seaton Sluice recording a total of 144 N the following day. Small numbers were noted N and S off Holy Island on the 18th and 28th.

Cormorant

Birds showing characteristics of the continental race were noted at Holy Island, Cresswell Pond and North Shields. Single birds were noted at inland waters during the month including Kielder and Derwent reservoirs, Seaton Burn, Capheaton and Holywell. Up to 12 were noted on the Tyne at Heddon.

Bittern

The wing feathers of a bird presumed eaten by a fox were found near Holystone on the 25th (RW etal).

Heron

One-three were noted at 20 localities. Five were noted at Foxton and Lindisfarne during the first week. Please send in any confirmed breeding records, summary to follow.

Mute Swan

Maxima of 72 noted in the Tweed estuary (DHH), 19 in Coquet estuary (CMA) and 20 in the Blyth estuary. Several pairs were present on likely breeding waters, and a pair were sitting on eggs at Rayburn on the 18th (AH).

Whooper Swan

39 at Holywell on the 1st declined to 14 on the 15th none noted thereafter. (CED etal). Ten were on Holy Island on the 4th (DBR) and two at Wark (on Tweed) on the 12th (JDL) and at Seahouses on the 25th (MLL).

Pink-footed Goose

One remained at Holywell until the 11th (CED/ES). 14 were at Bradford Kaims on the 11th (BRS).

Grey Lag Goose

Up to 600 were still present in the Budle Bay area mid month (DGB/BRS etal). A maximum of 245 were noted at Whittle Dene on the 12th (LGM). 170 were near Ford on the 12th (AMB) when 85 were at Grindon (LGM). Up to 17 frequented the Holywell area all month (CED etal).

Canada Goose

Up to seven were in the Cresswell-Druridge area 2nd-24th and one was at Hauxley on the 10th. Three were on Holy Island Lough on the 18th (JDL) and singles at Capheaton on the 5th (ASJ) and at Derwent reservoir on the 13th (BNR).

Barnacle Goose

One at Cresswell on the 15th increased to seven by the 17th decreasing to three by the months end. (PRW/MH etal).

Brent Goose

Eight were noted N off Seaton Sluice on the 25th (SSWT).

Shelduck

22 at Coquet estuary on the 3rd reduced to 12 by the 30th (JMA et al). A maximum of 72 on the 11th noted at Budle Bay (BRS). A total of 34 were in the Boulmer area on the 24th (GSR). 14-18 were noted in the Cresswell-Druridge area until the 18th (HG/BNR et al). 22 at Hauxley reduced to four pairs by the 10th (HRS) and 10 at Blyth estuary on the 11th reduced to one pair by the month's end (LJM et al).

Mandarin

Two fine drakes were at Chevington Pool 10th-17th (ES/HRS/MH).

Wigeon

71 at Grindon on the 8th reduced to 22 by the 24th (MLL/LGM) 30 were at Cresswell on the 15th (PRW) reducing to 10 by the 22nd (JH). A single drake remained at Holywell until at least the 30th and one was at Arcot Pond on the 6th.

Gadwall

A pair was at East Chevington 9th-11th (HRS/DHH).

Teal

110 were at Druridge on the 5th (AMB). 40 at Grindon on the 12th reduced to six by the 29th (LGM/MLL). 23 at Brenkley on the 4th reduced to two by the 25th (LGM/LJM). One-three pairs were noted towards the end of the month at Backworth, Holywell, Bradford Pool, Holystone and Threestoneburn.

Mallard

16 at Grindon on the 8th was the largest concentration noted. The first report of a bird sitting was from Arcot Ponds on the 7th (LJM).

Pintail

Three were at Black Law, Lindisfarne on the 7th (JDL). A pair were noted at Warkworth Lane on the 22nd (JH) and on Druridge Pool on the 24th (ES/WTL). One was at Grindon 8th-17th (MLL et al).

Garganey

Single drakes were noted at Druridge Pool on the 5th (AMB), Cresswell Pond on the 19th (KIB/WAK) and Backworth on 16th and 18th (KW). A single drake was at Bradford Pool on the 11th and a pair there on the 18th (BRS).

Shoveler

12 were at Seaton Burn on the 5th (AHB). Up to five were noted during the month at Cresswell, Newton and Brenkley and a maximum of eight at Holywell on the 24th. One-three noted at Hauxley, Holy Island, Grindon, Arcot and Havannah Pond.

Pochard

One-four noted at Hauxley, Seaton Burn, Arcot Ponds, Killingworth Lake, Havannah Pond, Cresswell and Whittle Dene.

Ferruginous Duck

A drake was present at Holywell Pond 22nd-24th (RAJ/TJ/HG et al).

Tufted Duck

Largest concentrations were at Whittle Dene where 54 present on the 22nd (BNR) and on the Northumbrian Loughs where a total of 85 noted on the 12th (LGM). 41 were at Wallsend Swallow on the 27th, and 30 at Killingworth Lake on the 30th. Smaller numbers noted at other usual localities.

Scaup

Two drakes were on Holywell 4th-8th (CED/IC/BW) and a single drake at Budle Bay on the 22nd (CMA).

Eider

Maxima of 245 off Stag Rocks on the 22nd, 63 off Blyth on the 12th and 36 in the Tyne estuary on the 12th.

Long-tailed Duck

A single bird off Stag Rocks on the 4th (DBR) was the only record.

Common Scoter

About 30 noted off Seaton Sluice 10th-19th. 11 were off Chevington on the 7th, 16 off Cocklawburn on the 10th and seven between Beadnell and Seahouses on the 25th.

Goldeneye

A maximum of 52 noted in Berwick harbour on the 10th when 44 on the Tweed near Kelso (DHH). 40 at Whittle Dene on the 9th reduced to only four by the 22nd (BNR et al). 25 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 12th and 22 at Heddon on the 11th. Small parties were still present at many waters late in the month.

Red-breasted Merganser

Up to 15 were noted in the Druridge-Chevington area on the 24th (ES/WTL/NWR) and 10S off Hauxley on the 25th (HRS). Two were noted off Berwick on the 7th and Seaton Sluice on the 12th and one was on Cresswell Pond on the 10th.

Goosander

Concentrations included 22 on the Tweed near Kelso on the 10th and 11 at Hexham on the 5th (MR). One-three were noted at 13 other localities during the month. A female was sitting on eggs in the Cheviots by the 10th (AMB).

Hen Harrier

Two ringtails noted on Holy Island on the 4th (DP). A male N over Coquetdale on the 25th (IK/BG).

Sparrowhawk

Noted at 15 localities, males being trapped during the month at Hauxley and Bamburgh.

Buzzard

A single bird noted over Hedgehope on the 19th (LM)

Osprey

One flew over Winlaton on the 4th (BL) when one noted at Holywell (KW).

Kestrel

Many sites in the Cheviots are showing signs of occupation, and breeding suspected in several more urban areas. Noted at 35 localities including up to seven at Wallsend Swallow and five near Shankhouse.

Merlin

Singles were noted during the first week at Jesmond, Chevington, Lemington Bank and Blyth cemetery, several others being noted in moorland areas thereafter.

Black Grouse

Four-five noted at Harwood, Threestoneburn, and near Ellishaw. Single females near Allenheads and Sinderhope.

Red-legged Partridge

Singles were trapped at Hauxley on the 10th and calling at Bamburgh on the 18th (HRS/BRS). Two were at Greenleighton Farm, Corbridge on the 19th (MR).

Water Rail

Singles noted at Priors Park 5th and 12th and in Holywell Dene 4th-11th (KWR).

Moorhen

Six at Arcot and Backworth where one sitting on nest by the 25th. A pair were at Threestoneburn on the 17th.

Coot

75 were at Cresswell on the 5th and 39 at Grindon on the 29th. 50-60 were at Swallow Pond where seven nests by the 28th.

Wader Count 24/25th April

The following stretches of coastline were counted: Beadnell-Seahouses (MLL), Howick Burn-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), Alnmouth - Birling Carrs (ETN), Birling Carrs-Coquet estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (NWR), Wansbeck-Blyth estuaries (JBD).

Oystercatcher

149 were present on the counted stretches of coastline between Seahouses and Blyth estuary. 40-50 were noted roosting at St. Marys and Blyth estuary. Several pairs were noted breeding in the usual areas.

Avocet

One was reported to have been at Budle Bay on the 20th (IE).

Little Ringed Plover

One possibly two noted at Backworth 16th-26th (MN/DMT etal), another was at Whittle Dene on the 12th(MR).

Ringed Plover

A maximum of 12 noted at Backworth mid month (JDM etal) A total of 34 noted on the counted stretches of coastline, and up to 30 noted at Holy Island late in the month (JDL etal).

Golden Plover

All large flocks were noted as being of the northern race. As many as 1,150 were noted at Backworth on the 4th, numbers fluctuated thereafter but 137 were still present there on the 24th (KWR/MH etal). Numbers increased at Berwick Hill to 500 by the 30th (ASJ/AHB etal). 200 were at Boulmer on the 21st (HS) and 80-120 noted at Allenheads, near Haltwhistle and Catton (LGM etal), smaller flocks being noted elsewhere. Two were singing over Whygate Moor on the 10th (RAJ).

Lesser Golden Plover

A county 'first', one was at Allenheads with northern race Golden Plover on the 3rd (LGM/JB), unfortunately it was gone the following day.

Grey Plover

One-two were noted until mid month at Coquet estuary, Boulmer and Hauxley. Six were at Holy Island on the 25th (JDL).

Lapwing

The only flock noted was of 54 at Backworth on the 4th (KWR). Pairs were noted in territory at widespread localities, and small young were seen at Backworth by the 20th (MH).

Knot

200 were noted at Holy Island on the 7th (JDL). The only other report was of one at St. Marys on the 25th (JDM).

Sanderling

48 were between Chevington and Amble on the 24th (NWR), 30-35 were at Hauxley on the 9th (HRS) and at St. Marys on the 25th about 20 noted at Berwick on the 7th and 10 at Boulmer on the 15th.

Purple Sandpiper

44 were noted during the wader count on the 24th. High tides concentrated birds at St. Marys on the 19th when 114 noted and at Blyth on the 25th when 146 noted. 52 were at Berwick on the 7th.

Dunlin

91 noted during the coastal wader count on the 24th. Up to three were at Backworth and singles at Whittle Dene on the 22nd and at Grindon on the 24th. One was back on breeding grounds near Slaggyford by the 10th (LGM).

Ruff

Numbers fluctuated between three and five throughout the month at Backworth. Two were at Annstead Burn on the 11th where one on the 18th (BRS).

Snipe

A maximum of 12 noted at Backworth mid month. Birds noted drumming in breeding areas from the 11th on.

Woodcock

First noted roding at dusk on the 15th at Hesleyside.

Black-tailed Godwit

Eight at Grindon on the 24th increased to ten by the 29th (MLL/LGM). Singles were noted at Holy Island on the 4th, Budle Bay on the 6th, Arcot Ponds on the 30th and at Backworth 26th-28th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

210 were at Lindisfarne on the 18th (JDL). Seven were at Boulmer on the 15th only odd birds being noted thereafter.

Whimbrel

Singles were noted N off Seaton Sluice on the 3rd, 12th and 18th (SSWT). Six SW over Hauxley on the 4th (HRS).

Curlew

30 were at Lindisfarne on the 7th (JDL). Birds noted displaying at widespread localities throughout the month.

Redshank

86 noted during the coastal counts on the 24th/25th. 71 were noted in Blyth estuary on the 19th (HG). A maximum of 22 were at Backworth on the 21st, and up to 10 noted at Whittle Dene and Derwent reservoir. Several noted in likely breeding areas.

Greenshank

Singles were noted on Holy Island on the 18th, at Holywell on the 23rd and at Derwent reservoir on the 30th (JDL/TJ/DBR).

Green Sandpiper

Singles were noted between the 4th and 18th at Throckley, Hallington, Corbridge, Backworth and Hauxley.

Common Sandpiper

The first was noted at Bellingham on the 17th (BNR) one being seen at Heddon the following day (EAS). One-three were noted at seven breeding areas during the following days. Singles were at Holywell on the 23rd (TJ) and Embleton on the 25th (KWR).

Turnstone

Still plentiful on the coast on the 24th/25th when 651 counted. As many as 660 were noted at Berwick on the 7th (JDL) and 200 at St. Marys on the 9th (KWR). An unusual record was of one at Backworth on the 20th (ASJ).

Artic Skua

One noted N off Seaton Sluice on the 12th (SSWT).

Great Skua

Two noted N off Seaton Sluice on the 12th (SSWT)

Little Gull

An adult offshore on the 3rd and an immature N on the 12th reported from Seaton Sluice. An immature was at Holywell on the 22nd (CED/JEF).

Black-headed Gull

Up to 600 were at Capheaton and 500 at Ryal on the 7th (RW). About 400 were following the plough at Hauxley on the 25th (HRS).

Common Gull

Between the 9th and 11th large flocks of up to 1000 were noted at Wallington (RW) and North Middleton (AH) and 300-400 at Stocksfield, Whittle Dene and Seaton Sluice. 600 were at Todburn on the 15th and nearly 300 at Tritlington on the 16th (ETN/JRW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

60 were back at the Northumberland moorland colony by the 3rd (LGM/JB). One-five were noted at ten localities during the month and 15N off Hauxley on the 9th (HRS). As many as 77 were with Common Gulls at North Middleton on the 11th (AH). One of four at Amble on the 3rd was thought to be of the Scandanavian race (BNR).

Herring Gull

400 sub adults were gathered at Boulmer on the 30th (IK). A maximum of 600 noted at the fish quay on the 26th (DMT). A white bird thought possible to be a different individual to that seen in December noted at the fish quay on the 26th and 29th (DMT). An adult "dark-grey" plumaged bird noted at Blyth on the 10th (RH).

Iceland Gull

That birds move between Blyth and North Shields is confirmed by reports of a second year bird with an injured right leg from both locations. Probably two adults and three immatures were noted at or between these locations, one sub adult fed on ploughed land at Holywell on the 22nd.

Glaucous Gull

At least two first winter birds were in the Blyth-North Shields area throughout the month. Immatures were also noted at Amble on the 3rd (BNR) at Embleton Tip on the 10th (DHH) and at Annstead Burn on the 11th (BRS).

Kittiwake

A maximum of 457 were noted on the 12th at the fish quay (DMT) 75 birds were noted at the North Shields warehouse colony, and about 30 pairs estimated at Tynemouth cliffs. One found dead at the quay had been ringed 16 years ago.

Sandwich Tern

Two were off Bamburgh and one off Seaton Sluice on the 3rd, small numbers being noted at many localities from the 4th on. 26N on the 12th off Seaton Sluice and 64 were at Newton by the 27th.

'Commic' Tern

Hauxley recorded four N on the 11th, several being noted around Coquet Island from the 18th on (HRS).

Artic Tern

Two were off Holy Island on the 18th (MCAC).

Little Tern

A single bird was at Newton on the 24th (JEF).

Little Auk

One long dead bird found at Holy Island on the 18th (MCAC).

Puffin

Good numbers noted around Coquet Island by the 18th (HRS).

Stock Dove

About 15 pairs estimated in Jesmond Dene - Heaton Park area (MPF). A nest containing two eggs was found near Rothley on the 21st (AH), and another 11 pairs were noted at widespread localities.

Woodpigeon

About 1000 were gathered in a single field at North Middleton on the 11th (AH).

Collared Dove

A roost of 40+ in one tree in a Monkseaton garden dispersed during the month (MNC).

Cuckoo

The first was heard at High Mickley on the 24th (BNR).

Barn Owl

Two were noted at Bingfield, Hexham and one at Weldon Bridge.

Little Owl

Two were noted together at Broomhill and singles at Matfen, Dimlington and Cramlington.

Tawny Owl

15 of 50 sites checked in the Slaley study area were found to be occupied (23 in 1981) (BL).
Noted in 10 other localities.

Long-eared Owl

Two noted at Shilbottle on the 9th and one near Ponteland on the 13th.

Short-eared Owl

Perhaps an indication of a good breeding season with one-four being noted at nine suitable inland areas. One was at Holywell throughout the month and five singles noted at or near the coast during the first fortnight.

Kingfisher

Singles noted at Hexham on the 5th (MR) at Corbridge on the 24th (DP) and on the R. Till on the 25th (KW).

Green Woodpecker

Seen or heard at 15 localities including coastal records of one at Howick on the 10th (MN) and two at Bamburgh on the 18th (DRS).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Noted at eight localities including Bamburgh on the 18th.

Skylark

A flock of 41 were at Hartside (R. Breamish) on the 23rd (AMB).

Shore Lark

Two were noted near the St. Marys car park 24th-27th (MH/JPD/EML/ES).

Sand Martin

Seven at Corbridge on the 5th increased to 30 the following day (MR). 50 were at Alnwick sewage works on the 8th (per JA). Conspicuous thereafter at widespread localities.

Swallow

Five were at Corbridge on the 4th when one at Benwell (SM/JT). Noted daily in small numbers thereafter but surprisingly few were seen on the coast.

House Martin

Singles were at Amble on the 14th (JMA) and at Boulmer the following day (MR/HS). No more were noted until the 26th when one was at Holywell (MH). Small parties were noted at six other localities 27th-30th.

Tree Pipit

The first was noted at Alnmouth on the 24th (ES/WTL) but several were noted in breeding areas at Coquetdale and Dipton the following day and six were at Bamburgh. One-three noted at six other localities 26th-30th.

Meadow Pipit

Birds were noted coming in off, and heading S over the sea at Cresswell and Chevington on the 7th (MH). Small flocks were noted as others displayed in breeding areas throughout the month. About 50 were at Whittle Dene 9th-12th. A nest containing young was found at Berwick Hill on the 30th (ASJ).

Rock Pipit

About 20 were at Annstead Burn on the 11th (BRS). Four were at St. Marys on the 1st (AMB).

Yellow Wagtail

The first was at St. Marys on the 3rd (KW) one being noted at Holywell on the 5th (ASJ). One at Backworth on the 7th increased to eight by the 26th. Birds were conspicuous in many localities from the 20th on.

Blue-headed Wagtail

One was found in the company of Yellow Wagtails at St. Marys Island on the 24th (DMT).

Grey Wagtail

The only records were of singles at High Rochester, Devils Water and Bamburgh.

Pied Wagtail

Numbers fluctuated at Hauxley with a maximum of 20 there on the 16th (HRS). At least 12 were at Annstead Burn on the 11th (BRS). Up to seven noted at Backworth. The partial-albino bird noted at Boulmer last month was still present on the 30th (IK/KIB).

White Wagtail

One was at Chevington on the 18th (RW). Up to three were noted at Backworth on the 22nd (RAJ/TJ et al), and on the 25th four were at Hauxley (HRS) and one at the unusual location of Holystone (RW/TP/LSG). One was also at Boulmer on the 30th (IK).

Waxwing

One was still at Cochrone Park on the 22nd (ES).

Dipper

Several pairs sitting on nests on Cheviot burns by the 10th (AMB). General impression is of smaller numbers than usual in most areas.

Wren

Seem to be present in reasonable numbers in most areas despite the winter.

Dunnoek

Seem to be reasonably common in many areas. A bird showing melanism appeared in a garden at Dipton Foot from the 10th on (DP).

Black Redstart

Singles were noted at Hauxley on the 4th (HRS) and Newton on the 10th (JEF). Two were at Annstead Point on the 9th (BRS).

Redstart

A pair were at Prestwick Carr on the 24th (KDS/MW). One was at Happy Valley on the 25th (KW) when several singing birds noted in Coquetdale (IK/BG).

Stonechat

A female was at Threestoneburn on the 9th (AHB). On the 25th a pair were at Embleton (KWR) and one was at Alnmouth (ETN/JRN).

Wheatear

Small numbers were noted at many coastal localities from the 3rd on. Singles were well inland at Allendale and Halleypike on the 4th, becoming numerous in breeding areas from mid month.

Ring Ousel

A pair were at Fallowlees on the 4th (JMA). Three were at Alwinton on the 17th (TAC), one at Threestoneburn on the 18th (AMB) and two at Langford by the 19th (LM).

Blackbird

A small influx was apparent at Hauxley 9th-16th, 14 being ringed on the latter date (HRS). One built a nest on top of a nest box at Horton ! (LJM).

Fieldfare

Very conspicuous throughout the month at inland localities. The largest flocks noted were of 5-6,000 at Reavely on the 11th, a total of about 3,500 at Forestburn Gate on the 7th, 1500 near Haining Rigg on the 10th and 1000 in the Harbottle area on the 7th and 25th. 500-800 were noted at Slaley, Calder, Grindon, Otterburn, Kirkheaton and Stamfordham. 200-500 were noted at 18 other localities.

Redwing

The only large flock noted was of 120 NE over Stocksfield on the 4th (BNR). 20 were at Slaggyford on the 3rd and Millfield on the 11th (LGM/AMB). Odd birds were noted amongst the Fieldfares, and the last report was of one at Backworth on the 26th (DMT).

Grasshopper Warbler

The first was noted at Hauxley on the 18th (HRS) and one was at Chevington on the 22nd (JH). Singles were also noted on the coast 24th-28th at New Hartley, Hauxley, Bamburgh and Warkworth. Inland birds were singing at Stocksfield and Corbridge on the 26th and one was at Ponteland by the 30th.

Sedge Warbler

The first was heard singing at Gosforth Park on the 18th (TJ). Singles were also at Holywell on the 23rd and 30th and at Hauxley on the 25th.

Whitethroat

Singles were noted at Holy Island on the 22nd (CMA) and at Benton on the 25th (RAJ/TJ).

Garden Warbler

Singles were reported from Happy Valley on the 15th (KW) and in Jesmond Dene on the 29th (ASJ).

Blackcap

One was seen at Holywell Dene on the 4th (KWR), followed by singles at Hauxley, Backworth, Wallsend Swallow and Jesmond Dene on the 16th. Between the 24th-26th birds were noted at Bamburgh, Arcot Hall, Meldon and Close House.

Wood Warbler

One was noted singing at Happy Valley on the 20th (KW) and two were singing at Nether Warden on the 28th (AJR).

Chiffchaff

Birds were noted singing at Jesmond Dene on the 2nd (MPF), at Holywell Dene on the 3rd (KW), at Heddon on the 4th (DG) when four were at Bothal (MLL). Reported from widespread localities thereafter but the only coastal record was of one trapped at Hauxley on the 16th (HRS).

Willow Warbler

Birds were noted singing at Holywell and Hauxley on the 3rd (ASJ/KW/HRS). Singles were at Corbridge on the 5th, Priors Park on the 6th and Jesmond Dene on the 7th. Reports were numerous and widespread thereafter especially from the 15th on. A maximum of six were at Hauxley on the 16th and 17th and at Bamburgh on the 25th (HRS/BRS).

Goldcrest

Coastal records were of four on Holy Island on the 3rd (IK), two at Bamburgh and one on Holy Island on the 9th (BRS) and three at Priors Park on the 7th (DMT).

Pied Flycatcher

The first male was noted at Craggside on the 10th (ASJ). One was back at Dipton on the 16th (BL), and singles noted at River Green (per AH) and Happy Valley (KW) on the 25th when three at Dipton (ASJ).

Long-tailed Tit

Pairs were noted at Wylam, Bywell, Dipton and Stocksfield. Three pairs were at Hyons Wood, and a party of four at Langleford.

Marsh Tit

Noted at Stocksfield, Warden and Dipton where a nest in a natural hole in a tree found on the 12th (KIB/BNR). Six were at Roddam Burn on the 17th (AMB).

Willow Tit

A pair noted calling near Meldon on the 24th, and a pair excavating a nest hole at Corbridge on the 13th (MR).

Coal Tit

Noted at Holywell Dene and Langleford, and a pair continued to come to nuts in a Stocksfield garden until at least the 11th.

Nuthatch

Continue to be reported from widespread localities including Stannington, Matfen, Capheaton, Angerton, Hartburn, Bothal, Dilston Hall, Hexham, Stocksfield and Linden Hall (near Longhorsley).

Treecreeper

Seen nest building at Corbridge on the 13th, and noted at ten other localities.

Golden Oriole

A surprising report of a male watched for some time at Langlee on the 21st (DG).

Great Grey Shrike

One was found amongst roadside scrub at Heighleygate Morpeth on the 15th (IPB) but had departed by the following day.

Jay

One-four noted at Bywell, Close House, Meldon, Netherwitton, Corbridge and Riding Mill

Jackdaw

Up to 80 in the good nesting area of the Lilburn burn and 40 around Mitford castle.

Hooded Crow

During the period 7th-11th singles were noted at Holy Island, Langlee and Amble and two at Annstead Burn. One was at Holywell Pond on the 27th (MH).

Raven

A pair reared three young, and a single bird was noted elsewhere in the Cheviots. Two were noted at Slaggyford and Catcleugh on the 10th and a flock of 12, none of which appeared to be juveniles, were noted near Alston on the 24th, all of these birds eventually flying over into Cumbria.

Tree Sparrow

Up to 50 at Hauxley during the month included one leucistic bird (HRS). A flock of 12 at Close House on the 28th (AMB).

Chaffinch

A flock of 180 were at Bellingham and 50 at Wark on the 17th (BNR).

Brambling

Singles noted at Bamburgh on the 18th (BRS) and Jesmond Dene on the 19th (JH). A flock of 16 were at Hyons Wood near High Mickley, some of which were singing on the 24th (BNR).

Goldfinch

One-three noted at 10 localities.

Siskin

A total of about 50 noted at Broomley fell plantation on the 12th (MPF). About 15 noted at Dipton, Stocksfield and High Mickley. Four were at Whittle Dene on the 12th and singing birds noted at Craggside, Harbottle, Bakethin and Wark forest. Odd birds continued to frequent gardens at Hexham and Morpeth.

Linnet

Small flocks were noted on the coast throughout the month, and birds were noted coasting N at Bamburgh on the morning of the 25th. Numbers increased during the month at Backworth to a maximum of 160 by the 30th (BNR et al), when 80 were still at Boulmer (IK).

Redpoll

Two-six noted at Hauxley, Threestoneburn and Rothbury.

Crossbill

A pair noted at Alnwick Moor on the 4th (JA) and one at Harbottle on the 9th (RAJ)

Bullfinch

Two-three at Dipton, Hexham and Threestoneburn.

Hawfinch

One-two in the Hexham area throughout the month (KD). A maximum of six noted at Jesmond Dene on the 14th (MPF)

Corn Bunting

An unusual concentration of 22 at Wallsend Swallow on the 13th (RAJ/TJ). One-two noted at Cresswell, Blyth cemetery and Shiremoor.

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All May records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth, NE61 2AN
in Voous order and by 8th June at the latest please. Send SAE for supply of record
cards.

BASS ROCK - 18TH JULY, 1982

Alan Heavisides is taking a party by coach (and boat !) to the Bass Rock on the
18th July. There are a few vacant seats should any club members be interested.
Approximate cost £8.00/head (includes boat, coach and landing fees)
Telephone Alan soon if interested - Morpeth 55770.



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne & Wear. Tel: North Shields 75928

MAY, 1982

SUMMARY

The freshening NW wind during the last two days of April increased to gale force by the 1st when both snow showers and thunder were also encountered. The wind continued to be the main feature over the next few days, being particularly strong on the 3rd (gusting up to 60 mph) when heavy rain fell at times. The wind caused considerable damage and many tree nesting species suffered as nests or young were blown out. A few wet days followed before a large area of high pressure centered to the east of us gave rise to a prolonged fine warm, dry spell which lasted from the 8th until well into June.

Bird watching on the coast proved to be less interesting than is often the case in May, numbers of the commoner migrants were generally rather low and few rarities were seen. The month was not without its exciting birds however as Pectoral Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, Little Bunting and perhaps a Ross's Gull were seen. Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Turtle Dove, Black-tailed Godwit, Little Ringed Plover and Blue-headed Wagtail were amongst the less common visitors seen. Most summer visitors were back in breeding areas by about the 8th.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Diver sp/Red-throated Diver

A total of 9N 2nd-7th off Seaton Sluice and one on the sea there on the 31st (SSWT).

Black-throated Diver

One was close inshore off Holy Island on the 9th (GM).

Little Grebe

Up to five pairs noted at Capheaton. One-two pairs noted at Newton, Grindon, Arcot, Holy Island, Ryal and Holywell where the single pair noted with young at the months end. At Swallow Pond two-three noted.

Great Crested Grebe

Three broods of three noted at Holywell by mid month. Up to three present at Whittle Dene and pairs at Derwent Reservoir, Langley Dam and Bakethin Reservoir. Single birds at Sweethope and off Holy Island on the 8th.

Black-necked Grebe

At the usual breeding water five pairs were noted with a total of 17 young by the 31st.

Fulmar

A total of 55 were noted on crags to the north and west of Belford during the month (AH) 50 were on ledges in Spindlestone Quarry on the 27th (CMA). About 60 were noted on Holy Island crags and one was found nesting on the ground near the Lough (GEM/JDL). About 100 were gathered on the sea 40 miles off Tynemouth on the 8th (SM).

Manx Shearwater

Singles N were noted off Seaton Sluice on the 2nd and 14th and a total of 21N there on the 6th.

Gannet

Light N passage noted mainly off Seaton Sluice on the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 8th.

Cormorant

Up to 80 were noted roosting off Holy Island (GM), about 20 noted in Amble Harbour during the month (NWR etal). A 'continental type' bird was on Cresswell Pond on the 2nd (MLL).

Heron

One-three noted at 12 localities away from breeding areas, many observers mentioned birds being mobbed by Lapwings. At least 20 young died between two Heronries near Morpeth as a result of the early gales (AH).

Mute Swan

Broods noted at Hartburn, Rothley, Corbridge (on the Tyne), Swallow and Holywell Ponds. Up to 22 were in the Coquet estuary mid month.

Whooper Swan

Two were noted grazing at Holywell on the 8th (JRT) and a single bird was with a Mute Swan at Seahouses on the 22nd (MLL).

Pink-footed Goose

One was just over the border at Hoselaw Loch on the 1st (NRG).

Grey Lag Goose

The Holywell pair had five young on the 8th (CED etal). Up to nine noted at Backworth and two seen at Elishaw and Marden Park during the month. Six were at Hoselaw Loch on the 1st.

Canada Goose

Eight birds were noted with 16 young at Sweethope on the 24th (BB/MH). Broods of four and one were noted at Capheaton during the last week (RW/KIB). 15 were at Whittle Dene on the 25th (MR). Up to six were noted at Brenkley, four at Cresswell and singles at Backworth and Holywell during the month.

Barnacle Goose

Three were at Cresswell Pond 1st-2nd (MLL/ES etal)

Shelduck

Up to 50 were noted in Budle Bay, 17 at Cresswell, 12 at Hauxley and 14 in Coquet Estuary. Two pairs were noted at Newton and pairs at Bradford Pool, Swallow Pond, Blyth estuary and Holborn Moss. Seaton Sluice recorded three N on 2nd, six S on 6th and two S on the 9th.

Wigeon

On the 1st 15 were at Rothley Lake (BB) and eight at Cresswell Pond (ES/WTL). One-two were noted thereafter at Cresswell, Swallow Pond, Seaton Sluice and Holy Island.

Gadwall

Two were on Holy Island Lough 14th-16th (MN/IC etal). Two pairs were on Rayburn Lake on the 8th and a single drake at Holborn Moss on the 14th (AH).

Teal

Broods were noted at Threestoneburn and Linnshields during the last week. Pairs were noted during the month at Backworth, Gosforth Park and Holborn Moss. Seven were at Grindon on the 27th and two N off Seaton Sluice on the 6th.

Mallard

Several broods noted from the 9th on. Small numbers noted at usual waters with up to 30 present at Grindon and Swallow Pond.

Pintail

A drake was noted at Warkworth Lane and Cresswell Pond on the 2nd (PWD).

Shoveler

One-three pairs noted at Brenkley, Holywell, Arcot, Cramlington, Swallow Pond, Newton Pool, Bradford Pool and Cresswell Pond.

Pochard

Two drakes were at Rayburn Lake on the 8th and one at Cresswell on the 9th. A drake was at Arcot on the 14th and a duck at West Hartford on the 29th.

Ferruginous Duck

The drake noted at Holywell last month was seen there on the 3rd and 5th (DY/SY/MH).

Tufted Duck

Small numbers noted at usual waters. As many as 52 drakes and 16 ducks on Capheaton on the 18th (RW). A maximum of 30 at Swallow Pond on the 5th (ES/WTL).

Eider Duck

Broods were noted during the last week at Amble, Budle Bay and Cullernose.

Long-tailed Duck

One was noted on the sea close inshore off Seaton Sluice on the 3rd (SSWT).

Common Scoter

Small flocks of six-16 were noted off Holy Island, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and St. Marys during the month. A flock of 575 noted from a ship 40 miles off the Tyne on the 12th (SM).

Goldeneye

Two were still at Whittle Dene on the 9th. Single birds were noted between the 11th and 29th at Holy Island, Wylam, Capheaton and Rothbury.

Red-breasted Merganser

Seaton Sluice recorded two N on the 6th, three N on the 7th and four N on the 9th (SSWT). Up to eight were noted off Holy Island 10th-15th (GM).

Goosander

Small numbers were noted on the usual breeding rivers and nests were found on the Lilburn Burn and Wansbeck. A female was on Druridge Pool 14th-28th and appeared to have a damaged wing. The regular gathering of mainly drakes was noted again at Hoselaw Loch where 150 present on the 1st increased to 192 by the 15th. 14 of these birds were trapped wing tagged and dyed yellow, please report any sightings.

Marsh Harrier

One N at Beal road ends on the 9th (per BRS) may have been the female seen on Holy Island on the 14th (GM). A female/immature was noted at Holywell on the 9th and at Earsdon on the 16th (CAB/IPB/CED/DY/SY).

Sparrowhawk

Indications are that this may be a good breeding season. The first full clutch was found in the south central study area on the 11th (AH).

Rough-legged Buzzard

A bird thought to be an immature of this species was seen at Choppington on the 15th and 16th (MLL)

Buzzard Sp

A single bird soared high over Kirkhill, Morpeth before heading W on the 15th (per AH)

Osprey

A single bird seen N over Castle Wood, Bamburgh on the 22nd (ES/WTL).

Kestrel

Newly hatched young were noted on a crag near Belford as early as the 7th (AH). A pair again were using a nest box at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Merlin

One still on the coast at Holy Island 9th-12th (GM). A few were noted at inland moorland areas.

Red Grouse

Young noted in the Cheviots by the 28th (NWR)

Black Grouse

Single males noted at Threestoneburn on the 2nd and 30th (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

A pair noted at Stocksfield on the 9th (DBR) and one at Angerton on the 25th (AH).

Moorhen

A nest contained six eggs at Hadston by the 9th (HRS).

Coot

About 85 were noted at Cresswell and 30 at Grindon during the month. Young were noted at Brenkley by the 25th (LJM).

Oystercatcher

A maximum of 200 were noted at Lindisfarne on the 5th (JDL). About 50 were regularly noted at Hauxley and Cresswell, 30 at Blyth and 20 in the Coquet estuary. 83 were counted between Beadnell and Seahouses on the 22nd (MLL). Several Pairs were noted in typical inland breeding areas.

Little Ringed Plover

Three were noted at Backworth on the 1st but only two thereafter (MN/KWR et al). One was at Whittle Dene on the 25th (MR).

Ringed Plover

As many as 200 were on Beal Sands on the 12th (JDL). 81 were noted in Blyth estuary on the 24th and 38 at Berwick on the 5th (HG/JDL). Numbers fluctuated at Backworth, a maximum of 17 being noted there on the 5th, where the first brood were noted on the 15th. Up to 30 were in the Coquet estuary mid-month. A maximum of 12 were noted at Whittle Dene on the 4th. 128 were counted between Alnmouth and Boulmer on the 22nd (ES/WTL).

Golden Plover

Several flocks northern race birds were noted up until the 12th including 500 at Berwick Hill on the 1st (AHB), 80 near Twice Brewed on the 4th and about 100 at Lindisfarne on the 5th (JDL). Two birds were still on the coast near St. Marys on the 22nd (JRT). Birds noted in breeding areas included nine pairs on Westburnhope Moor (BNR), two pairs at Harwood Shield (AJR) and one pair at Common Burn (AMB/AH).

Grey Plover

Up to 10 were noted at Lindisfarne N.N.R. during the month (GM et al).

Lapwing

Breeding birds noted in many areas, several broods being seen from mid-month. A flock of 70 were at Backworth on the 29th (KWR).

Knot

Three were in Coquet estuary on the 15th (JMA), one at Derwent Reservoir on the 16th (DBR), one near Beadnell on the 22nd (MLL) and two at Cresswell on the 31st (SWA).

Sanderling

A maximum of 110 noted in Sandon Bay, Holy Island on the 9th (BNR et al). 20 were still at St. Marys on the 8th (JRT). Seven were at Berwick on the 19th and four at Boulmer on the 22nd (JDL/ES/WTL).

Temminck's Stint

A single bird was at Hauxley Pool on the 29th and 30th (HRS).

Pectoral Sandpiper

A very surprising record was of one near Allendale in a Dunlin breeding area on the 16th (LGM).

Purple Sandpiper

Between the 2nd and 9th up to 35 were at Stag Rocks, 20 at Berwick, 10 at St. Marys, 21 on Holy Island and eight at Tynemouth.

Dunlin

A large wader roost on the N shore of Holy Island on the 8th was estimated to have included 2,500 Dunlin. (BNR). About 50 were at Berwick on the 5th (JDL) and 16 in Coquet estuary on the 10th (AH). Up to 12 were noted at Whittle Dene during the first week when up to 6 at Backworth and one-two at Hadston and Grindon. Five were in Blyth estuary on the 24th (HG). The long dry spell was thought to have accounted for a shortage of birds in usual moorland breeding areas in the SW. (LGM).

Ruff

Up to 11 were noted at Backworth 15th-18th. Elsewhere singles were seen at Gosforth Park, Holy Island and Newton Pool. Two were at Hauxley on the 28th and four at Hadston on the 15th.

Snipe

One-five noted at Druridge, Backworth, Swallow Pond and Cramlington.

Woodcock

Birds noted on the 1st at Greenhead and Allendale probably had nearby young.

Black-tailed Godwit

Passage noted 1st-16th up to six being noted at Whittle Dene (MR), two at Holy Island (JDL et al) at Newton Pool (PWD et al) and at Grindon Lough (MLL), and a single at Arcot Pond (LJM et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A maximum of 370 noted at Lindisfarne N.N.R. on the 5th (JDL et al). The only record elsewhere was of two at Hauxley on the 14th (HRS).

Whimbrel

Light mainly coastal passage was apparent throughout the month particularly at Hauxley where about 50 in total mainly N noted 8th-29th. Smaller numbers were noted at localities between Holy Island and Seaton Sluice. Inland records were of singles at Ottercops Linnshields and Whittle Dene.

Curlew

A maximum of 105 noted at Lindisfarne on the 5th (JDL). Small numbers reported from usual breeding areas.

Redshank

Up to 200 noted at Lindisfarne during the month. Maxima of 25 at Backworth, where young noted on the 29th, and of 11 at Whittle Dene.

Greenshank

Singles were noted during the month at Holy Island, Hauxley, Cresswell, Hadston Lake, Gosforth Park, Backworth and Caistron.

Green Sandpiper

One was at Backworth on the 9th (JDM/DY/SY).

Wood Sandpiper

Singles were at Backworth 5th-7th (MN/TJ et al), at Hadston Lake on the 15th (JSB) and at Arcot on the 25th (LGM).

Common Sandpiper

One-four were noted at several coastal localities during the month. Birds were well established on the rivers by the end of the first week with for instance 16 being located in the Alwin valley on the 8th (TAC).

Turnstone

The largest concentration were of 316 at Berwick on the 5th (JDL) and 220 at Holy Island on the 8th (BNR), 20-30 were regularly noted at St. Marys and Hauxley. Two were at Whittle Dene on the 3rd (MR). 27 were between Alnmouth and Boulmer on the 22nd (ES/WTL).

Arctic Skua

Two N noted from a ship 20 miles offshore from the Tyne on the 8th (SM).

Great Skua

Seven N noted from a ship about 30 miles offshore from the Tyne on the 8th (SM).

Little Gull

Three immatures noted 20th-24th at Backworth. Three N off Seaton Sluice on the 7th, two at Newton on the 8th and one at Chevington on the 15th.

Black-headed Gull

About 2,000 birds were present at Holborn Moss on the 14th (AH). 400 were at Ryal late in the month but the Capheaton colony seemed smaller in previous years (RW). 200 pairs estimated at Holy Island Lough (GM).

Common Gull

The largest flock noted was of 60 at Stocksfield on the 10th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

20 at Stocksfield on the 11th and at Ingram on the 7th were the only sizeable inland flocks noted.

Herring Gull

Up to 450 noted at the fish quay during the month. A white immature bird was noted on the 4th, and pale birds thought possible to be hybrids were noted there on the 11th and 27th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

Probably two individuals noted during the month at Blyth, Seaton Sluice and North Shields (DMT/RH et al).

Glaucous Gull

A first year bird noted at North Shields 5th, 6th and 10th (DMT).

Ross's Gull

One was reported to have been seen by observers from out of the area, visiting the Farne Islands towards the end of May, confirmation has not yet been received.

Kittiwake

There was a marked S movement off Holy Island on the 9th, 12th and 14th (GM). A raft of 2000+ were noted from a ship 20 miles offshore off the Tyne on the 12th (SM). 500 roosted at Amble on the 18th (AH). Two adults were at a small moorland Black-headed Gull colony near Haltwhistle on the 31st. (GLM).

Sandwich Tern

Up to 60 noted at Cresswell Pond during the month. Small numbers regularly seen offshore

Roseate Tern

One noted at Holy Island on the 12th (GM) and two at Hauxley on the 14th (HRS).

Little Tern

Up to six at Holy Island and one-two at Hauxley, Newton and Seahouses.

Auk Sp

Seaton Sluice recorded 126N on the 6th, 22N on the 7th and 54N on the 31st.

Stock Dove

Very early on the 8th a total of 15 were noted sitting on the road at places between Bardon Mill and Haltwhistle (AJR). In addition pairs were noted at Grindon, Reaveley Greens, Budle, Bamburgh, Kyloe, Allerhope and Rothley Crag.

Turtle Dove

One was trapped at Hauxley on the 19th (HRS) and singles were at Bamburgh and Seaton Delaval on the 22nd (BRS/MH).

Cuckoo

Five were at Dipton and one at Backworth on the 5th (DP/DMT etal). Singles were noted at three localities on the 8th records becoming frequent and widespread thereafter. Coastal passage was particularly apparent at Bamburgh one-five being noted on seven dates 10th-30th.

Barn Owl

Singles noted at Bamburgh and Seaton Delaval.

Little Owl

The only record was of one at Corbridge on 31st (MR).

Tawny Owl

Only four records received.

Long-eared Owl

A single bird noted hunting at Harwood (IK).

Short-eared Owl

Up to four present at Threestoneburn during the month. Two were noted at Harwood and singles at Plenmeller, near Cramlington and Allenheads.

Swift

Four were at Bardon Mill and one at Stocksfield on the 1st. Odd birds were noted until the 5th when reports widespread, several arriving back in the towns of Alnwick, Corbridge and Hexham on that date. The largest concentrations were noted on the 25th when 100 at High Heaton and 70 at Holywell.

Kingfisher

One was noted at Riding Mill on the 17th and at Stocksfield on the 26th (MLL/BNR).

Green Woodpecker

One-two noted at Bamburgh, Capheaton, March Burn, Dipton, Spindlestone, Rayburn and Angerton.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Noted at 12 scattered localities.

Skylark

A flock of about 50 at Threestoneburn on the 3rd (AMB/MLL).

Sand Martin

New nesting holes first noted at Hadston on the 7th where about 50 excavated by the 29th (HRS). Small numbers were noted at scattered localities throughout the month.

Swallow

About 30 were at Bardon Mill on the 1st and 150 at Lesbury on the 6th. Records were numerous and widespread from the 8th on.

House Martin

Only odd birds were noted until the 6th when 50 were at Lesbury. Birds were back at breeding sites in Cramlington and Morpeth on the 7th, and records became more numerous from the 8th on.

Tree Pipit

One was at Langleford by the 3rd and on the 5th one was at Bardon Mill and two at Plankey Mill (AMB/AJR et al). One-two were noted at Bamburgh, Holy Island and Hauxley between the 8th and 10th. Singing birds noted in several areas from the 11th on.

Rock Pipit

Eight pairs were noted in territory on Holy Island during the second week (GM).

Yellow Wagtail

Four were at Bardon Mill on the 1st (BH) when two at Holywell Dene (ES/WTL). Small numbers recorded most days thereafter. Maxima of six noted on the 9th at Holy Island, at Backworth on the 8th and at Swallow Pond on the 12th.

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male was at Backworth on the 13th (BNR). A pair noted holding territory near Hauxley on the 28th and 29th (HRS).

Grey Wagtail

Two noted on Holy Island on the 8th (BWR). The only other records were of a pair nesting at High Rochester, a female with four recently fledged young at Felton on the 27th and one-three at Hulne Park, Wylam, Riding Mill and Allendale.

White Wagtail

The first record was unusually far inland one being noted at East Allendale on the 1st (PRW). Four were at Berwick on the 5th (JDL) and six together on Holy Island on the 8th (BNR) when one at Hauxley (HRS). One was at St. Marys on the 29th (JRT) and one-two at Backworth during the month (RAJ/TJ).

Dipper

Nests or fledged young noted from the 7th on at Ingram, Threestoneburn, Lilburn Burn, Hulne Park, Stocksfield and Rochester.

Robin

Three-six noted at Hauxley 2nd-10th (HRS) and birds trapped at Bamburgh on 10th and 12th were of the pale greyish continental type.

Redstart

One-two noted at March Burn, Rowley Burn and East Allendale on the 1st, sightings in breeding areas becoming numerous from the 5th on. Very light passage noted on the coast 11th-16th. Three pairs were occupying nest boxes at Mitford and one at Hartburn by the 23rd.

Whinchat

A pair were back at Threestoneburn on the 1st becoming common there thereafter (AMB). Singles were at Alwinton on the 2nd and Whittle Dene on the 3rd. Not noted on the coast until the 8th when singles at Hauxley and Holy Island. By the 16th 15 were noted between Chevington and Hauxley and reports were widespread.

Stonechat

Three were noted at Newton on the 8th (ES/WTL) and a pair at Hauxley on the 11th (HRS).

Wheatear

Conspicuous in breeding areas from the 8th on. Quite numerous on the coast during the month a maximum of 30 being noted at Hauxley on the 10th. Two 'Greenland' birds were noted at Hauxley on the 8th and at Monks House on the 10th. Of seven Wheatears ringed at Hauxley on the 10th, three were Greenlands and one was trapped at Bamburgh on the 30th (HRS/BRS).

Ring Ousel

A pair were at Sipton Shield on the 1st (PRW) and one in the Alwin valley on the 8th (TAC). One-two were on Holy Island 9th-12th and 19th (GM/JMB). A pair were feeding young near Harwood Shield by the 31st (AJR).

Fieldfare

15 were at Stocksfield on the 2nd, 20 at Ingram on the 3rd, 60 at Slaley on the 5th and six at Carey Burn on the 8th odd birds being noted elsewhere. Two-three were at Holy Island 9th-13th and one there on the 14th (GM/MN).

Redwing

The only report was of singles on Holy Island 9th and 11th (GM).

Grasshopper Warbler

Singles were at Hauxley on the 7th (HRS) and at Bamburgh and Newton on the 8th. (BRS/ES/WTL). Birds were at Bamburgh and Hauxley on several dates up to the 20th including five at Bamburgh on the 9th and four at Hauxley on the 16th. One-two were noted 14th-16th at Holy Island, Choppington and South Newsham.

Sedge Warbler

At least four were at Hauxley and Newton and one at Holywell on the 8th (HRS/ES/WTL/JRT). Numbers increased steadily at Hauxley thereafter with about 15 pairs established in the area by the months end. Bamburgh attracted eight - 16 between the 9th and 22nd (BRS). Singing birds were conspicuous elsewhere from the 12th on.

Reed Warbler

Three were noted singing at Gosforth Park on the 19th (RJA) and two on the 31st (JRT).

Lesser Whitethroat

Two were noted on Holy Island on the 10th and 16th (GM/PWD). Between the 12th and 16th nine were ringed at Hauxley and five at Bamburgh. Singles were singing at Harthope Burn on the 13th (GM) and at Choppington on the 15th (MLL).

Whitethroat

A single was song flighting at Stocksfield on the 5th (DBR). Singles were at Holywell and Holy Island on the 8th. Coastal passage was apparent at Hauxley and Bamburgh 9th-29th up to five being noted at the former locality and nine at the latter. Six were at Choppington 15th-16th (MLL) and odd birds noted elsewhere.

Garden Warbler

Two were singing at Bridge End near Hexham on the 9th (IC/BW). Two were at Corbridge (AJR) and Bamburgh (BRS) the following day. Birds were seen or heard at eight other localities during the following two weeks including one-two on the coast at Priors Park, Bamburgh and Holy Island.

Blackcap

A single male was at Holywell Dene on the 1st (ES/WTL). Probably eight individuals were at Hauxley between the 7th and 15th and one-two were noted at Priors Park, Bamburgh and Holy Island. Several were singing in Hulne Park by the 8th.

Wood Warbler

Four were singing at Plankey Mill and one at Stocksfield on the 5th. (AJR/DBR). Reports increased from the 8th on and singing birds were noted at ten localities by the months end.

Chiffchaff

One-two were noted on the coast at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Priors Park and Hauxley 7th-28th. Three were heard singing at Hulne Park on the 6th, reports becoming quite widespread from the 15th on.

Willow Warbler

Widespread inland from the 1st. Passage was generally light on the coast but 20-30 were at Bamburgh 9th-12th when up to 15 at Hauxley, eight on Holy Island and nine at Priors Park.

Spotted Flycatcher

The first was at Whittle Dene on the 3rd (MR). One was at Priors Park on the 10th and one-three at the usual coastal localities on several dates from the 12th on. Small numbers were established in territories by the 13th.

Pied Flycatcher

Singing noted at Dipton wood from the 4th on (DP). A total of only eight pairs were in nest boxes at Angerton, Mitford and Hartburn.

Long-tailed Tit

Noted at Angerton, Bywell, Hulne Park, Stocksfield, Hyons Wood and Riding Mill

Blue & Great Tit

Nest box occupation very low in Wansbeck valley areas. Details later.

Nuthatch

Noted at High House woods Morpeth and Allen Banks. A pair were noted back at the nest box used last year at Dilston Hall on the 4th April. (JD).

Treecreeper

A pair feeding young at Holywell Dene on the 30th (KWR).

Raven

One at the Harthope Burn on the 13th (GEM).

House Sparrow

A bird retrapped at Hauxley on the 20th had been ringed there on 2nd May, 1976.

Tree Sparrow

A leucistic bird was amongst 12 at Hauxley all month.

Brambling

Two were at Hauxley on the 9th and one on the 12th (HRS). One-three were at Holy Island 11th-14th (GM) and singles at Bamburgh on the 11th and 23rd (BRS). Two landed on a ship 30 miles offshore off the Tyne on the 12th (SM).

Goldfinch

Small numbers moved through Bamburgh and Hauxley 8th-15th. Five pairs were at Matfen on the 16th (RW) and a flock of seven in Holywell Dene on the 30th (KWR).

Siskin

One-two noted at Corbridge, Stocksfield, Hyons Wood and Woollaw, Rochester.

Linnet

A flock of 50 were at Backworth on the 13th (BNR) and 60 at Arcot on the 4th (LGM).

Twite

Four were noted at Alnmouth beach on the 2nd (BNR).

Redpoll

Five were on Holy Island on the 12th (GM). Small numbers were at Threestoneburn all month and eight at Swallow Pond on the 19th.

Bullfinch

Noted at Hulne Park, Holywell Dene and Dipton.

Hawfinch

One-two noted at Stocksfield on the 5th (DBR).

Little Bunting

One was watched at close range at Hauxley on the 12th. This is the first spring record for the county.

Corn Bunting

Four were at Guide Post all month (TAC). One singing at East Benton farm mid month (RAJ/TJ).

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June records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth, NE61 2AN
in Voous order and by 8th July at the latest please

Survey of Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows

By the time this bulletin appears most, if not all, of the fieldwork should have been completed. Would anyone with completed record cards and maps please send them to me as soon as possible. Maps defining study areas may be trimmed to convenient size for ease of posting.

Geoff Macfarlane
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Indoor Meetings

The indoor meetings programme for the first half of the 1982-83 season has now been arranged to provide a good mix of topics involving Northumberland, the rest of Britain and more exotic spots like the Himalayas.

Thursday, September 9th. Dr. Michael Marquiss on Herons. Mick Marquiss is a former member of the club and after spending several years in South-west Scotland on bird of prey research is now working in the Edinburgh area on Herons. Mick should get the programme off to a flying start and has promised us a lot of good tales about his exploits while studying this species.

Friday, October 8th Eric Meek on Orkney and its birds. This is a special fund-raising exercise for the club and for this one event we are hiring one of the big lecture theatres at the university instead of our usual Medical School venue. Tickets should be on sale soon, demand is certain to be brisk, so watch out for a bulletin announcement. Eric, of course, needs no introduction and will be talking about his work as the RSPB's representative on Orkney with its huge seabird colonies and, of course, its Hen Harriers and other raptors. This promises to be a great night for both members and outside friends.

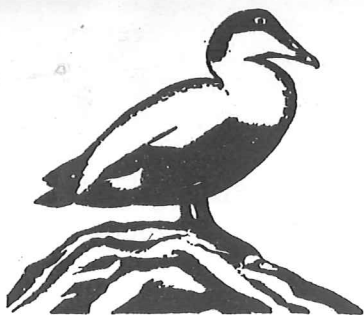
Thursday, October 14th AGM night. While votes for the committee election are being counted Mike Hodgson will be giving a short presentation on warblers and the identification problems they often present. October is the month when many of the rarer species turn up in Northumberland so Mike's lecture couldn't come at a better time.

Thursday, November 11th. Ian Bainbridge on nature conservation in Northumberland. Ian, conservation officer for Northumberland Wildlife Trust, has made a big impact on the local scene organising wardening and improvement schemes for reserves in the county and is currently drawing up management plans for the sites held by the trust.

Thursday, December 9th. Brian Little on the Himalayas. Brian must be the club's most widely-travelled member and one of its most entertaining and expert speakers. Last year he led a trek through the world's highest mountains and club members who were there continue to rave about the superb quality of the slides which were brought back. These will be used by Brian for his talk which should be a fitting end-of-year treat for the club.

Arrangements for our four meetings after the turn of the year are still being made. Meanwhile I'm always open to ideas for speakers and topics and can be contacted in the evenings (bird watching permitting!) on Lemington 676974

IAN KERR.



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

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JUNE 1982

SUMMARY

The weather continued to be predominantly warm and sunny with occasional thunderstorms until the 9th when there was a change to cooler, dull conditions. The rest of the month was very unsettled remaining cool and with periods of heavy rain and showers as the wind, usually light, veered and backed from north to east.

An unexceptional month for migrants, a few passage waders were seen and sea-bird movements were quite interesting at times. Other interesting sightings included Little Ringed Plovers, Little Gulls, Reed Warblers, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and a Bittern. Some breeding summaries have been received and are included in the text.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver

Two N on the 5th and three N on the 12th off St. Marys (JRT). Four N and one S between the 13th and 27th off Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Black-throated Diver

One in winter plumage on the sea off Bamburgh on the 30th (DGB).

Little Grebe

Breeding proven or suspected at Calder, Newton Pool, Corbridge and Holy Island Lough.

Great Crested Grebe

A maximum of five adults and five young noted at Holywell Pond (AMB et al). One was at Druridge Pool on the 1st (SWA) and at Cresswell Pond on the 13th (MLL). One S off Beadnell on the 2nd (ADH) and one N off Seaton Sluice on the 27th when two were in Blyth Bay (SSWT).

Fulmar

Two birds stranded in the field near Holy Island Lough apparently having been forced down by mobbin Lapwings were assisted back into the air on the 3rd (IK). One was at Colt Crag on the 10th (JWP). Birds noted occupying ledges at Snableazes Quarry (five), Ratcleugh Quarry (11) and Roughtinglinn (six) (LGM).

Manx Shearwater

A total of 174 mostly N off Seaton Sluice 7th-30th with a maximum of 52N on the 12th.

Gannet

Small numbers noted offshore at several localities, Seaton Sluice watchtower recording 719N on the 13th and 248N on the 23rd.

Bittern

A single bird was present at Hesleyside on the 17th and 18th (per BL).

Heron

A maximum concentration of nine at Fenham mid month. Small numbers noted mainly at or near the coast. Please send in any breeding records, summary will follow.

Mute Swan

43 at Berwick on the 7th (JDL) when 14 at Alnmouth (LGM). A nest in a field at Rayburn contained seven eggs during April only three mid May and no eggs or young were present by early June. (AH).

Grey Lag Goose

Three were at Backworth on the 3rd (DMT). The Holywell pair had four juveniles on the 6th (MLL).

Canada Goose

28W over Stocksfield on the 11th and 12W over Riding Mill on the 13th (BNR). Three N over Holywell Pond on the 6th, and three at Langley Dam from the 17th on (MLL/LGM).

Barnacle Goose

Two pairs were at Newton Pond on the 29th (CMA).

Shelduck

Up to 35 were noted between Hauxley and Cresswell. Broods were noted from the 8th on at Hauxley, Warkworth, Newton Cresswell and Druridge Ponds. A maximum of 55 noted in Budle Bay on the 8th. A total of 25S off Seaton Sluice 20th-27th.

Wigeon

One was at Holy Island on the 8th and four at Grindon by the 27th (LGM). Two N off Seaton Sluice on the 30th (SSWT). At least two broods were noted at the Northumberland breeding site on the 17th.

Teal

Up to 17 noted at Grindon during the month (LGM etal). Nine were at Brenkley on the 16th and seven at Backworth on the 27th (LGM/TAC). Seven N off Seaton Sluice on the 19th.

Mallard

Breeding reports were widespread during the month. Five N off Seaton Sluice on the 13th and two S, one N off there on the 27th.

Garganey

A drake was at Warkworth Lane on the 1st (SWA)

Shoveler

Two-three noted at Grindon, Brenkley, Swallow Pond, Holy Island, Ryal Pond and Newton where one young on the 29th.

Pochard

Up to seven noted during the month at Hauxley (HRS etal). Four at both Cresswell and Whittle Dene mid month. Two drakes at Marden Park and a pair at Holywell during the month.

Tufted Duck

61 mostly drakes were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 27th (LGM). Up to 36 noted at Holywell and 30 at Whittle Dene much smaller numbers being noted on other usual waters. A brood of eight were at Caistron by the 5th.

Eider

Several broods noted in Budle Bay during the last week. One-four noted at Blyth, Seaton Sluice and St. Marys.

Common Scoter

Up to 50 were noted off Bamburgh during the month (DGB) Noted on several dates 12th-30th off Seaton Sluice where a monthly total of about 460 included 168N and 40S on the 23rd (SSWT).

Red-breasted Merganser

Two off Chevington on the 19th (JSB) and three N off Seaton Sluice on the 20th.

Goosander

Small young noted on the R. Wansbeck on the 2nd and a brood on the R. Breamish on the 19th. Females noted at other usual localities. A drake was noted at Wylam on the 3rd and a drake and a probable immature drake were at Ovingham on the 25th (BNR). A female was at Druridge Pool on the 8th and 27th.

Buzzard

Singles noted near Blanchland and Slaley on the 5th (per BL) and at Simonside on the 12th (TAC).

Kestrel

Reported only from 10 localities. A pair laid one egg in one nest box and three in another at Threestoneburn but both were deserted. (AMB).

Red Grouse

First young noted at Dryburn Moor on the 4th (MSH).

Black Grouse

A pair at Threestoneburn was only report.

Red-legged Partridge

Singles noted at Calder and Stocksfield.

Partridge

Family parties noted near Coldmartin on the 18th (AMB) and near Roughtimlyn on the 22nd (CMA),

Coot

60-80 noted at Cresswell, Broomlee and Rayburn Lake. Several broods noted from the beginning of the month.

Oystercatcher

50-60 noted during the month at Cresswell, Hauxley and Blyth estuary, smaller numbers being noted elsewhere on the coast. Several pairs noted nesting at usual inland localities.

Little Ringed Plover

Two were noted at Gosforth Park on the 10th and Backworth on the 29th (AMB/BNR). A pair were reported to have been incubating eggs at Corbridge but lost their clutch during the heavy rains of the 25th and 26th (MR).

Ringed Plover

27 were at Berwick on the 7th (JDL). A maximum of 15 were noted at Backworth during the month where two young noted on the 20th. Six were at Whittle Dene on the 9th and one-two at Gosforth Park and Brenkley.

Golden Plover

10 pairs were noted in the Lilswood Moor area and two pairs on Blanchland Moor (BNR). Two pairs with young were noted on Dryburn Moor on the 4th (MSH).

Grey Plover

Four were at Fenham on the 27th (JDL).

Lapwing

Breeding records were widespread and post breeding flocks were noted at many localities from the 13th on. The largest flocks were of 600 at Druridge on the 27th, 180 at Grindon on the 17th and 140 at Backworth on the 29th.

Sanderling

A single at Berwick on the 7th was the only record (JDL).

Little Stint

One was at Hauxley on the 1st (HRS).

Dunlin

Three were at Backworth 1st-4th and one there on the 30th (MSH/MN). Singles were at Whittle Dene on the 9th (MR) and at Grindon on the 17th (MLL).

Ruff.

Singles were noted at Backworth on the 4th (MSH) and 10th (DMT)

Snipe

Seen or heard drumming at Arcot, High Rochester, Rayburn, Choppington and Sinderhope.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Six at Fenham on the 9th increased to 270 by the 27th (JDL et al). 45 were at St. Marys on the 5th and a single at Hauxley on the 7th (JRT/HRS). At Seaton Sluice four N on the 12th and one N on the 26th (SSWT).

Curlew

Numbers increased at Fenham from 12 on the 2nd to 121 by the 27th (JDL). Seaton Sluice watchtower recorded 27N and 5S 20th-30th (SSWT). 25 were at Backworth on the 29th and 15 at West Hartford on the 24th. A nest containing four eggs near Belsay hatched on the 10th (AH).

Redshank

Up to 120 noted at Lindisfarne N.N.R. during the month. A maximum of 45 noted at Backworth mid month. 11 were at Gosforth Park on the 10th.

Greenshank

Singles were at Hauxley on the 1st (HRS) and Lindisfarne N.N.R. on the 16th (JDL).

Green Sandpiper

Two or three were at Backworth on the 30th (JDM/MN).

Wood Sandpiper

One was at Backworth 7th-9th (JEF/MSH et al) and two at Hadston Lake on the 12th (JSB).

Common Sandpiper

About 10 pairs were located in the Alwin valley on the 5th when two broods had fledged (TAC). Several pairs were noted on other rivers. Two were at Black Low, Fenham on the 27th (JDL).

Turnstone

26 were noted at Berwick on the 7th (JDL).

Artic Skua

A total of 12N noted off Seaton Sluice 12th-23rd.

Great Skua

A total of 7N noted off Seaton Sluice 12th-26th.

Little Gull

Six immatures were at Hadston Lake on the 7th (LGM) and five N off Seaton Sluice on the 22nd (SSWT).

Black-headed Gull

Only two occupied nests on Dryburn Moor compared with 40 pairs last year (MSH)
Good fledging success noted at Ryal Pond (RW).

Common Gull

Up to six noted in the Blaydon-Stocksfield area during the month (BNR et al). Two immatures were amongst the Ryal Pond Black-headed Gull colony on the 13th and five W over Corbridge on the 30th (MR). Four immatures at Rayburn Lake on the 19th (AH). Up to 70 at Backworth by the 29th (BNR).

Lesser black-Backed Gull

Several noted in the lower areas of the Tyne and an adult seen several times on buildings at Maple Terrace, Newcastle.

Herring Gull

Up to 600 noted at North Shields. A colour ringed adult had been ringed as a chick on the Isle of May in 1967. (DMT). 400 were at Close House, Wylam on the evening of the 24th (BNR).

Iceland Gull

An immature bird was at North Shields fish quay 13th-28th (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

Immatures were at Hauxley on the 1st (HRS), Seahouses on the 11th (DGB) and at North Shields 14th-24th (DMT).

Kittiwake

A maximum of 444 were at North Shields fish quay during the month (DMT).

Auk sp

Passage noted on several dates off Seaton Sluice 11th-30th. A total of 1355N and 70S were noted including 244N on the 12th and 976N on the 13th (SSWT).

Guillemot

About 70 gathered on the sea off Dunstanburgh on the 19th (KIB).

Stock Dove

One-two noted at eight localities.

Turtle Dove

Two were on Holy Island on the 3rd (MN). Singles also noted at Alwinton on the 5th (TAC), Little Mill Quarry on the 7th (LGM) and Backworth on the 8th (JDM).

Cuckoo

One-three noted at 10 scattered localities. Noted as very conspicuous in the Slaley and North Tyne areas during the month (BL).

Barn Owl

Noted hunting at Horton Grange, Prestwick Carr and Chevington. A bird relaid at Kielder by the 26th, having lost its first clutch to a predator possibly a Mink. (BL). A Jackdaw was ousted from a nest hole near Mitford where the owl laid its first egg on the 4th (AH).

Little Owl

Noted at Corbridge and near Belsay.

Tawny Owl

In the Kielder study area a total of 40 clutches were located (including four re-lays) with a mean of 2.45 eggs/clutch. 31 clutches were successful and these produced 56 fledged young. 36 were in nest boxes and the nest in natural sites. Field vole populations were lower than in 1981 and in response the owls laid later with smaller clutches producing fewer chicks (SJP).

Short-eared Owl

At least eight pairs were present on felled areas within Kielder forest. Breeding success appears to have been poor due to declining field vole populations (SJP). Probably two pairs bred in the north Cheviots, and a juvenile was seen at Sinderhope. (AMB/MSH et al). One was near Bygate Hall on the 3rd (MSH).

Swift

Appeared to be very numerous in the Tyne valley this year (BL). Up to 150 noted at Holywell on the 23rd (AMB), 50N off Seaton Sluice on the 27th (SSWT) and 200+ moved W. ahead of rain at Kirkley on the 28th (AH). Two pairs appeared to be nesting in the Priory at Holy Island (IK).

Kingfisher

Reported nesting near Riding Mill and Corbridge (BNR/MR). A pair noted on the Blyth near Stannington on the 7th (LJM).

Green Woodpecker

Noted at Dipton, Harbottle and Wingates.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One noted at Stocksfield station on the 24th (BNR).

House Martin

Seven nests on the old Bridge at Alnmouth, 11 at Knarsdale viaduct and one at Eals Bridge (LGM). Numbers appeared to be well down in the usual breeding areas in the south of the county (BL), but appeared to be about normal at Alnwick and Morpeth (AH).

Meadow Pipit

Still scarce in the Sinderhope area but numbers have increased since 1981 (MSH). Good numbers in the north Cheviots many feeding young by mid month (AMB/AH).

Yellow Wagtail

Very few on the N. Tyne this year (BL). Two pairs at Backworth on the 20th.

Blue-headed Wagtail

The pair noted last month at Hadston appeared to be holding territory on the 2nd and the male only was seen on the 8th (NWR).

Grey Wagtail

Very scarce on the Wansbeck and its tributaries this year (AH). Reported from six typical riverine localities, and a pair bred successfully at Whittle Dene.

Wren

Still scarce in many areas.

Redstart

Eight breeding records received from widespread localities.

Whinchat

Common in usual breeding areas.

Stonechat

A male singing at Embleton on 30th (KIB) was the only record.

Wheatear

Still scarce in the Upper Coquetdale study area. Six first brood nests produced 36 eggs and reared 31 young. A breeding male had been colour-ringed as a nestling in 1981. (MSH). Common in the north Cheviot valleys.

Ring Ousel

Two pairs bred near Bygate Hall (MSH). Two-three present in the Ingram valley (AH/ES).

Mistle Thrush

Flocks of 14 at Eals on the 17th and of 17 at Halleypike on the 27th (LGM).

Grasshopper Warbler

One reeling at Hadston on the 19th was the only report.

Reed Warbler

At least two singing at Gosforth Park on the 9th (ES/RGW).

Whitethroat

20 pairs or singing males reported from scattered localities.

Garden Warbler

One at Hauxley and two at Bolam on the 7th (HRS/JRT) were the only reports.

Blackcap

Only four records received

Wood Warbler

Only reports of singing birds were from Tranwell and Holystone.

Spotted Flycatcher

Five pairs were located at Matfen, noted at six other localities.

Pied Flycatcher

Results awaited from main studying areas. At Nunnykirk five pairs noted in boxes. One male was bigamous and four or five unmated males were singing by boxes from May to early June. 34 young fledged from 35 eggs laid (RW). Two pairs built nests in boxes at Kiln Pit Hill but no eggs were laid (MSH) and two pairs were present in the Lilburn Burn, one of which raised seven young in a nest box (AMB).

Long-tailed Tit

Family parties were noted during the month at Blagdon, near Whitley Mill and Netherwitton.

Marsh Tit

Noted at Bolam, Wingates and Embleton.

Blue Tit

Nest box occupation noted as very low at Kirkley (two), Nunnykirk (two) and Lilburn Burn (none). Eight boxes were occupied at Eshott, seven of which reared young.

Great Tit

Young were reared from nine boxes at Eshott. Numbers were down at Nunnykirk (four) and at Kirkley (five). At Kirkley one adult, ringed as a pullus at Dipton in 1981, was found dead on eggs.

Raven

Two were noted near Alston on the 19th (LGM).

Starling

A flock of 300 were at Ilderton Dod on the 26th (AMB).

Goldfinch

Three family parties seen regularly at Matfen (RW). Pairs noted at Alnwick, Catton, Holy Island, Whitley Bay and Seaton Sluice.

Siskin

Several in a small wood at Ingram on the 19th (ES) when one in a Morpeth garden (AH). One at Greenhaugh on the 18th (MN).

Linnet

Flock of 41 at Beal on the 16th (JDL).

Redpoll

Common in the Coe Crag and Threestoneburn areas (AMB). Small flocks noted at Wallsend Swallow, Holystone, Marden Park and Bolam.

Crossbill

Absent in Kielder forest from February until mid June when they were noted well distributed throughout the area in groups of up to 10 birds. The group consisted of adult males and females, the build up occurring due to this years crop of Sitka spruce cones being eaten while still green and not fully developed (SJP).

Bullfinch

Single males noted at Bolam, Riding Mill, Arcot Hall, Gosforth Park and Threestoneburn.

Hawfinch

One noted feeding on Bird Cherry at Darras Hall on the 25th, where an adult fell from a tree and died on the 30th (per PWV).

Corn Bunting

One-three noted at Shankhouse, Boulmer, Berwick and Druridge.

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Please Note - Send July records to Mike Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, in Voous order and by 8th August at the latest please.

Colour Ringed Common Sandpipers

Common Sandpipers have been colour ringed in the South Cheviots, in an attempt to discover migration patterns and natal fidelity. So would members who see colour ringed birds please note colours used and on which leg.

Please send records to Tom Cadwallender, 27 Sycamore Avenue, Guide Post, Choppington, Northumberland.

Eric Meek Lecture - "Orkney's Birds - The Role of the RSPB"

This important lecture will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 8th October, 1982 at the Physics Building in the Newcastle University. Tickets are now available, price £1.50 (children and OAPs 75p). Send SAE to Mrs. J.P. Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE25 8JL.

Tickets will be in great demand since Eric is such a popular speaker, so an early application is advisable.

Committee Nominations

Nominations for committee are required 23rd September, 1982 addressed to the club secretary Keith Dures, 5 Bath Tce., Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by club members and the nominee must be willing to stand. The committee will be elected at the AGM on Thursday 14th October, 1982. Postal and proxy votes are not admissible.



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K.G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne and Wear. Tel: 75928

JULY 1982

SUMMARY

The weather was generally unsettled and although there were many hot and sunny days short periods of heavy rain and overcast conditions occurred. A series of depressions in the N. Atlantic helped to keep the weather changeable. Winds were predominately light and from a N.E. quarter.

A quiet month although sea-watching at Seaton Sluice maintained interest. Wader passage became noticeable with the scarcer species including Little Ringed Plover, two early Little Stints and Black-tailed Godwits. Post juvenile dispersal of the passerines progressed as usual but what happened to all the juvenile Sedge Warblers? Perhaps the most interesting bird of the month was Corncrake.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver

At Seaton Sluice three flew S. on 23rd and two flew N. on 27th (SSWT).

Black-throated Diver

At Seaton Sluice two flew S. on 3rd and one flew N. on 8th (GS/BM).

Great Crested Grebe

One was on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 28th (MB). The pair at Langley Dam failed to rear any young but one chick was hatched at Broomlee Lough (LGM/JB).

Fulmar

40 were in Brada Quarry on 3rd. (BRS).

Sooty Shearwater

A total of 14 flew N. at Seaton Sluice between 27th-31st (SSWT).

Manx Shearwater

There was considerable passage at Seaton Sluice where a total of 749 flew N. and 8 flew S. between 3rd-31st with a maximum of 186 N. on 24th. In addition large parties on the sea included 159 on 27th and 400-500 on 28th (SSWT). Light N. passage was also noted at Cresswell on 31st (IK).

Gannet

A total of 1,114 flew N. and one flew S. at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-31st (SSWT).

Heron

A maximum of eight were noted at Druridge 24th (ES/WTL et al), whilst up to seven were at Cresswell, six at Arcot and Hauxley and eight at Coquet Estuary (ETN/LJMc/KIB). One-four were noted at six other localities and two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 3rd.

Greylag Goose

Six were at Backworth on 17th (KWR).

Canada Goose

Three were at Langley Dam during most of the month (LGM).

Egyptian Goose

Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (KW).

Shelduck

Seven flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT). A pair with six young were at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Wigeon

Only two young were successfully reared at the regular breeding site. Two pairs were at Grindon on 1st and 8th (MLL) and single birds at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 20th/21st and 24th-28th (ES/WTL/JH). At Seaton Sluice three flew S. on 10th and four on 27th.

Gadwall

A male was at Grindon on 11th (LGM).

Teal

A total of 41 flew N. and 11 S. at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-31st (SSWT). A maximum of eight were at Backworth on 29th (KWR).

Mallard

A pair with 5 young noted at Arcot on 20th (LJMc) and small numbers moved N. at Seaton Sluice during the month.

Garganey

One was at Backworth on 23rd (AHB).

Shoveler

Five were at Brenkley on 20th and three at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th (LGM/ES). Four were at Grindon on 1st (MLL).

Pochard

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT).

Tufted Duck

67 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on 24th and single broods were located at Brenkley and Allenheads (LGM). 12 flew N. off Seaton Sluice during the month.

Eider

A creche of 15 young with four females was at Holy Island causeway on 11th (BNR). 600 gathered off Stag Rocks at dusk on 31st (BRS).

Common Scoter

Heavy passage noted at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-31st when 1,667 flew N. and 75 S. (SSWT).

Velvet Scoter

A total of 24 flew N. at Seaton Sluice between 10th-31st with a maximum of nine on 28th (SSWT).

Red-breasted Merganser

At Seaton Sluice nine flew N. and two S. between 8th-15th and a pair were on the sea on 12th (SSWT/JRT).

Goosander

At least four broods were located on R. Wansbeck and its tributaries (AH), two family parties (total 22 birds) were on Derwent Reservoir on 28th (DBR) and another family party flew upstream at Bywell Bridge on 13th (BNR). A female accompanying nine young in Coquetdale was noted to be blind in one eye (BG/IK). Seven were at Whitfield lough on 11th and at Allenheads on 17th (LGM).

Sparrowhawk

One-two birds noted at six localities. One at Gosforth Park on 3rd was fiercely pursuing a Carrion Crow ! (KIB).

Buzzard

One was soaring over Stocksfield on 18th (BNR).

Kestrel

One-five birds noted at 16 widespread localities. In addition fledged broods were noted on two church towers in Newcastle (IK).

Merlin

Eleven young were reared at three sites in a study area in the county. A brood of four large young were taken from another site, probably by falconers whilst a clutch of eggs disappeared at a further site. Prey remains at one site included nine juvenile Starlings, a Yellowhammer, a Meadow Pipit and two fledgeling Skylarks (BG/IK).

Peregrine

One was seen briefly at Langleeford on 22nd (MRS).

Red-legged Partridge

One was at Stocksfield on 21st (KDS).

Grey Partridge

A pair with small young were at Cramlington on 29th (LTMc).

Corncrake

Single bird(s) noted near Haydon Bridge on 5th and 9th (PJB).

Coot

50 were at Grindon on 8th (MLL) and Cresswell on 19th (SWA) whilst 138 were at Broomlee on 24th (LGM).

Oystercatcher

64 were at Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJMc), 60 at Cresswell Pond on 19th (SWA) and a maximum of 110 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS). Inland 50 flew E. at Stocksfield on 16th (BNR), a post breeding flock of 53 were at Holystone on 21st (BG/IK) and six were at Backworth on 13th (IC).

Little Ringed Plover

At Backworth at least three (two adults, one juv.) were present on various dates between 10th-24th (KWR et al). A juvenile was at Whitfield Lough on 11th (LGM).

Ringed Plover

Seven were at Backworth on 30th (BNR).

Golden Plover

Gatherings of 50-500 were noted at Cramlington, Newton, Boulmer and Budle Bay. A maximum of 1,000 were at Hauxley on 18th (HRS) whilst inland 50 were at Holystone on 22nd (ETN/JRN) and 41 at Allenheads on 25th (BNR).

Lapwing

The largest gatherings were 2,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 28th and 1,000 at the Long Nanny on 24th (DBR/MSH). Flocks of 100-700 were noted at about 13 widespread localities.

Knot

23 flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 11th and nine flew N. on 27th (SSWT).

Little Stint

A single bird was present at Backworth between 14th-30th (ES/JEF et al). Another was at Cresswell on 29th (ETN/JRN).

Dunlin

Small numbers noted from 2nd onwards and a maximum of ten were at Backworth on 29th (KWR).

Purple Sandpiper

Four at St. Mary's Island on 17th increased to 12 by 29th (ES/JRT).

Ruff

Birds were present all month at Backworth in varying numbers with a maximum of 12 on 17th (KWR/MSH et al). Single birds were at Newton Pool on 8th and Hauxley on 24th (MCAC/HRS).

Snipe

Small numbers were present at Backworth all month with a maximum of eight on 28th-30th (ES/KWR). Two were at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Black-tailed Godwit

Single birds were at Druridge and Hauxley on 14th (JEF/WAK) and another, in full summer plumage, was at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (KDS/DBR).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 48 flew N. at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-28th (SSWT).

Whimbrel

Small groups of one-seven were noted at several localities from 4th. 40 were at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Curlew

A post breeding gathering of 56 was noted at Holystone on 21st (IK/BG) and 15-20 were present at Backworth and St. Mary's Island (ES/KWR). A total of 89 flew N. and 10 S. at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-27th (SSWT).

Redshank

The largest gatherings were 200 at Budle Bay on 31st (BRS), 153 in Warkworth Gut on 18th (SWA) and 81 on the Blyth Estuary on 24th (LJMc). A maximum of 50 were at Backworth on 22nd (MN/KWR).

Greenshank

Single birds were noted on many dates at Backworth and two were there on 16th and 20th. Three were at Hauxley on 22nd/24th and two flew S. at Chevington on 31st (HRS/SWA). Singles were also noted at Budle Bay, Long Nanny and Warkworth Gut.

Green Sandpiper

Two were at Backworth on 1st and one the next day (KWR et al). One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th (ES).

Wood Sandpiper

Two were at Backworth on 2nd and single birds on 7th and 27th (JEF/MN/KWR).

Common Sandpiper

A maximum of 16 were at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (DBR). One-three birds were noted at Backworth, Hauxley and Druridge.

Arctic Skua

A total of 41 flew N. and seven S. at Seaton Sluice between 8th-31st (SSWT). Five flew N. at Chevington on 31st (HRS).

Great Skua

A total of 47 flew N. at Seaton Sluice between 23rd-31st with a maximum of 40 on 31st when two flew N. at Cresswell (SSWT/IK).

Mediterranean Gull

An adult was at Seaton Sluice on 31st (GS/JRT).

Little Gull

Seven flew N. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). An adult was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 8th and an immature between 14th-21st (ES/JH). An immature was also at Backworth on 14th (JEF).

Black-headed Gull

Birds were gathering at Backworth during most of the month with a maximum of 500 on 30th (BNR/KWR).

Common Gull

At the regular site in N.W. Durham two nests were located but both deserted probably because of human disturbance (AHB). Return passage evident from 5th with small numbers in several areas. 20 were at Backworth on 11th increased to 54 by 17th (IC/KWR) and 30 were at Druridge Bay on 29th (ETN/JRN).

Herring Gull

At least 12 young were reared from roof-top nests in the Cloth Market area of Newcastle (IK).

Iceland Gull

An immature was at North Shields Fish Quay on 18th (KWR).

Glaucous Gull

Single immatures noted at Seaton Sluice and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (SSWT/ES) and St. Mary's Island on 31st (JRT).

Sandwich Tern

250, including many young, were gathered at Longhoughton Steel on 31st (IK).

Roseate Tern

One was on R. Coquet near Warkworth on 4th (IC/BW).

Common Tern

Two were at the Derwent Reservoir on 24th (DBR).

Little Tern

A pair were at Hauxley on 11th (BNR) and three at Longhoughton on 16th (RNC). One was found dead at Hadston on 19th and two were at Blyth on 24th (LJMc).

Black Tern

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (KW).

Razorbill

Two were at Seaton Sluice on 31st (JRT).

Puffin

Seven were off Dunstanburgh on 4th (IC/BW).

Stock Dove

Five were at Beltingham on 25th (KD).

Turtle Dove

Two, probably juveniles, were near Chillingham on 17th, indicating local breeding (KIB).

Cuckoo

A juvenile was in dunes at Annstead Burn on 31st (BRS).

Barn Owl

The Mitford nest held two small young on 8th (AH) and the Earsdon pair were incubating eggs by mid-month (MSH). One was at Togston on 13th (HRS).

Little Owl

One was at N. Bardon Mill on 8th (MLL).

Tawny Owl

One was at Backworth on 12th (KWR).

Short-eared Owl

Single birds were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th and 18th (ES/JH), Druridge on 15th (ES) and Cramlington on 26th (LJMc).

Swift

Heavy S. passage noted at Seaton Sluice in early morning of the 10th, when 8,000 moved past in one hour dropping to 2,100 per hour by 9.30 am. In addition 110 flew N. on 31st (SSWT).

Green Woodpecker

A juvenile in Brada Quarry on 3rd and another accompanied by an adult at Harthope Valley on 22nd indicated successful breeding (BRS/MRS). Single birds also noted at Holystone and March Burn (JH/BNR).

Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Single birds noted at Ford, Lemington Dene, Dipton and a pair were at Bolam.

Swallow

250 were roosting at Chevington Burn on 30th/31st (HRS).

House Martin

On the R. Irthing there were 18 occupied nests at Whitehill and 14 at Lampert (LGM/JB). 50 were at Healey Hall on 18th and 30 at Stocksfield on 24th (BNR).

Tree Pipit

One was singing at Acklington on 5th (NWR).

Yellow Wagtail

Several family parties noted at widespread localities and small numbers along the coast towards the end of the month.

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male was at Druridge on 19th (SWA).

Grey Wagtail

One-four noted at several riverine localities including a family party at Langleeford (MRS et al). On the coast one was at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) and two at Cresswell on 29th (ETN/JRN).

Pied Wagtail

Three broods noted near Cramlington on 26th (LJMc) and eight were at Backworth on 27th (KWR).

Wren

Noted as plentiful in Hulne Park on 19th (KIB).

Redstart

Family parties noted at Slaley and Haydon Bridge (KD/BNR). A juvenile was at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Whinchat

Family parties noted at Hauxley and High Rochester (HRS/DBC).

Stonechat

A male at Hauxley on 13th was the only record (NWR).

Wheatear

A female was at Hauxley on 18th (HRS). Three juveniles were on Druridge Links on 8th and another was at St. Mary's Island on 24th (WAK).

Mistle Thrush

22 were gathered at Cramlington on 26th (LJMc).

Grasshopper Warbler

Single birds were noted at Bamburgh, Dissington, Newburn, Warkworth and Hauxley. Two were at Chevington Burn on 30th/31st (HRS).

Sedge Warblers

At the annual roost at Chevington Burn only 21 were ringed on 30th/31st, the lowest total in 15 years (HRS). A similar scarcity noted at Bamburgh where movement is also usually conspicuous (BRS).

Whitethroat

Noted at eight widespread localities.

Blackcap

One was at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and birds in song were noted at Acomb and Hulne Park (RNC/KIB).

Willow Warbler

Two were in a suburban garden at West Denton on 30th (RNC).

Spotted Flycatcher

Pairs with young noted at several localities. One was on the coast at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

Long-tailed Tits

Family parties noted at three localities.

Blue Tit

At Belsay a pair of Blue Tits were the only birds to occupy any of 35 available nest-boxes !! (per AH).

Jay

One was at Allenbanks on 3rd (JRT) and a family party at Ovingham on 21st (BNR).

Raven

One flew S.E. at Allenheads on 25th (BNR).

Starling

Up to 5,000, mainly juveniles, roosting at Laverock Hall, Shankhouse was the largest gathering although 200-500 were noted at four localities (LJMc et al).

Tree Sparrow

A family party were at Backworth on 20th where 30 birds were present on 30th (BNR). A leucistic bird present all month at Hauxley (HRS).

Goldfinch

Family parties noted at several localities. Eight were at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Siskin

One-three noted at Langleeford, Broomley Fell, Stocksfield and Harwood. About 20 present at Tarsset on 21st (ES).

Twite

One was near Allenheads on 25th (BNR).

Crossbill

13 were at Harwood on 12th (AH) and one flew over Beltingham on 25th (KD).

Bullfinch

A pair were at Hexham on 22nd (KD) and a cock and a juvenile in Hulne Park on 17th (KIB).

Yellowhammer

Noted as numerous at Harthope Valley, Cramlington, Shankhouse and Horton (LJMc/MRS).

Reed Bunting

28 were trapped at the roost at Chevington Burn on 30th/31st (HRS).

Corn Bunting

Noted at Druridge, Holywell, Boulmer, E. Thirston and Longhoughton.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

S.W. Anderson	J. Holding	N.W. Richardson
A.H. Banks	W.A. Kelly	D.B. Rosair
K.I. Barratt	I. Kerr	B.N. Rossiter
M. Bell	W.T. Logan	K.D. Shaw
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R.N. Coates	B. Mecrow	K. Walton
K. Dawson	E.T. Norris	B. Williams
J.E. Ferguson	J.R. Norris	Bamburgh Ringing Station
B. Galloway	M. Nattrass	Hauxley Ringing Station
A. Heavisides	K.W. Regan	Seaton Sluice Watchtower
M.S. Hodgson	H.W. Richardson	

With apologies for omissions

IMPORTANT

Next month we return to normal arrangements - all August record cards to Alan Heavisides 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth in Vocus order and by the 8th September at the latest please.

WADER COUNT 1983/83

Count dates for the 1982/83 season will be :-

September 12th, October 17th, November 14th, December 12th, January 16th,
February 13th, March 13th, April 17th.

Priority dates are underlined, if Sundays are difficult the Saturday of that weekend is perfectly acceptable.

As yet I have confirmation from the following people that they are willing to continue this count:-

E. Slack, W. Logan, M. Carruthers, L. McDougall, N. Richardson, I. Kerr and E. Norris.

If you were a 'counter' last winter, please let me know whether or not you are able to participate again. New 'volunteers' please contact me as soon as possible for further details.

A. HEAVISIDES.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS - a reminder

Contributions are always welcome from club members. Summaries of breeding or population studies, descriptions of interesting observations, behaviour or ornithological sites are welcomed. If you feel that you might have something to contribute but need guidelines or a second opinion, please contact Alan Heavisides.

Colour Ringed Common Sandpipers

Common Sandpipers have been colour ringed in the South Cheviots, in an attempt to discover migration patterns and natal fidelity. So would members who see colour ringed birds please note colours used and on which leg.

Please send records to Tom Cadwallender, 27 Sycamore Avenue, Guide Post, Choppington, Northumberland.

Eric Meek Lecture - "Orkney's Birds - The Role of the RSPB"

This important lecture will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 8th October, 1982 at the Physics Building in the Newcastle University. Tickets are now available, price £1.50 (children and OAPs 75p). Send SAE to Mrs. J.P. Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE25 8JL.

Tickets will be in great demand since Eric is such a popular speaker, so an early application is advisable.

Committee Nominations

Nominations for committee are required 23rd September, 1982 addressed to the club secretary Keith Dures, 5 Bath Tce., Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by club members and the nominee must be willing to stand. The committee will be elected at the AGM on Thursday 14th October, 1982. Postal and proxy votes are not admissible.

Breeding Survey of Waders of Wet Meadows

Return of cards and maps is still awaited from several observers. Please return these as soon as possible.

Geoff Macfarlane
7 Wildshaw Close
Cramlington
Northumberland. NE23 6LH.

Please note the above change of Geoff Macfarlane's address, which takes effect immediately. (Tel. 715399).

Winter Wildfowl Counts

The winter wildfowl counts resume in September. Any of the regular counters who are unable to continue with the monthly visits are asked to let me know as soon as possible.

Geoff Macfarlane - (Address above)

Book Offer

The B.T.O. has announced that the GARDEN BIRD BOOK will be published by Macmillans in September, 1982. The book utilises much of the information collected under the Garden Bird Feeding Survey. The 224 pages are illustrated by 8 pages of full colour and 55 black and white photographs and 100 line drawings. As corporate members of the B.T.O., club members can obtain the book at a pre-publication price of £6.50. Anyone who is interested can obtain the special order form from Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gdns, Whitley Bay (Tel 520511). Offer closes 30th September, 1982.

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust - A force for Conservation in our County

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust is the County's largest voluntary organisation involved in every aspect of wildlife conservation. The Trust covers Northumberland and Tyne & Wear north of the River Tyne, and is one of 44 Trusts which together cover the whole of the U.K. Northumberland is a large area with a striking environmental contrast between the industrial and heavily populated South East and the greater part of Northumberland which is predominantly rural and agricultural and which contains a richness and variety of habitat and wildlife scarcely matched elsewhere in England.

There are extensive moorlands and wetlands - the peat bogs known as the Border Mires - the rivers and river valleys - the coast with cliffs, sand-dunes, salt marshes, estuaries and off-shore islands. Conservation problems are many and varied from safeguarding habitats to providing education and interpretation facilities for visitors for visitors where appropriate.

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust was formed in 1971 after 9 years of a joint Northumberland/Durham Trust. The present membership is 4,800 and the Trust has 42 reserves covering 4,500 acres, including Holywell Pond, Grindon Lough, Big Waters, Holystone Junipers and Cocklawburn Dunes. A large proportion of the Trust's income comes from membership subscription which is at present £4 per year. On joining members receive a copy of our reserves handbook, providing details of access to all of the reserves. They also receive our magazine "Roebuck" and the national magazine "Natural World", three times a year and can join in local groups. There is also available to members a new National Reserves Handbook, listing 350 nature Reserves throughout the country which may be visited. Only the wildlife Trust can offer you these benefits, so why not join today and help wildlife in our county?

Application for Membership.

To The Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE2 4PT.

I wish to become:

Ordinary Member (£4 p.a.), Junior Member (under 21, £2 p.a.)

Family Membership (£6 p.a. includes Husband/Wife and includes children under 16). Please list names of all family members.

Name:

Address:

Date:

Please send me a key for the hide at Holywell ☐ Big Waters ☐ cost £1 each

I enclose cheque/P.O. to the value of £.....

If you would like to pay by bankers order or by Deed of Covenant contact H.Q. at the Hancock Museum, phone Newcastle 320038.



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne & Wear. Tel: North Shields 75928

AUGUST, 1982

SUMMARY

Temperatures and rainfall were about average for the time of year. The 7th being both the hottest and the wettest day of the month. Winds were generally light during the first fortnight but were stronger and predominantly westerly during the second half of the month.

The lack of easterlies precluded any 'falls' of migrants on the coast and the only scarcer passerines recorded were Barred Warbler, Reed Warbler, Red-backed Shrike and an unidentified 'Hippolais' warbler.

Wader passage proved quite interesting however and included Black-tailed Godwits; Little Ringed Plovers; Curlew, Wood and Green Sandpipers; Whimbrel and Little Stint.

Seabird passage was noted on several dates and an Osprey was seen at Seaton Sluice.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver

A total of six noted off Seaton Sluice during the month. Two were in Druridge Bay on the 7th (ES/WTC) and Off Holy Island on the 29th (JDL).

Little Grebe

Family parties noted at Capheaton (three) and at Corbridge (two). (RW/MR). Ten were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 15th (LGM/JB). Up to five noted at Cresswell and one-three at five other usual localities.

Great Crested Grebe

A maximum of five adults and five immatures noted at Holywell on the 5th (AMB). Up to three were in the Tyne estuary during the last week (DMT etal). Singles at Cresswell, Seaton Burn, Swallow Pond and Whittle Dene.

Slavonian Grebe

A single bird noted at Druridge Bay on the 7th (ES/WTL).

Black-necked Grebe

One was on Cresswell Pond 27th-30th (LGM/JB etal). Six young and four adults were noted at the breeding water during the month.

Fulmar

15 young were noted on Tynemouth cliffs during the month (DMT). Heavy passage of about 380/hour N. noted off Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Sooty Shearwater

Singles N noted off Seaton Sluice on 1st, 30th and 31st (SSWT).

Manx Shearwater

Passage heaviest off Seaton Sluice on the 1st when 69N 36S, a further 61 being noted there during the rest of the month. 35N off Hauxley on the 15th (HRS).

Gannet

Passage N noted on several dates with largest counts from Seaton Sluice where a monthly total of 1241N noted including 358N on the 1st. A first year bird flew low over Westerhope on the 31st (BG).

Cormorant

25 were noted off Hauxley on the 22nd (HRS) when 16 around St. Marys Island (JDM).

Heron

Many records from coastal localities of one-four. Larger concentrations included 10-15 at Lindisfarne NNR, Alnmouth, Warkworth, Hauxley, Druridge and Derwent Reservoir.

Mute Swan

The largest count from Berwick was of 265 on the 24th (PRW). A pair with six young at Capheaton and three adults with five juveniles at Holywell.

Snow Goose

Four adults were seen with Canada Geese at Hallington on the 25th (it is also reported that four males and a female had been given to Colonel Wood at Sweethope). (RW). A very interesting report was of four flying in company with 20 other geese thought to have been Brent! The skein was seen on the 27th, offshore at Druridge before flying inland as far as the pool which they circled before flying away S. (WAK/KIB).

Canada Goose

Coastal passage noted during the month with three at Cresswell on the 14th, six at St. Marys on the 17th. On the 27th 25S off Cresswell and two others on the pond, 26 flew S off Seaton Sluice the following day. (KIB/JH, LGM etal). Inland one was at Blaydon Pond on the 12th (ERM) and on the 25th eight at Capheaton and 91 at Hallington (RW).

Shelduck

A pair with six young were at Hauxley 1st-7th (HRS). 4 flew W over Wylam on the 28th (BG), and at Seaton Sluice 2S on the 29th and five N on the 31st (SSWT).

Wigeon

Light passage noted on several dates during the month at Seaton Sluice where a monthly total of 47N and 6S recorded. Odd birds were noted at coastal localities during the early part of the month. On the 29th over 250 were at Lindisfarne NNR (JDL) and 30N off Hauxley (HRS). The following day a total of 120N off Newton (BG) and 88N off Hauxley (HRS). 12 were inland at Broomlee on the 15th (LGM/JB).

Gadwall

Five were at Holy Island lough on the 22nd (JDL), one at Hauxley on the 28th (HRS) and two at Newton Pool on the 30th (BG).

Teal

Coastal passage was light until late in the month. Seaton Sluice recorded a total of 237N and 6S including 115N on the 29th and 88N on the 30th. A total of 536 were noted off Hauxley 26th-30th including 180 on the 26th. 100 had gathered at Druridge by the 30th, 60 were at Derwent reservoir on the 26th (DBR) and 37 at Grindon on the 15th (LGM). Up to 20 were also noted at Backworth, Gosforth Park and Newton Pool.

Mallard

Numbers increased at Derwent reservoir from 100 on the 15th to 250 by the 30th (DBR). 100 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 15th (LGM/JB) and 120 on the R Tyne at Corbridge on the 28th (MR). 20-40 also noted at Wallsend Swallow, Wooperton and Riding Mill.

Pintail

Four at Derwent reservoir on the 30th (DBR).

Shoveler

15 were on Blaydon Ponds on the 12th (ERM). A maximum of six at Druridge on the 30th. One-four at eight other localities.

Pochard

11 at Holywell on the 5th and 10 on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 15th. One-five at Derwent reservoir, Cresswell, Druridge and Holywell Ponds.

Tufted Duck

Largest concentrations were of 110 at Whittle Dene on the 24th, 69 on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 15th and 60 at Holywell on the 26th. A total of 12N off Seaton Sluice during the month. Broods noted at Capheaton, Whittle Dene and Marden Park.

Eider

Up to 700 off Stag Rocks and 100 in the Coquet estuary during the month.

Common Scoter

Passage noted on nine dates off Seaton Sluice, a total of 279N and 48S included 122N and 46S on the 1st. 25-30 were in Druridge Bay on the 7th (ES/WTL).

Goldeneye

The only record was of one female on Cresswell Pond on the 7th (JRT).

Red-breasted Merganser

Singles N at Seaton Sluice on the 1st and 25th and at Hauxley on the 7th and 27th. Four off Holy Island on the 22nd (JDL). At Bamburgh three N on the 20th and a single flock of 15N there on the 21st (DBG).

Goosander

Up to 10 at Stocksfield and four at Ovingham included a moulting drake on the 31st (BNR). Three were at Threestoneburn on the 14th (AMB).

Sparrowhawk

One-four noted at fifteen scattered localities.

Osprey

A bird thought to be a juvenile noted at Seaton Sluice on the 20th (JH).

Kestrel

One-four noted at 22 localities.

Merlin

Singles noted during the month at Hauxley, Bamburgh, Hartley and Longframlington.

Peregrine

Singles were noted on the coast 8th-25th at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Warkworth, Longhoughton Steel and St. Marys. One was also seen soaring around multi-storey flats at Jesmond Vale on the 3rd (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

Two were noted at Calder during the month (ERM/GC).

Moorhen

Up to 11 noted at Wallsend Swallow by the end of the month (ADM et al). Young noted at East Cramlington Pond, Threestoneburn and Backworth.

Coot

The largest concentration noted was of 480 at Seaton Burn on the 29th (BG). Maxima elsewhere of 200 at Holywell, 93 at Broomlee, 85 at Swallow Pond and 72 at Cresswell.

Oystercatcher

Maxima of 110 at St. Marys on the 25th, 96 at Hauxley on the 1st, 60 at Blyth on the 12th and 30 at Stag Rocks on the 29th.

Little Ringed Plover

A maximum of four noted at Backworth on the 8th included one immature (AMB etal). Singles also noted at Hauxley on the 10th (HRS) and at Whittle Dene on the 31st (MR).

Ringed Plover

The largest concentration was of 85 at the high tide roost at Long Nanny on the 22nd (LGM/JB). A maximum of 50 were noted at Hauxley on the 14th (HRS). About 30 were noted during the month at Amble, Blyth and Holy Island. 15-20 were regularly noted at St. Marys, Cresswell and Backworth. An unusual record was of one in a garden at a housing estate at Wellfield, Whitley Bay on the 3rd (PRW). A maximum of 11 noted at Derwent reservoir on the 17th.

Golden Plover

Numbers increased steadily in the Hauxley area to a maximum of 850 by the 22nd (HRS). Maxima of 2000 at Lindisfarne NWR on the 2nd (JDL), 300 at Longhoughton Steel on the 22nd (LGM), and 200 at Backworth on the 4th (JDM) and at St. Marys on the 30th (KWR).

Grey Plover

Two at Holy Island causeway on the 8th increased to five on the 22nd (JDL). One-two at Cresswell, Hauxley, Boulmer, Budle Bay and St. Marys 13th-28th.

Lapwing

The largest concentration noted was of 1200 at Derwent reservoir on the 6th (DBR). Up to 400 at Hauxley throughout the month, 250 at Lindisfarne and 200 at St. Marys and Backworth. 200 arrived off the sea at Bamburgh on the 12th (DGB).

Knot

Small numbers were noted at usual coastal localities from the 10th on, although seven were at Hauxley on the 2nd (HRS). 12 were at St. Marys by the 22nd and flocks of 30 and 14 flew S past Stag Rocks on the 31st.

Sanderling

The only concentration was at Hauxley where 25 on the 14th and 20 on the 22nd (HRS). One-five were noted at St. Marys 12th-22nd (DMT etal). Two were on Holy Island on the 8th (JDL) and three at Long Nanny on the 22nd (LGM/JB).

Little Stint

Four were at Hauxley on the 1st and singles there on the 14th and 28th (HRS). Two were at Cresswell on the 22nd (PWD etal) and one there on the 26th (ETN/JRN). Singles were also at Newton Pool on the 1st (MCAC) and at Backworth on the 15th (KR) where three the following day (HRS/MR).

Curlew Sandpiper

Two were at Hauxley 25th-29th (HRS/BNR) and six at Cresswell on the 27th (LGM/JB).

Purple Sandpiper

Five at Seaton Sluice on the 10th increased to seven by the 26th (KWR/APM) when up to four at St. Marys. Four were at Boulmer on the 13th (ETN/JRN).

Dunlin

Numbers fluctuated at Hauxley where a maximum of 100 on the 14th (HRS etal). A maximum of 100 noted at Budle Bay on the 28th (BRS) and 83 at St. Marys by the 22nd (JDM). 50 were at Long Nanny on the 3rd (MCAC). Inland, one was at Grindon on the 15th and up to four at Derwent reservoir 1st-6th (DBR) while numbers fluctuated at Backworth to a maximum of 16 on the 30th (KWR etal).

Ruff

Recorded on most dates at Backworth in fluctuating numbers with a maximum of 21 present on the 16th (AJR/KWR et al). A similar pattern of records at Hauxley with four - 26 present during the month peaking on the 22nd (HRS). A maximum of 16 were at Bamburgh on the 22nd (DGB et al) and one-seven noted at Holy Island, St. Marys, Long Nanny, Newton Pool and North Shields.

Jack Snipe

Two at Hauxley on the 14th (HRS) were the only ones noted.

Snipe

Numbers fluctuated at Backworth where a maximum of 28 noted on the 7th (KWR et al). Up to 20 were present at Hauxley during the month (HRS) and 12 at Cresswell (JRT et al). Two-five also noted at Holy Island, Derwent reservoir, Holywell, Newton and Swallow Pond.

Black-tailed Godwit

One-five noted on several dates 6th-30th at Hauxley (HRS et al). Four were at Budle Bay on the 12th (DGB) and singles at Newton Pool 18th, 22nd and 30th (MCAC et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A maximum noted at Lindisfarne NNR on the 4th when 770 present (JDL). At Seaton Sluice singles N on five dates 3rd-30th and eight S on the 15th (SSWT). Singles also noted at St. Marys and Hauxley.

Whimbrel

Passage was particularly obvious at Hauxley where fluctuating numbers noted on nine dates with a peak of over 30 present on the 14th (HRS et al). Smaller numbers were noted at other coastal localities including 15 at St. Marys on the 17th and 13 at Seaton Sluice on the 30th. The only inland records were of singles flying over Threestoneburn on the 2nd (ERM) and over Newcastle on the 21st (PWD).

Curlew

A maximum of about 400 were noted at Lindisfarne NNR on the 2nd (JDL). A total of 42 were noted off Seaton Sluice during the month and a maximum of 50 were at Hauxley on the 8th. 15-30 frequently noted at St. Marys.

Spotted Redshank

One-seven recorded on eight dates 8th-27th at Hauxley. Singles were noted on several dates at Backworth, Gosforth Park and Wallsend Swallow. Three N at Amble on the 22nd, two at Budle Bay and one at Newton Pool throughout the month.

Redshank

Up to 870 noted at Fenham and 300 in Budle Bay. 103 in Blyth estuary on the 3rd (HG). 20-40 regularly noted at Hauxley, St. Marys and Backworth.

Greenshank

Passage noted at several localities throughout the month. At Hauxley numbers fluctuated between five and 12. 13 were at Fenham on the 4th. Three-six were recorded at Backworth, Warkworth and Alnmouth. Two were also noted at Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Park and Newton Pool.

Green Sandpiper

Passage continued throughout the month. Up to three were regularly recorded at Backworth and Hauxley and a maximum of seven were at Gosforth Park 16th-17th. Two were noted at Derwent reservoir on the 3rd and 6th and at Bamburgh on the 13th. Singles were recorded at Newton, Brenkley, Seaton Burn, Warkworth and Arcot Hall.

Wood Sandpiper

An unusually large gathering of nine was at Grindon on the 15th (LGM/JB). One-two recorded throughout the month at Backworth, Hauxley, Newton and Wallsend Swallow.

Common Sandpiper

The largest concentration was of 16 at Derwent reservoir on the 5th (DBR). Five - six were frequently recorded at Backworth, Hauxley, Alnmouth and Newton Pool. Odd birds were also noted at several other localities at or near to the coast.

Turnstone

40-50 were present throughout the second half of the month at Hauxley. A maximum of 70 on the 19th were noted at St. Marys (DMT etal). One was well inland at Derwent reservoir on the 1st (DBR).

Pomarine Skua

One probably of this species flew N at Seaton Sluice on the 26th (ADM). A single immature N off Hauxley on the 29th (HRS) when one S off Stag Rocks (KDS).

Artic Skua

Light passage both N. and S. recorded on 11 dates during the month at Seaton Sluice, a total of 170 being noted. Smaller numbers were recorded at other localities on these dates.

Great Skua

Most were recorded from Seaton Sluice where a monthly total of 37N and 3S included 21N on the 1st. Five N off Hauxley on the 15th and 29th, three off Druridge on the 7th and one off Holy Island on the 29th.

Little Gull

Seaton Sluice recorded two N on the 1st, one N on the 3rd and two N, one S on the 29th (SSWT). Two were at Hauxley on the 1st (HRS) and singles between the 4th and 11th at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pool, Backworth and Swallow ponds. One juvenile was at the fish quay on the 21st (DMT).

Common Gull

Over 4000 were gathered at Derwent reservoir on the 26th (DBR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Five were at Derwent reservoir on the 3rd where eight on the 17th.

Herring Gull

A maximum of 550 present at fish quay during the month, three showed characteristics of Scandinavian birds. (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

An immature was noted at North Shields on several dates 2nd-21st (DMT), another flew S past Bamburgh on the 14th (DGB).

Great Black-backed Gull

76 at North Shields on the 30th (DMT).

Kittiwake

600-700 noted roosting on St. Mary's Island on the 22nd. (JDM). A leucistic bird, probably a juvenile was in Amble harbour on the 7th and 22nd (KDS/LGM etal).

Sandwich Tern

About 70 were gathered in Blyth estuary on the 7th (LJM). Steady S passage was noted off St. Marys and Seaton Sluice on 26th, 27th and 28th (ADM).

Roseate Tern

A single was at St. Marys on 19th and 20th (JH). Two off Hauxley on the 10th and one there on the 30th (HRS).

Common Tern

Small numbers noted offshore, and five W over Hexham on the 23rd (MR).

Little Tern

Up to five noted at Newton during the first fortnight. An adult was seen feeding two young on Amble beach on the 5th. One was off Hauxley on the 22nd and two S on the 28th (HRS/BNR).

Guillemot

No gatherings or passage noted, singles only being noted in the Tyne estuary and off Seaton Sluice.

Razorbill

Three off Seaton Sluice on the 30th (KWR).

Stock Dove

Only reports were of two at Backworth and six at Wylom.

Collared Dove

About 30 at Brunton Lane on the 15th and a maximum of 20 at Whitley Bay cemetery on the 26th (ADM).

Cuckoo

Singles noted at Holy Island on the 10th, Tynemouth on the 15th, Threestoneburn on the 14th and Bamburgh on the 28th.

Barn Owl

A juvenile was trapped at Bamburgh on the 14th (BRS). One noted hunting near Cramlington on the 25th (CB).

Little Owl

A pair raised at least two young at North Broomhill (KDS), and one found dead on the road at Lesbury on the 8th (MSH).

Tawny Owl

Reported only from Denton, Stocksfield and a garden at High Heaton.

Short-eared Owl

At least two were in the Hauxley/Togston area throughout the month (HRS/NWR et al). Singles noted at Cramlington on the 7th (LJM) and Budle Bay on the 12th (DGB).

Swift

Common until mid month, becoming scarcer thereafter. Gatherings after mid month included up to 100 on several dates up to the 25th at Wallsend Swallow, where 45 on the 31st, 60N at Hauxley on the 24th, 15S at Seaton Sluice on the 29th and 12 at Holywell on the 31st. A pair nesting at Southlanes Hexham appeared to be feeding young up till the 29th (WB).

Kingfisher

An immature was a surprise catch at Bamburgh on the 8th (BRS).

Green Woodpecker

Only report was from Riding Mill (BNR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Perhaps a migrant was at Hauxley on the 13th. Only other report was from Close House.

Sand Martin

Few noted during the month. Five were at Cresswell on the 21st (AMB), and 60 at Riding Mill on the 29th (BNR).

Swallow

Passage S noted at Hauxley on the 7th and 14th. The largest gathering noted was of 150 at Cresswell on the 30th (AMB).

House Martin

There were several reports of birds still feeding young in the nest at the end of the month. A marked S movement was apparent at Hauxley on the 14th. On the 30th 50 were at Tynemouth and 160 at Stocksfield.

Tree Pipit

Two at Backworth on the 13th (ERM) and one at Holy Island on the 19th (DGB) were the only reports.

Meadow Pipit

A flock of over 50 were at Bewick Moor on the 4th (NWR) and 60 were at Hauxley on the 27th (HRS).

Yellow Wagtail

Well reported in small groups from localities at or near to the coast throughout the month. Over 30 arrived from the SE at St. Marys on the 14th (CB/ME). A maximum of 20 were noted at Backworth on the 16th. Singles were noted moving S along the coast between Cresswell and Newton throughout the day on the 22nd (LGM/JB). 17 were at St. Marys on the 24th (KDS). Three inland at Derwent reservoir on the 26th (DBR).

Grey Wagtail

Noted during the month at Jesmond Vale, Devil's Water, Gosforth Park, Felton and one on the coast at Bamburgh 28th-30th.

Pied Wagtail

35 on Stocksfield cricket pitch on the 1st (BNR). Up to 20 at Hauxley and 25 at the usual Bamburgh roost by the 28th.

White Wagtail

Singles noted at Backworth on the 19th and 26th (AMB/ADM).

Wren

Three family parties noted in Jesmond Dene.

Dunnock

Only sign of passage was at Hauxley where 10 on the 7th and eight on the 23rd (HRS).

Redstart

One noted at Backworth 1st-7th (DMT et al). Four at Molesden on the 8th (WAK) and one in a garden at Claremont Rd., Newcastle on the 26th.

Whinchat

Singles and family parties noted mainly at coastal localities during the month. Maxima of 14 at Wallsend Swallow, 12 at Hauxley and 10 at Backworth all on the 22nd.

Wheatear

One-eight noted at coastal localities between Tyne and Tweed throughout the month.

Ring Ousel

One inland at Chattlehope Burn on the 10th (MPF). One at Hauxley on 29th and 30th (HRS).

Song Thrush

10-12 in the crooked lannen on Holy Island on the 15th (JDL) were presumably migrants.

Mistle Thrush

A maximum of 17 noted feeding on Rowan at Stocksfield on the 30th. 12 were at Wallsend Swallow on the 4th, and several other smaller parties noted elsewhere.

Grasshopper Warbler

One was heard reeling at Hauxley on 7th and 8th (HRS/KR/PWD). One at Backworth on the 23rd (JDM) and two at Seaton Burn on the 29th (BG).

Sedge Warbler

Seemingly scarcer than usual at this time of year. Maxima of 15 at Hauxley on the 15th and 12 at Bamburgh on the 28th, only odd birds being noted elsewhere.

Reed Warbler

One specifically identified as Reed at St. Marys on the 8th, and a second unstreaked 'acrocephulus' noted at Hartley on the same date (CB/ME).

'Hippolais' Warbler

One not seen well enough for specific identification at Bamburgh on the 28th (BRS).

Barred Warbler

A single bird was at Hauxley on the 29th (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

Singles noted at Swallow Pond on the 7th (WAK), at Hartley (CB) and Holy Island (JDL) on the 8th, at Bamburgh on the 13th (DGB) and at Hauxley on the 28th (HRS).

Whitethroat

Up to three at Bamburgh and Hauxley during the month. One-two also noted at St. Marys, Longhorsley, Holywell, Swallow Pond and Shankhouse.

Garden Warbler

One inland at Harthope Burn on the 9th (ADM). One-two at Hauxley, Bamburgh and Newton 27th-30th.

Blackcap

One was trapped at Threestoneburn on the 5th (ERM). Three were singing at each of Corbridge and Capheaton on the 7th and 8th respectively. (AJR). Singles were at Close House and Bamburgh on the 15th, two present at the latter locality 28th-30th.

Wood Warbler

One (possibly two) was near Wallsend Swallow on the 4th (ES/DRS).

Willow Warbler

From the second week several were noted moving through suburban gardens. First small influx noted on the coast on the 7th when 12 trapped at Hauxley and about six at Bamburgh, small numbers were present at these and other localities on several dates thereafter.

Goldcrest

The only records concerned one at Newton on the 11th (MCAC) and two at Bamburgh 28th-31st (BRS).

Spotted Flycatcher

Family parties were noted during the second week at Jesmond Dene, Molesden, Dipton and Carter Bar singles being noted at other inland localities. Singles were at Priors Park on the 1st, 6th and 15th. One was at Bamburgh on 7th-8th and four there on the 14th. Two were at Hauxley on the 30th.

Pied Flycatcher

The only record was of one on Holy Island on the 29th (JH).

Nuthatch

One-two seen most days at Matfen, two juveniles with one adult present on the 4th (RW). Noted also at Riding Mill and Hareshaw Dene, Bellingham.

Treecreeper

Noted at Jesmond Dene, Arcot, Backworth, Holywell Dene and Bamburgh.

Red-backed Shrike

One noted at Hauxley on the 4th (JEF/WAK) was presumably the bird trapped there on the 7th (HRS).

Hooded Crow

One was noted on Cheviot on the 9th (ADM).

Raven

One in the Cheviots on the 9th (ADM).

House Sparrow

A large flock of 400+ noted feeding on grain at Seaton Delaval 16th-31st (MLL)

Tree Sparrow

The leucistic bird was seen twice during the month at Hauxley.

Goldfinch

Well reported during the month. A maximum of about 30 were at Bamburgh on the 7th, where 19 ringed during the month (BRS). Flocks of about 30 were at Matfen on the 28th (RW) and on Morpeth Common on the 29th (AH). 20 were at Shildon on the 24th (HRS) and several small flocks of up to 10 noted mainly in the S.E. of the county.

Siskin

Ten at Craggside, two at Catcleugh and one at Rothley West Shield during the month (MPF/ERM)

Linnet

Flocks of up to 120 were noted during the last week at Whittle Dene and Stocksfield (MR/BNR). Up to 50 were noted at Backworth.

Redpoll

Two-six noted at West Denton, Swallow Pond, Whittingham, Backworth and Seaton Sluice.

Bullfinch

A family party at Threestoneburn on the 5th (ERM) and two-three at Holywell Dene on the 14th (JRT).

Hawfinch

Family parties of four-five noted at Eastburn, Hexham on the 13th and 16th and at Close House on the 28th (KD/BG).

Yellowhammer

A pair were noted feeding recently hatched young in the nest on the 8th at Bamburgh (BRS).

Corn Bunting

One at Cresswell was the only record.

List of Contributors

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September records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth NE61 2AN in Vooos order and by 8th October at the latest please. Please send S.A.E. for further supplies of record cards.

Erik Meek Lecture - "Orkney's Birds - The Role of the RSPB"

This important lecture will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 8th October, 1982 at the Physics Building in the Newcastle University. Tickets are now available, price £1.50 (children and OAPs 75p). Send SAE to Mrs. J.P. Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE25 8JL.

Tickets will be in great demand since Eric is such a popular speaker, so an early application is advisable.

Wader Counts

The only stretches of coastline without a volunteer 'counter' are Budle Pt - Seahouses and Cresswell - Newbiggin. The former stretch is a particularly good wader area. Anybody interested contact Alan Heavisides as soon as possible please
Next count dates - October 17th, November 14th, 1982.

1982/83 Indoor Meetings Programme

The programme for the season has now been completed with the club once again hoping to cater for most tastes and provide plenty of entertainment.

The programme up to December was detailed in the May bulletin but is given here again briefly for the benefit of anyone who may have missed the earlier publication.

Thursday, October 14th. AGM and presentation by Mike Hodgson on warblers and their identification problems.

Thursday, November 11th. Nature Conservation in Northumberland, presentation by Ian Bainbridge.

Thursday, December 9th. Brian Little on the Himalayas

Thursday, January 13th. Wildlife of the Everglades by Ian Armstrong. Ian, regional officer of the RSPB, was recently in this superb area and will be telling us about things like Red-shouldered hawks, Boat-tailed Grackles, the many marshland species and, of course, alligators.

Thursday, February 10th. Back home again for a presentation on Gull Research in the North East by members of the Durham University Zoology Department. The department has been carrying out intensive work on gull populations and has built up a wealth of data which will be used to support this talk.

Thursday, March 10th. Conservation in Tanzania by David Woodfall. David, National Trust warden at Newton, was recently in East Africa looking at the conservation problems there - a very far cry from looking after his dunes and coastline here in Northumberland. He has brought back many excellent slides and lots of stories.

Thursday, April 14th. The April meeting is traditionally our members night so I will be on the look-out for short contributions on any aspect of birding either at home or abroad. Anyone who can give a short talk, with or without slides, please contact me.

IAN KERR.

Heronry study 1982

The progress of two heronrys near Morpeth was monitored throughout the season during 1982.

Heronry A

First visited on 13th February when a nest was found to contain one egg, this later proving to be the earliest laying at either site. Progress was checked until the last two nests containing young were found on 12th July. In total 18 nests were found containing 58 young, an average brood size of 3.2. Severe winds and heavy rain at the beginning of May caused the death of at least nine young which were found dead either in or below nests. In addition one nest with eggs was blown out of the tree.

Heronry B

First checked on 27th March when two nests were located. The last three nests containing young were found on 10th July. In total 17 nests containing 57 young were located, an average brood size of 3.3. 16 dead young were found following the bad weather during early May.

All nests were in either Sitka Spruce or Scots Pine and located at or near the tree crown between 55' - 80' from the ground. One tree contained two nests with young at the same time, and another tree was used by a late pair, young having fledged from a lower nest earlier on. A total of 98 young were ringed. Four unhatched eggs were collected and will be analysed for pesticide content.

It would seem from these results that Herons survived the severe winter in reasonable numbers and that their breeding condition was not impaired significantly.

Northumbria Ringing Group

Sparrowhawk Study Area - South Central Northumberland

A total of 38 sites were checked and 26 nests found. Six other sites showed early signs of occupation but nests were not thought to have been built; if any were they failed at an early stage. Six of the nests found never contained eggs. The size and success rate of broods and clutches is outlined in the table below.

Clutch/Brood size	6	5	4	3	2	1
Number of clutches	1	4	7	6	1	1
Number of broods ringed		2	3	3	4	2

i.e. 75 eggs in 20 nests averaging 3.75/nest containing eggs

i.e. 41 ringed from 14 nests averaging 2.92/nest rearing young to ringing age

One nest was destroyed containing at least three young when the tree was felled. One nest had a full clutch as early as 11th May but failed at the small young stage probably due to a period of heavy rain at the hatching time. Four nests failed at the egg stage. In addition one nest in which only one young was ringed is known to have contained three small young earlier.

A return to a more normal year after last years very poor results, despite the severe winter certainly affecting the number of prey species available and presumably the birds themselves. A total of 167 kills were found, 28 species were identified, varying in size from Goldcrest to Carrion Crow.

A. Heavisides.

Survey of breeding waders of wet meadowlands 1982

Northumberland may boast extensive uplands and marginal farmland supporting during the breeding season an impressive variety and number of the commoner waders. Few other counties are so lucky and in many instances nesting waders are either confined to lowland wet pastures or depend heavily on such features for a suitable breeding habitat. Of all environments this is one of those most at risk from developments of one kind or another but especially from agricultural drainage schemes.

To record the extent of the remaining wet meadowlands and identify those of greatest ornithological importance a national survey was conducted during the spring and summer. Over sixty separate sites were visited in Northumberland and northern Tyne and Wear. At one end of the scale were small damp patches in single fields, but at the other, considerable stretches were surveyed of valley bottoms along the rivers North Tyne, Rede, Coquet and Breamish.

The local results of the survey were generally disappointing. Possibly the numbers of some species had been depleted as a consequence of the very severe winter weather, but a prolonged spring drought resulted in all normally damp or wet situations dramatically shrinking in size or even disappearing altogether. Of the potentially interesting sites which had been previously identified over the winter very few attracted many nesting waders. There may even be grounds for suspecting some species deferred breeding attempts until the weather had broken.

The ponded areas around Arcot and Brenkley were quite productive despite the dry conditions and Lapwing, Snipe, Redshank, Curlew and Oystercatcher were all recorded there. Along the river North Tyne 35 pairs of Oystercatchers and 27 pairs of Curlews were in territory in the riverside fields between Acomb and Lee Hall, near Bellingham. In the relatively short stretch of the river Coquet from Holystone to Dues Hill were found 12 pairs of Oystercatchers, 5 pairs of Redshanks and up to 5 pairs of Ringed Plovers, but some of these birds may have been attracted more by the availability of shingle beds than wet meadowland; a further 6 pairs of Oystercatchers were on a study area upstream at Alwinton. Somewhat unexpectedly 2-3 pairs of the latter species occurred near Rayburn Lake, Netherwitton illustrating this species continuing exploitation of farmland for nesting purposes. Lapwings were by far the commonest species encountered but many nested in nearby arable fields, leading their young to moister areas after hatching.

The number of volunteers who took part in the project far exceeded expectations, and despite the generally low numbers of birds present few failed to submit returns. Certainly without their enthusiasm cover would not have been so comprehensive.

Geoff Macfarlane
7 Wildshaw Close
Cramlington
Northumberland NE23 6LH

EASTER 1983 NORTH AFRICA EXPEDITION

Eric Bird is currently organising an oasis tour for local birdwatchers to get to grips with Saharan species and to see European migrants on their route back from African wintering grounds.

The trip through Thompson Holidays takes in some of the best areas for birds (and also flowers and mammals). The first two or three days will be spent at Skanes, between Monastir and Sousse, to visit inland lagoons for Flamingo, Spoonbill, the various egrets and herons and migrant waders. The area also holds Palm Doves, Spotless Starlings, many warblers, migrant raptors and storks etc. A visit to Tunis is also scheduled before the party moves on to Kairouan for the real desert species including the various desert larks, wheatears and the chance of finding that real little gem, Moussier's Redstart. Migrant swallows and martins should also be prominent. Next stop will be Nefta, the famous oasis towards Algerian border which provides migrants with their first supply of water after crossing the Sahara. The oasis is used by the desert tribes complete with the camels so there should be plenty of opportunities for the photographers.

Eric reckons that what is missed travelling to Nefta should be spotted on the return journey to the coast. The cost of the holiday is around £247 and anyone interested in taking part can contact Eric at Morpeth 512432 for fuller details or Wansbeck Travel, Station Road, Ashington (tel Ashington 812261). The holiday has the added advantage of being direct from Newcastle Airport.

Membership Fees: Subscriptions are now due for the year October, 1982 to September, '83. When members pay their annual subscriptions we often receive cheques from persons with initials different from the member concerned: In such cases please advise us of the members initials.

Herewith my subscription to TBC Oct. 82 to Sept. 83

Name.....	Family Sub.	£7.00
Address.....	Ordinary Sub	£6.00
.....	Junior Sub.	£4.00
	(18 years or under)	
	Tick as appropriate	

To: Hon. Treasurer
J.C. Day Esq. 5 Sturdee Gardens, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 3QU.

!!! NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS!!!



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne & Wear. Tel: North Shields 75928

SEPTEMBER, 1982

SUMMARY

The wind freshened from the NE on the 5th with heavy rain at times, after a period of calm the following day it freshened again from the S.E. Several of the commoner migrants were noted during the afternoon of the 5th, and in particular Garden Warblers and Pied Flycatchers were present on the coast in reasonable numbers the following day. Among the less usual species recorded were Wryneck, Red-backed Shrike, Barred Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and single Scarlet Rosefinch and Greenish Warbler. This proved to be the only 'fall' of migrants recorded during the month. The weather from the 7th on was generally mild, winds being predominantly light and from the S-W quarter. Large quantities of rotting seaweed on Hauxley beach attracted many Meadow Pipits and waders including most unexpectedly a Buff-breasted Sandpiper which was found on the 18th and remained until at least the 3rd of October. Wader passage was interesting throughout the month including good numbers of Ruff and Curlew Sandpiper.

Six Black Terns were noted offshore but less usually one first noted at Killingworth Lake on the 23rd remained there until at least 2nd October. Other interesting species included Black-necked Grebe, Hobby and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. The first few Brambling, Redwing and Fieldfare arrived during the month.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver sp

Passage noted throughout the month. Seaton Sluice recorded a total of 38N and 17S including 18N on the 12th. As many as 34 were in Druridge Bay on the 30th (ME). A total of 125 in 45 minutes off Dunstanburgh on the 29th (IK). Many of the reported birds were still in summer plumage.

Black-throated Diver

Singles noted at Hauxley on the 4th (HRS) at Holy Island 6th-10th (GEM) and at Newton on the 18th (NWR).

Little Grebe

12 at Bothal on the 5th and nine on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 12th (LGM) were the largest concentrations noted. Up to eight were noted between Cresswell and Druridge ponds. Three-six were at Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn and Swallow Pond.

Great Crested Grebe

Coastal records included three at Birling Carrs on the 12th (ETN/JRN), four N at Seaton Sluice on the 4th (SSWT) and singles at North Shields on the 1st, Cresswell on the 6th and Hauxley on the 10th and 17th. Singles were also on inland waters at Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene and Sweethope Lough.

Red-necked Grebe

One was noted at Cresswell on the 7th and 9th (CB/ES).

Slavonian Grebe

A single bird at Holy Island on the 9th was the only record (GEM).

Black-necked Grebe

The single bird remained at Cresswell Pond until at least the 12th (CB/JH etal).

Sooty Shearwater

A total of 18N noted off Seaton Sluice and St. Marys 4th-6th. Two S off Dunstanburgh on the 29th (IK).

Manx Shearwater

All records were during the period 1st-12th with Seaton Sluice recording a total of 155N, 3S. Smaller numbers were noted elsewhere.

Gannet

N passage was most apparent 1st-12th during which period Seaton Sluice recorded 1583 including 825 on the 5th when passage was very heavy off Hauxley.

Cormorant

Up to 200 were noted roosting off Holy Island during the month (GEM etal).

Heron

Well reported during the month especially from localities on or near to the coast. Maxima of 17 noted at the Warkworth roost on the 22nd (WAK) and 12 at Hauxley on the 7th where four were seen arriving off the sea on the 18th (HRS). Up to eight were at Lindisfarne and Boulmer.

Mute Swan

A maximum of 213 noted at Berwick on the 1st (JDL) Four-seven at Druridge, Hartburn, Aln Estuary, Coquet estuary and Grindon during the month.

Whooper Swan

One was in a field near Sea Houses on the 12th (MLL).

Pink-footed Goose

Five NW over Hauxley on the 19th (HRS) was the only record.

Grey Lag Goose

600 grey geese S off Holy Island on the 15th were probably this species (JDL). 35-40 S at Berwick on the 29th (JDL).

Canada Goose

Two at Sweethope on the 26th was the only record.

Barnacle Goose

Six S off Hauxley on the 25th (KDS/JS).

Shelduck

Four N at Hauxley on the 5th, one-two in the Cresswell-Druridge area during the month and 25 in Holy Island harbour on the 10th (GEM) were the only reports.

Wigeon

Light coastal passage noted during the month being easily heaviest on the 5th when 446N off Seaton Sluice. Numbers steadily increased at Fenham from 60 on the 2nd to 4,000 by the 18th (BRS/JG etal). An increase also apparent at Druridge during the month to a maximum of 120 by the 16th (AMB etal). 100 were on Broomlee by the 12th (LGM) and much smaller numbers noted elsewhere.

Gadwall

Singles noted at Newton on the 5th (IK), Druridge Pool on the 10th (ATR) and Holywell Pond on the 26th (GSR).

Teal

Small numbers noted offshore on several dates with maxima of 230N off Seaton Sluice on the 5th and 150N off Hauxley on the 11th. Concentrations included up to 140 on Holywell on the 25th (JRT), 130 at Druridge Pool on the 10th, 200 at Derwent reservoir on the 29th and 57 at Colt Crag on the 25th.

Mallard

At least 415 were on the Northumbrian Loughs by the 12th (LGM/JB). A maximum of 279 noted at Holywell on the 25th (JRT). Much smaller numbers noted at other usual localities.

Pintail

One-four noted at Holywell during the month (SF etal). At least five at Fenham on the 15th (JDL) and singles at Cresswell on the 11th and Druridge on the 30th (BG/CB).

Shoveler

Eight at Druridge on the 5th (LGM/JB) was the largest concentration noted. Five noted at Grindon and Seaton Burn.

Pochard

Over 100 were at Seaton Burn on the 15th (AMB). 45 were at Broomlee on the 12th, 25 at Druridge on the 16th and 12 at each of Sweethope and Whittle Dene.

Tufted Duck

A maximum of 133 noted at Whittle Dene on the 2nd and 60 at Sweethope on the 26th (BWR). 43 on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 12th (LGM/JB) and up to 30 at Druridge during the month (AMB etal).

Scaup

On the 19th three were at Hauxley (DGB) and five at Cullernose (JG). One was in Druridge Bay on the 30th (ME).

Eider

Up to 8,000 were estimated to be in the Lindisfarne area during the first week (GEM).

Common Scoter

A total of 65N and 2S off Seaton Sluice 1st-5th. Up to 30 were noted off Holy Island during the first fortnight (GEM), and up to 45 off Hadston on the 25th (MH).

Velvet Scoter

Two S off Seaton Sluice on the 25th (JRT) was the only record.

Goldeneye

Three at Fenham on the 18th (JG) and in the Tweed estuary on the 20th (JDL). One at Druridge on the 16th (AMB).

Red-breasted Merganser

Up to 13 noted at Holy Island during the month (BNR/JDL etal).

Goosander

20 were concentrated on Derwent Reservoir on the 25th (DBR). One-six noted at several localities on the Tyne (JD/BNR), and at Hauxley three redheads on 4th and one on the 10th.

Hen Harrier

A ringtail was at Deadwater on the 1st (JMA) and another at St. Marys on the 5th (KIB).

Sparrowhawk

One-two at 25 localities, mainly coastal. One appeared to arrive off the sea at Holy Island on the 6th (GEM). Two trapped at Hauxley and one at Bamburgh during the month.

Buzzard.

One noted on Simonside on the 26th (HWR).

Kestrel

One-four noted at 20 localities. One was noted hovering over the sea at Hauxley on several dates !

Merlin

Singles noted on or near to the coast at New Hartley, South Newsham, St. Marys, Holywell, and Holy Island.

Hobby

A single bird noted over playing fields at Blyth on the 5th (MH).

Peregrine

Singles noted at Derwent reservoir on the 1st (DBR) and at Bamburgh on the 21st (DGB).

Blackgrouse

One male at Threestoneburn on the 18th (AMB) was the only record.

Partridge

12 at Horton was the largest covey reported.

Moorhen

One noted off North Shields on the 26th (DMT).

Coot

261 noted on Broomlee on the 12th (LGM/JB). 70-80 noted during the month at Cresswell and Swallow Ponds.

Oystercatcher

Up to 4,000 noted roosting at Black Law on the 9th (GEM). 223 counted between Seahouses and Beadnell on the 12th (MLL). 30-50 noted during the month near Alnmouth, Blyth, Boulmer, St. Marys, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Cresswell.

Little Ringed Plover

One-two present on Hauxley beach 12th-19th (HRS etal).

Ringled Plover

The largest concentration of 168 was noted at Berwick on the 20th (JDL). 70-80 were noted during the month at Blyth estuary, Hauxley and between Seahouses and Beadnell smaller numbers being noted elsewhere.. A maximum of five noted at Whittle Dene on the 21st (MR etal).

Golden Plover

The largest flocks about 1,500 were noted at Seghill on the 5th (MLL) and at Annstead Bay on the 15th (JG). A maximum of 1,200 noted at Hauxley on the 11th (HRS). During the last two weeks 500-700 were at Whittle Dene, Newton and Boulmer and 200-400 at Morpeth, Felton, St. Marys and Holy Island.

Grey Plover

32 on Holy Island on the 29th (JDL) was easily the largest gathering. One-four noted at Berwick, Budle Bay, Boulmer, Hauxley, Cresswell and St. Marys. One inland at Whittle Dene on the 28th (RW).

Lapwing

Many small flocks reported, birds seen arriving off the sea at St. Marys on the 7th (CMA) and at Bamburgh on the 18th (BRS). About 1,500 were at Seghill on the 5th (MLL), 800 at Whittle Dene on the 11th and 500 near Corbridge on the 5th (JD).

Knot

Up to 600 on Holy Island by the 9th (GEM). 86 near Alnmouth on the 12th (ETN) and 40 at Hauxley on the 5th (HRS). 15-20 at St. Marys and Stag Rocks by the months end and odd birds elsewhere.

Sanderling

52 were on Holy Island by the 29th (JDL) and a maximum of 40 at Hauxley on the 18th (HRS). 10-15 noted at St. Marys and Berwick, and unusually one was inland at Whittle Dene on the 30th (MR).

Little Stint

Two noted at each of Holy Island, Newton, Hauxley and St. Marys on several dates during the month. Singles also at Berwick, Boulmer and Backworth.

Curlew Sandpiper

Up to 10 took advantage of the huge pile of rotting seaweed on Hauxley beach during the first two weeks (HRS etal). A maximum of six noted on Holy Island on the 8th. One-three noted also at Berwick, Boulmer, Almouth, Cresswell and St. Marys. One was also inland at Whittle Dene on the 30th (RW).

Purple Sandpiper

Up to 30 noted in the St. Marys - Seaton Sluice area during the last week, only odd birds being noted elsewhere.

Dunlin

A maximum of 600 noted at Holy Island on the 11th (BNR). Up to 200 were attracted to the rotting seaweed at Hauxley during the month where 48 were trapped and ringed. A maximum of 80 at St. Marys on the 29th (JBD), and 40-55 at Druridge and Blyth estuary. One-six at Whittle Dene throughout the month. (RW/MR). Five at Backworth on the 29th (MRS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

A bird first noted with other waders, taking advantage of rotting seaweed, on Hauxley beach on the 17th remained there until the beginning of October affording excellent views to many observers (HRS etal)

Ruff

Heavy passage noted during the month. As many as 70 gathered in a flooded field near Bamburgh on the 13th (DGB). Numbers fluctuated at Hauxley and Backworth where respective maxima of 25 on the 17th and 21 on the 7th noted (HRS/BNR etal). 17 were on Holy Island on the 5th (GEM). Up to seven noted at St. Marys, three at Cresswell and one at Swallow Pond. Present at Whittle Dene all month after the 7th with two-eight noted on several dates (RW/MR).

Snipe

Maxima of 15 noted at Hauxley on the 4th and at Holy Island on the 19th. Up to 10 at Backworth during the month.

Woodcock

An early migrant was on Holy Island on the 7th (GEM).

Black-tailed Godwit

A maximum of four at Hauxley 1st-5th (HRS etal). One at Newton Pool on the 3rd (JH).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Up to 3,000 noted on Holy Island by the 11th (GEM etal). The only concentrations of note elsewhere were of 30 at Boulmer on the 26th (BG), 20 at Hauxley on the 9th (HRS) and 19 at St. Marys on the 29th (JBD). One was at Swallow Pond 18th-29th (IPB/RJ etal).

Whimbrel

10 were at Beal on the 1st, 18 at Hauxley on the 5th and 13 N at Bamburgh on the 11th. One-two noted at 11 other localities the last being seen and heard at Holywell on the 29th (JEF).

Curlew

30-40 noted at Holy Island, Boulmer and St. Marys during the month.

Spotted Redshank

One-three noted at Hauxley 1st-18th (HRS et al). Two at Swallow Pond on the 10th and 29th (JH/IPB). Singles at Backworth on the 3rd (JH) at Budle Bay on the 9th (DGB) and at Cresswell on the 11th (BG).

Redshank

650 were concentrated on Beal Sands on the 1st and 420 at Berwick on the 20th (JDL). Up to 140 noted in Blyth estuary during the month (HG/LJM) and about 110 at St. Marys on the 29th (JBD). Many smaller flocks at other usual localities.

Greenshank

Singles inland at Whittle Dene on 12th and 21st, at Corbridge on the 22nd and at Derwent reservoir on the 25th (MR/DBR). The largest count from Lindisfarne N.N.R. was of 21 on the 1st (JDC). A maximum of six noted at Hauxley 2nd-18th (HRS). One-three noted at six other usual coastal localities.

Green Sandpiper

Noted at Backworth 1st-10th with a maximum of three there on the 4th (JRT et al). Singles were at Whittle Dene on the 2nd (BNR) at Hauxley on the 9th (HRS) and at Newton Pool on the 16th (JG). Two noted on Holy Island on the 12th (BNR).

Common Sandpiper

One-two at Whittle Dene until the 16th (MR et al). Singles during the first fortnight at Druridge, Cresswell, St. Marys and Holywell. The last was at Marden Park on the 25th (JDM).

Turnstone

Up to 140 in the St. Marys area by the months end (JBD et al). 30-40 noted at Berwick, Hauxley and Blyth. 64 counted between Seahouses and Beadnell on the 12th (MLL).

Arctic Skua

Small numbers noted offshore throughout the month. Passage was however heavy on the 5th when 312N 47S off Seaton Sluice, and on the 24th 76N and 2S were noted.

Great Skua

A total of 20N off Hauxley during the morning of the 5th. Passage heaviest off Seaton Sluice on the 24th when 15N and 3S. One - two noted at five coastal localities during the month.

Little Gull

15 were reported N off Seaton Sluice on the 7th (SSWT). A juvenile was off St. Marys on the 14th (DMT).

Black-headed Gull

Included in a catch of 58 birds at North Shields were individuals bearing rings from Lithuania and Estonia ! (DMT). Up to 6,500 noted roosting on Derwent reservoir on the 22nd (BNR).

Common Gull

As many as 4,000 noted roosting at Derwent reservoir by the 29th (BNR et al).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Three at Whittle Dene on the 19th (MR) and one-two at North Shields and St. Marys during the month (DMT et al).

Glaucous Gull

A first year bird was at North Shields fish quay on the 9th and 11th (DMT).

Kittiwake

Up to 300/hour N during the morning of the 5th off Hauxley.

Sandwich Tern

Heavy passage S noted off Hauxley throughout the day of the 12th (HRS). Four at St. Marys on the 29th (JBD) were the last of the month.

Roseate Tern

A family party of four were on Cresswell beach on the 11th (BG).

'Commic' Tern

43 were in Blyth estuary on the 12th (LJM). 34S off Seaton Sluice on the 24th where 3S on the 30th (SSWT/KIB).

Common Tern

11 noted at St. Marys on the 29th (JBD).

Little Tern

Two S off Hauxley on the 10th (WAK) was the only record.

Black Tern

Four noted S off Seaton Sluice on the 7th (SSWT), one off Hauxley on the 18th (HRS) and one at St. Marys on the 19th (DMT). Surprising record of one first seen at Killingworth Lake on the 23rd where it remained until at least October 2nd. (LJM/RJ/TJ)

Auk Sp

Passage noted on 24th at Seaton Sluice when 307N and 7S.

Stock Dove

Two at Whittle Dene and seven at Wylam (BNR).

Cuckoo

One noted on Druridge Links 7th-12th (CB/JEF et al).

Barn Owl

One at Craster on the 12th (MCAC/IK) was the only record.

Tawny Owl

Reported only from Calder, Backworth and Horton.

Long-eared Owl

Singles hunting at dusk at Seaton Burn on the 10th (BG) and calling near Fourstones on the 14th (per BL).

Short-eared Owl

Two near Acklington and singles in the Hauxley-Hadston, West Monkseaton, Earsdon, Threestoneburn, Cullernose and Plessey Woods areas during the month.

Swift

Many reports mainly of singles or small parties throughout the month, the last two being noted at Whitley Bay on the 30th (MH).

Wryneck

Singles noted on Holy Island (GEM), Hauxley (HRS) and at St. Marys (IC/BW etal) on the 6th.

Green Woodpecker

One at Langleeford on the 19th was the only report.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Noted at Matfen and Gosforth Park.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Two noted together at Stocksfield station on the 30th (BNR).

Sand Martin

Birds were still feeding young at Hauxley on the 4th (HRS). Two at Holy Island on the 10th (GEM) and a single near Alnmouth on the 28th (AAB) were the only other reports.

Swallow

The Seaton Burn roost peaked at 700 on the 6th, far short of the previous two years figures (BG/IK). Passage S noted throughout the month at several localities. Two fledged broods were still being fed at Matfen on the 30th (RW).

House Martin

Light passage S noted on several dates, but birds were still in breeding areas at the months end at Cramlington, Morpeth and Bellingham.

Tree Pipit

One at Bamburgh on the 4th, two-three at Hauxley on the 6th, and nine-ten at Holy Island on the 19th (JDL).

Meadow Pipit

Passage S was noted on several dates during the month being particularly apparent at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Boulmer and Hauxley. At Hauxley over 600 were attracted to rotting seaweed on the beach and 158 were ringed between 17th-25th (HRS). Flocks of 20-50 were also noted inland at Threestoneburn, Matfen, Hallington and Derwent Reservoir.

Yellow Wagtail

Apparent at Hauxley and St. Marys throughout the month with respective maxima of six on the 16th and eight on the 19th. The last was at St. Marys on the 30th.

Grey Wagtail

One-three noted during the month on the coast at Bamburgh, St. Marys and Marden Park. One-four also noted at ten inland localities.

Pied Wagtail

Maximum of 70 on the 20th at Stocksfield cricket field (BNR). 20-30 noted during the month at Bamburgh, Holy Island, Hauxley, Hexham and Berwick.

Robin

A very small influx at Hauxley on the 9th when seven ringed (HRS). Slight increase noted in gardens near to the coast around this date.

Redstart

A small influx on the 5th-6th when five at Hauxley and one-two at Priors Park, St. Marys Whitley Bay golf course and Holy Island. One was inland at Threestoneburn on the 19th and between then and the 29th one-three noted at eight coastal localities.

Whinchat

Singles noted inland at Bellingham on the 3rd (HWR) and at Corbridge on the 9th (MR). Well reported from coastal localities throughout the month where there was a marked influx 5th/6th including 12 on Holy Island (GEM), 11 at Hauxley (HRS) three-five at Bamburgh, St. Marys and Druridge.

Wheatear

Inland reports included two at Ilderton Dod 18th-20th, three at Broadstruthers and five at High Rochester on the 19th and one at Whittle Dene on the 23rd (AMB/JMA/DBC/MR). Present in small numbers along the coast until the end of the month with an influx apparent on the 5th/6th when for example 25 counted between Old Hartley Pt. and St. Marys (MH).

Ring Ousel

Three noted at Hawsen Burn on the 19th (JMA). A single bird at Hauxley on the 25th (HRS)

Blackbird

A small influx of about 15 at Hauxley on the 26th (HRS).

Fieldfare

Three noted flying over Darras Hall on the 4th (LSG/TPG). Three were on Holy Island on the 6th, 19 on the 9th and a single on the 25th (GEM/CB).

Song Thrush

Immigration suggested on the 4th when at least 15 at Marden Park, and influx apparent at Jesmond Dene on the 23rd (AMB) and 29th (MPF).

Redwing

A single bird was on Holy Island on the 19th and at least three there on the 23rd (JDL).

Mistle Thrush

Flocks of 17 at High Rochester on the 3rd (DBC) and 14 at Ovingham on the 11th (BNR). Ten arrived at Hauxley on the 25th (HRS).

Sedge Warbler

Four were at Whittle Dene on the 5th (MR). On the coast at least six at Bamburgh on the 4th (BRS), three at Hauxley on the 6th (HRS) when singles at Old Hartley and St. Marys (MH). One was noted at Backworth on the 13th and two at Holywell on the 16th (MH).

Reed Warbler

One noted at St. Marys on the 6th (MH)

'Hippolais' Warbler

One viewed briefly at Hauxley on the 5th was probably Icterine (HRS).

Barred Warbler

Singles were trapped at Hauxley on the 6th, 14th and 15th (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

On the 6th two were at Hauxley (HRS) and one at Meggies Burn (MH). One noted at Craster on the 29th (IK).

Whitethroat

At least six were at Bamburgh on the 4th (BRS). One-two were noted during the first two weeks at Seaton Sluice, Tynemouth, Backworth, Kenton and Hauxley. Later in the month three were at Bamburgh on the 18th (BRS) and one on Holy Island on the 19th (DGB).

Garden Warbler

A marked influx on the 5th and 6th Hauxley R.S. trapped seven on the 5th and 19 the following day. Eight were noted on Holy Island on the 6th and one-three noted on the 5th and 6th at Bamburgh, Old Hartley, Blyth estuary, Meggies Burn and Cresswell. Two were still inland at Corbridge on the 9th (MR).

Blackcap

On the 6th five ringed at Hauxley when four at St. Marys. Two-five noted at Bamburgh and Hauxley during the last two weeks.

Greenish Warbler

One trapped at Hauxley on the 6th (HRS).

Wood Warbler

On the 5th two were noted at Bebside, Blyth (LJM) and one was at Hauxley (HRS).

Chiffchaff

Singles at Hauxley on the 5th and Bamburgh on the 18th-19th

Willow Warbler

Inland one was at Corbridge on the 9th (MR) and odd birds noted at Threestoneburn until the 12th (AMB). Odd birds were noted throughout the month in coastal gardens and the usual well watched localities. An influx was apparent at Hauxley on the 5th and 6th when 30 trapped, the following day there were over 100 on Holy Island (GEM).

Goldcrest

Few noted on the coast during the month only one-four at Bamburgh, Priors Park, Holywell Dene and Holy Island.

Spotted Flycatcher

Small influx noted 4th-6th when two-three at Hadston, Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley. Odd birds were noted again at the usual coastal localities during the last fortnight. Inland eight were noted in a Bardon Mill Garden on the 18th (KD), one at Corbridge on the 20th (MR) and two at Matfen on the 28th (RW).

Red-breasted Flycatcher

The only record was of one at Hadston on the 6th (AMB).

Pied Flycatcher

A small influx apparent on the 6th when seven ringed at Hauxley and five at Holy Island (GEM). A further arrival noted on Holy Island on the 9th when 18 noted (GEM). Five were at Hauxley on the 19th and odd birds noted elsewhere until the month end.

Long-tailed Tit

Flocks of eight at Ovington on the 11th, ten at Bywell on the 24th, about 12 at Bradford Kaims on the 25th and six at Bamburgh on the 18th (BNR/BRS).

Coal Tit

The only coastal record was of two at Bamburgh on the 18th (BRS).

Blue Tit

Maxima of 12 at Hauxley on the 18th and 18 at Bamburgh on the 25th.

Nuthatch

Noted at Eastburn, Hexham and Matfen throughout the month.

Red-backed Shrike

An immature was noted in Whitley Bay cemetery on the 5th (JEF). The following day an adult male and immature were seen in the near vicinity (KIB/WAK et al) and another immature was noted at the entrance to Holywell Dene (WAK). An immature was trapped at Hauxley on the 10th (HRS).

Tree Sparrow

Up to 50 noted at Backworth and 30 at Horton during the month.

Brambling

Singles noted on the 25th at Holy Island (KDS/CB/JS) and at Tynemouth (DMT).

Greenfinch

A flock of 100+ noted at Seaton Burn on the 4th (KD). 40 at Howick on the 29th (IK).

Goldfinch

Well reported during the month. Maxima at coastal localities during the last week when 50 at Marden Park and Bamburgh, 60 at Brierdene and 20 at Craster. A maximum of 50 at Backworth on the 29th (HRS) and 30 at Plessey Woods on the 2nd (GJ) smaller numbers being noted elsewhere.

Siskin

Small numbers noted during the last week at Kyloe, Hulme Park, Craggside and Kielder (MPF). Ten were at Corbridge on the 29th (MR).

Linnet

Largest flock noted was of 150 on Holy Island but about 100 at Bamburgh, Hauxley, St. Marys, Hallington, Whittle Dene and Backworth during the month.

Redpoll

Plentiful at Threestoneburn all month (AMB). 20+ at Allendale on the 12th (LGM/JB).

Scarlet Rosefinch

One noted at Hadston on the 5th and it or another at Hauxley on the 9th (HRS).

Bullfinch

One-four noted at Stocksfield, Holywell, Hexham and Devils Water.

Snow Bunting

Singles noted at St. Marys on the 25th (MB/MH etal) and at Bamburgh on the 28th (DGB).

Yellowhammer

A flock of 30 noted at Craster on the 29th (IK).

October records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth NE61 2AN
in Voous order and by 8th November at the latest please

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B.T.O. Winter Atlas Project

Support for the B.T.O. Winter Atlas Project last season was very encouraging, even more so when one considers the severity of the weather which was experienced and the limited number of birds to be found away from coastal areas at the height of the winter. The second year's fieldwork begins in mid-November and will continue until the end of February 1983. Much still remains to be done.

Last winter, cover tended to be a little haphazard. This was partly because we did not know how the data collected was to be used in the preparation of the Atlas and partly due to many areas being inaccessible or devoid of birds during the bad weather. During the next two years emphasis is to be placed on the recruitment of one or more observers to cover individual 10 Kilometre Grid Squares (or more than one). The Atlas will seemingly now be based largely on the maximum numbers of each species recorded in a 10 Kilometre Square. A series of visits over the season will hopefully, however, enable more than one map to be prepared for many birds, showing changes in distribution as the winter progresses. Inland, urban and suburban areas are generally lacking in data whereas many coastal squares received last winter a lot of attention from observers. It is important that a more even spread of observer cover be attained if possible. Anyone who is willing to take on a particular 10 Kilometre Grid Square or is anxious to obtain more information about the project should contact me as soon as possible.

Casual records played an important role last time in providing information from areas where no regular or thorough cover was available and of species which had been overlooked. Many of these were in fact extracted from monthly record cards. Such supplemental records will clearly continue to provide much useful information and they should be encouraged, especially from those who feel unwilling or unable to commit themselves to a larger role in the project.

Geoff Macfarlane, 7 Wildshaw Close, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 6LH
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Forthcoming B.T.O. Survey of Wintering Gulls - January 1983

Between 21 and 31 January 1983 the B.T.O. plan a survey of gull roosts. The project will clearly supplement the Winter Atlas and present a useful opportunity for censusing the number of wintering gulls in the area. Past surveys have concentrated on inland roosts but the preliminary information on the 1983 census indicates all roosting sites will be tackled. As soon as full details of the survey are available a further announcement will be made but, if in the meantime, anyone wishes to volunteer please let me know.

Geoff Macfarlane

Greetings Cards

Greetings cards suitable for Xmas, grandma's birthday and other special occasions are now on sale. £1.00 for a set of 9 cards. Plus 30p by post for 1 set or 50p for more than one set.

These cards are very attractive George Miller black and white illustrations of blackcap, marsh harrier and grey goose. Orders to Mrs. J.P. Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay or at club meetings. Cheques payable to TBC.

Indoor Meetings

Thursday, November 11th Ian Bainbridge on nature conservation in Northumberland. Ian, conservation officer for Northumberland Wildlife Trust, has made a big impact on the local scene organising wardening and improvement schemes for reserves in the county and is currently drawing up management plans for the sites held by the trust. Medical School, 7.00 pm prompt.



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

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OCTOBER, 1982

SUMMARY

The weather pattern looked interesting from early in the month, a depression was centered over Britain with high pressure over much of Scandinavia and the winds were predominantly fresh and from the S. and S.E. Despite these conditions only a trickle of migrants were recorded until the wind backed N.E. on the 7th, during the next few days small numbers of the commoner migrants were seen on the coast. On the 8th the first rarity of the month a Raddes Warbler was found on Holy Island. The weekend of the 9th-10th proved to be interesting with such typical scarcer migrants as Yellow-browed Warbler, Great Grey Shrike, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Reed Warbler recorded. A second rarity was found on Holy Island - a Citrine Wagtail. On the 10th Pallas's Warblers were seen at Bamburgh and Blyth these proving to be the first of many! The following day was showery and the wind light N.E.. An unprecedented arrival was soon apparent, in particular Robins and Goldcrests involving thousands of birds. It also became apparent that amongst the many common migrants were several more Pallas's Warblers, at least 11 individuals were recorded over this period! Single Rough-legged Buzzard and Firecrest were seen over the period 11th-13th but surprisingly few of the semi-rarities considering the scale of the fall. Numbers decreased steadily at coastal localities over the following few days and the last rarity of this period was a second Raddes Warbler, this time trapped at Hauxley on the 17th. Several 'Mealy' Redpolls were recorded at Hauxley 3rd-18th and on the 19th a bird showing the characteristics of Artic Redpoll was noted there.

Thrushes continued to arrive during the last fortnight along with a few other migrants, many Fieldfares and Redwings were noted moving inland. Whooper Swan numbers increased at the usual localities, Grey Lag and Brent Geese numbers built up and a White-fronted Goose was noted at Grindon.

WEATHER SUMMARY - OCTOBER, 1983

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

During most of the month there were either depressions or frontal systems dominating the weather of the region and keeping it changeable. There was a weak ridge of high pressure over the area on 15th and settled weather with a south westerly airstream from 21st to 23rd. There was also an anticyclone near the NE from the 27th to 29th.

Temperatures were mainly just below average by day and slightly above average by night. The 3rd was the warmest day in most places with temperatures reaching 17.3 degrees C at Hartburn Grange and 17.0 degrees at Hartlepool and Bishop Auckland. Boulmer and Tynemouth's warmest day was on the 26th when Boulmer reached 16.4 degrees C and Tynemouth 15.3 degrees C. Tynemouth also reached 15.3 degrees C on 1st.

The coldest nights were 23rd and 24th, when air frost occurred in several places. Haydon Bridge had a minimum temperature of -2.4 degrees C on 23rd and Hartburn Grange reached -1.7 degrees C. Ground frost was reported on several occasions although it was only widespread on 23rd and 24th. Icy patches were reported in the Darlington area on the morning of 28th.

Although rainfall was above average throughout the region it was drier than 1981 except at Redesdale where 1976 was the last October with higher rainfall. The 5th was the wettest day when rainfall amounts varied between 4.7mm at Tynemouth and 26.6mm at Widdy Bank Fell. Rain fell on most days in the month with the only dry spell from 21st to 23rd. Isolated thunderstorms occurred on 11th when flooding was reported at Whickham and on the Felling by-pass. A funnel cloud was observed at Birtley.

It was the dullest October since 1960 at Durham, Boulmer and Hartlepool and since 1956 at Hartburn Grange. At Newcastle (1967), Redesdale (1970) and Widdy Bank Fell (1975) it was the dullest October since records started. Tynemouth had less sunshine in 1974. Most places had 11 to 13 sunless days although Newcastle and Boulmer had 9 but there were several days with less than 1 hour sunshine. Most places had their sunniest day on 15th or 23rd, although it was the 20th at Tynemouth.

Winds were mainly south westerly apart from a spell of northerlies from 5th to 11th. Gusts to 40 knots were reported on 16th and on the morning of the 17th Tynemouth had a mean speed of 30 knots for a time, and gusts to 42 knots at Teesmouth. On the 26th Teesmouth reported gusts to 40 knots and Burnhope had a gust of 46 knots.

COURTESY OF NEWCASTLE WEATHER CENTRE:

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver & Diver sp.

Passage noted on many dates during the month at usual localities. Seaton Sluice watchtower recorded a total of 70 during the month, mostly flying N. As many as 60-65 were concentrated in Druridge Bay 23rd-30th (JRT/DRS/ES et al). About ten were regularly noted off Ross and Stag Rocks and up to five noted on the sea at Hauxley. Howick and Holy Island.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were noted close inshore on several dates at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Great Northern Diver

Singles N off Seaton Sluice on the 6th off Hauxley on the 10th and fishing off Holy Island Heugh on the 29th (SSWT/HRS/IK).

Little Grebe

The largest concentration was at Grindon Lough where a maximum of eight on the 21st (AJR). One-three were noted at 12 other waters during the month.

Great Crested Grebe

Singles were at Hauxley on the 2nd, 8th and 26th, at Holy Island on the 10th and at Whittle Dene on the 20th. (HRS/MLD/MR).

Slavonian Grebe

Singles noted offshore at Howick on the 2nd (BNR), at Holy Island on the 28th (IK) and at Cresswell on the 30th (DRS/ES et al).

Fulmar

Only odd birds noted off Holy Island and Bamburgh during the month.

Sooty Shearwater

Noted only off Seaton Sluice where on the 2nd a single flock of 37 S, ten others noted there 4th-9th.

Manx Shearwater

A total of 34N and 60S off Seaton Sluice 2nd-9th. No other reports until 26th when four N, one S off Hauxley.

Gannet

Noted frequently in good numbers fishing or moving offshore. Seaton Sluice recorded 918N 4th-21st. In addition about 200/hour S off Bamburgh on the 1st and 110/hour S off Holy Island on the 26th.

Cormorant

A maximum of 382 noted roosting off Holy Island on the 15th (MLD). A total of 40S off Hauxley on the 22nd, and 45 were gathered on Blyth Pier on the 31st. (HRS/HG). Inland singles were on Greenlee on the 16th (LGM/JB) and Broomlee on the 21st (EAS).

Heron

Six-eight noted during the month at Holy Island, Warkworth and Holywell. One-four noted at 13 other localities mostly at or near to the coast.

Mute Swan

Small numbers noted flying S offshore throughout the month, a herd of 20S off Bamburgh on the 4th. Numbers increased at Holy Island to a max of 73 by the last week when 17 were in the Coquet estuary. A maximum of 16 at Holywell on the 3rd and five-six at Blyth, Broomlee and Hartburn.

Bewick Swan

One was noted amongst Whoopers at Holywell on the 24th (GSR) another arrived and rested briefly at Cresswell Pond on the 30th (ES/WTR/DRS).

Whooper Swan

A pair with six young were on Seaton Burn on the 3rd (per AH) when six S off Hauxley (HRS) - The next sighting was of a family party of five at Blagdon on the 8th (RW). Many reports mainly of small herds were received for dates from the 9th on. At Holy Island three on the 9th increased to 44 by the months end. Six at Holywell on the 10th increased to 22 by the 29th. A maximum of 34 were noted at Grindon by the 28th (AJR). The largest herd noted offshore was of 19S at Boulmer and Hauxley on the 24th. No more than ten noted elsewhere.

Pink-footed Goose

Singles only noted at Hauxley on the 6th (HRS) and Budle Bay on the 20th (JRT).

White-fronted Goose

A single 'European' bird was seen at both Hinds Shield and Grindon on the 24th (LGM).

Grey Lag Goose

The largest concentration was of about 2,000 at Mindrum on the 14th (per JMA). A flock of 535 noted off Holy Island on the 15th (HLD) and 123 at Budle Bay on the 12th. About 200 were at Colt Crag on the 23rd (HWR/GSR), and up to 31 noted at Holywell by the months end.

Snow Goose

Four noted at Sweethope Lough on the 21st (MLL).

Canada Goose

Three N at Druridge on the 10th (IC/BW). Maxima of 39 at Sweethope on the 21st and 138 at Colt Crag on the 27th (MLL/WTL).

Barnacle Goose

On the 2nd 36S off Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and two N off Fenham (CG). The following day four S off Hauxley (HRS). On the 19th about 30 were gathered on Fenham flats (MR) and on the 25th three were at Cresswell and seven at Hadston (MR/HES).

Brent Goose

At Lindisfarne N.N.R. 23-26 dark-bellied birds were noted 12th-16th a single pale-bellied bird joining them on the 14th (MLD). Pale-bellied birds increased from about 20 on the 16th to 65 during the last week (IK et al). Two dark bellied birds were also noted S off Cresswell on the 29th (KIB/WAK).

Shelduck

A maximum count of 150 at Budle Bay on the 18th (GEM). At Seaton Sluice three N on the 6th and four S on the 17th.

Wigeon

Perhaps as many as 40,000 were estimated to be at Lindisfarne N.N.R. 17th-22nd (GEM). Offshore passage was noted on many dates during the month at Hauxley and Seaton Sluice in particular. The watchtower recorded 2,004 mainly N during the month with a peak of 1,212N on the 6th. Small flocks were noted at usual waters, and a total of 320 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 16th (LGM).

Gadwall

A drake present at Holywell since at least 27th September was still present up to the 16th (DRS/DY et al). A single female noted at Holy Island on the 9th (ADM/SH).

Teal

Offshore passage noted on several dates during the month, Seaton Sluice recording a total of 177N and 61S. The largest reported concentrations were of 350 at Budle Bay on the 20th (JRT), about 200 at Backworth on the 6th (JDM), 110 at Grindon Lough on the 28th (AJR), and 130 at Threestoneburn on the 24th (AMB). 40-65 were noted during the month at Cresswell, Holywell and Grindon.

Mallard

The largest counts were of 320 at Holywell on the 2nd (JRT) and 380 on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 16th (LGM/JB). 126 were at Hartburn on the 15th and about 80 noted at Holy Island, Budle Bay and Whittle Dene. Many much smaller flocks noted elsewhere.

Pintail

Two were on Hauxley Pool on the 3rd when singles S off Hauxley and N off Newton. Two N off Seaton Sluice on the 9th and off Bamburgh on the 14th. A pair were on Druridge Pool on the 30th and a drake on Cresswell Pond on the 31st.

Shoveler

Nine at Holywell on the 2nd and seven at Swallow Pond on the 29th were the largest concentrations. One-four noted at six other localities.

Pochard

On the coast 37N on the 6th and eight N on the 9th off Seaton Sluice and 30 arrived from the east at Holy Island on the 29th. 37 were counted on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 16th, 38 were at Holywell on the 2nd and a maximum of 62 noted at Whittle Dene on the 3rd. No more than five noted elsewhere.

Tufted Duck

60-65 were noted during the month at Cresswell/Druridge and Bothal. About 50 at Whittle Dene and 30 at Bolam were the only sizeable concentrations elsewhere.

Scaup

Singles noted at Hauxley on the 4th, Seaton Sluice on the 9th and Holy Island on the 12th and 31st.

Eider

About 3,000 were estimated to be off Holy Island 17th-22nd (GEM).

Long-tailed Duck

At Holy Island one on the 9th increased to a maximum of 12 by the 14th (NRG/MCD). A total of 12 were noted off Seaton Sluice 2nd-30th. Odd birds noted offshore elsewhere from mid month and one was on Cresswell Pond on the 16th (AMB).

Common Scoter

Small parties noted flying offshore throughout the month. Passage heaviest off Seaton Sluice on the 6th when 156N and 9th when 41N. 21 were in the Tyne estuary on the 10th (DMT).

Velvet Scoter

A total of 33 noted off Seaton Sluice during the month. In addition 15N off St. Marys on the 8th (KDS) and 12 in Druridge Bay on the 24th (TMM). One-three regularly noted off Holy Island.

Goldeneye

Two-seven were noted on seven dates off Hauxley and Seaton Sluice during the month. Eight were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 16th (LDM/JB) up to six on Holy Island mid month (GEM et al) and one-three at eight other localities.

Red-breasted Merganser

The largest flock of 35 was noted off Holy Island on the 9th (NRG). Seaton Sluice recorded a total of 28N 2nd-10th (SSWT). 14 were noted off Alnmouth on the 28th (ETN/JRN) and smaller numbers elsewhere on the coast. Birds were noted on freshwater at Hauxley pool where a maximum of four on the 31st, at Druridge Pool were two on the 10th (JC/BW) and most surprising three at Whittle Dene on the 10th (HR),

Goosander

A total of ten noted S off Hauxley 2nd-14th (HRS). Five S off Longhoughton on the 21st (MR) and one on the sea at Fenham on the 27th (IK/BG). A single bird at Whittle Dene on 20th at 23rd (MR/KIB).

Hen Harrier

Two ringtails were present on Holy Island 7th - at least the 12th (CB/NRG et al). One ringtail was also present 23rd-30th, and an adult male noted on the 24th (IK). The harriers were watched picking Goldcrests off the hawthorn hedges during the huge fall of 11th/12th. The only other record concerned a ringtail at Allendale on the 2nd (LGM/JB).

Sparrowhawk

As usual at this period the ringing stations at Bamburgh and Hauxley regularly noted one-three birds, more conclusive proof of immigration occurring is a record of one arriving very high from the N.E. at Holy Island on the 3rd (CB) and a very interesting report of a bird picked up dead in a Whitley Bay garden wearing a Dutch ring (per MSH). One was watched hunting over Dean Street, Newcastle on the 25th and 27th (KDS).

Rough-legged Buzzard

One was seen at very close range on Holy Island 11th-13th (MLD/ADM/ES). A Buzzard sp. was seen from the causeway to be soaring very high above Beal before disappearing on the 16th (ADM/SH). The tail only of another was found on the Blyth beach tideline on the 12th (G.F.M).

Kestrel

Up to four were noted during the month at Hauxley and Holy Island. One-two reported from 12 other mainly coastal localities.

Merlin

Two-three noted throughout the month on Holy Island. Singles also noted at Holywell, Backworth, Benton, Boulmer, Hauxley, Bamburgh and Elsdon.

Peregrine Falcon

Single(s) noted on many dates at Holy Island. Other reports of singles include Hadston on the 12th, Seahouses on the 8th, Melkridge on the 16th (LGM), Bamburgh on the 31st and Grindon on the 21st (HRS/CG/BRS/AJR).

Black Grouse

Three noted at Whitfield Moor on the 11th (DGW).

Red-legged Partridge

A covey of 25 noted at Calder on the 17th (AMB).

Partridge

Coveys of 10-15 noted at Hauxley, Harton and Holy Island.

Pheasant

Singles noted at the less usual localities of Newton Pond on the 9th (MDA) and Hauxley on the 24th (HRS).

Water Rail

Singles noted at Newton on the 23rd, Holywell and Beal on the 24th (ES/WTL/IK).

Coot

Numbers appeared to fluctuate at several waters. Maxima recorded were 373 on the Northumbrian Loughs (including 302 on Broomlee) on the 16th (LGM), 600 on Seaton Burn on the 29th (CAD/IPB), 197 at Holywell on the 4th (only 27 on the 30th) (ADM/DRS), 90 at Swallow Pond on the 17th (FM) and 75 at Cresswell on the 4th (AMB).

Wader Count 16th-17th

The following stretches of coastline were covered :-

Beadnell-Seahouses (MLL), Howick Burn - Boulmer (IK), Boulmer - Alnmouth (ES/WTL), Alnmouth - Birling carrs (ETN), Birling Carrs - Coquet estuary (PWW), Amble - Chevington Burn (NWR), Wansbeck - Blyth (JBD), Blyth - Seaton Sluice (LJM), St. Marys Island (CAP/IPB).

Oystercatcher

A total of 520 noted on the counted stretches of coastline. Away from the counted areas about 2,000 regularly roosted near Holy Island harbour (GEM etal) and about 60 regularly noted at Stag Rocks.

Ringed Plover

194 noted on the counted stretches of coastline included 81 in the Blyth estuary area. On the 2nd 80 were at Hauxley and on the 6th 135 at Berwick (HRS/JDL).

Golden Plover

Up to 3,500 in the Beal area on the 16th (ADM/SH) was the largest concentration noted. Maxima elsewhere of 1750 at Druridge on the 19th (JBD), 1200 at Hauxley on the 28th (HRS), 1000 at Beadnell on the 9th (ADM/SH) and up to 2,500 at Whittle Dene on the 31st (DGW). 300-500 were also noted at Seaton Sluice and Boulmer.

Grey Plover

33 at Holy Island on the 14th (MLD) was easily the largest flock. One-four noted at six localities between the Tyne and Bamburgh.

Lapwing

Few flocks noted, the largest being 600 at St. Marys on the 15th (MRS). 300-400 also noted at Hauxley and near Throckley.

Knot

200-250 noted regularly at Holy Island from the 16th on. Away from that area 30 were at Hauxley on the 1st, 40 at Stag Rocks on the 2nd and up to 15 at Alnmouth and St. Marys.

Sanderling

Only 68 noted during the wader count on the 16th/17th, few others noted elsewhere on the coast.

Little Stint

Two were on the beach at Newton on the 2nd (JEF). Singles also noted at Hauxley on the 25th (HRS) and at St. Marys on the 27th (MDA)

Curlew Sandpiper

Six were at Hauxley 1st-3rd and one there on the 14th (HRS). Singles were also at Backworth 14th-20th (AMB etal), Holy Island 21st - 30th (IK etal), Budle Bay on the 3rd, Whittle Dene 2nd-7th (MR etal) and at St. Marys on the 2nd.

Purple Sandpiper

Very few noted away from Stag Rocks and St. Marys where respective maxima of 78 on the 29th and about 100 on the 17th (ETN/CAB etal).

Dunlin

399 counted on the coast on the 16th/17th. Up to 250 were present at Hauxley 1st-4th but few thereafter. Maximum of 280 noted at Holy Island on the 24th (JDL). A maximum of 16 were at Whittle Dene on the 6th (MR).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

The Hauxley bird was last seen on the 2nd (HRS).

Ruff

Ten were at Hauxley on the 1st but none thereafter (HRS). One-two were present during the first fortnight at St. Marys and Backworth (KIB/LJM etal). Two were at Whittle Dene on the 3rd (MR). Three were at Swallow Pond on the 29th (RAJ).

Jack Snipe

Singles noted at St. Mary's on the 11th and 19th (KIB/DGW) at Hauxley on the 16th and 20th (HRS) and on Holy Island on the 23rd (JEF).

Snipe

Numbers increased to about 50 at Cresswell by the 30th (ES/WTR etal). Odd birds were noted at other coastal localities, and 24 counted at Whittle Dene on the 10th (MR).

Woodcock

One noted on Holy Island on the 9th and one-three recorded there on many dates thereafter. Away from that area the only record was of one at Hauxley on the 13th (HRS).

Black-tailed Godwit

A single bird noted at Holy Island on the 19th (GEM).

Bar-tailed Godwit

500-600 regularly noted off Holy Island and in Budle Bay during the month. Up to 30 noted at Boulmer, 20 at Newton and ten at St. Marys and Annstead Burn.

Whimbrel

Two at Hauxley on the 5th (HRS) and singles noted at Holy Island 19th, 20th and 27th (GEM/IK/BG).

Curlew

Up to 150 regularly noted off Holy Island, and a maximum of 70 noted in the New Hartley area on the 17th (IPB etal). 20 were at Hauxley on the 6th (HRS).

Spotted Redshank

Singles noted on several dates 1st-25th at Swallow Ponds with two present on the 3rd (CAB/MR etal). One arrived off the sea at Hauxley on the 6th (HRS).

Redshank

Present on all of the counted stretches coastline on the 16th/17th a total of 431 noted. Numbers increased steadily at Hauxley from 12 on the 3rd to 120 by the 28th (HRS). Over 300 were on Berwick beach on the 6th (JDL).

Greenshank

Singles regularly noted at Hauxley, Budle Bay and Fenham flats until about the 23rd (HRS/MR/IK etal).

Common Sandpiper

One was at Budle Bay on the 1st (CG) and a very late individual on the R. Tyne at Prudhoe on the 17th and 20th (BNR).

Turnstone

A total of 685 noted during the coastal count on the 16th/17th. In addition up to 120 noted during the month at Stag Rocks (BRS etal) and 386 were counted at Berwick on the 6th (JDL).

Pomarine Skua

One N off Hauxley on the 4th (HRS).

Arctic Skua

All records were during the period 2nd-10th. Seaton Sluice watchtower recorded the most with a total of 137N and 41S, passage being particularly heavy on the 4th when 91N and 6th when 33N and 36S.

Great Skua

One-four noted at several localities until the 26th when four S off Hauxley and one S off Holy Island (HRS/IK). Passage was noted at Seaton Sluice only during the period 2nd-9th, but as many as 42N on the 4th and 223N on the 6th were recorded there.

Little Gull

A total of 12N and one S noted off Seaton Sluice during the period 4th-17th (SSWT). The only other records were of singles at Stag Rocks on the 6th (CG) and at St. Mary's on the 10th (MH).

Black-headed Gull

Largest roosts noted in Budle Bay where up to 2,000 (BRS et al) and on Derwent reservoir where a mixed gull roost about 12,000 were approximately 90% of this species (BNR).

Common Gull

About 1,200 roosted at Derwent reservoir late in the month (BNR). About 500 were concentrated at Hartburn on the 15th (MLL/TAC).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Up to three noted in Budle Bay during the last week (JRT et al). Singles also noted during the last week at Derwent reservoir, Whittle Dene and Corbridge (MR/BNR et al).

Glaucous Gull

Immatures were off Hauxley on the 1st (HRS), at Earsdon and Holywell on the 16th (DY/SY), at Druridge Pool on the 24th and at Howdon on the 31st (PWD).

Great Black-backed Gull

Numbers increased in the Druridge/Widdrington and Coquet estuary areas to maxima of respectively 1,700 on the 16th and 2,000 on the 26th (MLL/JMA et al).

Sandwich Tern

Odd birds noted during the first ten days and then no more until one N off Stag Rocks on the 20th (BRS).

'Commic' Tern

Odd birds noted at several localities until the 21st, one S off Boulmer on the 24th (BG) and two S at Hauxley on the 25th (HRS) were the last reported.

Black Tern

The Killingworth Lake bird was last noted on the 1st (LJM). One N off Seaton Sluice on the 4th (SSWT) and two off Hauxley on the 21st (HRS).

Auk (Sp)

A total of 560S off Seaton Sluice on the 4th (KW). N. Passage was heavy during the period 6th-9th when 2,098 noted off Seaton Sluice, while at Hauxley as many as 400/hour N recorded on the morning of the 8th.

Guillemot

Odd birds noted on the sea at several localities between Stag Rocks and Blyth 10th-19th.

Razorbill

Three off Stag Rocks and singles off Holy Island and St. Marys 9th-17th.

Stock Dove

Two noted at each of Holy Island on the 10th (NRG) and at Holywell on the 24th (ES).

Barn Owl

Well recorded during the month. One was noted on the blocks at the mainland side of Holy Island causeway on the 3rd (LB) and perhaps the same bird noted around Holy Island harbour on the 9th (per BL). Others were on the coast at Seaton Sluice on the 18th (KIB) and Bamburgh on the 20th (DGB). Singles also noted at Acklington, Morpeth, Chirton, Harton and Cramlington.

Little Owl

The only report was on one at Bradford Kaims on the 20th (BRS).

Tawny Owl

Coastal reports included two at Hadston on the 2nd and one at Hauxley on the 4th (HRS) and one calling after dark on the 18th at Holy Island (GEM). Singles also noted at South Gosforth and Stocksfield.

Long-eared Owl

A migrant was at Hauxley on the 13th (HRS).

Short-eared Owl

Noticeable influx from the 4th on. Birds were noted coming in off the sea at Hauxley on the 4th, 7th and 8th and at St. Mary's on the 10th and 18th. Up to six were estimated to be present on Holy Island during the month. One-two were noted at 15 other localities at or near to the coast during the month. Inland singles were at Threestoneburn on the 17th and 24th and at Arcot on the 28th.

Swift

Singles were noted at five localities 1st-5th. One was over Holy Island on the 12th (MLD) and one N at Bamburgh on the 20th (BRS).

Kingfisher

Two were noted at Corbridge on the 17th (MR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Several were noted on the coast during the month and the measurements of two birds trapped at Hauxley on the 8th and 11th showed them to be 'Northern' race birds. In total probably four birds were in the Hauxley area between the 8th and 15th. Two or three were in the village at Holy Island on the 7th (CB/MH) and singles were noted there on nine dates between then and the 21st, another was at Bamburgh 17th-22nd (DBG/BRS). One-two were also noted at seven usual inland localities.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

A single bird noted near Stocksfield station on the 28th (BNR).

Skylark

Several parties noted moving S at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley on the 2nd and 3rd when loose flocks noted moving E. at Whittle Dene. Small numbers were also noted arriving from the E or moving S at the above and other localities on the 15th, 18th, 21st, 30th and 31st.

Swallow

Many records of singles or small parties on dates up to the 24th. Three were still at Alnwick on the 30th (JMA).

House Martin

Many reports of singles and small flocks throughout the month. As many as 20 were still over a breeding area at Kirkhill, Morpeth on the 23rd. The last two were noted S at Hauxley on the 31st (HRS).

Tree Pipit

Two at Ridley Park, Blyth on the 7th (HG) and one on Holy Island 11th-12th (MLD).

Meadow Pipit

Light S passage noted at Bamburgh, Howick and Hauxley on the 2nd and small numbers arrived from the E. at Bamburgh on the 4th and 31st.

Rock Pipit

Over 20 at Annstead beach on the 18th, up to four at Stag Rocks, Hadston and St. Marys.

Yellow Wagtail

Singles noted at Hauxley on the 2nd (HRS) and Holy Island on the 10th (NRG).

Citrine Wagtail

An immature spent most of the 10th and 11th in the vicinity of the village and harbour at Holy Island. This is only the 2nd Northumberland record, the first was also on Holy Island 28th-30th September, 1967.

Grey Wagtail

One-two noted during to month at Blyth, Marden Park, Hauxley, Newton and Ovingham.

Pied Wagtail

The only concentrations noted was of ten at Hauxley on the 2nd and at Holy Island 9th-10th.

Waxwing

One is reported to have landed on a fishing boat off Seahouses on the 11th (per JDL).

Dipper

One-three noted at Wallington, Bywell, Ovingham, Shillmoor and Chew Green included several singing birds.

Wren

Up to six noted on several dates during the month at Hauxley and Bamburgh.

Dunnock

Small influxes were noted on several dates during the month at the ringing stations and elsewhere on the coast. A total of 20 ringed at Hauxley 12th-13th and about that number present at Bamburgh on the 18th.

Robin

Small numbers were present at the usual coastal localities up to the 10th. On the 11th, a showery day with a light NE breeze, observers lucky enough to be out and about on a Monday witnessed a spectacular arrival of this species. At least 250 were estimated to be on Holy Island, 'hundreds' were noted in the St. Marys and Newton areas and an unprecedented 214 were trapped and ringed at Hauxley. A further 109 were trapped at Hauxley 11th-12th and reduced numbers were also noted in the Holy Island and St. Marys areas. Small numbers were recorded at the usual coastal localities during the rest of the month.

Black Redstart

A single bird was noted at Holy Island on the 10th (per BL) where two were seen on the 11th (MLD) when two also at Whitley Bay cemetery (ADM). Singles were noted later in the month at Hauxley on the 15th and 28th, at St. Mary's on the 18th and at Holy Island on the 20th (HRS/DGW/GEM).

Redstart

Up to 25 were noted on Holy Island on the 7th (CB) where ten present on the 9th (NRG) odd birds being seen at the other coastal localities up to that date. An influx again apparent during the 'fall' on the 11th-12th when about 20 at each of Holy Island and Hauxley and a few elsewhere. Two were as far inland as Darras Hall on the 15th (LSG) and singles at Holy Island on the 18th and Bamburgh on the 20th (GEM/BRS etal).

Whinchat

One-five noted during the first fortnight at Bamburgh, Hauxley, Holy Island and St. Marys. No more noted thereafter until one at Newton on the 21st remaining until at least the 23rd (MR/ES).

Stonechat

Singles noted during the period 3rd-17th at Holy Island, Alnmouth, Newton Pool and Hadston. One was near Holywell Pond on the 31st (IC/BW). A pair also noted at Warkworth on the 12th (RW).

Wheatear

Three were still inland at Allendale on the 2nd (LGM/JB). One-three noted on several dates until the 16th at most of the usual coastal localities. Five were at Foxton on the 20th (JMA), four at Hauxley on the 21st (HRS) and one still at St. Mary's on the 30th (WAK)

Ring Ousel

Singles arrived at Hauxley on the 2nd and 6th (HRS). Two were at Holy Island on the 11th (MLD) and singles there and Bamburgh the following day. Two were also at Whitley Bay on the 15th (MRS) and at Holy Island on the 15th and 19th (GEM etal).

Blackbird

The first significant arrival of the month was on the 11th when about 100 in the Blyth area and 27 trapped at Hauxley (HG/HRS). Passage on a small scale was recorded at many localities on most days thereafter and was quite heavy at Hauxley on the 29th when 107 trapped and ringed. Up to 300 were noted in the Backworth area on the 15th (MRS).

Fieldfare

Few noted until the 11th when 350 present on Holy Island when light passage was noted almost daily during the rest of the month. Immigration was less obvious elsewhere on the coast but up to 40 were noted mid month at Blyth, St. Mary's and Bamburgh. Small flocks were noted moving inland from about the 16th and a large flock of 1,500 noted near High Rochester on the 17th (DBC). Several hundred were noted moving near Corbridge the following day (MR) and flocks of up to 200 became quite widespread thereafter.

Song Thrush

Light passage was noted at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley on several dates between the 9th and 22nd. Up to 100 were at Hauxley on the 13th when 39 were trapped.

Redwing

Only odd birds continued to arrive during the first week, from the 8th on however passage was noted daily for the rest of the month. Immigration was quite pronounced during the fall period 11th-12th particularly on Holy Island where 2-3,000 seen arriving on the latter date and at Holywell Dene where about 1,500 arrival in about 15 minutes. Many flocks were seen inland from this period on, passage being particularly obvious during mid month. Many birds undoubtedly arrived during the evenings and were heard nightly flying W over Cramlington and Morpeth between the 8th and 18th.

Mistle Thrush

Small scale immigration was apparent throughout the month. Bamburgh recorded five - 21 on 13 dates 2nd-30th (BRS). 26 on the 2nd and 17 on the 5th were noted at Hauxley (HRS). At least 40 were at Blyth on the 10th (HG). Inland flocks included 30 at Threestoneburn on the 3rd (AMB), 20 at Stocksfield on the 17th (BNR) and 50 at Hallington on the 23rd (KIB).

Grasshopper Warbler

Singles were trapped at Hauxley (HRS) and seen at St. Mary's on the 12th. (BG/KDS).

Sedge Warbler

One noted as late as the 21st at Holywell Pond (JRT).

Reed Warbler

Birds trapped at Hauxley on the 6th and 8th were last retrapped on the 12th and 20th respectively (HRS). One was at Holy Island on the 8th and two there on the 9th and 10th (MM/NRG).

Barred Warbler

The only record was of one trapped at Hauxley on the 10th (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

One was noted on Holy Island on the 9th and two there on the 12th (NRG/MLD). Singles were at Whitley Bay cemetery and Hauxley on the 13th (TMM/HRS) and two at the latter locality on the 14th and 19th.

Whitethroat

The only report was of one at Swallow Pond on the 2nd (WAK).

Garden Warbler

Up to 50 were present on Holy Island on the 7th (CB/MH) but only four remained by the 9th (NRG) the last individual being seen there on the 16th (ADM). Bamburgh attracted one-three between the 2nd and 9th at least seven on the 10th, only one remaining on the 12th. (BRS). Only other records were of two at Blyth on the 9th (HG) and one at Whitley Bay on the 13th (TMM).

Blackcap

Passage was noted throughout the month at Bamburgh and Hauxley being heaviest during the period 8th-13th when up to 30 daily at each locality. About 150 were estimated to be present on Holy Island 7th-10th. (CB/NRG) and 30 there on the 13th (ADM/SH). The maximum elsewhere was about 13 at Whitley Bay cemetery on the 13th (TMM et al). A female was still inland at Mitford on the 29th (WAK).

Pallas's Warbler

An astounding 'fall' of this species occurred between the 10th and 12th. The first two were found on the 10th at Bamburgh (DGB) and at Blyth, Ridley Park (HG). The following day these startling warblers turned up at many localities along the east coast of Britain between Norfolk and Shetland. In our area three were on Holy Island, (MLD) and singles at Newton (DW), St. Mary's (WAK) and Hauxley (HRS). On the 12th two more were trapped at Bamburgh (BRS) and probably an additional bird was located at Emmanuel Head, on Holy Island (ETN/JRN). In total probably 11 individuals were trapped or seen. Most characteristically quickly moved on but one was retrapped at Hauxley on the 15th, and presumably the bird trapped at Bamburgh on the 10th was seen at nearby Millburn on the 11th and 24th (DGB). There have been only eight previous country records !

Yellow-browed Warbler

One was trapped at Hauxley on the 2nd and presumably the same bird was seen there on the 3rd, 4th and 5th. One was seen near the former golf driving range at St. Mary's on the 5th and 6th (CB/DRS). On Holy Island one was noted on the 7th (CB), probably three on the 9th-10th (NRG), two on the 11th, one on the 12th (MLD) and on the 19th (MR). Another was at Bamburgh on the 12th (BRS).

Raddes Warbler

Two during the month are only the third and fourth county records. The first was seen at the Snook on Holy Island on the 8th (MM) and the second trapped at Hauxley on the 17th being retrapped on the 18th and 19th (HRS).

Chiffchaff

A few noted during the first week and a small influx apparent on the 11th-12th, 27 were ringed at Hauxley between the 11th and 14th. 10-12 were noted at each of Bamburgh and Holy Island. Individuals showing the characteristics of the 'Tristis' race were noted at Hauxley, Bamburgh and Holy Island during this period. Later in the month singles noted at Marden Park on the 16th (JDM) at Cullercoats on the 18th (DGW) and at Holy Island on the 21st (CAB/IPB).

Willow Warbler

One was trapped at Bamburgh on the 3rd and two at Hauxley on the 5th. *Phylloscopus* seen later in the month and specifically identified as Willow included two-three on Holy Island on the 9th (JRT), 13th and 16th (ADM), one calling at Swallow Pond on the 12th (TJ), one at Whitley Bay cemetery on the 18th (KIB), one in a Tynemouth garden on the 19th where two on the 22nd (JSS).

Goldcrest

Small numbers were noted at coastal localities up until the 8th. On the 9th-10th up to 200 were on Holy Island (NRG) and 80 at Bamburgh (BRS) although only odd birds noted elsewhere. On the morning of the 11th the coast was invaded by these tiny migrants. Unfortunately this was a Monday so only a lucky few witnessed this unprecedented arrival. Birds were reported to be flying into houses at Amble and Seahouses where they were seen in large numbers. Hauxley ringing station trapped a record 230 and the wood was described as heaving with birds! The only report from Holy Island was of an estimated 550 present. "Hundreds" were reported to have been in the Newton area. Other estimates were of 30 in Blyth cemetery, 150 in Whitley Bay cemetery and 40 in the St. Mary's area. Not surprisingly many more observers were about the following day; estimates varied widely but Hauxley trapped a further 173 and estimated 1,000 present; Bamburgh ringing station noted "many hundreds, possibly thousands"; probably several hundred were in the Blyth - St. Mary's areas, and up to 300 estimated at Holy Island. Numbers decreased rapidly thereafter and few were noted on the coast after the 17th.

Firecrest

The only record was of a single bird at Hauxley on the 12th (HRS).

Spotted Flycatcher

Between the 3rd and 10th singles were at Bamburgh, Hauxley, Holy Island and Tynemouth and two were at Blyth, Ridley Park on the 6th. The last record was of one on Holy Island on the 12th (HLD/ETN/JRN).

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Surprisingly the only records were from Holy Island where singles noted on the 8th (MM/CG) and 13th (ADM).

Pied Flycatcher

One-two were noted between the 7th and 13th at Hauxley, Holy Island and Blyth.

Long-tailed Tit

The largest flock of 30 was noted at Plessey Woods on the 29th (BG). Flocks of eight - 16 were also seen at Corbridge, Pauperhaugh, Gosforth Park, Allendale, Mitford and Belsay.

Willow Tit

Two at Howick Dene on the 16th (IK). Four noted at Corbridge and Pauperhaugh (MR/RAJ/TJ).

Coal Tit

Noted at the coast only at Bamburgh where one on the 3rd and six arrived from the N on the 23rd (BRS).

Blue Tit

About 32 at Bamburgh on the 3rd (BRS).

Nuthatch

Noted at Allenbanks, Matfen and several areas in Hexham.

Treecreeper

The only coastal record concerned are trapped at Hauxley on the 15th (HRS).

Red-backed Shrike

Only recorded at Holy Island where two on the 9th and 10th one remaining until at least the 15th (NRG/WAK etal).

Great Grey Shrike

One was at Holy Island 7th-9th, almost certainly two on the 10th and definitely two and possibly three by the 12th, at least are remaining until the 16th. (NRG/ETN/ES etal). One found at Togston on the 12th was presumably the bird seen there on the 18th, it or another being noted at Hauxley on the 27th (HRS). One noted inland at Wooperton on the 14th (per JMA).

Magpie

15 roosting in hawthorn at Merryshields Wood near Stocksfield by the 13th (BNR).

Raven

The first ever record for Hauxley was of one being mobbed by Carrion Crows on the 10th (HRS).

Starling

Having been dissuaded from roosting at Matfen during September 30,000 - 50,000 roosted in a plantation near Ryal during the month. A maximum of 4,000 were present in the Hauxley area on the 21st (HRS). About 300 were at Bamburgh on the 30th, 400 there the following day plus about 200 which arrived from the SE (BRS). Small flocks noted arriving from the NE at Holy Island on the 29th (IK).

Tree Sparrow

The largest flocks were 40 at Meldon on the 15th (TAC/MLL) and 70 at Horton from the 10th on (LJM). Small flocks were noted at the usual coastal localities.

Chaffinch

Up to 40 present on several dates 2nd-22nd at Bamburgh. A flock of 50 noted inland at Reaveley on the 3rd (AMB).

Brambling

50-60 were noted on Holy Island on the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 16th. One-four were noted at several coastal localities 3rd-11th, 20 were at Blyth on the 12th and at Hauxley on the 13th. The only inland record was of one at Hexham on the 21st. (KD).

Greenfinch

At Bamburgh 10 on the 17th increased to over 70 on the 22nd (BRS). 60 were in the Druridge area on the 24th (PWD).

Goldfinch

Conspicuous in several coastal districts throughout the month as many as 75 were at Briardene on the 8th (RW), up to 25 at Hauxley and St. Mary's Island and 15 at Bamburgh. A maximum of 50 noted at Holywell by the 24th and 10-15 at Newton, Cresswell, High Rochester and Craster.

Siskin

Up to three were noted at several coastal localities during the month. On Holy Island 20 on the 9th and 10th increased to 30-40 during the following two days. Odd birds were noted on the coast and inland during the rest of the month. A total of 21 were at Bavington Carr on the 3rd.

Linnet

Flocks of up to 100 noted at St. Mary's and Holy Island, up to 30 also noted at Bamburgh.

Redpoll

A single flock of 80 were noted feeding at Bavington Carr on the 3rd. Passage was most apparent at Hauxley where 10 of a flock of 11 trapped showed the characteristics of 'Mealy's'. Between the 15th and 18th six more ringed included one 'Mealy'. Six on Holy Island on the 9th-10th included one 'Mealy'. The most interesting record however was of a striking individual present at Hauxley on the 19th which it is considered may have been an Arctic Redpoll of the northern eurasion form (A.h.exilipes).

Crossbill

One was trapped at Hauxley on the 7th (HRS) and seven flew over Holy Island on the 8th (MM).

Bullfinch

Five-six at Callaly and Colt Crag, and a single on the coast at Craster on the 21st (MR).

Hawfinch

Two at Eastburn Hexham on the 25th (KD) and at Horsley Wood on the 20th (BNR).

Lapland Bunting

Singles only at Holy Island on the 11th and 14th (DGB/MCD) and at St. Mary's on the 12th (BG).

Snow Bunting

Singles were at Seahouses on the 7th, Hauxley on the 8th and Goswick on the 9th (CG/HRS/BNR). Later in the month up to five noted on Holy Island, 15 at Ross Back Sands by the 19th and 12 at Hauxley by the 25th and two at each of Tynemouth, Hadston and Druridge.

Yellowhammer

Flocks of 15-25 noted at Bradford Kaims, Horton, Cramlington, West Chevington and Cresswell.

Reed Bunting

One-six noted at several coastal localities during the month. Passage was more noticeable at Hauxley where about 20 on the 2nd and 3rd, 15 on the 13th and 30 on the 22nd (HRS). Up to 15 were at Cresswell on the 30th (ES/WTL/DRS).

Corn Bunting

The only record was of one at Holy Island on the 16th (ES/WTL).

November records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth, NE61 2AN
in Voous order and by 8th December at the latest please.

Wader Counts

Please remember that the next three months are priority counts, i.e. December 12th, January 16th February 13th. If participants are unable to do any of these counts would they please try to arrange for somebody else to do it for them or failing this contact Alan Heavisides.

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Tawny Owl - Slaley Study area

51 sites were checked, 38 of which are nest boxes. A total of 17 pairs nested. The 17 clutches produced 36 eggs i.e. 2.18 eggs/clutch 17 or 18 young fledged. Four pairs failed completely three at the egg stage and one with small young. A poorer year than last when 20 pairs product 27 young.

B. Little
Northumbria Ringing Group

Weather Summary

The Newcastle Weather Centre have kindly agreed to provide us with a regular monthly weather summary. The section concerning North East England will be duplicated in the bulletins

TBC Committee for 1981/82

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Greetings Cards

Greeting cards are still available. £1.00 for a set of 9 cards. Plus 30p by post for 1 set or 50p for more than one set.

These cards are very attractive George Miller black and white illustrations of blackcap, marsh harrier and grey geese. Orders to Mrs. J.P. Lindsay, 10 Beverley Park, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay or at Club meetings. Cheques payable to TBC.

Indoor Meetings

Thursday December 9th, 82

Brian Little's talk on Nepal will make a fitting end of the year treat for the club, Medical School, 7.00 pm prompt.

B.T.O. WINTER ATLAS

At the time of writing almost as many record cards and sheets have been sent out as were completed over the whole of the 1981/1982 winter - a most promising sign. Recruitment of observers willing to cover specific 10 kilometre National Grid Squares is proceeding apace but at present the following squares are still "vacant":

NU 01 Glanton
02 Chillingham
03 Lowick
04 Beal
05 Berwick on Tweed
11 Alnwick
12 Ellingham
13 Bamburgh
14 Holy Island
22 Newton-by-the-Sea
23 Seahouses

NT 70 Catcleugh
80 Otterburn Ranges
81 Carshope
82 College Burn
83 Coldstream
91 Linhope
93 Ford
94 Norham

NY 65 Slaggyford
68 Lewis Burn
75 Whitfield
77 Wark Forest
79 Emblehope
85 Allendale

NZ 05 Whittonstall
08 Wallington
09 Nunnykirk
17 Ponteland
18 Mitford
26 Newcastle
36 Tynemouth

Anyone able to take on any one or more of these squares should contact me as soon as possible please. Remember too that all records can be used in the project, so if you are visiting any part of the area and wish to put your records to good use please let me know and I will forward instructions and record cards.

I would also thank all those people who have already volunteered and have sent stamps and S.A.E.'s with their letters - a very real saving in postage costs has been made this year as a result.

G. Macfarlane
7, Wildshaw Close
Cramlington
Northumberland NE23 6LH
(Tel. 715399 before 7.30 p.m. if possible)

Winter Gull Roost Census

More details are now available of the above project which is planned for the period 22-31 January 1983. As mentioned in last month's bulletin the survey will cover all known roosts both inland and coastal. Some of the coastal roosts may be large and may need more than one observer to census adequately but others should be manageable by single observers.

Known roost sites for which coverage at the time of writing is still required are as follows:

Coastal

Druridge Bay
Amble/Coquet Estuary
Coquet Island
Blyth Bay/Estuary
Tyne Estuary
Berwick upon Tweed/Tweed Estuary
Lindisfarne N.N.R

Inland

Ashington Colliery/New Moor
Hoselaw Loch
Rayburn Lake
Font Reservoir
Derwent Reservoir

Further details and information can be obtained from me and if anyone knows of a gull roost site which is not mentioned above and may have been overlooked I would be very pleased to hear from them.

G. Macfarlane
7 Wildshaw Close
Cramlington
Northumberland NE23 6LH

(Tel 715399 before 7.30 p.m.
if possible)



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne & Wear. Tel: North Shields 75928

NOVEMBER, 1982

SUMMARY

Light S. winds during the first three days backed into the SE and freshened on the 4th, this persisted during the 5th and 6th and was accompanied by heavy rain at times. A huge arrival of Blackbirds was the main feature of this period although other Thrushes and Woodcock were also involved.

The remainder of the month was generally mild and dull with fresh to strong winds mainly from the SW, although there were a few calm and bright days, and overnight frosts occurred towards the months end.

A good month for raptors with Hen Harriers, Peregrines, Buzzard and two Rough-legged Buzzards recorded. Three Great Grey Shrikes were located and good number of Thrushes especially Fieldfares were noted in inland areas during the month.

Late on wintering Blackcaps were noted and the last Chiffchaff seen on the 13th. A Garden Warbler was found in Jesmond Dene as late as the 29th and a Barred Warbler was noted as far inland as Capheaton on the 3rd !

There was also a report of a White-tailed Diver at St. Marys on the 9th.

MONTHLY SUMMARY - NOVEMBER, 1982

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

A mild month with both day and night temperatures above normal. The first 12 days were more noticeable with minima around 4 degrees C above e.g. Newcastle 4.5 degrees C above the 12 day mean.

Hartlepool, Widdy Bank and Redesdale were well below the normal sunshine totals. The 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th were sunless at Durham, Hartburn, Widdy Bank and Newcastle. Hartlepool had 4 sunless days (3rd to 6th) while Tynemouth had 6 sunless days (3rd to 8th inclusive). At Redesdale and Boulmer the sunless days were 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th. Therefore no sunshine was reported anywhere in the North East for three consecutive days 4th to 6th.

Hartburn, Widdy Bank and Redesdale were above the rainfall average for November. From the 15th to 24th inclusive Widdy Bank had 400% of average rainfall for 10 November days.

Probably the main feature of the month. Newcastle's mean daily speed of 10.2 knots was above average but less than last year. The daily mean of 16.3 knots for the 5 days 18th to 22nd was exceptional.

Boulmer's observations from midday 18th to midday 20th gave an average speed of 24.6 knots not to be confused with an average hourly speed. On 18th Woolsington had gusts of over 45 knots continuously between 1100 and 1600 GMT and on 19th between 1700 and 2200 GMT. A gust of 55 knots reported at 1800 GMT and 65 knots at 2000 GMT.

Extremes

Maximum Temperature : 16.9 degrees C on 1st at Hartburn.
Highest November temperature since 1956.

Minimum Temperature: -3.5 degrees C on 15th at Hartburn.

Rainfall : 41.1mm at Widdy Bank on 22nd

Wind: Maximum gust 65 knots at Woolsington on 19th.

In general; the month started with a dull mild spell becoming brighter by the end of the first week but staying mild until around the 12th.

An exceptionally windy period from 15th to 20th not for extreme values but for persistence.

The last 10 days unsettled with shorter periods of strong winds.

The coast seemed to be sunnier and drier than average on the basis of Boulmer and Tynemouth data.

Courtesy of Newcastle Weather Centre.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver sp

The largest concentrations were noted on the 13th/14th when up to 40 in Alnmouth Bay (TAC/MN), 27 between Chevington Burn and Hauxley (NR) and 10 off Stag Rocks (MH etal). Seaton Sluice recorded a total of 27S and 29N between the 6th and 21st (SSWT). Smaller numbers were noted elsewhere offshore.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were noted on the sea at Seaton Sluice on the 7th (SSWT), at Warkworth on the 13th (JPD/EML) and at Whitley Bay on the 23rd (BNR).

Great Northern Diver

Two were in Alnmouth Bay on the 14th (SWA) and one off Cullernose Pt. on the 16th (per JMA).

White-billed Diver

One was reported to have been off St. Marys Island on the 9th (DGW).

Little Grebe

Maxima of four at Cresswell, three at Holywell and two on the Northumbrian Loughs.

Great Crested Grebe

On the coast three were off Warkworth on the 13th, (JPD/EML), two at Alnmouth on the 14th (MN/SA) and one at Hauxley on the 28th (HRS). Singles were also at Sweethope on the 11th (MLL) and at Holywell on the 21st (IC etal).

Red-necked Grebe

Singles noted between the 9th and 16th at Blyth estuary (SWA), Holy Island, Seahouses (MLL/TAC) and Cullernose (JMA).

Slavonian Grebe

One noted on many occasions 7th-28th at Holywell Pond (GST/ADM etal). Singles were also on Cresswell Pond and off Stag Rocks on the 13th (EAS/MH).

Black-necked Grebe

One noted on Cresswell Pond on the 21st (WAK).

Storm Petrel

One landed on a fishing boat 50 miles off Berwick on the 11th (JDL).

Gannet

Seaton Sluice recorded 21N and 4S between 6th - 21st.

Cormorant

Maxima of 54 at Blyth and 24 at Amble and Tynemouth during the month.

Heron

Up to 10 noted at Lindisfarne, six at Warkworth and five at St. Marys and Blyth. One-three also noted at 13 other localities.

Mute Swan

Up to 61 noted on the Lindisfarne NNR during the month. Maxima elsewhere included 21 at Blyth on the 1st and 13 at Amble on the 6th. Four-five also at Cresswell, Woodhorn and Hartburn.

Bewick's Swan

Three adults and two juveniles were with the Holywell Whoopers on the 13th (JRT) at least two remaining on the 27th (DRS etal). Two adults and a juvenile were at Hauxley on the 9th (HRS) and an adult at Cresswell Pond on the 29th (ES/DRS etal).

Whooper Swan

The Holywell herd increased to at least 150 by the months end including a minimum of 33 juveniles. Numbers fluctuated at Cresswell with a maximum of 62 including 12 juveniles present on the 27th. A total of 47 including nine juveniles were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 14th. 43 at Fenham on the 3rd including only two immatures and 25 at Rayburn Lake on the 27th included six. Small parties of five or less noted at several other localities during the month.

Pink-footed Goose

Two were with Grey Lag near Carham on the 10th (LGM) and at Ross on the 30th (DRS).

Grey Lag Goose

About 1,250 in the Hoselaw - Cornhill area on the 10th (LGM). Other large concentrations included 600 SW over Sweethope on the 11th (MLL) and about 750 at Hallington on the 27th (RW). Up to 370 in the Budle Bay area throughout the month. Flocks of about 150 SW at Felton on the 9th (BG) and at Doddington Moor on the 14th and up to 44 present at Holywell during the month.

Snow Goose

The four feral birds were noted at Capheaton on the 3rd and at Hallington on the 27th (RW).

Canada Goose

52 were at Capheaton on the 3rd and Hallington on the 27th (RW).

Barnacle Goose

Eight were on Hoselaw Loch on the 10th (LGM). One associated with the Canada Geese was at Capheaton on the 3rd and Hallington on the 27th (RW).

Brent Goose

On the 14th 350 were at Holy Island and 12 at Budle Bay (BG). At St. Marys 12N on the 6th (JRT) and two close in on the 24th (KIB).

Shelduck

Passage most apparent on the 6th when Seaton Sluice recorded 30N and 20S, while in two hours 52S and 21N noted off St. Marys. The following day 21N off Hauxley and 11N seven S off Seaton Sluice.

Wigeon

375 noted in total on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 14th. About 200 were noted at Druridge Pool and in Budle Bay on the 7th. Offshore passage only significant on the 6th when 75S and 69N off Seaton Sluice.

Gadwall

One drake was on Grindon Lough on the 20th (AJR).

Teal

The largest concentration was of 175 at Gosforth Park on the 27th (LGM/LMD). Maxima elsewhere included 100 at Threestoneburn on the 7th (AMB), 50 at Holywell on the 26th (MN) and 87 at Cresswell on the 27th (AMB). On the 6th 43S and three N off Seaton Sluice.

Mallard

~~Passage~~ noted at Seaton Sluice on the 6th when 49N and 29S on the 7th when 34 S and on the 9th when 29N and five S. About 350 noted at Hoselaw Loch and Derwent Reservoir during mid month. Maxima elsewhere included 225 at Holywell and 200 at Grindon. 100-150 noted at Holywell, Sweethope, Rayburn Lake and Whittle Dene and Druridge.

Pintail

Eight together off Ross on the 30th (DRS).

Shoveler

Ten at Druridge Pool on the 7th and at Big Waters on the 18th.

Pochard

Up to 150 on Queen Elizabeth Park Lake on the 21st (WAK/MLL was the largest concentration noted. 60-70 were noted on Bolam and Holywell Ponds and 25-35 on Whittle Dene, Killingworth Lake, Hartburn and Bakethin reservoir.

Tufted Duck

The largest counts was of 85 on Holywell Pond, about 60 on Bolam and 40 on Cresswell.

Scaup

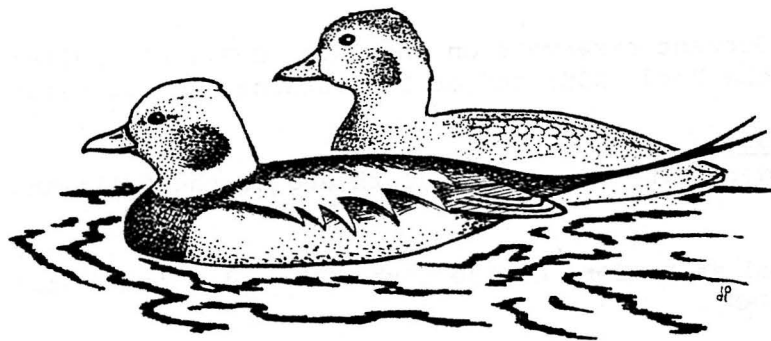
As many as 11 were on Holywell Pond on the 13th (JRT/ES/KWR et al). One Cresswell all month.

Eider

650 were gathered off the Wansbeck estuary on the 9th (SWA), 170 in Amble harbour on the 27th (AMB) when 119 off Stag Rocks (KIB).

Long-tailed Duck

Up to 10 regularly noted off Stag Rocks and Ross where 25 on the 30th. (DGB/DRS et al). Odd birds off shore as far S as St. Marys. Three were on Cresswell Pond on the 29th and singles well inland at Bolam Lake on the 6th (per MLL) and Whittle Dene on the 3rd (BNR).



Common Scoter

Passage was quite heavy on the 6th when 526N and 67S seen during a two hour sea watch off St. Marys (JRT), Seaton Sluice recording 427N AND 104S that day and 63N the following. Small flocks were noted flying offshore on later dates.

Velvet Scoter

One at Bamburgh on the 14th (BG) and two at St. Marys on the 29th (IC/KDS) were the only records.

Goldeneye

As many as 156S in one hour off Tynemouth on the 5th (DGW). At Seaton Sluice 21S on the 6th. A total of 36 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 14th and 23 on Bakethin on the 28th (LGM). 22 at Derwent reservoir and 16 at Bolam Lake were the only other noteable concentrations. Up to 12 were noted at 11 other localities.

Red-breasted Merganser

13N off Seaton Sluice on the 6th and four N there the following day. Six-eight noted during the month at Budle Bay, Holy Island, Warkworth and Hauxley and smaller numbers elsewhere. One was on Killingworth Lake on the 26th (LJM).

Goosander

Small gatherings of two-six at several usual localities on the R. Tyne, Coquet and Aln. A maximum of four on Holywell Pond on the 6th and Derwent reservoir on the 13th. Five were on Sweethope on the 24th.

Hen Harrier

Ringtails were noted during the first fortnight at Holy Island, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Slaley forest.

Sparrowhawk

Noted at 14 localities, including two noted at the Ryal Starling roost.

Buzzard

One was present in the Holywell Pond area on the 13th and 14th (JRT/DY/SY).

Rough-legged Buzzard

A tired immature bird was found at Boulmer on the 13th (IK) and at Foxton Hall golf course on the 14th (MCAC). Another was watched wheeling and hovering near Simonside on the 28th (MH).

Kestrel

One-two noted at 22 widely scattered localities.

Merlin

Singles noted near Earsdon on the 7th (TMM), Warkworth on the 13th (JPD/EML), Holywell Dene on the 22nd (DGW), and one still on the Otterburn Ranges on the 28th (MH)

Peregrine

Singles noted at Derwent reservoir on the 13th (BNR), at Boulmer on the 14th (MCAC), at Stag Rocks on the 23rd (KDS) and at Lindisfarne and Simonside on the 28th (JDL/MH)

Red-legged Partridge

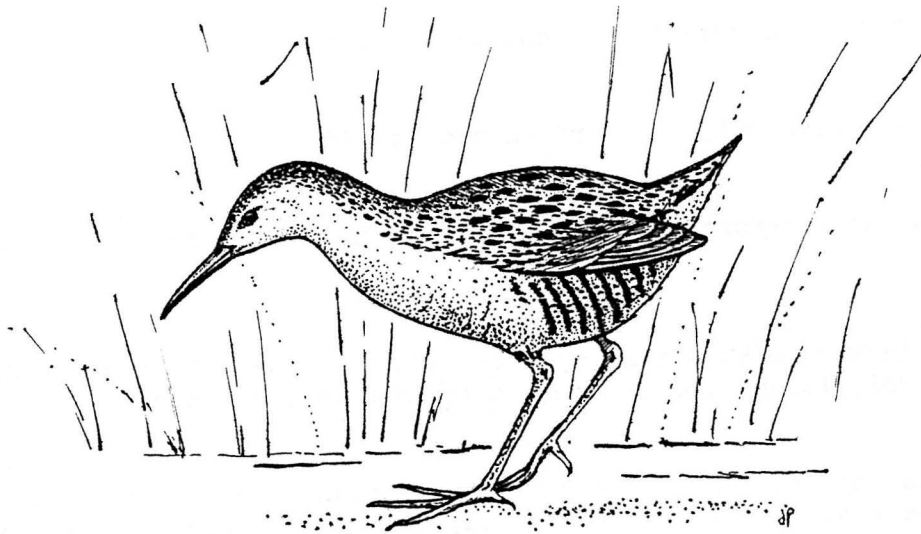
Noted only at Calder where nine on the 13th and 26 the following day (AMB).

Pheasant

An albino was noted at Mitford on the 14th (PW) and a melanistic bird was at Todburn on the 30th (ETN/JRN).

Water Rail

Singles were trapped at Hauxley on the 7th and 8th (HRS) and seen at Holywell Pond on the 13th and 21st (KWR/DRS)



Coot

286 counted on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 14th included 208 at Broomlee (LGM/JB). Up to 100 were noted at Rayburn Lake and Wallsend Swallow and about 60 at Hartburn and Cresswell.

Coastal Wader Count 13th/14th November

The following stretches of coast were actually covered :

Budle Pt-Seahouses (DGB), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLL), Beadnell-Howick (MF) Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer - Alnmouth (ES), Alnmouth-Birling Carr (ETN), Birling Carr-Coquet estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (NWR), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (EAS), Blyth-Seaton Sluice (LJM), St. Marys Island (CAB/IPB).

Oystercatcher

A total of 735 were noted during the coastal count, including 251 between Beadnell and Howick, 175 between Beadnell and Seahouses and 180 on St. Marys.

Ringed Plover

A total of 276 noted during the coastal wader count. In addition up to 20 noted at Berwick during the month.

Golden Plover

The largest concentration was of about 3,000 in the Boulmer area on the 14th (MCAC). Maxima of 1,500 were noted at Whittle Dene on the 3rd (BNR) and Felton on the 9th (BG) 500-600 were noted during the month at Seahouses, Hauxley and St. Marys and 300-400 at Holy Island and Cresswell.

Grey Plover

Only 50 noted during the coastal wader count on the 13th/14th.

Lapwing

Up to 1,000 were in the Cresswell area early in the month. Flocks of 300-600 were noted during the month at Cholerford, St. Marys, Cramlington, Hauxley, Whittle Dene, Derwent reservoir and Kirkley.

Knot

Of 222 noted during the wader count on the 13th/14th 219 were at St. Marys Island ! The maximum count at St. Marys was of 313 on the 27th.

Sanderling

176 noted during the coastal wader count on the 13th/14th included 80 between Amble and Chevington Burn and 59 between Budle Pt and Seahouses. 67 were at Berwick on the 3rd (JDL).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 689 noted during the wader count on the 13th/14th included 355 Budle Pt - Seahouses, 118 Beadnell - Seahouses, and 136 at St. Marys.

Dunlin

A total of 732 noted during the coastal wader count.

Ruff

Three flew E across Holywell Pond on the 5th (KWR).

Jack Snipe

At least two in Warkworth Gut during the month (ES/MN) and one at Fenham on the 3rd (JDL).

Snipe

56 flushed in Warkworth Gut on the 20th (NWR). Up to 27 at Cresswell, 16 at Whittle Dene, 13 at Holy Island and 10 at Alnmouth during the month.

Woodcock

An influx was apparent during the first fortnight and in particular 5th-7th when up to six were at Hauxley, three at Holy Island and singles at St. Marys, Westerhope, Walkerville, Tynemouth, Holywell, Gosforth Park, Threestoneburn, Jesmond Dene and over St. James Park !

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were in Budle Bay on the 6th (DGB).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Very scarce, only 45 noted during the wader count, no counts available from Lindisfarne.

Whimbrel

One noted at Fenham on the 3rd (JDL) and seven together in the Coquet Estuary on the 5th (per JMA).

Curlew

191 noted during the coastal wader count on the 13th/14th. Up to 70 noted off Holy Island during the month.

Spotted Redshank

One noted on several dates 1st-15th at Swallow Pond (AMB/IPB et al).

Redshank

781 noted during the coastal wader count on the 13th/14th. In addition 105 were at Berwick on the 3rd (JDL). A single inland record of one at Whittle Dene on the 3rd.

Greenshank

Single noted in Budle Bay on the 1st (WGJ) and two at Beal Sands on the 3rd (JDL).

Turnstone

A total of 1552 noted during the coastal wader count. A maximum of 150 noted at Berwick during the month.

Great Skua

Seaton Sluice recorded two S on the 6th and three S on the 7th (SSWT), when one S off Stag Rocks (BW).

Black-headed Gull

Up to 7,000 noted roosting at Derwent reservoir on the 13th (BNR). 450 noted feeding on the shore near Boulmer.

Arctic Skua

The only record was of one N off St. Marys on the 6th (JRT).

Common Gull

Up to 2,000 roosting on Derwent reservoir mid month (BNR et al).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

One-two noted during the month at Budle Bay, Holywell, Wylam, Ovingham and Derwent reservoir.

Herring Gull

Up to 1000 were concentrated in the Coquet estuary during most of the month (AH).

400-500 noted at Blyth and North Shields.

Iceland Gull

A third winter bird was at Berwick on the 11th (DGB).

Glaucous Gull

Probably two individuals were noted between Seaton Sluice and North Shields during the month. First winter birds were also noted at Boulmer on the 13th (IK) and Stag Rocks on the 19th (DGB).

Great Black Backed Gull

Up to 1000 were in Coquet estuary during the month. Other large gatherings included 400 at Meggies Burn and 250 at Cresswell.

Guillemot

Up to 12 noted on several dates between Seaton Sluice and North Shields.

Stock Dove

Up to 10 noted in Jesmond Dene during the month (MPF).

Collared Dove

21 together at Holywell Dene on the 21st (IC/BW).

Turtle Dove

An unusually late record was of one at Hauxley on the 8th (HRS).

Barn Owl

Singles noted at Boulmer, Lesbury, Acklington, Bamburgh, Beal and Kielder during the month.

Little Owl

Singles noted near Backworth and Seaton Delaval during the month.

Tawny Owl

Noted at Morpeth, Redesmouth and dead on the road at Humbleton.

Short Eared Owl

Well recorded throughout the month with one-three noted at 19 widely scattered localities including birds well inland at Threestoneburn and Redesmouth.

Green Woodpecker

The only record was of one at Gosforth Park on the 26th (JEF).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Noted at nine usual inland localities. One at Tynemouth cemetery on the 17th was presumably an immigrant.

Skylark

Small flocks noted in coastal localities during the month.

Swallow

Late sightings all of singles at Druridge on the 9th (ETN/JRN), at Benton on the 10th (PW) at Berwick on the 12th (JDL) and at Alnmouth on the 20th (per JMA).

House Martin

Two late birds were at Budle Bay on the 12th (DGB).

Meadow Pipit

Small flocks were noted still in inland areas during the last fortnight including the Simonsides, Cheviots and Blanchland Moor.

Rock Pipit

A flock of about 20 were at Seahouses on the 13th (MLL).

Grey Wagtail

One-two at eight usual localities.

Waxwing

Two were reported to have been in Morpeth Catholic Church yard on the 28th (per BL).

Dipper

Noted, several singing at localities on the Rivers Tyne, Coquet and Aln.

Stonechat

Up to three noted on several dates in the Warkworth Gut area. Two were in the Alnmouth area and one at Hauxley during the month.

Blackbird

On the 4th many small flocks were noted flying W over the Al between Morpeth and Berwick and 50 were in Whitley Bay cemetery. (AH/MN). The following day Hauxley ringing station witnessed its largest ever arrival which continued throughout the day at least 1500 passed through this small area and 177 were trapped. The arrival was also seen at Amble (per JMA), and at Bamburgh where over 400 were counted (DGB), numbers declined on the 6th but nevertheless 176 were ringed at Hauxley and Swedish and Heligoland ringed birds controlled. In contrast only 23 were ringed there on the 7th. Up to 300 were estimated to be in the Beadnell area on the 6th (WGJ). Birds were conspicuous throughout the county during the rest of the month seemingly taking advantage of the good berry crop and the mild weather.

That many birds perished on their sea crossing is suggested by a count of 19 corpses in only 100 yards of beach at Hadston on the 14th (AH). Small numbers continued to arrive during the last half of the month.

Fieldfare

About 500 were seen to arrive early on the 5th at Hauxley but only 30 the following day (HRS). Small flocks were also reported at coastal localities later in the month but most were noted in inland areas. On the 11th up to 700 were in the Sweethope area and 200 at Knowesgate (MLL). A steady E movement was noted between 1200-1400 over Bellingham on the 14th (BNR). As many as 2,000 were in fields near Chollerton on the 21st (RW) and 500 in the Plessey-Cramlington area on the 28th. From the 7th on, many smaller flocks of up to 150 noted elsewhere.

Redwing

300+ arrived at St. Marys on the 4th (MW), and small numbers arrived at Hauxley and elsewhere on the 6th and 7th. The largest inland count was of 250+ at Belsay on the 14th (PW), and 200 were at Bothal on the 21st (MLL). Smaller flocks of up to 80 were noted at 14 other localities during the month.

Mistle Thrush

One was heard in full song perched on the scoreboard at St. James's Park ! (BG).

Barred Warbler

An immature was watched feeding on aphids from the under-surface of Sycamore leaves at Capheaton on the 3rd ! (RW)

Garden Warbler

An extremely late record of one in Jesmond Dene on the 29th (MPF).

Blackcap

One-two were present at Hauxley on eight dates between the 1st and 13th (HRS). On the 13th three were in Holywell Dene (ES) one at Stocksfield Burn (KD) and eight together in Jesmond Dene. (MPF). Later in the month again at Jesmond Dene four present on the 20th, a male on the 27th and a female on the 29th (MPF) when a male was at Longframlington (per JMA).

Chiffchaff

Singles at Hauxley on the 1st, 5th and 7th (HRS). Three noted at Holywell Dene on the 8th and 10th and one there on the 13th (ES).

Goldcrest

About 10 present at Hauxley on the 6th (HRS). Small numbers noted at Gosforth Park, Craggside, College Valley, Threestoneburn and Lilburn Burn.

Long tailed Tit

Flock of 10-15 at Riding Mill, Stocksfield, Craggside and Derwent reservoir, smaller flocks also noted at six other localities.

Marsh Tit

Noted at Barasford, Colwell, Hulme Park, Lilburn Burn, Craggside and Bolam.

Coal Tit

17 at Acklington farm on the 29th (NWR). Noted also at Holywell Dene, Seaton Deleval, Lilburn Burn and Stocksfield.

Blue Tit

During winter atlas counts up to 83 noted at Jesmond Dene and 49 in Gosforth Park (MPF/LJM).

Great Tit

44 counted in Gosforth Park on the 27th (LJM).

Nuthatch

One-three noted at Bolam, Stocksfield, Hexham, Whitfield, Jesmond Dene, Bywell, Capheaton and Matfen.

Treecreeper

Noted at thirteen typical localities

Great Grey Shrike

Singles noted at Detchant on the 9th (ICM), Elsdon on the 21st (IK) and near Kielder on the 28th (LGM/JCD).

Jay

Up to 10 noted at Gosforth Park and Kielder, one-five reported from ten other typical localities.

Magpie

Easily the largest gatherings noted were of 35 near Wylam on the 27th (BG) and of 26 at Lintry near Burnopfield on the same day (PRW).

Hooded Crow

One was at Low Newton on the 27th (KIB/GSR).

Raven

One noted near Cheviot on the 27th (JMA).

Starling

The Ryal roost was estimated at 500,000 or more ! (RW). Another large roost was located at Rennington cemetery in the order of 100,000 birds (IK/BG).

House Sparrow

An albino bird was noted at Seghill on the 1st (MLL).

Tree Sparrow

The largest concentration was of 74 at Horton on the 14th (LJN), up to 25 were noted at Druridge during the month.

Brambling

The only coastal record was of four at Hauxley on the 5th (HRS). 60-80 were noted in Beech trees at Wallington on the 28th (IC/BW). 10 were at Capheaton on the 3rd and 25-30 at Aydon on the 17th (RW). One-five noted at six other localities.

Greenfinch

The largest flock was of 200 at Flodden on the 13th (AMB). Flocks 45-65 were also noted at Low Angerton, Holywell Dene, Stocksfield and Felton. Several smaller flocks noted elsewhere.

Goldfinch

15 at Blyth estuary on the 1st and 12 at Holywell Dene on the 8th were the largest flocks. Two-six noted at seven other localities.

Siskin

A very large concentration of about 250 noted in a 100 yard stretch of Alders on the North Tyne at Bellingham on the 14th (BNR). Other concentrations included 40 at Grasslees Burn on the 21st (IK), 25 at Knowesgate on the 24th (RW) and 15 at Stocksfield on the 20th (JSB). One-seven were also noted at Bolam, Hauxley, Hexham, Kielder and Whitfield.

Linnet

Flocks of about 100 on Holy Island and St. Marys and 50 at Knowesgate and Shankhouse.

Twite

Two were at Alnmouth on the 28th (BNR) and four at Warkworth Gut on the 29th (MN).

Redpoll

A very large concentration of at least 200 noted amongst Alders at Holystone Burn on the 28th (MH). One-six noted at seven usual localities.

Crossbill

On the 27th 21 were noted feeding on Larch at Monk Woods. (KD) when eight at Dipton Wood (BNR).

Bullfinch

One-five noted at 10 scattered localities.

Hawfinch

One-two noted at Eastburn and Hexham High School (KD).

Lapland Bunting

10 were noted at St. Marys on the 26th (MN) four remaining the following day (DMT).

Snow Bunting

As usual the largest concentration was Ross where at least 80 on the 30th (DRS). Up to 15 were noted at Hauxley during the first week (HRS) and one-four at Bamburgh and Holy Island during the month (DGB/TAC etal). One at St. Marys on the 9th (DGW).

Yellowhammer

About 80 concentrated at New Moor tip, Ashington on the 21st (MCL). 14 at Felton on the 28th (ETN/JRN).

Reed Bunting

12 at Hauxley on the 1st (HRS), only odd birds noted elsewhere.

December records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth, NE61 2AN in Voous order and by 8th January at the latest please

List of Contributors

J.H. Almond	A. Heavisides	N.W. Richardson
S.W. Anderson	M. Henry	B.N. Rossiter
C.A. & I.P. Bainbridge	S. Humble	G.S. Rushbrooke
A.M. Bankier	W.G. Johnson	D.R. Shannon
K.I. Barratt	W.A. Kelly	K.D. Shaw
D.G. Bell	I. Kerr	E. Slack
J.S. Booth	E.M. Lindsay	E.A. Stanley
T.A. Cadwallender	J.D. Lough	T.R. Todd
I. Chadwick	M.L. Lovett	D.M. Turner
D.B. Charlton	L.G. Macfarlane	D.G. Walker
M.C.A. Clarke	I.C. McDonald	R. Walton
K. Dawson	L.J. McDougall	P. Watson
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M.P. Frankis	E.T. & J.R. Norris	D & S Younger
B. Galloway	K.W. Regan	Hauxley Ringing Station
H. Garrod	A.J. Richards	Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

WINTER GULL ROOST CENSUS - JANUARY, 1983

The response to my appeals for volunteers to make a single visit to sites in late January, 1983 has again been very encouraging. Although only one count per site is required the survey covers all coastal localities as well as those inland so quite a lot of helpers are required. These places still needing a volunteer at the time of writing are as follows :-

Berwick/Tweed Estuary

Fenham Flats

Beadnell Bay

Low Newton-by-the-Sea

Coquet Island (An attempt at counting birds flighting into roost over the coast from inland may enable a estimate to be made of the large roost).

R. Wansbeck estuary

Blyth Estuary

Blyth Bay

Tynemouth

Ashington Colliery/Grammar School

Could anyone able to visit any of the above sites please contact me :

: Geoff Macfarlane
7 Wildshaw Close
Cramlington
Northumberland, NE23 6LH.

(Tel 715399 before 7.30 pm please if possible)

B.T.O. WINTER ATLAS

This is quickly becoming the most popular project run by the BTO since the Breeding Atlas of 1968-1972. Out of 63 ten Kilometre Grid Squares in the Northumberland and North Tyne and Wear area all but 20 now have at least one observer covering them. Many observers have agreed to send in cards from regular birdwatching excursions so the coverage obtained should be much more widespread, weather permitting, than was the case last year.

Those areas where additional cover is required include the following squares (although I know in some cases observers have promised to visit them and in others it is likely records will be sent in from a variety of observers because they contain some important birdwatching sites).

NU 01 Glanton	NT 70 Catcleugh	NY65 Slaggyford	NZ05 Whittonstall
02 Chillingham	82 College Burn	68 Lewis Burn	26 Newcastle
03 Lowick	83 Coldstream	77 Wark Forest	36 Tynemouth
04 Beal	91 Linhope	79 Emblehope	
05 Berwick upon Tweed	93 Ford		
14 Holy Island	94 Norham		

Contact Geoff Macfarlane

Tyneside Bird Club - time for a change ?

At the A.G.M. October 1980 a proposal that the club should change its name to the Northumberland and Tyneside Ornithological Society was put to the membership. Following discussion at that meeting the proposal was voted on and defeated. The committee recently rediscussed this issue and would like to hear the views of other members. Any written correspondence directed to the committee will be printed in future bulletins.

In order to start the ball rolling I have agreed to give my personal views on this matter. The proposal put by John Day was the result of considerable discussion within the committee during preceding months, I believe the membership was mistaken in taking a reactionary view against this motion. The arguments made by the proposer at that time are still valid, in essence these are the following:

1) The club is primarily interested, as reflected in all our publications, in the areas of Northumberland and North Tyneside. We have few very active members from the North and far West of the county. Would not more be attracted to the club if the name better reflected our geographical interest? Representations we may wish to make to for example Northumberland County Council might carry more weight if our name implied that some of our members lived in the county and all were actively interested in the area. It would also be clearer to visiting bird watchers who they should contact regarding their observations or say Holy Island or the Cheviots.

2) It is many years since the club was formed by a small group of keen birdwatchers. Membership now fluctuates around the 250 mark. Society may have sounded a little pretentious in the early days but surely not now. The word, defined in the Concise Oxford Dictionary as meaning "An Association of persons united by a common aim or interest", is one used by many similar organisations eg. the Northumbria Natural History Society.

3) It seemed at the time of the A.G.M. that most exception was taken to the use of the 'ornithological' in place of 'bird'. Whereas interest in taking part in organised (by the club) bird watching is so low that we have effectively dropped field trips, the membership continues to show great interest in taking part in surveys and studies carried out by ourselves and the British Trust for Ornithology. Ornithology is defined as the study of birds, it is not an obscure term and is understood by all who have an interest in birds and most who have not. The use of the word ornithological would also separate us from those with an interest in captive birds.

In conclusion I believe that the name should be changed, and that Northumberland and Tyneside Ornithological Society would seem most appropriate. What do you think?

Alan Heavisides

Correction -

Muriel Lovett's 'phone number is Seaton Delaval 371145.

Mini Field Trips

Sunday 23rd January 1983 Bamburgh/Ross Back Sands area. Meet at Seahouses Harbour at 09.30 hrs, leader Mike Hodgson (Whitley Bay 520511).

Sunday 13th February 1983 Boulmer/Howick area. Meet at Boulmer Lifeboat Station at 10.00 hrs. leader Ian Kerr (Lemington 676974).

(Transport - ring the leader if you have any spare seats in your car or if you need a lift).

Indoor Meetings

Thursday 13th January - Ian Armstrong on "Wildlife of the Everglades".

Thursday 10th February - Gull Research in the North East by members of the Durham University Zoology Department.

Thursday 10th March - David Woodfall on "Conservation in Tanzania".

Thursday 8th April - volunteers for members night would be appreciated - please contact Mike Nattrass. North Shields 571584.

Thursday 12th May - John Day on "Birds of the Seychelles".



TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

K. G. DURES (Secretary)

T.B.C. 5 Bath Terrace Tynemouth Tyne & Wear. Tel: North Shields 75928

DECEMBER, 1982

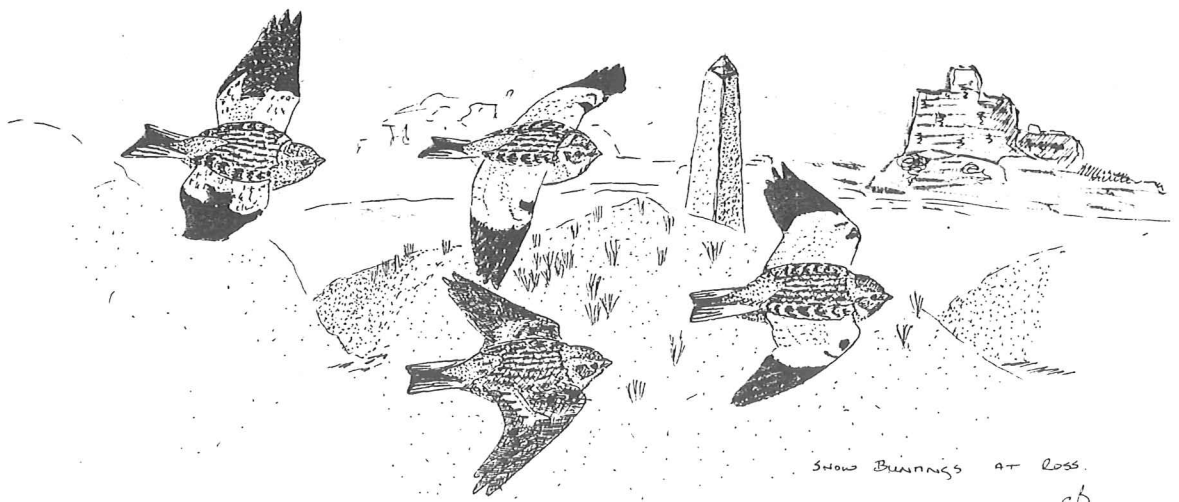
SUMMARY

The weather was less memorable than during last December and was unlikely to have caused any major problems for most species. The early part of the month was rather cold, wet and windy and light snow falls were experienced mid month mainly in the west and on the hills. Most snow quickly cleared however and the last week was generally mild and changeable.

The lack of very hard weather presumably accounts for the good numbers of Thrushes encountered. Some large concentrations of Redpolls and Siskins were noted and Crossbills and Hawfinches were seen at several localities.

Whooper Swan numbers were unexceptional but up to 17 Bewicks at Woodhorn was less usual. Grey Lag numbers were again high especially in the Budle Bay area and both Barnacle and White Fronted Geese were recorded. Probably five individual Smew were seen during the month.

Up to 13 Blackcaps and a Chiffchaff were noted, much more surprising however was a report of a Firecrest in Holywell Dene on the last day of the year.



SHOW BURNING AT ROSS.

cd

MONTHLY SUMMARY - DECEMBER 1982

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

Generally high pressure or ridge conditions for the first 3 days but the 4th to 10th saw a series of troughs or depressions move across the NE: the most vigorous of which was on the 7th. A significant trough crossed the area on the 12th. The 14th to 16th were dominated by a very deep low which developed over Scandinavia, the associated fronts crossed the NE on the 14th/15th, the warm sector of which gave the NE its windiest and mildest day on the 15th. Cold north westerlies on the 17th and 18th caused Newcastle to have its lowest day maximum of 1.6 degrees C on 18th. A very deep depression tracking from SE Iceland, past North Scotland to Scandinavia dominated the weather in the period 19th to 22nd. A temporary ridge of high pressure on 23rd was followed by the end of the day by a warm front which while bringing some rain signalled the milder weather for the Christmas period. In the remaining days of the month a sequence of fronts and troughs crossing the area from the west kept the weather changeable but on the mild side and the least rainfall was recorded in the latter part of the month.

The region in general reflected Newcastle's maximum temperatures with only Bishop Auckland's maximum temperature above average and all others below. Night minimum temperatures varied between average at Boulmer and 2.1 degrees C below average at Hartlepool.

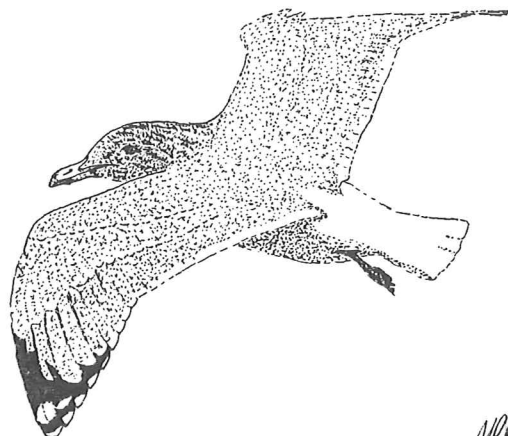
Rainfall totals were as would be expected with winds predominantly from the west i.e. the reporting stations in the North and West and over high ground recording above average rainfall, while the stations in the East recording below average figures.

The windiest day was the 15th, with maximum gust at Lynemouth 71 knots, Bishop Auckland 68 knots and South Shields 60 knots.

Redesdale recorded slightly below average sunshine and Hartburn exactly average. All other reporting stations showed above average sunshine totals. Boulmer on the North Northumberland coast recorded the most hours of sunshine in the month 59.9 hours followed by Tynemouth and Durham both with 52.3 hours.

Snowfall totals for December :

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Maximum Depth</u>
Redesdale	15-19th	13.5cm on 17th
Widdy Bank Fell	8-26th	6cm on 17th
Bishop Auckland	17-18th	1cm
Haydon Bridge	17th	1cm
Durham	17th	$\frac{1}{2}$ cover
Newcastle WC	17-18th	2cm



CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver sp

Up to 12 off Ross and eight off Bamburgh during the month, one-three also noted at five other localities. A total of 14N and 14S noted off Seaton Sluice during the month.

Black-throated Diver

One was off Cocklawburn Beach on the 27th (JDL).

Great Northern Diver

One was off Hadston on the 5th (WAK), two off St. Marys on the 19th and one there on the 26th (KWR).

Little Grebe

At Cresswell seven on the 5th reduced to two by the 31st (SWA et al). One-three also noted at Lesbury, Whittle Dene, Hinds Shield, Halleypike and Hepple.

Great Crested Grebe

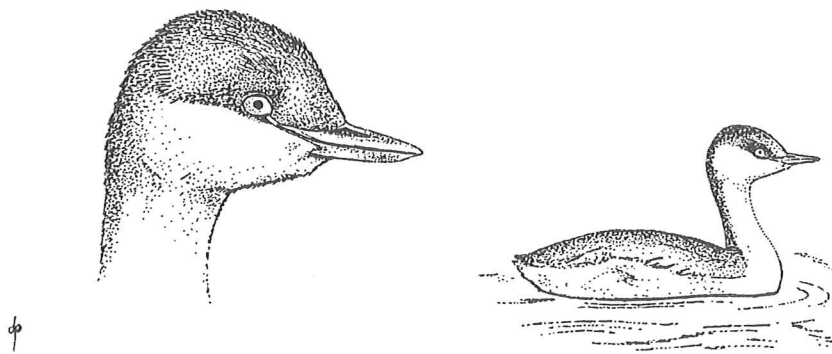
Singles only noted at Whittle Dene and Hauxley during the month.

Red-necked Grebe

At least three were at Stag Rocks on the 12th (MH) where six present on the 31st (DGB). Four were noted off Seaton Sluice on the 12th and two near there on the 27th (PW/IF).

Slavonian Grebe

As many as six noted between Newbiggin and the Wansbeck estuary on the 13th (JR). Four were at Ross on the 11th when one at Druridge (ES). One-two noted off Holy Island and Bamburgh during the month. One freshwater record of a single on Woodhorn Lake on the 5th and 10th (WAK).



Black-necked Grebe

The only record was of one on Cresswell Pond on the 10th (WAK).

Fulmar

At least 12 were at breeding sites on Holy Island on the 12th (JDL)

Gannet

The only record was of two N off Seaton Sluice on the 31st

Heron

Small gatherings of four-seven noted at Warkworth, Catcleugh, Bothal, Gosforth Park, and St. Marys. One-three were recorded at 16 other localities, including one above the snow line near Harthope Burn on the 11th (NWR).

Mute Swan

A maximum of 150 noted in the Tweed Estuary on the 22nd (JDL). Maxima elsewhere included 53 off Holy Island, 17 in Blyth estuary and 13 at Cresswell. Smaller parties noted at other usual localities.

White-fronted Goose

Nine were at Whittle Dene on the 4th (MSH/DGW). Two in the Cresswell-Woodhorn area 4th-26th were of the European race (AMB/KR etal).

Grey Lag Goose

The maximum count from the Budle Bay area was of as many as 2,900 on the 12th (DGB). Up to 1,000 were noted in the Tweed valley during the month (AMB etal). Other large flocks included 1,200 at Fenton on the 12th (SJH) and a maximum of 500 at Grindon on the 28th (RG etal). Many smaller flocks were noted elsewhere.

Snow Goose

The feral birds were noted at Hallington and Colt Crag.

Canada Goose

Up to 57 noted on Colt Crag on the 28th (RW).

Barnacle Goose

Five were at Druridge Pool on the 5th (WAK etal) three at Blaydon on the 28th (PRW) and singles at Hallington on the 5th and Derwent reservoir on the 12th and 18th.

Bewick Swan

In the Ellington-Woodhorn area up to 17 (including 3 juveniles) were noted 4th-26th (KR/AMB etal).

Four were noted at Derwent Reservoir on the 12th and 18th (DBR) and off Boulmer on the 31st (GSR) and an adult with one juvenile in the Holywell-Seghill area 5th-14th (LJM etal). Two adults with one juvenile were at Whittle Dene on the 18th (KD).

Whooper Swan

Numbers fluctuated considerably at the usual localities throughout the month, but no pattern of movement between areas was apparent. Easily the largest gathering in the Seghill-Holywell area was of 158 on the 1st, numbers declining to about 60 during the last week. 40-50 were noted during the month at Holy Island, Woodhorn and Cornhill and 53 were at Prestwick Carr briefly on the 30th. 15-20 were also noted on occassion at Rayburn Lake, Colt Crag, Capheaton and Cresswell Pond.

Pink-footed Goose

The largest flock of 30 flew SW over Halleypike on the 11th (LGM). Six were at Hadston on the 18th and 10 at Grindon on the 28th (JSB). One was with Grey Lag at Budle Bay on the 30th (TT etal).

Brent Goose

One leucistic individual was noted amongst 550 off Holy Island on the 30th (DGB). The only record away from Lindisfarne was of twoSoff Amble on the 8th (per JMA).

Shelduck

The only reports were of one W up the Tyne valley at Corbridge on the 1st (MR) and three N off Seaton Sluice on the 12th (SSWT).

Wigeon

Up to 200 were noted at Druridge, Derwent reservoir and the Northumbrian Loughs during the month. About 60 also noted at Whittle Dene and Hartburn.

Gadwall

One was on Angerton Lake on the 5th (TAC/MLL) and two drakes and one duck on Newton Pool on the 12th (IK/MCAC)

Teal

The largest count was of 225 at Druridge on the 12th (AMB). Maxima elsewhere included 120 at Whittle Dene, 80 at Holywell, 64 at Grindon and 20 at Backworth. 25 were on the sea off Seaton Sluice on the 23rd (PRW).

Mallard

A large count of 900 on Derwent reservoir on the 12th (DBR), reducing to 300 by the 30th (BNR). Other large gatherings included 400 at Kimmer Lough on the 19th (JCD). Up to 200 appeared to 'commute' between Holywell Pond and St. Marys. A maximum of 186 were noted on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 29th (LGM) and around 200 were in the Cresswell area during the month (KR etal). Several smaller flocks noted elsewhere.

Pintail

The only record was of one at Whittle Dene reservoir on the 30th (JSB).

Shoveler

Up to four in the Cresswell-Druridge area during the month

Pochard

Maxima included 150 at Cresswell on the 2nd and 102 at Whittle Dene on the 14th (TAC/WAK). About 30 were noted at Killingworth Lake and Holywell Pond. Small gatherings were noted elsewhere including three in the Tweed estuary on the 28th (BRS).

Tufted Duck

The largest concentration was of 177 at Whittle Dene on the 14th (WAK). 30-50 were also recorded at Cresswell, Holywell and Killingworth Lake.

Scaup

Singles noted on Cresswell Pond 12th and 30th and in Berwick harbour on the 28th (PRW/BRS etal).

Long-tailed Duck

20-30 off Stag Rocks and 10-15 off Ross noted during the month. Nine were between Newbiggin and the Wansbeck on the 13th (JR) and up to six noted off Holy Island. One was on Hauxley Pool on the 4th and 5th and one-two on Cresswell Pond throughout the month.

Common Scoter

Unusually scarce, the largest gathering noted was of only 15 off Stag Rocks on the 12th (MH), no more than eight were noted together elsewhere. A single female was on Cresswell Pond 4th-12th (AMB etal).

Velvet Scoter

Two off Stag Rocks and Ross and one in Seahouses Harbour were the only records.

Goldeneye

60-100 were present in the Tweed estuary throughout the month (AH etal). Several small flocks noted at the usual localities on the R. Tyne, 40 were at Heddon on the 13th. A maximum of 30 on the Northumbrian Loughs on the 29th (LGM). Small flocks were regularly noted off Seaton Sluice, 30 were at Carham on the Tweed on the 29th and one - 20 at 18 other localities during the month.

Smew

Several records received all of single redheads. One was noted at Cresswell Pond on the 1st - 2nd and 11th - 13th (MLL/ES etal). Singles were at Bothal Pond 5th-6th (WAK/ES), off Seaton Sluice on the 12th (PW/IF), at Holywell Pond 21st-26th (DGW/KWR etal) and at Hauxley Pool on the 28th (JRT).

Red-breasted Merganser

Five were on Hauxley Pool on the 5th (NWR). No more than three noted together elsewhere.

Goosander

25 were concentrated at Carham on the 29th (AMB). 13 were on Derwent reservoir on the 11th (AHB) and eight on Kimmer Lough on the 19th (JCD). Noted at several localities on the R. Tyne including 13 between Bywell and Wylam and 20 Broomhaugh-Chipchase.

Hen Harrier

Ringtails were noted on several dates during the month at Cresswell-Druridge, Bradford Kaims, Ottercops, Simonside and Thorngraston. A sub-adult male was at Hauxley 5th-9th.

Sparrowhawk

Noted at 20 widespread localities

Kestrel

One-two noted at 25 localities.

Merlin

Singles noted during the month at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Longhoughton, Boulmer and Chevington Burn.

Peregrine

Several noted during the last week including two at Holy Island and singles at Anstead (noted feeding on Lapwing), near Belsay, Carham and Elsdon.

Red Grouse

Small numbers noted in upland areas including ten above the snow line on Cheviot on the 11th (NWR).

Black Grouse

One-three noted at Harwood, Wark forest, Eals, Allenheads, Broomlee and Whitfield.

Red-legged Partridge

A maximum of 19 noted at Calder on the 11th (AMB).

Pheasant

A melanistic bird noted at Brinkburn on the 13th (PRW).

Water Rail

The only record was of one at Holywell Pond on the 12th (CED).

Moorhen

A maximum of 41 noted at Cresswell on the 4th (AMB).

Coot

The largest gatherings noted were of up to 120 at Cresswell, 80 at Hartburn and 50 at Whittle Dene.

Wader Count

11th/12th December. The following stretches of coastline were counted; Budle Pt-Seahouses (DGB), Seahouses - Beadnell (MLL), Beadnell - Howick (DLW/MAF), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), Alnmouth - Birling Carrs (ETN), Birling Carrs-Coquet estuary (PWW), Amble - Chevington Burn (NWR), Chevington Burn - Cresswell (EAS), Newbiggin - Wansbeck (JR), Blyth estuary (LJM), Seaton Sluice - Whitley Bay (JBD), St. Marys Island (CAB/IPB), St. Marys - Tynemouth (MC).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,115 noted between Budle Pt. and Tynemouth during the wader count.

Ringed Plover

A total of 287 noted between Budle Pt. and the Tyne during the wader count. In addition 82 were at Berwick on the 29th (JDL).

Golden Plover

Month maxima included 3,000 at each of Boulmer and Newton, 2,000 at Anstead and Whittle Dene, 1,000 at St. Marys and Budle Bay and 800 at Felton and Bolam. In addition 300-500 were noted at Druridge, Longframlington and Hauxley. Smaller flocks were noted elsewhere.

Grey Plover

Only 49 noted during the coastal wader count.

Lapwing

The largest concentration noted was of about 2,000 in the Budle Bay area on the 30th (TT et al). Flocks of 300-600 were noted at St. Marys, Druridge, Boulmer, Walton, Anstead and Stocksfield.

Knot

A total of 1529 noted during the coastal wader count, included 950 on St. Marys Island. Up to 400 also noted on Holy Island.

Sanderling

A total of 384 noted during the wader count included 210 between Cresswell and Chevington Burn. In addition a maximum of 43 noted at Berwick on the 29th.

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 331 noted during the coastal wader count. In addition 82 were at Cocklawburn Beach, Scremerston on the 27th (JDL)..

Dunlin

A total of 1055 noted during the coastal wader count. Up to 1,000 were also noted on Holy Island and about 300 at Berwick.

Jack Snipe

One at Ryal on the 5th (KR) was the only record.

Snipe

14 near Powburn on the 19th and nine at Backworth on the 26th were the largest concentrations. One-five noted at eight other localities.

Woodcock

Singles noted at St. Marys, Brandon and near Harthope Burn (above snow line).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Only 122 noted during the wader count, 100 of which were between Seahouses and Beadnell. Up to 1,500 noted at Lindisfarne N.N.R.

Curlew

327 noted during the wader count. The only inland record was of a single at Weetwood near Wooler on the 18th (AMB).

Redshank

A total of 707 noted during the wader count. In addition 55 were at Berwick on the 29th. The only inland record was of one at Whittle Dene on the 30th (JSB).

Greenshank

A single bird was at Beal on the 21st (per JMA).

Green Sandpiper

One flushed near Kirkley Hall on the 5th (AHB).

Turnstone

A total of 920 noted during the coastal wader count. In addition a maximum of 178 noted at Berwick on the 29th (JDL).

Black-headed Gull

Numbers reduced to 1,500 roosting at Derwent Reservoir by the 31st (BNR). A leucistic bird was noted at Tynemouth on the 8th (DGW).

Common Gull

About 6,000 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on the 31st (BNR). As many as 2,000 were at Hartburn on the 5th (MLL/TAC) 200-400 noted at Amble, Belsay, Bradford and Harnham.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Single adults at Derwent reservoir on the 4th (AHJH) and at Whittle Dene on the 12th (ES).

Iceland Gull

Immatures noted at Tynemouth on the 19th (DGW) and off St. Marys on the 24th (DY/SY) and an adult at North Shields on the 26th (MSH).

Glaucous Gull

Immatures were noted during the month at Boulmer, St. Marys and North Shields (IK/AHJH/RM). An adult noted at the fish quay 24th-31st (RH).

Great Black-backed Gull

Up to 1200 noted roosting near Amble during the month (AH/JMA). 550 roosted at Derwent reservoir on the 31st (BNR). Odd birds noted at several inland localities

'Commic' Tern

Very late records were of singles off Seaton Sluice on the 12th (JH) and 18th (SSWT).

Auk sp

A few noted on several dates offshore, passage heaviest off Seaton Sluice on the 31st when 38N and four S.

Guillemot

Oiled birds were noted about the 11th-12th at Boulmer, Druridge and St. Marys.

Razorbill

During the last fortnight one-two off Hauxley, Embleton, Holy Island, St. Marys and Seaton Sluice.

Little Auk

One found exhausted at Lesbury on the 4th, two others were found later in the month in the same area (per JMA).

Stock Dove

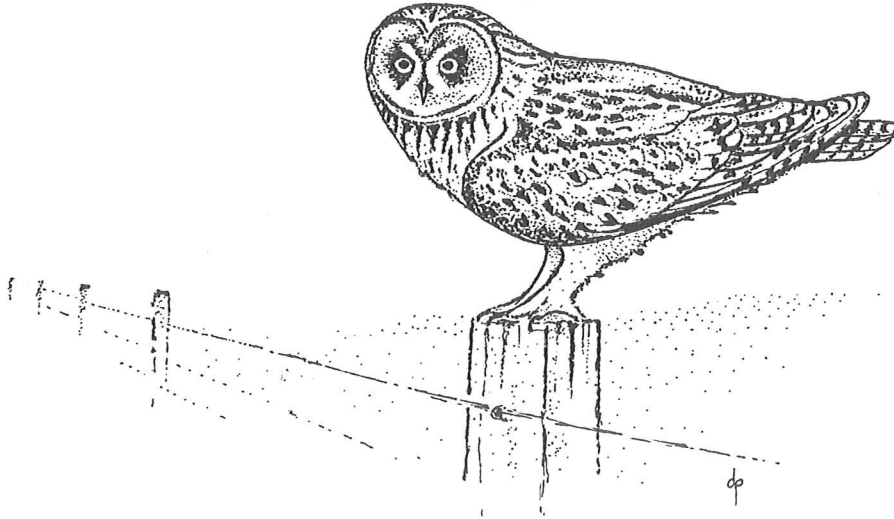
Flocks of 14 at Causey Hill, Hexham on the 5th (KD) and 15 near Bardon Mill on the 29th (LGM). Noted also at Morpeth, Holywell and Jesmond Dene.

Barn Owl

Noted during the month at Ilderton, Langley, Morpeth, East Ord, Hexham, Whitfield and Horton.

Short-eared Owl

One-two noted at 22 scattered localities, mainly near to the coast but inland as far as Langley, Newcastle, Newcastle Airport and Prestwick Carr.



Green Woodpecker

Noted at Hulme Park, Wall, Ellingham, Gosforth Park and Harthope Burn.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Noted at 13 typical woodland localities.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One flying near Stocksfield Hall on the 5th (BNR).

Skylark

Small numbers noted at several coastal and inland localities.

Meadow Pipit

Small numbers noted at inland localities throughout the month including Simonside and Threestoneburn.

Grey Wagtail

Ten noted in typical riverine localities

Waxwing

Three noted feeding on Hawthorn berries at Horsley on the 22nd (IHA).

Wren

Noted in small numbers at widely scattered localities.

Stonechat

Pairs noted during the month at Bamburgh and Newton and singles at Hauxley and St. Marys.

Blackbird

Noted as plentiful in many inland areas especially along hedgerows and in copses.

Fieldfare

Flocks of over 50 noted at 47 localities during the month. The largest flock noted was of about 1,500 at Harnham on the 25th (AMB). A total of 1,476 was noted during an 'Atlas' visit to the Gunnerton, Barrasford or Hallington area on the 28th (RW). Other large flocks included 700 at Meldon on the 11th and 500 at Shankhouse on the 25th. Flocks of 150-400 were noted at 10 other localities.

Redwing

Much scarcer than Fieldfare during the month. 241 noted during the Atlas visit to Gunnerton, Barrasford and Hallington (RW) was the largest count recorded. Flocks of 150-160 noted at Stocksfield on the 19th and Holystone on the 30th. 50-100 noted at seven other localities.



Mistle Thrush

10-12 near Beal on the 26th was easily the largest flock. A few individuals noted singing towards the month's end.

Blackcap

Between the 1st-5th single females noted in a Gosforth garden (ADM/MC) and Kirkley Hall (PWW/IK) and two males and a female in Holywell Dene (ES). During the period 21st-31st singles were noted at Whitley Bay, Holywell Pond (KWR) and Newcastle Quayside (KDS/AKS), two were at Hauxley (HRS) and three at Howick (AMB).

Chiffchaff

One noted at Holywell Pond on the 5th, 6th and 12th (AMB/CED et al).

Firecrest

One recorded in Holywell Dene on the 31st (KWR).

Long-tailed Tit

The largest flock was of up to 25 near Wallington car park on the 12th (ES). Flocks of 10-18 were also noted at 10 other localities.

Marsh Tit

14 at Roddam on the 18th (AMB) was the largest concentration noted. One-five recorded at Stocksfield, Bolam, Wallington, Grasslees Burn, Howick, Morpeth, Haltwhistle and Hulme Park.

Willow Tit

Noted at Holywell Dene, Bellingham, Chipchase, Devils Water and Hulme Park.

Coal Tit

10 at Wallington and 13 at Roddam were the only concentrations of note.

Blue Tit

70-80 were noted at Redesmouth on the 9th and at Seaton Deleval on the 27th. Conspicuous in most woodland areas.

Great Tit

Generally fewer in woodland areas than Blue Tits.

Nuthatch

17 counted at Wallington on the 11th (JR). One-five noted at Stocksfield, Hexham, Bywell, Simonburn, Bolam and Morpeth.

Treecreeper

Noted at 20 typical localities

Magpie

53 roosted at the usual site near Merryshields Wood, Stocksfield on the 19th (BNR). At least 19 roosted at Derwent reservoir on the 11th (AHB).

Carrion Crow

About 300 roosted at Prestwick Carr by the 26th (AHB). Other concentrations included 76 at Hexham on the 1st (MR) and 40 at Derwent reservoir on the 30th (BNR).

Hooded Crow

Singles on a television aerial in Preston Grange estate on the 2nd (SY) and at Holy Island on the 12th (JDL).

Starling

A massive roost was noted at Ryal until the 29th when the birds apparently moved (RW). A roost of about 25,000 noted in the Breamish valley during the month (JMA).

Tree Sparrow

Flocks of 15-25 noted at Horton, Gunnerton, Weetwood and Druridge.

Chaffinch

The largest flocks of about 400 were noted at Great Bavington on the 14th and Capheaton on the 22nd (RW). About 100 also noted at Snitter, Hartburn and Linbriggs and several smaller flocks elsewhere.

Brambling

The only large flocks noted were 200 near Intake, Alnwick on the 30th (per JMA), 100 at Bolam on the 24th (JCD) and 80 at Thockrington on the 5th (RW). 5-20 were noted at four other localities.

Greenfinch

The largest concentrations were of 300 at Angerton Steads on the 11th (JR) and about 200 in the Holywell Dene area on the 4th (ES). About 100 roosted in grounds of All Saints Church, Newcastle and about 50 noted at Bothal and Cresswell.

Goldfinch

One-eight noted at eight localities.

Siskin

Some large flocks noted taking advantage of a good Alder seed crop. The largest was 150 at Longlee on the 28th (AMB). Other concentrations included 80 at Grasslees Burn, 60 near Morpeth, 40 at Blakehope burnhaugh and 25-40 at Bellingham, Norham, Corbridge and Bolam.

Linnet

Flocks of 100-200 noted at Linton, Low Horton, Shankhouse, Cresswell and Beal.

Twite

Up to 10 noted in the Warkworth Gut and Amble Braid area during the month (JMA/PWW et al)
One was at Cresswell on the 4th (AMB).

Redpoll

As with Siskin some large flocks noted on Alders. The largest concentration of about 250 was at Grasslees Burn on the 21st when 150 at Darden Burn (MH), 100 were at Charlton on the 18th and, 90 at Holystone on the 30th (BNR/LSG), 120 at Corbridge on the 2nd (MR), and 30 at Chipchase on the 26th. Several other records received of ten or less.

Crossbill

Totals of 11-18 noted during the month at Earlehillhead, Dipton, Wark forest, Holystone and Langley sawmill. Three were also at Harwood on the 4th.

Bullfinch

One-six noted at 12 scattered localities.

Hawfinch

As many as 17 noted at Wallington on the 11th (JR). Two noted at Eastburn Hexham and Hulme Pond during the last week and one at Kirkley Hall on the 5th (KD/ES/IK/PWW).

Lapland Bunting

At St. Marys two noted on the 11th (JRT) and three there on the 13th (DGW).

Snow Bunting

A maximum of 140 noted at Ross Back Sands on the 29th (DGB). 60 were at Hauxley on the 26th and 22 near Boulmer on the 31st (HRS/GSR). Three at Berwick and Coquet Estuary, and a single flew E at Earsdon on the 17th (MH).

Yellowhammer

Flocks of about 80 noted at Milbourne, Sharperton and Cramlington. 30-40 also at Holystone, Capheaton and Gunnerton. Several smaller flocks noted elsewhere.

Reed Bunting

The largest flock was of 16 at Capheaton on the 22nd (RW). Two-12 noted at eight other localities.

Corn Bunting

Ten were at Widdrington on the 12th (KR) and four in the Druridge area on the 11th (TAC/MLC).

January records to Alan Heavisides, 8 Leland Place, Kirkhill, Morpeth NE61 2AN in Voous order and by 8th February at the latest please. Please enclose SAE for further supply of record cards.

List of Contributors : -

J.M. Almond	K. Gray	M. Richardson
S.W. Anderson	B.D. Green	N.W. Richardson
I.H. Armstrong	R. Grey	T. Robinson
B. Atkins	A. Heavisides	K. Robson
I.P. Bainbridge	M. Henry	D.B. Rosair
A.M. Bankier	R. Henson	B.N. Rossiter
A.H. Banks	S.J. Hingston	G.S. Rushbrooke
K.I. Barratt	M.S. Hodgson	D.R. Shannon
D.G. & J.G. Bell	J. Holding	K.D. Shaw
M. Bell	W.A. Kelly	A.K. Simpson
J.S. Booth	I. Kerr	E. Slack
W. Brady	B.E. Lewis	E.A. Stanley
T. Cadwallender	E.M. Lindsay	T. Tinlin
M. Carr	B. Little	J.R. Todd
I. Chadwick	J.D. Lough	D.G. Walker
G. Christer	M.L. Lovett	R. Walton
M.C.A. Clarke	L.G. Macfarlane	P. Watson
J.C. Day	L.J. McDougall	R.G. Waugh
K. Dawson	A.D. Mould	P.R. Weighill
J.P. Deacon	E.T. & J.R. Norris	P.W. West
C.E. Douglas	J.L. Paterson	B. Williams
J.E. Ferguson	D. Pickard	D & S Younger
I. Fisher	R.W. Regan	Bamburgh Ringing Station
H. Garrod	B. Richardson	Hauxley " "
L.S. & T.P. Goodwin	J. Richardson	Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Bulletin Illustrations

Members will be pleased to see the return of illustrations to the bulletin with delightful contributions by Dave Pickard, Martin Eccles and Colin Bradshaw.

Tyneside Bird Club - time for a change ?

Alan Heavisides comments in the last bulletin aroused a lot of interest. Here are the relevant extracts from letters received by the committee :-

"I should like to offer one or two comments on the name of the group. As someone new to the area I feel that I can do so without bias. I wholeheartedly support your remarks in the November bulletin. The name 'Tyneside Bird Club' is simply inappropriate, and implies a parochial approach which can only be a hindrance to ornithologists. Such parochialism is still only too prevalent in the area from which I have come (Lancashire/Merseyside), and has led to many disagreements in that area. Secondly, as you point out, the group is in fact an ornithological society with all that implies. Those who persist in supporting the title 'Bird Club' do the group a disservice, both in the eyes of other birdwatchers and in the eyes of the public. The name you suggest seems to me much more suitable".

Andrew H.J. Harrop

"I am in full agreement with your views. The boundry between Tyne & Wear and Northumberland is only just north of Earsdon.

Most of the Reserves, Ringing Stations important bird watching areas are in Northumberland and most of the surveys largely concern this county. Quite a few members already live in Northumberland.

Having Northumberland in the title would give wide scope when applying for financial or other assistance. Seaton Sluice Watch Tower is in Northumberland.

The Annual Report has always been called "Birds in Northumberland".

To the uninitiated Bird Club might mean a caged Bird Club society.

As some of the older members are rather "hide bound" I would suggest the committee be prepared to accept some change the most important being "Northumberland" even if they can't get ornithology and/or society (ie have alternative motions)".

J.E. Fergusson

"Having read your article on the name of the Club, I am inclined to agree with you that T.B.C. is perhaps a little too narrow. I certainly think that Northumberland should be incorporated in some way (your last sentence under point one is particularly persuasive on that issue). You can certainly count on my support for a change in nomenclature!

Mike Henry

In my opinion the vote at the October 1980 A.G.M. should have resolved the basic issue - should "Tyneside Bird Club" now be replaced by another title more representative of the club's aims and activities - but it did not because this was not what the membership were only asked to decide. The membership was asked at that AGM to also accept or reject the proposed new name but they only had one vote on what were clearly two separate issues. (Arthur Scargill has recently experienced a similar problem). The reasons for changing the club's name were very ably put by John Day at the 1980 A.G.M. and have been largely repeated in Alan's letter. The membership should be asked to vote simply on whether they accept that argument or not - the choice of a name can follow if the result is for a change. By linking the two issues those people at the A.G.M. who disliked the proposed new club name but who accepted the reasoning for a change were bound to vote against the proposal with those members who did not want change at all. Trying to solve two issues by a single answer is bound to produce the "reactionary" result claimed by Alan

If the committee accept my reasoning and agree to vote on what are two different matters I would propose that suggestions for a new club name be invited from the membership and that this be circulated in the bulletin. A vote, including postal votes from members unable to attend, can then be taken at the next AGM or a specially called meeting to identify which name commands the greatest support".

Geoff Macfarlane

"As the annual report already bears the misnomer of 'Birds in Northumbria' why not continue this into the 'Northumbrian Ornithological Society' instead of the cumbersome N & T O S."

D.G. Walker

In the November 1982 bulletin Alan Heavisides gave his views on the question of a name change for the club. I feel that I must, on a personal basis, make some comments and perhaps initiate some further thought by members on this subject.

Firstly I must state that Alan's view that the membership acted in a reactionary way in voting against the 1980 proposal is hardly fair, the members present at that A.G.M. were merely exercising their democratic right to reject something they clearly did not want. Whilst the arguments made by the proposer at that time may still be valid, the arguments made against the proposal must also surely still be valid.

Alan has quite correctly quoted the concise Oxford Dictionary definition of the word 'Society' as "An association of persons united by a common aim or interest or principle" but further reference to that book reveals the definition of the word 'club' as "An Association of persons united by some common interest, meeting periodically for shared activity". I will leave it to members to decide which word best defines our "Association".

Whilst I agree, geographically speaking, that the club name is perhaps inappropriate how many additional members could we attract from those areas away from Tyneside ? If we did attract a large number and they decided to attend club meetings where would we 'house' them? Our current meeting place occasionally verges on the overcrowded now. Membership seems to remain fairly stable at around 250 but it seems to me that we are very lacking in young members. Would a name, like that suggested, not have the effect of deterring youngsters who might otherwise join. I feel that if I were a 14 year old youngster I would think twice about applying for membership of an "ornithological society" with its implied professionalism and high degree of expertise (which incidentally, the club already has).

The Tyneside Bird Club has been an established name for many years and is known throughout the British Isles. Obviously there are pros and cons for a name change but I feel that the name should only be changed if it will positively benefit the Club and should not be changed merely for the sake of change. Already the Committee have received a proposed constitutional amendment concerning the name and the A.G.M. this year should prove to be a lively one! May I repeat Alan's request for members comments on this subject which should be sent to the Committee.

Mike S. Hodgson

Finally a small postcard from J.D. Lough -

"I ♥ T.B.C.

Northumberland and Tyneside Ornithological Society means I have to get bigger postcards"!!

Further letters will be printed in next month's bulletin.

B.T.O. WINTER ATLAS PROJECT

At the time of writing the weather experienced so far this winter makes a stark contrast to the conditions of that in 1981/82. Birds both large and small have remained in most parts of the county, including the hill county, and by all accounts some really productive Atlas work has been accomplished. The full extent of cover achieved will not become clear until record cards begin coming in at the end of February but these are still some areas which remain largely unvisited.

There is still one month of fieldwork left and should anyone who has still not volunteered to take part and whose conscience is troubling them please let me know. I will certainly be able to point them to some corner of the county from where little or no information has yet been received.

Geoff Macfarlane
7 Wildshaw Close
Cramlington
Northumberland, NE23 6LH
(Tel. 715399 before 7.30pm if possible please).

B.T.O. WINTER GULL CENSUS

This census took place during the last week of January. Would observers please send back to me completed record cards (including nil returns) as soon as possible please.

Geoff Macfarlane
(Address above)

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Tyneside Bird Club

1. Amendment to any proposed constitutional amendment may be made at an A.G.M. provided that it has a proposer and seconder. A simple majority vote will suffice for its adoption as an amendment.
2. This association shall be called the Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Proposed: Michael Bell
Seconded D.H. Howey

Corrections to November bulletin :

Two obvious errors escaped my attention during the pre-Xmas rush to get both bulletin and annual report out. Firstly the white billed diver misrepresented as a white tailed diver on the front page. Secondly, "Members Night" will be on Thursday 14th April, 1983 not the 8th as incorrectly stated on page 16.

Sandy Bankier

Mini Field Trips

Sunday 13th February, 1983 Boulmer/Howick area. Meet at Boulmer Lifeboat Station at 10.00 hrs. leader Ian Kerr (Lemington 676974).

Saturday 12th March, 1983 Beadnell/Seahouses area, Contact Muriel Lovatt (Seaton Delaval 371145).

(Transport - ring the leader if you have any spare seats in your car or if you need a lift.)

Indoor Meetings

Thursday 10th February - Gull Research in the North East by members of the Durham University Zoology Department.

Thursday 10th March - David Woodfall on "Conservation in Tanzania".

Thursday 14th April - volunteers for members night would be appreciated - please contact Mike Nattrass. North Shields 571584

Thursday 12th May - John Day on "Birds of the Seychelles"

Ringling Recoveries

If anyone has had any interesting ringing recoveries during 1982 would they please advise Tom Cadwallender, 27 Sycamore Ave, Guide Post, Choppington, Northumberland, NE62 5NU.