



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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## MONTHLY SUMMARY

JANUARY 1986

The month had two main periods of hard weather with snow on many days. Periods of easterly winds ensured that temperatures were kept even lower and seas became very rough at the end of the month. Even so the amount of sunshine was above average for the time of the year.

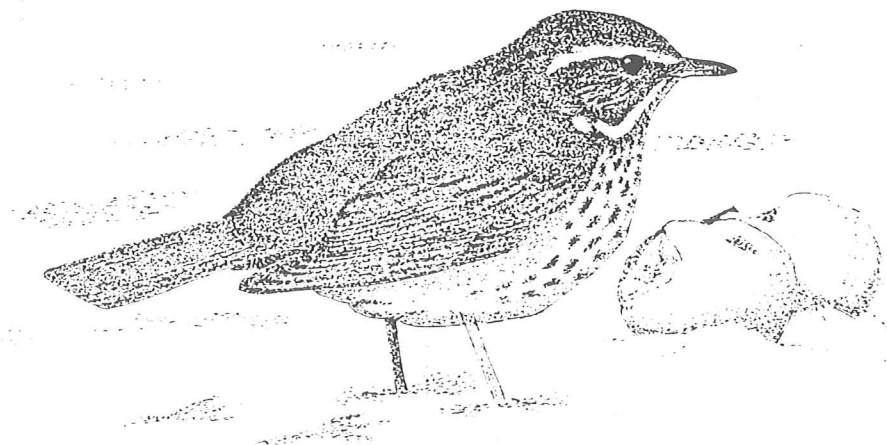
As usual duck numbers fluctuated as various waters froze over and Goldeneye numbers, in particular, increased during the month. At least four-five Smew continued to be reported especially at Hadston Lake where there were also Velvet Scoters and Red-breasted Mergansers. Both Lapwing and Golden Plover reports were few, perhaps as they moved out of the area, but Dunlins showed a marked increase on the regular wader count. Out of season waders included a Black-tailed Godwit and a wintering Green Sandpiper.

Two Pomarine Skuas flew S. at Holy Island on the 2nd. Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were noted particularly at the favoured North Shields Fish Quay area. The Laughing Gull continued its' winter residency at Newcastle General Hospital as did the Craster Mediterranean Gull.

Up to seven Long-eared Owls were present near Wallsend Swallow Pond and a Water Pipit was at Whittle Dene on 5th. Small numbers of Waxwings continued to appear briefly at a few localities. Two wintering Blackcaps and a Chiffchaff were noted. Seven-eight Lapland Buntings were at Druridge on 3rd and small groups of Twite and Mealy Redpolls were in several widespread localities.

The most disturbing report of the month was an oiling incident at Berwick Harbour on 26th. This was widely reported by the media and they concentrated mainly on the destruction of at least 110 Mute Swans, although a count on that day (supplied by the R.S.P.B.) before the incident indicated at least 600 birds were in Berwick Harbour (including 219 Mute Swans and 240 Goldeneye).

Other interesting species noted during the month included Black-necked Grebe, Bewick's Swan, at least four Hen Harriers, Jack Snipe and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.



Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

WEATHER SUMMARY  
NORTH EAST ENGLAND

JANUARY 1986

The month started cold and unsettled with sleet, rain or snow in most parts. Frost reported on most nights to about the 8th.

Gale force westerly winds on the 10th caused thawing for a time until the 15th, then further wintry weather in all parts. Another windy period from 18th-23rd as deep lows passed over the British Isles. The last week saw a frosty start turn cold and cloudy with strong winds setting in from the East by the 29th, the seas becoming very rough.

Temperatures

All parts showed mean temperatures just below normal, with Redesdale and Widdy Bank Fell the lowest. The coldest day was the 26th, minus 8.5 deg C at Widdy Bank Fell, the 4th also a cold day, minus 8.4 deg C, also 24 days with maximum temperatures below 0 deg C at Widdy Bank Fell. The coldest day at lower levels, 6th with maximum temperatures minus 0.8 deg C at Bishop Auckland, 3rd with minus 1.6 deg C at Durham, and Hartburn 0.4 deg C on the 6th.

Snowfall

A snowy month with most parts having large numbers of days with snow falling:- Newcastle had 14, average 8, Widdy Bank Fell had 26, average 12, but still not as high as 1985 with 30!

Rainfall

With the exception of the coast near Tynemouth with 78% of average, all areas had near normal rain. High ground slightly above the Redesdale 150%, Widdy Bank Fell 153%, Haydon Bridge 176%.

Sunshine

All sunshine totals above average, Tynemouth the most with 153%, Newcastle 131%. The hill stations seeing least, with Redesdale only 41 hours, and 17 days with no sunshine.

Wind

A windy month, a spell of northeasterly until the 7th, then westerly until the 28th with another easterly spell to finish. Compared to average, Newcastle had 8 occasions with gales (gust  $\geq$  43 knots) - average 3.5. Bishop Auckland had 14, average 2.3 the 2nd highest since 1972. Two other features :- icy patches reported in Durham and Northumberland on the nights of the 11th, 12th and 14th, probably due to evaporation in the very strong winds, which is unusual. High seas especially from the 29th with easterly gales on the coast. Swells of 8 to 9 metres reported to end the month.

Fog

Far too windy for much, only on the 5th in the Vale of York up to Newcastle, patches of 70 yards in Newcastle at 0600 GMT, clearing after midday. On the 19th - thick fog North of the Tyne in heavy rain.

COURTESY OF NEWCASTLE WEATHER CENTRE



CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

Eight at Stag Rocks on 19th (JCD) and seven at Holy Island on 26th (DPa) were the largest counts. One-five also noted at Budle Bay, Craster, Berwick, Druridge Bay, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's Island. One was at North Shields Fish Quay on 21st and 30th (IF).

Black-throated Diver

Singles were off Amble on 12th (GH), Stag Rocks on 25th (JC/PRJ) and at Warkworth Gut on 26th (MLC/TAC).

Great Northern Diver

Singles were at Druridge bay on 12th (KDS) and Holy Island on 26th (JDL). Another in Blyth Harbour on 25th was still present in early February (MHP).

Little Grebe

Five were at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR) and Cresswell Pond on 18th (JCD/AMB). One-two were also seen at Ovingham, Morpeth, Seaton Burn, Berwick and Blyth Estuary.

Great Crested Grebe

One-two were at Whittle Dene on several dates (BNR/JRT et al) and singles at Hallington on 19th and Seaton Burn on 19th/20th. On the coast two were at St. Mary's Island on 1st (MPF) and singles at Berwick Little Beach on 12th (DPa) and Stag Rocks on 25th (JC).

Red-necked Grebe

One was still at Druridge Pool on 1st (BDG/PRW). Further singles were at Holy Island on 16th and 26th (ASJ/JDL), Stag Rocks on 4th and 25th (ES) and Berwick on 19th (JRI).

Slavonian Grebe

On 4th four were at Ross Back Sands and two at Holy Island (MA/KH). Two were at Stag Rocks on 19th (KR) and one at Beadnell Bay on 18th (RKS).

Black-necked Grebe

One was at the Coquet Estuary on 28th/29th (EMY).

Fulmar

90 were at Dunstanburgh cliffs on 26th (RKS) and 36 at Bamburgh Castle on 25th (IC).

Gannet

One was in the Tyne Estuary/North Shields Fish Quay area on 4th (JC/AH). Two were off Berwick on 12th (JRI).

Cormorant

71 were at Blyth Harbour on 19th (LJM). At the Tyne Estuary on 4th a total of 60 flew downstream and 20 were at Blaydon on 30th (BNR). 49 were at Amble Harbour on 3rd. The roost at Corbridge held 23 on 5th increasing to 34 on 25th (MR). At other inland localities one-seven were noted at Sweethope Lough, Hallington, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn, Castron, and Felton.

Shag

300 were at Holy Island on 26th (JDL).

Grey Heron

Gatherings of six were at Howick on 12th (RKS) and St. Mary's Island on 18th (AJB). One-two were at nine other widespread localities.

Mute Swan

229 were at Berwick Harbour on 3rd (JRI) where an oiling incident occurred on the 26th. About 110 died or were destroyed as a result and most of the remainder have been taken into care. There were none present at this locality on 31st. 40 were at Coquet Estuary on 6th/7th (EMY), 19 at Hartburn on 11th (MLC), 17 at Killingworth Lake on 9th (LJM), and 16 at Seaton Burn on 1st and 26th (AJJ). 2-12 also noted at Cresswell Pond, Blyth Estuary, Gosforth Park, Arcot and Northumbrian Loughs.

Bewick's Swan

Two adults were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (ES/WTL).

Whooper Swan

102 (about 25 juveniles) were at Cornhill on 19th (JCD/AMB). 100 were at Seaton Burn on 12th where 60-70 roosted each night. At this locality two were found dead on 10th and another struck an overhead cable on 22nd (AJJ/AIB/MH). Up to 55 were in the Druridge/Cresswell/Bothal area during the month (MLC et al). 28/29 were at Holy Island Lough on 25th/26th (JMA/JDL), 17 at Seaton Delaval on 7th (TAC) and 2-14 also noted at Sweethope Lough, near Capheaton, Whittle Dene, Hartburn, Wallsend Swallow Pond and the River Tyne at Hexham and Newburn.

Grey Lag Goose

On 19th 700 were at Holborn Moss, 450 at Wark on Tweed, 400 at Kimmerston, 370 at Budle Bay, 275 at Castron and 180 at Hallington (JCD/AMB/MR et al). 41 flew W. over Hexham on 14th (AJR) and 5-30 were noted at Holywell, Seaton Burn, Rothley, Matfen, Whittle Dene and Northumbrian Loughs.

Brent Goose

In the Holy Island area about 720 were present on 19th (DPa). A dark-bellied bird was at St. Mary's Island on 1st (MPF).

Shelduck

290 were in the Black Low area on 18th (JDL), 137 at Budle Bay on 25th (IC), 18 at Coquet Estuary on 30th (EMY) and nine at Boulmer on 21st (ETN). Inland one was still at Castron to 26th and others at Whittle Dene and Derwent Reservoir on 11th and Northumbrian Loughs on 12th (MR/RKS/JMM).

Wigeon

1,500 were at Budle Bay on 25th (ISD). 100-150 were at Hartburn, Carham, Whittle Dene, and Druridge Pool with 6-40 at four other waters.

Gadwall

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 11th/12th (JCD/IK) and singles at Tyne Green on 5th (AJR/KD) and Whittle Dene on 11th and 15th (MR).

Teal

The largest gatherings were 102 at Seaton Burn on 18th (AJJ), 65 at Caistron on 19th (MR), 60 at Tyne Green on 2nd (KD) and near Newton Pool on 12th (RKS). 20-50 also noted at Whittle Dene, Northumbrian Loughs, Druridge Pool and Cresswell Pond.

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 400 off St. Mary's Island on 8th (IF), 390 at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ), 300 at Caistron on 19th, 250 at Whittle Dene on 5th (MR), and 180 at Colt Crag on 12th (RW). 70-170 were also noted at Low Newton, Druridge Pool, Hartburn, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Leazes Park Lake and Northumbrian Loughs.

Pintail

At Seaton Burn there was one on 2nd/3rd, two between 12th-21st and one on 28th/29th (AJJ et al).

Pochard

260 were at Whittle Dene on 5th decreasing to 11 by 15th (MR). 95 were at Seaton Burn on 12th (AJJ), 40 at Hadston Lake on 3rd (LJM) and 38 at Arcot Pond on 19th (JMM). 10-27 also noted at Druridge Pool, Cresswell Pond, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell and Hartburn.

Tufted Duck

At Whittle Dene 360 were present on 4th decreasing to 45 by 15th and rising again to 240 by 27th (BNR/MR/KDS). 82 were at Druridge Pool on 4th (JRT/KWY), 63 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (LJM) and 51 at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJJ). 10-38 were also at Hadston, Arcot, Holywell, Hartburn, Northumbrian Loughs, Corbridge and Berwick.

Scaup

16 were off Hauxley on 26th (EC) and four at Holy Island causeway on 11th (JCD). Two were at Hadston Lake on 11th/12th and one on 26th (KDS/KR). Three were at Berwick Harbour on 14th (JDL) and one at Amble Harbour between 11th-26th (PWD et al). Inland one was at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR).

Eider

During the wader count 311 were between Seahouses-Beadnell and 305 between Newbiggin-N. Blyth.

Long-tailed Duck

At Stag Rocks a maximum of up to 30 present on 25th (IC/AMB et al). Six were at Seaton Sluice on 18th and four on 20th (JC/JRT). Two were at Low Newton on 1st, Cullernose on 12th and Berwick between 12th-24th (RKS/JRI), one was at St. Mary's Island between 1st-29th (PRW et al) and another on Druridge Pool on 6th (MLC). More unusual was one on River Tyne near Moore's Court on 9th (RGW).

Common Scoter

The largest gatherings were 300 at Seaton Sluice on 15th/16th (MPF) and Stag Rocks on 19th (JCD/AMB). 100 were at Howick on 3rd (JCD) and 27 at Holy Island on 26th (JDL).

Velvet Scoter

Two were at Hadston Lake between 3rd-25th (LJM/MA et al). A maximum of five was at Ross Back Sands on 16th (ASJ) and three at Druridge Bay on 11th and Seaton Sluice on 18th (JC). Two flew N. at Craster on 19th (PWD).

Goldeneye

Numbers increased greatly during the month. A maximum of 350 were at Berwick on 24th (JDL) and although some birds were involved in the oiling incident no details are known yet. Along the River Tyne a maximum of 217 was between Newburn-Wylam on 27th (per MPF). 40 at Whittle Dene on 11th increased to 123 on 15th (MR). 51 were

at St. Mary's Island on 8th, 30 at Seaton Sluice on 15th (IF), 56 at Wansbeck Estuary on 18th, 70 off Cambois on 26th (MHp) and 28 in Beadnell Bay on 18th (RKS). 1-18 were also noted at nine other localities.

#### Smew

Up to three 'redheads' were on Hadston Lake on many dates. Single 'redheads' at Cresswell Pond on 12th and 15th (KR/IK et al) and Druridge Pool on 26th (PWW) were probably from this group. Another 'redhead' was at Lesbury on 12th (MHa/GH). Single drakes were at Hadston on 11th (JEF), Cresswell Pond on 24th/25th (TMM et al) and at Cambois on 26th (KDS/MHp).

#### Red-breasted Merganser

The largest gathering during the month was 31 at Berwick on 31st. One-six were also at Holy Island, Stag Rocks, Beadnell, Embleton Bay, Lesbury, Druridge, Cambois, St. Mary's Island and Tyne Estuary. Birds were present on Hadston Lake on several dates with a maximum of 12 on 11th (KH/MA et al). Another was well inland at Hartburn on 25th (JRT/KWY).

#### Goosander

The largest gatherings were 23 on River Tyne between Bywell-Ovingham on 16th (BNR), 29 at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR) and 11 at Lesbury on 12th (MHa/GH). Two-nine were also noted at Northumbrian Loughs, Carham, Waren Mill, Berwick, Felton, Lilburn, Warden, Hexham and Derwent Reservoir.

#### Hen Harrier

A male was at Seaton Burn between 1st-8th and again on 25th/26th (AJJ et al). One-two 'ring-tails' were at Holy Island on several dates and another in the Ross/Budle Bay area may have been from here (JDL/MH et al). Further 'ring-tails' were near Harwood on 19th (WAK) and flying W. at Morpeth on 26th (KRd).

#### Sparrowhawk

One-two noted at about seven coastal and 14 inland localities during the month.

#### Merlin

One-two were in about eight coastal and four inland (including suburban) areas. One flew over St. James Park, Newcastle during a football match on 4th ! (AJB).

#### Peregrine

Singles were noted at Berwick, Holy Island, Budle Bay, Bamburgh, Low Newton, Hadston and Cresswell during the month. Further inland one was at Newburn on 13th (MR).

#### Red Grouse

Two flocks of 30 and 45 noted at Ladycross on 6th (CJ).

#### Black Grouse

One was at Thrunton on 26th (ISD).

#### Red-legged Partridge

Four were at Horton on 5th (WAK).

#### Grey Partridge

The largest coveys were 22 at Longbenton on 16th, 20 at Seaton Burn on 12th and 18 at Seghill on 11th (LJM/AJJ/TAC). 10-16 also noted at Newburn and Heddon.

#### Pheasant

A pure white bird was at Routing Linn on 19th (JCD/AMB).

Water Rail

Singles were at Seaton Burn between 1st-17th (AJJ/GB), Bolam on 4th (per MLC), Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (TMM), and Caistron and Newton Pool on 26th (MR/RKS).

Moorhen

20 were at the Wansbeck Estuary on 18th (MHP).

Coot

The largest gatherings were 130 at Cresswell Pond on 26th (MHP/KDS), 95 at Hartburn on 11th (MLC) when 65 were at Whittle Dene (MR). On salt water seven were at Holy Island harbour on 2nd (PWW/IK) and one at Tyne Estuary on 5th (BNR).

Wader Count - 12th January, 1986

The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JRI/DPA), Budle Point-Seahouses (DGB/JGB), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC/AS), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington-Cresswell (BDG/MRS et al), Newbiggin-N. Blyth (KDS/MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJM), S. Pier Blyth-Collywell Bay (NWR), Tyne Estuary (GH/MHA).

Oystercatcher

A total of 312 noted during the wader count. 48 were at Cresswell Pond on 25th (LJM).

Ringed Plover

A total of 306 noted during the wader count. In addition up to 28 were at Low Newton and Beadnell Bay (RKS) and 33 at Tynemouth Haven on 26th (AH).

Golden Plover

A maximum of 1,000 at St. Mary's Island on 18th (DMT) when 300 were at Holy Island (JDL). 139 at Low Newton on 26th, 70 at Callerton on 25th (MH), and ten flying NE at North Shields on 15th (AH) were the only other records received.

Grey Plover

A total of 90 noted during the wader count. In addition 200 were at Holy Island causeway on 5th (JDL), 20 at Boulmer on 25th (JC) and 10-14 at Budle Bay, Warkworth and Blyth.

Lapwing

Few reports received this month. 168 were at the Coquet Estuary on 13th (PWW), 100 flew in off the sea at Cresswell on 4th (JRT/KWY) and 35 moved SW at Walwick on 25th (BNR).

Knot

A total of 464 noted during the wader count. In addition 595 were at St. Mary's Island on 6th (JRT/KWY) and 80 at Holy Island on 5th (DPA).

Sanderling

A total of 155 noted during the wader count. In addition 200 were at St. Mary's Island on 3rd (ES) and 65 at Tynemouth on 19th (JC).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 307 noted during the wader count. In addition about 20 were at Tynemouth on 3rd (ES) and a partial albino was at Seaton Sluice on 18th (JC).

Dunlin

A total of 2,176 noted during the wader count indicated a 50% increase in numbers since last month's count. In addition 2,000 were at Holy Island causeway on 18th



(JDL), 300 at Tynemouth Haven on 26th (AH) and 120-200 at Low Newton and St. Mary's Island (RKS/JC).

Jack Snipe

A single bird was at Wideopen on 7th/8th (GB).

Snipe

18 were at Warkworth on 5th and 26th (EMY). 12 were flushed from a ditch at Matfen during hard weather on 8th (RW).

Woodcock

One-two were noted in four coastal and three inland localities during the month.

Black-tailed Godwit

One was at St. Mary's Island on 18th (DMT).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 73 noted during the wader count. 1,600 were at Holy Island causeway on 1st (JDL), 40 at Boulmer on 25th (JC) and up to six at St. Mary's Island.

Curlew

A total of 94 noted during the wader count. 200 were near Budle Bay on 11th (JCD/AMB) and 20-67 at Beal, Low Newton and Cresswell Pond. Inland 17 were at Caistron on 19th (MR).

Redshank

A total of 392 was noted during the wader count. In addition 60 were at Druridge Pool on 6th (TAC/MLC).

Green Sandpiper

A wintering bird was seen again at Caistron on 26th (MR).

Turnstone

A total of 1,035 was noted during the wader count.

Pomarine Skua

Two flew S. at Holy Island on 2nd (IK/PWW).

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult at Craster remained throughout the month. An adult was also at North Shields Fish Quay on 31st (CB).

Laughing Gull

The bird in the Newcastle General Hospital/Hunter's Moor area celebrated its third January on Tyneside during the month.

Black-headed Gull

The Scotswood roost increased to 8,000 by 15th. 2,500 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 18th and 6,500 at Hallington on 19th (BNR). 1,100-1,500 were at North Shields on 25th/28th (DMT/IF) and 650 at Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM).

Common Gull

8,500 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 18th and 9,000 at Hallington on 19th (BNR). 1,000 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th (MD/IF) and a maximum of 1,400 at North Shields Fish Quay on 25th (DMT/CB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Singles were at Percy Main on 7th (DMT), Seaton Burn on 22nd and 26th (MH/AJJ), Scotswood and Newburn on 14th and 31st (BNR) and North Shields on 21st (IF).

Herring Gull

Roost counts included 390 at Scotswood on 15th, 1,060 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th and 590 at Hallington on 19th (BNR), 800 were at Tyne Estuary on 24th and 850 at Fourstones on 22nd (DMT/BNR).

Iceland Gull

At North Shields Fish Quay at least one first-winter bird was present throughout the month, a second-winter on 3rd and 9th and an adult on 28th (DMT/WAK et al). An adult was at Blyth harbour on 25th (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

At North Shields Fish Quay there were probably three first-winter birds, one second-winter and two adults present during the month. Single first-winter birds were also seen at Blyth and Cambois on 11th (KDS/TMM) and Berwick Little Beach on 26th (DPa). An apparent hybrid was at North Shields on 16th (MPF).

Great Black-backed Gull

170 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 18th and 125 at Hallington on 19th (BNR). 70-90 were also noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, North Shields and Blyth (DMT/IF).

Kittiwake

Light S. passage noted at Holy Island on 2nd (IK/PWW). 57 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 25th (DMT). More unusual was one, well inland, at Grindon Lough on 23rd (KDS).

Guillemot

Up to 34 were noted at Tynemouth and birds noted in Blyth harbour and at North Shields Fish Quay (IF/PRJ).

Razorbill

One-two were noted at Embleton, Low Newton and St. Mary's Island.

Little Auk

One was found dead at Seaton Sluice on 26th (KWY).

Stock Dove

Flocks of 19 were at Havannah Pond on 25th and 26 at Berwick Hill on 26th (AHB). Two-four were also noted at Wallington, Holywell Pond and Jesmond Dene.

Woodpigeon

400 were at Craster on 3rd (JCD).

Collared Dove

130 were at Brunton on 25th (AHB). A roost at North Shields held a maximum of 48 (RHA). 28 were at Dunstan Steads on 26th. One was gathering nest material at Chapel House, Newcastle on 12th ! (MH).

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Seahouses, Craster, Hadston, Newton, Stannington, Horton and Haydon Bridge.

Little Owl

One was at Ingoe on 4th (BNR).

Tawny Owl

One-two noted at Bamburgh, Castington, Earsdon and Jesmond Dene.

Long-eared Owl

Up to seven were near Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month (IF/JCD/AMB)

Short-eared Owl

One-two were noted at about 12 coastal or near coastal localities and others at Hartford, Cramlington, Stannington, Hazelrigg and well inland at Grindon.

Kingfisher

Two were in the Jesmond Dene area throughout the month (MPF et al). One was at Caistron on 19th and two on 26th (MR). Further singles were at Prestwick Carr on 5th (per AGH), near Throckley Pond on 7th (RGW) and Hadston Lake on 11th (KDS/TMM).

Green Woodpecker

One-two were at Ordley, Juniper, Holburn Moss, and Newbiggin (BNR/JMA). Another was 'yaffling' at Corbridge on 15th (MR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three were noted at Matfen, Dipton, Wylam, Close House, Eshott, Ponteland, Gosforth Park, Seaton Burn and Budle Bay.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was at Riding Mill on 8th (BNR).

Skylark

30 were at Seaton Burn on 4th (GH). On 5th 125 were at Holy Island (DPa), 40 at St. Mary's Island and 15 N. at Hartley (MSH). Two were singing at Horton on 12th (LJM).

Water Pipit

A single bird was at Whittle Dene on 5th (MR).

Grey Wagtail

One-two were at Eshott, Morpeth, Waren Mill, Jesmond Dene, Scotswood and Heddon.

Pied Wagtail

120-150 roosted at Morpeth High School during the month (KRd).

Waxwing

Three were near Holywell Pond on 4th (JRT/KWY), and Cramlington on 12th/13th (per KDS). Two were at Morpeth on 30th (JKJ) and singles at Alnwick on 6th, Jesmond Dene on 8th, Ponteland on 15th, Chapel House on 18th and Forest Hall on 28th.

Dipper

One-two noted in eight widespread localities.

Stonechat

One-two noted at Ross, Low Newton, and Hauxley.

Fieldfare

200 at W. Heddon on 23rd was the largest gathering reported (LSG/TPG). 50-100 were noted at five other localities. Hard weather drove some birds to coastal areas and into gardens.

Redwing

70 were at Prior's Park on 5th (AH) and 72 between Bywell-Ovingham on 16th (BNR). Small numbers were noted in suburban areas during the hard weather.

Blackcap

Single males were at Hexham on 18th (per BG) and Morpeth on 31st (KRd).

Chiffchaff

One was at North Shields on 16th (AH).

Goldcrest

5-15 noted at Plessey Woods and Wallsend Swallow Pond (JCD/IF). More unusual was one coming to a peanut bag at Ponteland between 27th-31st (EC).

Long-tailed Tit

15 were at Mitford on 3rd, ten at Wylam on 1st and Morpeth on 26th and six at Riding Mill on 8th (KRd/MA/BNR).

Marsh Tit

One-three noted at Hartburn, Berwick, Linnels, Hexhamshire and Bolam.

Willow Tit

One-two noted at Caistron and Newburn (MR/RGW).

Coal Tit

Ten were at Ladycross and smaller numbers at four other localities.

Blue Tit

40 were at Eshott on 19th (MSH) and up to 14 in gardens at Matfen and W. Heddon (RW/LSG).

Great Tit

11 were at Matfen on 26th (RW).

Nuthatch

One-three noted at Riding Mill, Corbridge, Matfen, Bolam, Wallington, Close House, Juniper, Bothal, Morpeth and Jesmond Dene.

Treecreeper

One-three were in five widespread localities.

Jay

Six were at Eshott on 26th (MSH) and one-four in four other areas.

Magpie

One-eight were noted at five widespread localities.

Jackdaw

1,500 roosted at Warden Hill on 25th (BNR).

Rook

2,200 roosted at Warden Hill on 25th (BNR). 300-700 were at Holborn Moss and Seghill (JMA/MSH).

Hooded Crow

One was on the beach at Low Newton on 1st (RKS).

Tree Sparrow

Up to 100 were at Seaton Burn during the month (AIB/ES) and 25 in the Cresswell/Druridge area. Smaller numbers at Burradon, Holywell, Tynemouth and W. Heddon.

Chaffinch

On 19th flocks of 200 were at Wark on Tweed (JCD) and Eshott (MSH). 40-80 also noted at Shaftoe and Ross.

Brambling

130 near Woodhorn on 26th was the largest gathering (KDS/MHp). 50 were at Stocksfield on 1st (IF/MD) and Holburn Grange on 26th (JMA). 10-36 were also noted

at Seaton Burn, Ladycross, Prestwick Carr, Matfen, Hallington, Felton, Harthope and Warkworth Lane.

#### Greenfinch

Roosts of 120 at Newcastle Quayside and 50-70 at Morpeth High School noted during the month (BNR/KRd). 75 were at Broomhill on 12th (KR).

#### Goldfinch

35 were at the holly tree roost at Matfen on 21st (RW). Charms of 42 at Stocksfield on 16th (BNR) and 27 at Corbridge on 5th (MR) were the largest noted. 1-12 were also at six other localities.

#### Siskin

100 were at Harthope on 8th (ASJ) and 40-50 at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ). 26 were at Felton on 5th (EIN) and smaller numbers at Druridge, Jesmond Dene, Hartburn, Bolam and Eshott. One-six were feeding on nut bags at three gardens in Ponteland and Morpeth (EC/AS et al).

#### Linnet

220 were at Swinhoe on 26th (JDL) and 120 at Hallington on 12th (RW).

#### Twite

25 were still at Amble Braid on 13th (EMY). Five-nine were in the Druridge/Cresswell area on 26th (AJ/ASJ) and a 'small party' at Holy Island causeway on 5th (RGW).

#### Redpoll

26 were at North Shields on 5th (BNR) and 12 at Hadston on 13th (SWA).

#### Mealy Redpoll

11 were at Hexham Golf Course on 19th (AJR) and two at Berwick on 26th (DPa/JRI). Singles were also at Seaton Burn on 4th/9th (AIB/GPB), Ladycross on 6th (CJ) and Druridge on 22nd (ASJ).

#### Crossbill

20 were at Thrunton on 1st (MHp), 16 at Harwood on 19th (WAK) and one-seven at Corbridge, Ovington and near Bedlington.

#### Bullfinch

Ten at Matfen on 5th (AGH) and six at Newburn on 27th (RGW) were the largest gatherings. One-four were also noted at 15 widespread localities.

#### Lapland Bunting

Seven-eight were at Druridge on 3rd (JCD).

#### Snow Bunting

50 were at Low Newton on 8th (ASJ) and one-seven noted at Berwick Little Beach, Ross, Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

#### Yellowhammer

50 roosted at Callerton on 25th (MH) and 24 at Tweedmouth on 27th (JRI). Flocks of 25-40 were also noted at Anick, Corbridge and Seaton Burn.

#### Reed Bunting

A large gathering of 120 was at Druridge on 26th (KDS/MHp). One was in a garden at Wideopen on 9th (AIB).

#### Corn Bunting

Three were at Druridge on 4th (JRT).



Please send all February records, in Vooous order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX by 8th March at the latest.

#### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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M.P. Frankis	T.M. Melling	W.M. Young

#### INDOOR MEETING - Thursday 13th March, 1986

The next indoor meeting will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University on 13th March, 1986 at 7.00 pm. The guest speaker this month will be our very own Treasurer, John Day, talking about his recent visit to Texas.

#### MEMBERS NIGHT - Thursday 10th April, 1986

Our Indoor Meetings Secretary, Nick Rossiter requires four-five members who are prepared to talk for about 15 minutes each on a bird related subject on Members Night. We shall also be showing the entries for our 'Bird Photograph of the Year' competition at this meeting.

If you feel that you may be able to help please do not hesitate to contact Nick now on Slaley 509.

#### GREEN WOODPECKER SURVEY

A good response has been received to the request for help but assistance is still required for the following squares where the species has been reported in recent years in the breeding season:

NT93 - Ford	NU21 - Howick, Hipsburn
NT94 - Norham	NU22 - Embleton
NU10 - Felton, Edlingham	NY87 - Wark
NU12 - Ellingham	NZ19 - Rayburn

Offers of help as soon as possible please to Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham (Slaley 509).

B.T.O. REVIEW OF ORNITHOLOGICAL SITES

This survey requires no new fieldwork. It requires examination of the previous report on the status of a site made about 1976 and the completion of a card noting any physical changes to a site and any changes to its bird life. Coverage has already been arranged for 27 of the 28 sites selected for review by the B.T.O. I urgently need coverage for the remaining one of Cocklaw Burn and Twizell House. Please contact Nick Rossiter (Slaley 509) if you can help.

TELESCOPE AND TRIPOD FOR SALE

Optolyth 30 x 80 Telescope (+ leather case) and Slik Tripod (+ carrying case) all unused. Owner died 2 months after purchase. Widow wishes to sell to local birdwatcher and buy binoculars. Offers around £300. Contact Mike Smith (2859821)

IMPORTANT - LITTLE GREBE SURVEY

Alan Johnston's telephone number was incorrect in the December bulletin. His correct number is TYNESIDE 2365263. My apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Mike Hodgson

N.T.B.C. MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

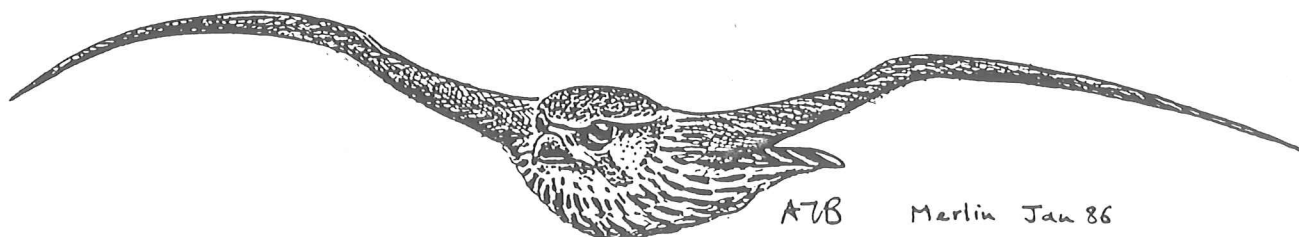
With the club membership standing at a healthy 250 the committee occasionally wonders if it is formulating the correct policies for all members. Club meetings regularly attract 120 members but we feel that we have little contact (apart from the bulletin) with many of those who cannot attend. We would like to know what you feel about your club and so we have devised a membership questionnaire which is enclosed with this bulletin. This is your chance to tell us what you think. Please help us to get a 100% response. It only takes a few minutes to complete, with most questions requiring only a tick in the appropriate box. Something to do on a cold February night !

John Day

ROSS LINKS FIELD TRIP

Garb varying from Yukon goldminer and Royal Flying Corps to retired poacher and the thick end of the Kop was particularly suited to the very cold conditions. Good birding, however, well compensated for the icy blast apart from the seawatching which hardly reached Bill Oddies superlatives.

Little was seen at Seahouses, apart from spray, but Stag Rocks produced a Red-necked Grebe, more than a score of Long-tailed ducks and over 150 Common Scoter. The usual Shelduck, Wigeon and waders at Budle Bay were outclassed by a Peregrine floating overhead and 10 Crossbills, a little further north, were an unexpected bonus. The long walk from Ross to Guile Point gave lovely views of 7 Snow Buntings, a female Merlin, two Slavonian Grebes and several Brent Geese.



Two Short-eared Owls and a Hen Harrier provided a suitable finish to the walk.

A search for the Craster Mediterranean gull was unsuccessful but not one of the 26 members was disappointed with the day's outing, not even those preoccupied with problems of rising and falling damp.

Sandy Bankier

#### CLUB LIBRARY

As explained at the December meeting the club owns a small library of books, reports and periodicals. All are available for loan and can be borrowed at club meetings. The loan period is for one month and a 50p fine will be charged for each item not returned on or before the subsequent club meeting.

Only a selection of the library will be taken to each meeting and anyone wishing to borrow anything from the list below should contact Alan Johnston (Tyneside 236 5263) in advance to ensure the item is available on the night.

British Birds	1977 to date
Scottish Birds	1971 to date
Bird Study	1966 to 1984 (we are still awaiting all 1985 copies)
B.T.O. News	1976 to date
R.S.P.B. Bird Notes	1962 to 1965
R.S.P.B. Birds	1966 to date
Birds in Northumbria	1970 to date
Northumberland Birds Parts 1-3	
The Birds of Lindisfarne	(1980)
Fair Isle Bird Observatory Report	1971 to date
Scottish Bird Report	1978 to 1983
Bird Recognition Vol. 1 Seabirds and Waders	- J. Fisher
Bird Recognition Vol. 2 Birds of Prey and Wildfowl	- J. Fisher
Bird Recognition Vol. 3 Rails, Gamebirds, Large Perching & Singing Birds	J. Fisher

Plus various misc. Bird Reports

Alan Johnston

#### SEATON SLUICE - SEAWATCHING FACILITIES

Following the demise of our old premises (the tower was 'torched' by local youths before the council demolished it!) we have now obtained a lease for the Coastguard Lookout Station on Rocky Island. We shall be making a few alterations (??) to enable you to sea-watch in glorious comfort in the near future. Keys will be available from our Sales Officer, Muriel Cadwallander as soon as possible.

#### BIRD BOOKS LOCALLY !

One of our members, Brian Bullough, has recently opened 'Avenue Books' in the Land of Green Ginger, Front Street, Tynemouth. He stocks a good range of new, used and out of print Natural History Books, mainly birds, as well as Checklists, British Birds, Poyser titles, etc. Brian will try and obtain any special requests you may have. You can call in and browse or make enquiries by post or telephone (0670 355099 in evenings). His opening hours are:

Tuesday 10.00 - 4.30  
 Thursday 10.00 - 4.30  
 Friday 10.00 - 5.00  
 Saturday 10.00 - 5.00  
 Sunday 11.00 - 5.00

#### HAUXLEY RESERVE

The N.T.B.C. has recently made a donation to the Northumberland Wildlife Trust to help complete the work on the new Ponteland Hide at Hauxley Reserve. A plaque will be placed on the hide to indicate the Club's donation was made in memory of the late Geoff Macfarlane.

Ian Kerr





# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

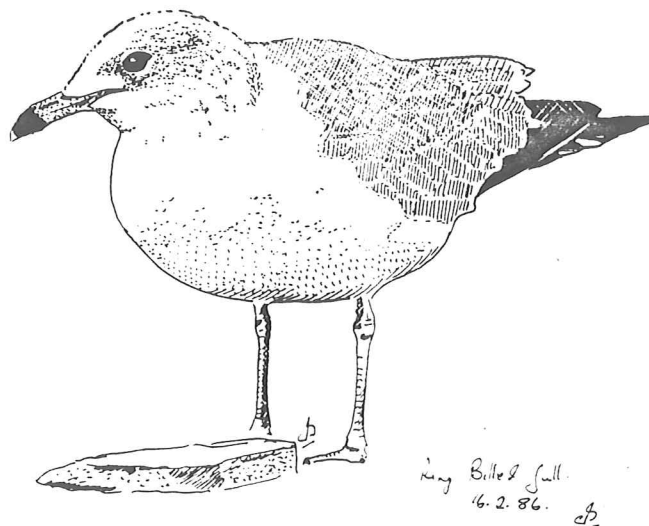
## MONTHLY SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 1986

February will be remembered as one of the coldest on record in the North East. Snow fell on many days although not in great amounts. The persistently low temperatures resulted in some considerable accumulations of snow lying. Heavy snowfall occurred on the 21st. Winds were mainly from the east during the month, helping to keep the temperatures down.

Many ponds and lakes (and even some rivers) were frozen during the hard weather and some wildfowl numbers dropped. However there were a number of interesting records of dark-bellied Brent Geese and Snew continued to be well reported with up to seven at Hadston and singles at four other localities. Thick snow in moorland areas resulted in some large concentrations of Red Grouse where wind-blown areas presented at least some feeding opportunities. Golden Plover and Lapwing numbers remained low but the wintering Green Sandpiper was seen again.

The Laughing Gull remained at Newcastle General Hospital and astonishingly was joined on the 12th by a second-winter Ring-billed Gull. There is much truth in the rumour that local traders made a fortune as visiting bird-watchers bought out their entire stock of bread to entice the two celebrities within camera range !



Unfortunately there were many dead Auks washed up along the coast. Initially many appeared to have died of starvation but oiled birds appeared later in the month.

The cold conditions concentrated many passerines along the coastal stretch with particularly large gatherings of Skylarks and Bramblings. Mealy Redpolls continued to be well-reported with birds in at least eight localities. The Twite flock at Amble had increased to 43 by 15th. At least two Blackcaps survived in the arctic conditions.

Other interesting species included Hen Harriers, Jack Snipe, three Mediterranean Gulls, a Water Pipit, several Waxwings and Lapland Buntings.



WEATHER SUMMARY - NORTH EAST ENGLANDFEBRUARY 1986Temperatures

This being the main feature of the weather during February with persistent Easterly winds giving us one of the coldest on record.

Mean maximum temperatures were between 3 and 5 deg C below the average with mean minimum temperatures having a similar difference from average.

It was cold throughout the month with few individual extremes, but on the morning of the 11th, temperatures of Minus 12 deg C were commonly reported and on the 21st Widdy Bank Fell recorded a minimum of Minus 15.2 deg C.

Places immediately adjacent to the coast fared better than inland areas with Easterly winds keeping temperatures up a little.

Rainfall (snow)

There was the usual wide spread rainfall over the region with very little geographic logic to the distribution.

Redesdale, Tynemouth and Haydon Bridge were significantly below normal with 56 - 63% of average and only Hartburn Grange (107%) and Widdy Bank Fell (113%) were above.

Snow fell on many days but this was often of only small amounts with significant falls on only a few occasions. The persistent cold meant that there could be no thaw, therefore, snowfall accumulated and in the latter half of the month the following depths were reported.

Bishop Auckland 25 cm, Widdy Bank Fell 30 cm, Durham 15 cm and Redesdale 27 cm.

Sunshine

Most stations reported sunshine a little below average, Redesdale being the only exception at 108%.

The last week of the month was the sunniest with Redesdale recording 8.3 hours on the 28th. Hartburn Grange had the least sunshine (78%), having 12 sunless days during the month.

Wind

It was not a windy month with the first couple of days being the windiest - (gust of 44 knots at Newcastle Weather Centre on the 1st). Directions were predominantly Easterly through the month with the only other comment worthy of note being that the winds were frequently strong enough to cause drifting of lying snow, especially on high grounds.

COURTESY OF NEWCASTLE WEATHER CENTRE

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

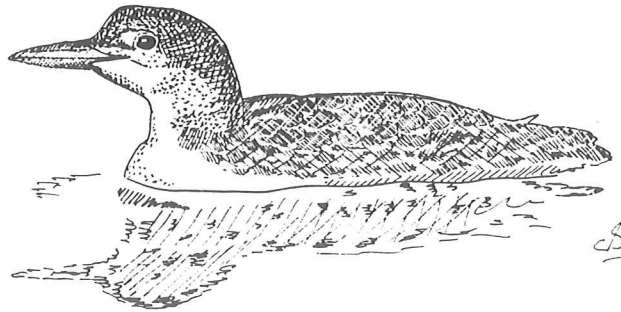
20 in Druridge Bay on 9th (KH/MA) was the largest gathering. One-five were noted at seven other coastal localities.

Black-throated Diver

Three were off Ross Back Sands on 8th (JRT/KWY) and one-two at Holy Island, Stag Rocks, Hadston, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's Island. More unusual was one on the River Tyne in the Ryton - Scostwood area on several dates between 8th-20th (JSB et al).

Great Northern Diver

The bird in Blyth harbour remained until 23rd (MHp et al). On 16th it appeared to have swallowed some fishing line. One flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 4th (KDS) and others were at Ross Bank Sands on 8th (JRT/KWY) and Berwick Little Beach on 9th (DPa).

Little Grebe

One-three noted at Morpeth, Whittle Dene, Hallington, Ovingham, Seaton Burn, Cresswell and the Wansbeck Estuary during the month.

Great Crested Grebe

One-two were at Whittle Dene between 8th-27th (MR et al). Another was at Hallington on 9th (BNR). On the coast one was off Hauxley on 12th (JP) and another in Berwick harbour on 23rd (DPa).

Red-necked Grebe

Up to five were noted at Holy Island during the month (PWD/BG), three-four at Ross (MR) and two off Stag Rocks (MH).

Slavonian Grebe

All records came from the Holy Island/Ross area where a maximum of 10-11 were present on 8th/9th (BG/JRT et al).

Fulmar

90 were at Dunstanburgh on 9th (RKS) and four-eight also noted at Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's Island.

Gannet

One-two noted at Low Newton and St. Mary's Island. Four were found dead at Warkworth beach on 8th and two at Whitley Bay Beach on 15th (AJJ/IF).

Comorant

78 were at Blyth harbour on 28th (MHp), 38 at Amble on 20th (LJM) and 31 at North Shields Fish Quay on 23rd (ADM). 28 were at the Corbridge roost on 3rd (MR). 1-3 were also noted at Cornhill, Norham, Felton, Caistron, Whittle Dene, Derwent

Reservoir, Scotswood, Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Shag  
19 were off Blyth on 9th (KR) where four immatures were found dead on 28th (MHP).

Grey Heron  
One-three noted at 12 widespread localities.

Mute Swan  
At Berwick harbour there were 14 on 9th (JDL). 15-20 were noted at Bothal, Killingworth Lake, and the Blyth, Wansbeck and Coquet Estuaries. 13 were at Seaton Burn on 10th where one died of starvation on 25th (AJJ). Two-five noted at five other localities.

Whooper Swan  
At Seaton Burn 77 on 9th reduced to 46 by 23rd (AJJ). A maximum of 65 was at Bothal on 2nd (TMM), 60 at Cornhill on 9th (LJM) and up to 42 at Holy Island (DPa). Up to 21 were also near Belsay during the month (JS).

Pink-footed Goose  
Two at Budle on 8th increased to 20 on 21st (KWY/IK). 16 were at East Fenton on 25th (MLC/AS).

Grey Lag Goose  
Up to 300 were in the Budle Bay area during the month, 250 flew E. at Cornhill on 9th (LJM) and 100 E at Holburn on 16th (JMA). 5-30 also noted at Holy Island, Widdrington, Druridge and Holywell.

Barnacle Goose  
Two were at Budle Bay between 8th-21st (JRT/KWY et al).

Brent Goose  
Up to 750 pale-bellied birds were at Holy Island during the month (BG et al). Other records of pale-bellied included 16 at Coquet Estuary between 19th-25th (EMY), three at Bamburgh on 15th (MH) and singles at Druridge Bay on 23rd and St. Mary's Island on 28th. A number of dark-bellied birds included one at Holy Island and 17 at Ross 9th (BG), 15 N. at St. Mary's Island on 14th (WAK/KIB) and three-four at Cresswell and Druridge on 15th/16th. Perhaps the most unusual record was one walking across a road near West Allotment on 26th ! (DY).

Shelduck  
170 were at Budle Bay on 8th (JRT/KWY), 24 at Coquet Estuary (EMY) and 22 at Boulmer (ES). One-four also noted at St. Mary's Island, Cresswell, Druridge and Newton Pool. One was still at Caistron on 16th (MR).

Wigeon  
The largest gatherings were 550 at Budle Bay on 8th (JRT/KWY), 190 at Cresswell on 15th (AMB) when 130 were at Whittle Dene (MR).

Gadwall  
One-three were at Cresswell Pond between 2nd-16th.

Teal  
The largest gatherings were 70 at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ), 60 at Whittle Dene on 11th (MRS) and 56 at Caistron on 16th (MR).

Mallard  
350 were at Seaton Burn on 10th (AJJ), 300 off St. Mary's Island on 23rd (ADM), 250 at Holywell Pond on 15th (RD) and 70-180 at Budle Bay, Whittle Dene, Hallington and Caistron.

Pintail

One-two were noted at Seaton Burn and Arcot during the month.

Shoveler

One at Seaton Burn on 18th and 28th was the only record (AJJ).

Pochard

35 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (IF), 34 at Arcot on 4th (LJM) and 25 at Holywell on 7th (JC). 8-22 also noted at Tweed Dock, Cresswell, Hadston, Seaton Burn and Killingworth Lake.

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 75 at Whittle Dene on 8th (MR), and 42 at Seaton Burn and Berwick Harbour on 7th and 14th (AJJ/JDL). 20-25 also noted at Holywell, Arcot and Cresswell.

Scaup

Up to 11 were at Berwick harbour between 14th-23rd (JDL/DPa) and ten at Hadston on 12th (ASJ). Two were at Hauxley on 12th (JP) and four at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (KH). Singles were also noted at St. Mary's Island, Cresswell Pond and Amble harbour.

Eider

400 were at Cambois on 9th (MHP/KDS).

Long-tailed Duck

A maximum of 30-40 was in the Ross-Stag Rocks area during the month (BG et al). Singles were noted at St. Mary's Island on 4th (KDS) Wansbeck Estuary and Seahouses harbour on 9th (IC) and Newton on 23rd (KR).

Common Scoter

A maximum of 400-500 was at Ross on 9th (BG). 200 were at Blyth Bay on 8th (MHP) and 80-100 at Cresswell on 9th (IC).

Velvet Scoter

Six were off Ross on 21st (MR) and one-four were also seen at Low Newton, Druridge Bay and Seaton Sluice. Two were still at Hadston Lake on 9th (KDS).

Goldeneye

281 were at Berwick harbour on 14th (JDL) and 211 at Whittle Dene on 27th (MR). Along the River Tyne a maximum of 176 was at Newburn on 26th (per MPF) although smaller numbers were present on several dates. 6-20 were noted on three other waters. Offshore 50 were at Cambois on 9th (MHP) when 13 at Low Newton (RKS) and 20-22 at Seaton Sluice and Brierdene on 11th and 15th (IF).

Smew

In the Hadston area numbers increased to seven (one drake, six 'redheads') by 16th (TMM et al) with one-two visiting Cresswell and Druridge Pool. Singles drakes were at Whittle Dene between 7th-16th (AJ et al), flying S. at Stag Rocks on 15th (GB) at Tillmouth on 16th (JS) and at Seaton Burn on 17th (GB).

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of six was at Hadston Lake on 15th (ES et al). Ten were in Druridge Bay on 8th (MH) when 18 were at Longhoughton (ES). Two-eight were at seven other coastal localities. A female was at Cornhill on 9th (LJM).

Goosander

The largest gatherings were 32 at Whittle Dene on 27th (MR), 28 between Bywell-Ovingham on 15th (BNR), 18 at Foxton on 8th (ES) 17 at Berwick harbour on

9th (DPa) when 14 at Norham (LJM). 1-13 noted at a further ten other localities. A drake at Bywell on 15th had been ringed at Hoselaw Loch on 5th May 1984.

#### Hen Harrier

Probably two "ring-tails" in the Fenham Flats/Ross area on several dates (BG/MH). Single males at Ellingham on 15th and near Belford on 16th (MH/WAK) possibly refer to the same individual.

#### Sparrowhawk

One-two were noted in about 13 widespread localities.

#### Kestrel

One-three noted at nine widespread localities.

#### Merlin

Singles were noted in eight coastal localities. Inland one was at Caistron on 9th (MR).

#### Peregrine

Singles were at Elwick/Holy Island on 20th/21st (IK/MH), Seaton Sluice on 24th (CMA) and over Newcastle on 27th (JC).

#### Red Grouse

Thick snow concentrated some large numbers where feeding was available. Over 1,300 gathered on a 600 acre fell at Blanchland on 26th and flocks of 400 and 200 were at Slaley and Catton on 27th and 16th (CJ/JCD).

#### Grey Partridge

42 were at Holywell Pond on 23rd (IC/BW) and 35 at Seaton Burn on 7th (AIB).

#### Water Rail

One-two noted at Wideopen, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Holywell after 13th (GB/AJJ/ASJ).

#### Moorhen

35 were at Stakeford on 20th (MHP) and 30 at Arcot on 19th (LJM).

#### Coot

191 were at Seaton Burn on 8th where four were found dead (starved) by the end of the month (AJJ). 152 were at Cresswell on 15th (ES), and 80 at Whittle Dene on 27th (MR). One was in Seaton Sluice harbour on 11th and 15th (IF/RD).

#### WADER COUNT 9th February 1986

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (JGB), Seahouses-Beadnell (TAC/MLC), Beadnell-Howick (AW/LC), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington-Cresswell (BDG/EC), Cresswell-Newbiggin (RJ), Newbiggin-N. Blyth (MHP), S. Blyth-Seaton Sluice (NWR), Tyne Estuary (GH/MHa).

#### Oystercatcher

A total of 1,133 was noted during the wader count.

#### Ringed Plover

A total of 177 was noted during the wader count. 43 were at Berwick Little Beach on 27th (JDL).

#### Golden Plover

600 were between Howick-Boulmer on 8th (IK) and up to 600 at Druridge between



2nd-11th (BDG/MHS). 400 were at St. Mary's Island on 7th (KWY) and smaller numbers at about five other localities.

#### Grey Plover

A total of 192 noted during the wader count when 150 were at Budle Bay (KRd) 45 were at Holy Island on 2nd (JDL).

#### Lapwing

Only small numbers reported with a maximum of 114 between Beadnell-Howick on 10th.

#### Knot

A total of 545 was noted during the wader count. In addition up to 200 were at Budle Bay on 8th and 21st (JRT/MR).

#### Sanderling

A total of only 198 noted during the wader count although up to 200 frequented Blyth beach during the month (MHP et al).

#### Purple Sandpiper

A total of 286 was noted during the wader count.

#### Dunlin

A total of 1,758 was noted during the wader count. In addition up to 367 were at Tynemouth haven (JRT/CB), 370 at Berwick on 27th (JDL) and 750 at flood water at Druridge on 4th (KWY). Two were inland at Whittle Dene on 27th (MR).

#### Ruff

A single was in the Cresswell/Druridge area between 4th-21st (KWY et al).

#### Jack Snipe

One was on a small burn at Wideopen on 7th (GB).

#### Woodcock

Five were at Mitford on 18th (KRd), up to three at Wallsend Swallow Pond after 15th, and singles at Close House, Morpeth and North Shields.

#### Black-tailed Godwit

One was at Holy Island on 9th (DPa/JDL).

#### Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 99 was noted during the wader count. 420 were at Holy Island causeway on 2nd (JDL).

#### Curlew

A total of 106 noted during the wader count although 92 were in the Boulmer/Longhoughton area on 8th (ES). 161 were at Beal on 23rd (JDL) and 46 at Cresswell Pond on 9th (IC).

#### Redshank

A total of 356 was noted during the wader count. 300 were on fields near Chevington Burn on 9th (BDG).

#### Green Sandpiper

The wintering bird was seen again at Caistron on 9th (MR).

#### Turnstone

A total of 877 was noted during the wader count.

Arctic Skua

Single birds were noted off Briardene on 2nd (KDS) and Hauxley and Boulmer on 8th (ADM/IK). A skua (sp) seen at Ross Back Sands on 22nd was probably a Pomarine (LH).

Mediterranean Gull

Single adults were at North Shields Fish Quay between 2nd-17th (JC et al) and at Craster throughout the month. More unusual was a first-winter bird arriving to roost at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (BNR).

Laughing Gull

Still present throughout the month at Newcastle General Hospital.

Little Gull

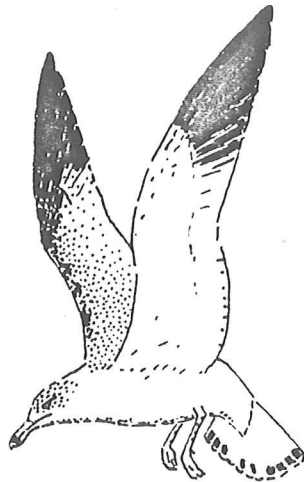
The remains of one was found on Whitley Bay beach on 15th (IF).

Black-headed Gull

9,000 roosted at Scotswood on 6th but none were there on 12th and 27th (BNR). Dusk roosts noted of 4,000 at Coquet Estuary between 14th-17th (EMY) and 3,500 on Blyth Beach on 24th (MHP). A Dutch ringed bird was found at Whitley Bay on 2nd (IRH).

Ring-billed Gull

A second-winter bird was found at Newcastle General Hospital on 12th (AC et al) and was still present in early March. Seen by many observers this will be only the second county record, the first being in April 1985.



Ring-billed Gull

Feb. '86

A/B

Common Gull

Only 2,400 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (BNR). A maximum of 1,000 was at North Shields Fish Quay on 9th (CB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

One-two were noted at Seaton Burn, Holywell Pond, Ovingham, Druridge and Morpeth.

Herring Gull

590 roosted at Scotswood on 6th and 1,750 roosting at Derwent Reservoir on 8th appears to be the biggest inland Herring Gull roost recorded in the county (BNR). 2,500 roosted at Blyth harbour on 2nd (MHP). Four birds at North Shields Fish Quay on 1st showed the characteristics of the Scandinavian race (JRT/KWY).

Iceland Gull

At least one first-winter bird was at North Shields Fish Quay during the month and a second-winter on 9th (DMT/JC et al). An adult was at Blyth harbour on 1st and 28th (MHP).

Glaucous Gull

At least five individuals (three first winter, second-winter and adult) noted at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (DMT et al). Two first-winter birds were at Blyth harbour on 1st and one on 28th (MHP) and further singles were at Cresswell Pond and Boulmer on 8th (IK) and St. Mary's Island on 17th (DY).

Great Black-backed Gull

500 roosted at Blyth harbour on 2nd (MHP) and 210 at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (BNR). Eight were found dead on Whitley Bay beach on 15th (IF).

Kittiwake

110 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 6th (DMT) where a red-legged bird was also noted (CB). 15 were found dead at Whitley Bay beach on 15th (IF) and six on Blyth beach (MSH).

Auks (Sp)

A large number of corpses were washed ashore during the month. Initially most appeared to have died from starvation although as the month progressed more oiled birds were found. A total of 200 corpses found between Newbiggin-Seaton Burn included over 80% Guillemots and 10% Razorbills (MHP).

Guillemot

Small numbers seen alive offshore during the month but most reports were of corpses. For example, counts included 15 at Alnmouth on 8th (JMA) when 25 near Warkworth (AJJ), 30 at Ross on 9th where 50 found on 22nd (BG/LH), and 21 at Whitley Bay beach on 15th (IF). Smaller numbers reported at other localities. More unusual was one flying upstream at Newburn on 17th and crashing into a tree ! (per MPF).

Razorbill

Apart from those found between Newbiggin-Seaton Sluice (see Auks Sp) one-five corpses also noted at Holy Island, Ross, Whitley Bay beach and Tynemouth.

Little Auk

Singles at Cullercoats on 1st, Holy Island on 2nd, Cresswell on 15th and well inland at Wylam on 16th (DPa/WAK/BG) were the only reports of live birds. Seven corpses were at Blyth Bay on 8th when the remains of four were found at the gull roost at Blyth harbour (MHP). One-three were found dead at Berwick, Holy Island, Ross, Dunstanburgh, Cambois and Whitley Bay beach.

Puffin

Six corpses were found between Blyth-Seaton Sluice on 28th (MHP) and one-three were at Warkworth beach, Cambois, Whitley Bay beach and Tynemouth during the month.

Stock Dove

34 were feeding at a sheep trough at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (CJ).

Woodpigeon

2,000 were at Stannington on 8th and 17th (AHB/KRd) when 1,800 were near Flodden (JDL).

Collared Dove

Up to 50 roosted at North Shields during the month (RHA). Only 15 were at Brunton on 17th (AIB).

Barn Owl

Singles were seen at West Chevington on 7th (AJJ), near Stamfordham on 8th and 15th and Stannington on 27th (MHS).

Little Owl

On 17th singles were at Horton and Netherwitton (LJM/BL).

Tawny Owl

One-two noted at North Shields, Ponteland, Earsdon, Rothley and Hexhamshire, the latter two were hunting in daylight (BNR/AJJ et al). Dead or dying birds included three at Kielder and three in the Slaley area (BL).

Long-eared Owl

Five were still near Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd (KR et al).

Short-eared Owl

Three-four were at Ross Links on 20th where one gave wing-clapping display (MH). One-three also noted along the coast at Holy Island, Druridge, Woodhorn and Meggies Burn. Inland two were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th and one at Hexham on 14th (BNR).

Kingfisher

One-two noted at Jesmond Dene, Prestwick Carr, Hallington, Mitford and Angerton during the month.

Green Woodpecker

One was at Bolam on 27th (ASJ).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three noted at 12 widespread localities.

Skylark

The hard weather concentrated some very large numbers in coastal areas. On 8th a total of 6,000 was estimated in just two fields near Boulmer where a further 1,500 noted in another field (ES/MBS/IK). 1,000 were at Hauxley on 9th (BL) and 500 at Ross Links on 21st (MR). 100-400 were also noted at North Seaton, Druridge Bay and Coquet Estuary. On 22nd a total of 350 flew S. at Blyth (HG) and groups of up to 60 moved S. at North Shields (MSH). 40-60 noted at three other localities.

Meadow Pipit

Small numbers noted in several coastal localities. On 2nd two were in a main street at North Shields ! (DA).

Water Pipit

The bird at Whittle Dene, first noted in January, was present again between 8th-27th (MR/RW).

Grey Wagtail

One-three were noted at Jesmond Dene, Holywell, Seaton Sluice and Hallington.

Pied Wagtail

120-150 roosted at Morpeth High School throughout the month (KRd).

Waxwing

Eight were at Whitley Bay on 14th (SS) and singles noted at Morpeth and West Monkseaton during the month.

Dipper

One-two noted in eight typical localities including singing birds at Felton and Linnels.

Stonechat

One-two noted at Seahouses, Beadnell and Warkworth Gut.

Blackbird

Up to 64 present in a garden at Matfen during the month (RW).

Fieldfare

The largest flocks were 200 at West Heddon on 4th (LSG) and Woodhorn on 8th (JCD) and 116 near Belsay on 2nd (JS) 30-100 also noted at Norham, Druridge and St. Mary's Island.

Redwing

110 flew E. at Hexham on 6th (BNR). 75 near Prior's Park on 8th (AJB) was the largest flock reported. Small numbers noted in many suburban areas during the hard weather.

Blackcap

Single males were at Ponteland on 4th and 6th (BDG) and Morpeth on 12th (per BL).

Goldcrest

Six-seven noted at Morpeth and Jesmond Dene on 22nd/23rd (MHS/GH).

Long-tailed Tit

Two-eight were noted at Mitford, Bothal, Wark and Linnels.

Marsh Tit

Small numbers noted at Dipton, Linnels, Bolam, Morpeth, Angerton, Warkworth, Mitford and Felton.

Willow Tit

One-three noted at Caistron, Felton, Seaton Burn and Dipton.

Blue Tit

30 were at Gosforth Park on 8th (IRH) and 20 at North Shields on 22nd (MSH).

Great Tit

25 were at Gosforth Park on 8th (IRH).

Nuthatch

Up to six were at Bolam and one-three at Matfen, Wallington, Close House, Riding Mill, Linnels, Jesmond Dene, Angerton and Bothal.

Treecreeper

One-four noted in eight widespread localities.

Jay

One-two noted at five localities.

Magpie

11 were at Bothal on 4th (KWY).

Rook

500 were at Warkworth on 7th (JMA). Two-three pairs were nest-building at St. Andrew's Church, Newcastle by 20th (DA).

Starling

Copulation was noted at West Denton on 17th ! (MH).

Tree Sparrow

80 were at Seaton Burn on 2nd but none noted there after 8th (AJJ). 7-12 also noted at Holywell, Druridge and Cresswell.

Chaffinch

The largest gatherings were 200-300 at Druridge Bay on 23rd (MSH), 120 near Ford on 25th (MLC) and 110 at Caistron on 9th (MR).

Brambling

Some large flocks noted during the month, particularly in coastal areas. 450 were at Bradford on 2nd (JS) and on 9th flocks of 400-500 were noted at Lynemouth Colliery and at North Seaton (KDS/KR/BDG et al). Flocks of 200 were also at Boulmer and Hauxley on 8th/9th (ES/BL). 25-80 were noted at Stamfordham, Holywell Dene, Prior's Park and Seaton Burn with much smaller numbers at a further nine localities. One-eight were feeding in gardens in six areas.

Greenfinch

150 were near Lynemouth on 9th (KR) and 40 at Howick on 16th (RKS).

Goldfinch

15 were at Berwick harbour on 9th (LJM).

Siskin

30-35 were noted at Seaton Burn, Bothal and Prudhoe (AJJ/TMM/BNR). 3-15 were also at Bolam and Jesmond Dene and one-six visited gardens at Morpeth, Ponteland and Warkworth.

Linnet

400 were at Hauxley on 9th (BL) when 160 were at Druridge (KR). 150 were on Ross Links on 21st (MR).

Twite

43 were at Warkworth Gut on 15th (ES/WTL) and singles at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (DY/SY) and Druridge on 23rd (MSH).

Redpoll

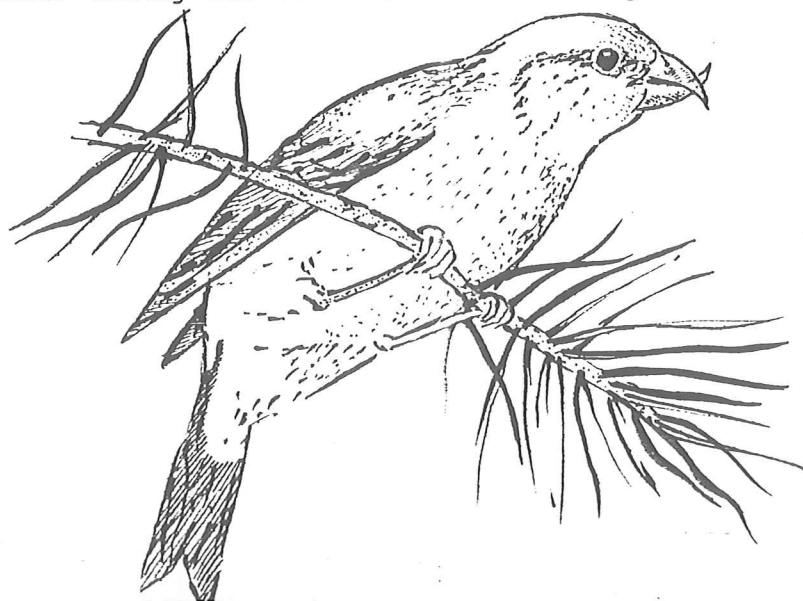
Ten were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (IF).

Mealy Redpoll

Flocks of 20 near Elwick on 15th and 36-40 at Ellingham on 20th were nearly all Mealys (MH). 16 at Amble Braid on 9th increased to about 20 by 15th (IC/MSH et al). 13 were at Druridge Links on 23rd (MSH) and one-six were also noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn, Caistron and Ross.

Crossbill

Up to 100 were at Kielder during the month (MD) and two-eight also noted at Ross and Harwood.





Bullfinch

Up to ten were at Morpeth (KRd) and two-four at Craster, Mitford, Lesbury and Jesmond.

Lapland Bunting

Three were at Hauxley on 9th (BL) and two at St. Mary's Island and Cresswell on 7th and 23rd (JC).

Snow Bunting

25 were at Newbiggin on 15th (SY) and 15 at Ross on 9th (BG). One-five were also at Stag Rocks, Druridge, Blyth beach, Seaton Sluice and Holywell. Inland four flew E at Cornhill on 9th (LJM) and four N.E. at East Woodburn on 23rd (MH).

Yellowhammer

50-60 were at Holywell Dene on 15th (RD) and 12-20 also noted at W. Heddon, Horton, Druridge and Craster.

Reed Bunting

30 at Druridge on 9th increased to 100 by 23rd (IC/MSH). One-three noted in gardens at Cramlington and Wideopen.

Please send all March records, in Vouos order please, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX - by 8th April, 1986 at the latest.

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Indoor Meeting - Members Night Thursday 10th April, 1986

The next indoor meeting will be Members Night. This meeting is always entertaining and interesting with the many talents of our own members on show. We will also be showing the results of our 'Bird Photograph of the Year' competition. The meeting will be in the Physics Lecture Theatre commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Please note that this will be the last meeting of this winter session.

GEOFF MACFARLANE MEMORIAL TRUST  
Natural History Award

The Trust is again inviting entries for a natural history competition. It is open to all interested persons, regardless of age or ability, and should take the form of a written report on aspects such as a site survey, a seasonal survey, or a species study etc. A prize of up to £50 will be awarded by the Trustees.

Submissions for the competition should be sent to - J.C. Day, 2 Grange Avenue, Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE12 9PN - by 31st August, 1986.

The winner of the 1985 Award was K. Reid of Morpeth for his account of the "Birds of the East Mill, Morpeth".

Loch Fleet Field Trip

Another very successful weekend trip away for the participants who had to brave some of the worst weather imaginable on the way up. They were rewarded with excellent Haggis and Chips in Perth and two white Mountain Hares on the journey. The first birds seen on the Saturday, whilst having our breakfast, were a pair of Peregrines displaying over the cottage. Highlight of the day was without doubt the King Eider seen well at Embo. Other birds of note were rafts of Long Tailed Duck, Velvet Scoter and Common Scoter, and adult Little Gull at Brora and all three species of diver.

Sunday was equally successful with Jack Snipe, male Surf Scoter, Iceland Gull and Red-necked Grebe on the Moray Firth. Later that day in Speyside we saw Capercaillie, Crested Tit and Scottish Crossbill.

Colin Bradshaw

Gateshead Wildlife Atlas

As part of a long term project Gateshead M.B.C. Parks Services Department are commencing a 1 km. square breeding bird survey in Gateshead. The aim is to cover every 1 km. square in the borough, a total of 185 in the next three years. For any volunteers wishing to take part there are a wide variety of habitats ranging from urban industrial sites to mature woodland. The survey will be based on the B.T.O. atlas lines, recording species as confirmed, probable or possible breeding.

Further information and record cards can be obtained from,

Gateshead M.B.C.  
Dept. of Parks Services,  
Saltwell Park,  
Saltwell Road South,  
Gateshead.

or telephone the Thornley Woodlands Centre, Rowlands Gill 545212



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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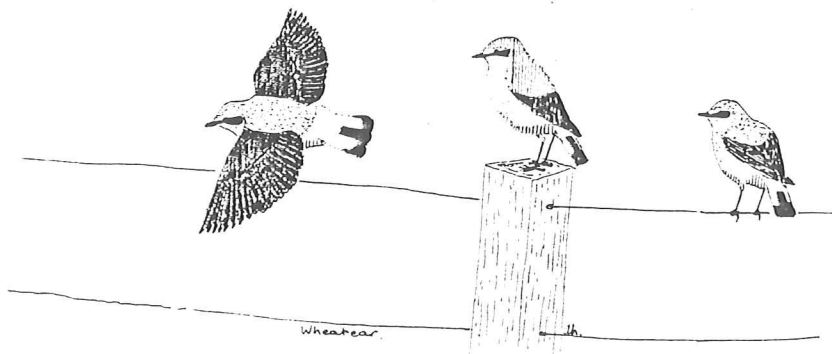
## MONTHLY SUMMARY

MARCH 1986

The early part of the month saw a continuation of the cold weather and snow experienced during February. Mid-month saw a change towards more spring-like weather but this was short lived with a return to wintry conditions late in the month particularly on 24th when heavy snowfalls occurred. It was a windy month, especially during the last ten days, with the direction generally from the west.

Geese were prominent during the month with six species being recorded. At least nine Bewick's Swans in the Ellington area indicated return passage through the county and Smew at Hadston Lake reached an amazing peak of 12. At the latter locality Red-breasted Mergansers were present for most of the month with a maximum of 20. A drake Ferruginous Duck appeared at Holywell Pond on 23rd and was still present on 30th. Interesting waders included two Black-tailed Godwits, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and two Green Sandpipers.

The Ring-billed Gull remained at Newcastle General Hospital until at least 2nd but may have been present later.



Summer visitors began to arrive with the first Wheatear at Hauxley on 16th and others reported from a number of localities during the remainder of the month. Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs also appeared and a Sandwich Tern moved S. at Hauxley on 28th. A White Wagtail was at Dunstanburgh on 31st when a Scandinavian race Rock Pipit was at St. Mary's Island.

Other interesting species included Hen Harrier, Buzzards, Jack Snipe, Laughing and Mediterranean Gulls, Waxwings and Mealy Redpolls.

Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

WEATHER SUMMARY - NORTH EAST ENGLANDMARCH 1986Temperatures

Over the month as a whole, temperatures were very close to normal but on the morning of the 3rd, the following temperatures were recorded:-

Newcastle Weather Centre = Minus 6.4 deg C, Redesdale = Minus 13.0 deg C, Bishop Auckland = Minus 11.4 deg C and Widdy Bank Fell = Minus 14.6 deg C. Each of these setting a new March minimum record.

The warmest days were the 15th and 22nd, with Tynemouth recording the highest maximum of the region on the 22nd with 13.8 deg C.

Rainfall - (Snow):-

Stations in the North East of the region reported rainfall below average (60-80%). Most of the others were very close to the norm with Widdy Bank Fell's total of 169.4 mm being the notable exception, giving them 141% of their long term average. At this station, 35.9 mm fell on the 22nd alone.

Much snow was still lying in many parts of the region during the first part of the month, but the most significant fall was on the morning of the 24th. Areas to the south of Newcastle bore the brunt of this, with northern parts of Durham worst affected. Barnard Castle reported one foot of snow with many roads blocked due to drifting. Drifting of lying snow caused problems at other times during the month, especially in rural areas.

Sunshine:-

Every station in the region reported sunshine duration between 30% and 40% above average, with daily totals of 8 to 10 hours being fairly common.

Wind:-

A breezy month overall as March can so often be, with gales reported on the 5th, but the windiest spell was from the 20th to the 27th.

The strongest winds were on the 20th with the following gusts reported:

Boulmer = 58 knots, Newcastle Weather Centre = 68 knots, Berwick = 72 knots and Tynemouth = 75 knots.

On all of these occasions, winds came from between the southwest and west.

(It may have been bad enough for us on the 20th, but there was worse elsewhere with Cairngorm in Scotland recording a mean speed of 98 knots with a gust to 132 knots, the highest ever recorded in the British Isles).

Courtesy of Newcastle Weather Centre

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

A maximum of 25-30 was at Druridge Bay on 30th (FH/ADMc) when eight were at Budle Point. 11 were off Seaton Sluice on 29th (AH). One-four were noted in other coastal localities.

Black-throated Diver

Three were at Druridge Bay on 17th and 19th (ADM/ASJ) and singles at Ross Back Sands, Stag Rocks, Alnmouth, Seaton Sluice, St. Mary's Island and Tynemouth during the month. More unusual was one circling Hadston Lake several times on 2nd (MH).

Great Northern Diver

One was still at Blyth Harbour on 2nd/3rd (DMT/AIB). Other singles were at Ross Back Sands on 22nd (MH) and Seaton Sluice on 31st (AJB/NM).

Little Grebe

One at Arcot Pond on 10th increased to six by 19th (LJM). One-four were noted at Hexham, Whittle Dene, Mitford, Hartburn, River Ford, Cresswell, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Holywell Pond. 'Trilling' was heard at several localities during the month. One was off Budle Point on 8th (AJB).

Great Crested Grebe

Numbers increasing during the month. At Holywell Pond numbers increased from one on 6th to a maximum of nine by 22nd (Mhp et al). Up to six were at Seaton Burn between 16th-30th (AJJ) and two pairs at Arcot Pond and Wallsend Swallow Pond. One-three were also seen at Sweethope, Bakethin, Northumbrian Loughs, Hallington, Whittle Dene, Capheaton, and Ford. On the sea five were at Ross Back Sands on 8th (AJB/ADM) and singles at Holy Island, Stag Rocks, Druridge Bay and Seaton Sluice.

Red-necked Grebe

A maximum of four was off Holy Island on 2nd (JDL) and one-three were also noted off Ross Back Sands and Stag Rocks. One was at Seaton Sluice on 29th (AH).

Slavonian Grebe

A maximum of ten was at Ross Back Sands on 1st and 30th (JC/DHH) when eight were at Stag Rocks. Two were at Cheswick Sands on 26th (JT) and one at Annstead on 30th (GB).

Black-necked Grebe

Four were off Ross Back Sands on 30th (DHH/MB). One had returned to the regular breeding locality by 28th.

Fulmar

20 were at Coquet Island on 29th (HRS).

Gannet

Light N. passage noted from 8th with a maximum of 30 per hour at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Cormorant

82 roosted at Blyth harbour on 7th (Mhp). 59 flew out of the Tyne Estuary on 5th (BNR) and 26 were in Amble Harbour on 17th (AJB). 13 were at the Corbridge roost on 3rd declining to three by 29th. Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race included one-two at Hauxley, Hadston, Coquet Estuary, Newton, Cullercoats, North Shields Fish Quay and Seaton Burn.

Shag

Eight were found dead at Stag Rocks on 14th (IF).

Grey Heron

A pair were displaying and nest-building at a site in the S. of the county on 22nd (IK). One-four noted at 17 widespread localities.

Flamingo

An 'escapee' was at Cresswell Pond from 23rd.

Mute Swan

13 at Berwick Harbour on 3rd increased to 154 by 14th (JRI/JDL). 2-15 were also noted at Blyth, Arcot, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Cresswell, Hartburn, Rayburn, Bolam and Shield-on-the-Wall.

Bewick's Swan

Nine (five adults) were at Ellington on 9th (EC) and four-five at Cresswell Pond on several dates between 5th-22nd were probably from this group.

Whooper Swan

Up to 51 were present at Prestwick Carr during the month (AGH/AIB et al) and up to 39 in the Cresswell/Warkworth Lane area (KH/MA et al). 52 were at Beal Sands on 2nd (JDL), up to 28 near Capheaton and 17 at Seaton Burn. 2-15 were also at Rayburn, Northumbrian Loughs, Grindon, Hartburn, Backworth and Holywell. Five flew N. at Stag Rocks on 30th (MB).

Pink-footed Goose

115 flew N. at Ordley on 8th (BNR). 20 were at Budle Bay between 1st-8th declining to ten by 14th (JC et al). Seven were at Boulmer on 7th (IF), nine S. at Hauxley on 17th (HRS) and two N. at North Shields on 27th and Hoppen Kiln on 28th (SY/MJS). Up to five were at Holywell Pond from 26th (JAW/DS).

White-fronted Goose

25 were at Druridge Pool on 10th (PRW). Singles were also at Holburn on 15th and Holywell Pond on 22nd and 30th (KDS/MHp/KR).

Grey Lag Goose

A maximum of 1,300 was at Budle Bay on 1st (JC) and up to 750 were seen at nearby Hoppen Kiln. 1,200 were at Holburn on 15th (MHp et al) when 350 were at Caistron (MR) and 300 at Hownham on 31st (JDL). 30-114 were also noted at Grindon Lough, Whittle Dene, Hallington, Arcot, Holywell and Bebside during the month.

Canada Goose

33 were at Colt Crag on 23rd (BNR/KR), 11 at Brenkley on 31st (AHB) and two-six at Arcot Pond, Capheaton and Derwent Reservoir.

Barnacle Goose

Three were at Budle Bay on 1st (JC).

Brent Goose

880 were at Holy Island on 2nd but only 68 on 25th (JDL et al). At Boulmer there were 37 dark-bellied birds on 5th (IK/PWW) and 46 light-bellied birds on 8th (ES/WTL/MBS). 16 pale-bellied remained at the Coquet Estuary up to 5th (EMY) and another was at Druridge Pool on 1st/2nd. 19 were near Seahouses on 7th (TAC), nine flew S. at Stag Rocks on 6th (ASJ) and three N. at Hadston on 17th (ADM). Three dark-bellied were at Cresswell on 9th (WAK). More unusual was a dark-bellied bird well inland at Caistron on 28th (MR).

Shelduck

116 were at Budle Bay on 29th when 107 were on Fenham Flats (MA/KH) 22 were at Hauxley on 17th (HRS) and Coquet Estuary on 20th/22nd (EMY) 18 at Boulmer on 8th (ES) and 15 at Cresswell on 21st (CMA). Two-ten noted at eight other coastal



localities. Inland one was still at Caistron up to 28th when a pair was present (MR). One at Kielder on 8th and others at Hallington and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th when two on the Northumbrian Loughs suggested overland passage (KR/NBR/JMM).

#### Wigeon

The largest gatherings were 850 at Budle Bay on 8th (ADM), when 200 at Druridge Pool (ES/WTL), 320 at Holy Island on 2nd (JDL), 188 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (MLC), 135 at Northumbrian Loughs on 16th (JMM/PH) and 127 at Whittle Dene (EC). 10-90 were at six other localities.

#### Gadwall

Singles were at Druridge Pool on 8th (JRT) and Holywell Pond on 25th and 27th (DSW/AH).

#### Teal

90 were at Caistron on 2nd (MR), 70 at Druridge on 21st (CMA) and 55 at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ). 10-50 were at nine other localities. Three pairs were in breeding territory at Threestoneburn by 28th (AMB).

#### Mallard

170 were at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ), 162 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (BNR), 100 at Budle Bay on 8th (ADM) when 115 at Holywell (JC). 20-90 were at six other waters.

#### Pintail

A maximum of seven was present at Seaton Burn on 10th (AJJ) and one-four noted at Holywell Pond, Backworth, Druridge Pool and Caistron. One was on the sea at St. Mary's Island on 1st (JT) and three flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th (DY/SY).

#### Shoveler

A rapid return during the month particularly to lowland waters, where the largest counts involved 11 at Seaton Burn on 16th, eight at Druridge Pool on 18th/23rd and nine at Arcot Pond on 17th (AJJ/MW/DS). One-four were also at Cresswell, Newton, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow Pond, and Hauxley, and further inland four-six at Grindon and Caistron. Seven were on the sea off Druridge on 17th (ADM) and four off Boulmer on 29th (RKS).

#### Pochard

The largest gatherings were 58 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th (IF), 53 at Killingworth Lake on 13th (JDM/LJM) and 32 at Holywell Pond on 8th (JC). 10-26 were also noted at eight other localities.

#### Ferruginous Duck

A drake was found at Holywell Pond on 23rd and was still present on 30th (IC et al). On the 29th it was seen half-heartedly displaying to a drake Pochard !

#### Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 81 on the Northumbrian Loughs on 16th (JMM), 50 at Caistron on 15th (MR) and Hartburn and Bolam on 22nd (MLC/TAC) and 43 at Whittle Dene on 7th (KB/SW). 10-40 were at eight other waters.

#### Scaup

The largest gatherings were 12 at Hadston Lake on 1st (MH), nine on Holy Island Lough on 30th (RKS), eight in the Coquet Estuary between 22nd-25th (EMY), seven at Hauxley on 29th/30th (HRS) and six at Berwick between 9th-16th (JRI). Birds were present at these localities on several dates. Two were at St. Mary's Island on 1st (JAT) and three in the Wansbeck Estuary on 2nd (KDS). Inland singles were at Whittle Dene on 22nd (AJ) and Arcot Pond on 26th/27th (LJM/MRS).

Eider

925 were between Newbiggin-Blyth on 9th (KDS/MHp), 60 at Dunstanburgh on 2nd (ISD) and 41 off Hadston on 16th (DA).

Long-tailed Duck

The largest count in the Ross/Bamburgh area was 32 on 30th (DHH/MB et al) when 13 were at Annstead Point (GB). Six were at Druridge Bay on 17th (ADM), four at Beadnell on 23rd (RKS) and two in Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM).

Common Scoter

In the Ross/Bamburgh area the largest gathering was 350 on the 9th and 15th (JDL/JRT). Up to 60 were at Druridge Bay on 21st and Cheswick Sands on 26th (DS/JAT) and 20-50 were also noted at Tynemouth, Seaton Sluice and N. Blyth.

Velvet Scoter

Seven were at Ross Back Sands on 8th and three on 30th (ADM et al).

Goldeneye

A maximum of 282 was at Berwick harbour on 9th (JRI). Other large gatherings included 90 at Whittle Dene on 1st (JSB) and on the River Tyne at Newburn on 13th (MPF), 63 at Capheaton on 8th (RW) and 44 at Holywell Pond on 30th (ES/WTL). 2-25 were noted at a further eight waters. Offshore 53 were at Cambois on 28th (TMM) and a maximum of 32 at Seaton Sluice on 9th (DA).

Smew

At Hadston Lake eleven were present on 1st increasing to a peak of 12 (two drakes, ten 'redheads') between 9th-18th with only one 'redhead' remaining by 23rd (MH/IK et al). One 'redhead' was on Druridge Pool on 8th. Another 'redhead' was at Caistron on 9th (MR) and pair at Arcot Pond between 9th-17th (MJS/JMM et al).

Red-breasted Merganser

Birds were present on Hadston Lake most of the month with a peak of 20 on 16th (CH/CB et al). Display was noted on several days. 16 were at Budle Bay on 29th (KH/MH) and one-nine at Berwick Harbour, Holy Island, Ross, Stag Rocks, Seahouses, Newton, Boulmer, Druridge Bay, Hauxley, St. Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

Goosander

The largest gatherings were 23 at Berwick Harbour on 23rd (JDL), 22 at Langley Dam and Whittle Dene on 16th and 20 between Bywell-Ovingham on 15th (MR/BNR). Two-twelve were noted at a further 18 widespread localities including some breeding areas.

Hen Harrier

At least one 'ringtail' was in the Ross/Holy Island area between 1st-29th (JC et al). Another 'ringtail' was at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (RKS).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were seen in about 22 widespread localities including one in a North Shields garden on 12th (JSS).

Buzzard

Singles were at Harthope on 19th (FH) and Deadwater on 30th (JMA).

Kestrel

A pair were displaying at a nest-box at Threestoneburn on 15th (AMB).

Merlin

One-two were still in six coastal areas during the month and birds had returned to two breeding areas by the last week.

Peregrine

Singles were at Holy Island on 9th, Bamburgh on 6th and over Newcastle Town Moor on 1st (RD/SJ/MLC). Others were noted at two inland localities.

Red Grouse

Another large gathering of 200 was at Blanchland on 2nd (AJR).

Black Grouse

Singles were at Threestoneburn and Harwood (AMB/ES) and two at Kingswood Burn on 23rd (PWD/KR).

Red-legged Partridge

One was at Shankhouse on 18th (LJM).

Grey Partridge

Large coveys of 42 were at St. Mary's Island on 1st (JAT) and near Stannington on 3rd (MHS). At the first locality 13 pairs were noted on 31st (IDM).

Pheasant

An all chocolate-brown male was at Simonburn on 8th (KR). Observer comments 'it looked quite nice, for a Pheasant'! A melanistic male was found near Riding Mill on 19th (DP).

Water Rail

Three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (JP) and one-two at Seaton Burn and Wideopen during the month (GB). Another was at Holywell Pond between 10th-29th (DS/AMB).

Moorhen

21 were at Arcot Pond on 12th (LJM).

Coot

104 at Seaton Burn on 1st increased to 156 by 16th (AJJ). 100 were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (MLC), when 62 were at Arcot Pond (LJM). 40-60 were also at Hartburn, Whittle Dene, Northumbrian Loughs and Wallsend Swallow Pond. One was at North Shields Fish Quay between 12th-31st (DMT).

Wader Count - 9th March 1986

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (JGB), Seahouses-Beadnell (TAC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (AW/LC), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/EC/ISD), Newbiggin-N. Blyth (MHP/KDS), Blyth Estuary (LJM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 849 was noted during the wader count. 94 were at St. Mary's Island on 8th (JC) and 66 at Berwick on 9th (JDL). A return to inland breeding areas was evident throughout the month with small numbers reported in many localities. As many as 300 had gathered at Castron on 15th and 22nd (MR).

Ringed Plover

A total of 168 was noted during the wader count. 50 were at Blyth harbour on 1st (JCD). Seven were at Castron by 28th (MR).

Golden Plover

On 1st/2nd 220 were at St. Mary's Island (KR) and up to 86 at Tynemouth (AH/CB). A return to moorland areas was indicated by 20 at Acton Moor on 8th (BNR) and 22 at Kingswood Burn on 23rd (KR).

Grey Plover

A total of 180 was noted on the wader count including 78 between Boulmer-Alnmouth. 214 were at Holy Island on 2nd (JDL) and up to 12 at Hauxley Pool on 23rd/28th (HRS).

Lapwing

400 were at Hauxley on 17th (HRS), 300 at Coquet Estuary on 12th (EMY) and 80-200 at three other localities. After the 8th a return to breeding areas was noted and displaying birds seen in several localities.

Knot

A total of 188 noted during the wader count although on 2nd 1,500 were at N. Blyth (AMB), 700 at St. Mary's Island (JDM) and 230 at Holy Island (JDL). 140 were at the Coquet Estuary on 7th (EMY) and up to 76 at Hauxley.

Sanderling

A total of only 46 noted during the wader count although 160 were at Blyth beach on 1st (MHP), 180 at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (JD) and a maximum of 86 at the Tyne Estuary on 29th (DMT).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 363 was noted during the wader count. In addition the regular spring roost at Blyth N. Pier attracted a maximum of 220 on 1st (JCD/MHP). 77 were at Seaton Sluice on 18th (DPY/SW) and 30-35 at Hauxley and Tynemouth.

Dunlin

Numbers were still high on the wader count when 1,111 were noted. In addition 1,400 were at Fenham-le-Moor on 23rd (JD), 260 at Tyemouth on 1st and 200 at St. Mary's Island on 8th (JC). Inland one-three were at Seaton Delaval, Seaton Burn, Caistron, Whittle Dene and Derwent Reservoir after 6th.

Ruff

Singles were at Cresswell between 1st-6th (JRT/KWY) and Caistron on 28th (MR).

Jack Snipe

One was at Caistron on 31st (MR).

Snipe

27 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (IF) was the largest gathering.

Woodcock

One-three were noted at four coastal and about 11 inland localities during the month.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were near Holy Island harbour on 9th (CB/CH).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 57 was noted during the wader count. 450 were at Holy Island causeway on 23rd (JDL).

Curlew

A total of 354 was noted during the wader count. 500 were on Holy Island on 9th (CB) and 18-40 at St. Mary's Island, Cresswell and Foxton. A return to breeding areas noted during the month with gatherings of 48 at Colt Crag on 23rd (BNR) when 50 on the Allendale Moors (KR) and 10-21 at Grindon, Caistron and Corbridge.

Spotted Redshank

A single bird was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on many dates and probably the same bird

at Backworth on 10th/11th, 15th/16th and 29th (IF et al). One was at Willington Quay on 21st (AMB).

#### Redshank

A total of 660 was noted during the wader count. Birds moved back into several breeding areas during the month and 18 were at Caistron by 28th (MR). One-three were found dead at St. Mary's Island, Boulmer and Stag Rocks (IF).

#### Greenshank

One was at Black Low on 2nd (DPa).

#### Green Sandpiper

One was still at Caistron on 3rd (MR) and another near Kirkley Hall on 16th (AHB).

#### Turnstone

A total of 949 was noted during the wader count, when 52 were at St. Mary's Island (JC).

#### Mediterranean Gull

The adult at Craster remained until at least 23rd, when another was at North Shields (KWY). The first-winter bird, mentioned last month, again came in to roost at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (BNR).

#### Laughing Gull

The Newcastle General Hospital bird remained in the area until at least 1st April.

#### Black-headed Gull

2,000 roosted at Hallington on 16th, 4,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th and 3,600 at Grindon on 28th with 600-1,000 at Scotswood, Colt Crag and Broomlee during the month (BNR). 2,800 roosted at Blyth harbour on 7th (MHP).

#### Ring-billed Gull

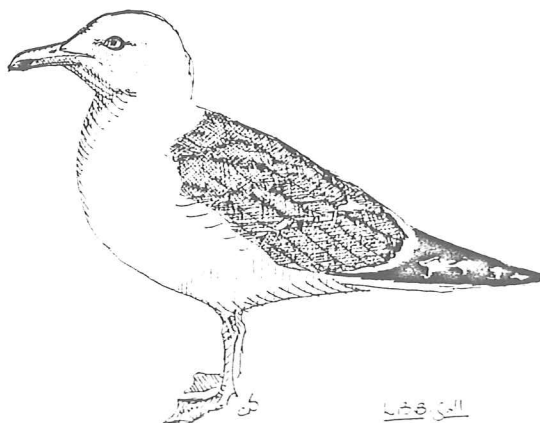
The bird found last month at Newcastle General Hospital remained until at least 2nd. Notes on this bird and any later dates would be appreciated by the Recorder.

#### Common Gull

1,350 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd was the only occupied inland roost early in the month (all other sites were frozen). However 20,000 roosted at Hallington on 16th, 11,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th and 1,300 at Broomlee on 29th (BNR). Passage marked by flocks of 60-300 at several inland localities after 16th although 105 moved SW in one hour at Redesdale on 15th (MH).

#### Lesser Black-backed Gull

One-seven were in about 13 widespread localities (including some well-inland) during the month. 13 roosted at Broomlee on 29th. A bird showing the characteristics of the Sandinavian race was at Newburn on 7th (BNR).



Common Gull

See 11

Mar 86

Herring Gull

1,200 roosted at Blyth harbour on 1st (MHP). 600 were at the Tyne Estuary on 21st (DMT).

Iceland Gull

Probably two individuals present at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (DMT et al). An adult was in the Blyth harbour/Seaton Sluice area throughout the month and probably the same bird visited Holywell Pond on 29th (MHP/JAW et al). A first-winter was at Cambois on 28th (KDS/TMM).

Glaucous Gull

Probably five individuals (adult, three first-winter, second-winter) noted in the North Shields - Blyth harbour area during the month. At Holywell Pond there was an adult on 6th and 23rd and a first-winter on 16th (MHP/JRT/KR). A first-winter was at Hadston on 2nd (KDS) and another found dead at Whitley Bay on 8th (JAT).

Great Black-backed Gull

100 roosted at Blyth harbour on 1st (MHP).

Kittiwake

300 had returned to the Dunstanburgh colony by 15th (RKS) and 88 at the North Shields warehouse colony by 21st (DMT).

Sandwich Tern

The first was one flying S. (sensible bird !) at Hauxley on 28th (HRS). Four were off Stag Rocks on 30th (DHH/MB).

Guillemot

18 were found dead between Alnmouth-Birling on 17th and six dead between Amble-Hauxley on 25th, but only one was slightly oiled (JMA). 50 were off Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Razorbill

Three (live) oiled birds were at St. Mary's Island on 1st (MBi/JAT). One-three were noted at Ross, Dunstanburgh and Tynemouth.

Little Auk

One was on Druridge Pool on 1st (KWY/JRT) and another at Boulmer on 2nd (AJB).

Puffin

Noted as 'very numerous' around Coquet Island on 28th (HRS).

Stock Dove

Large flocks included 16 at Matfen on 9th (RW), 17 at St. Mary's Island on 31st (IDM) and ten-eleven at Seaton Burn and Holy Island (AJJ/CB). 18 were counted in Jesmond Dene on 17th (JAT) and two-nine at four other localities.

Woodpigeon

1,000 were at Newton Pool on 1st (ISD) and 500-700 at Lowick on 2nd (RKS).

Collared Dove

The regular roost at North Shields had dispersed by the end of the month (RHA).

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Horton, Heddon, Rothbury and Milfield.

Little Owl

Singles were at Hadston and Seaton Delaval whilst another was found as a road casualty at Kirkwhelpington on 2nd (RW).



Tawny Owl

One-three noted in five widespread localities.

Long-eared Owl

One-four were near Wallsend Swallow Pond up to 28th (IF). One was at Arcot on 9th and two there on 30th (MJS). Another roosted at Clara Vale on 23rd (AJ).

Short-eared Owl

One-three were in eleven coastal or near coastal localities. Three were over Newcastle Town Moor on 2nd (MBi/JAT). One was well inland at Threestoneburn on 28th (AMB).

Kingfisher

One-four were at Jesmond Dene, Arcot Pond and Castron.

Green Woodpecker

One-two were seen at Carey Burn, Ingram, Nunnykirk, Bothal, near Ogle, Riding Mill, Linnels, Mitford, Routin Lynn and Newbiggin. Some birds were "yaffling".

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were noted at 12 widespread localities. One was still at Hauxley on 29th (HRS) and another was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (IF).

Skylark

80 were at Cresswell on 1st (JCD), 15 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SY) and 39 were at St. Mary's Island on 15th (JAT). After 10th singing birds were noted in several lowland localities and 12-50 were inland at Ford, Ordley and Calder.

Meadow Pipit

After 22nd birds were noted returning to several inland localities with 55 at Castron by 31st (MR) and 18-23 at Corbridge, Ordley and Housesteads.

Rock Pipit

Six were at Cheswick on 26th (JAT). Up to eight were at St. Mary's Island where a bird, showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race, was present on 30th/31st (PWD/KR/IC).

Grey Wagtail

Three pairs were at Jesmond Dene and Allenbanks (MPF/RKS) and others in breeding territories at eight widespread localities. Passage indicated by singles flying N. at Prior's Park on 15th and Holy Island on 31st (CB/CH).

Pied Wagtail

Six-ten were at Newton, Howick and Derwent Reservoir.

White Wagtail

One was at Dunstanburgh on 31st (PWD).

Waxwing

Five were at Walker on 10th (TPMW) and 12 at Berwick hospital on 11th (per JDL).

Dipper

Four pairs were in the Alwin Valley on 14th (TAC) and two completed nests in nest-boxes at Threestoneburn by 28th (AMB/GC). Other birds noted in 11 other breeding areas.

Dunnock

Ten were at Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Stonechat

Singles were at Newton Pool on 1st and Bamburgh on 30th (ISD/AIB).

Wheatear

The first was one at Hauxley on 16th (HRS) followed by further singles at St. Mary's Island on 17th and 22nd (ASJ/JAW). One was well inland at Shillmoor on 23rd (JMA), and between 24th-31st one-five were along the coast at Hartley, Seaton Sluice, Meggies Burn and Annstead and one-two inland at Carey Burn, Allerhope and Steel Rigg.

Blackbird

20-25 were at Hauxley on 1st and 31st (HRS).

Fieldfare

Numbers increasing during the month. The largest numbers involved five flocks of 200-400 in the Nunnykirk/Rothbury/Morpeth areas on 23rd (RHA) and 410 flying NW at Grindon on 28th (BNR). 300 flew NE at Wallington on 30th (RW). Flocks of 50-200 were noted at Colt Crag, Housesteads, Castron, Ford Moss, Ilderton Dod, Holystone, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Weldon Bridge. On 15th 56 flew S. over Redesdale with a movement of Starlings and Common Gulls (MH).

Redwing

Birds were still present in several suburban areas early in the month with 50 at Newcastle on 14th (AIB) and 30-40 at Jesmond and Prior's Park. 100 were at Holystone on 28th (TAC) and 30-40 at Ponteland and Wallington. Birds were heard passing overhead after dark at Wideopen on 17th (AIB). One was singing at Leazes Park, Newcastle on 31st (AGH).

Mistle Thrush

16 were at Ford Castle on 25th (MBi/JAT).

Blackcap

A male was at Ponteland on 12th (BDG) and female at Wylam between 3rd-8th (RMH/PMH). A male at Cresswell Pond on 22nd may have been the first spring arrival (PS/JAT). Another was at Cochrane Park on 25th (KIB).

Chiffchaff

On 29th singing birds were at Felton (ETN) and Bothal (KIB).

Long-tailed Tit

20 were at Gosforth Park on 12th (JAT). A pair were nest-building at Mitford from the 10th (ASJ/ADMc).

Marsh Tit

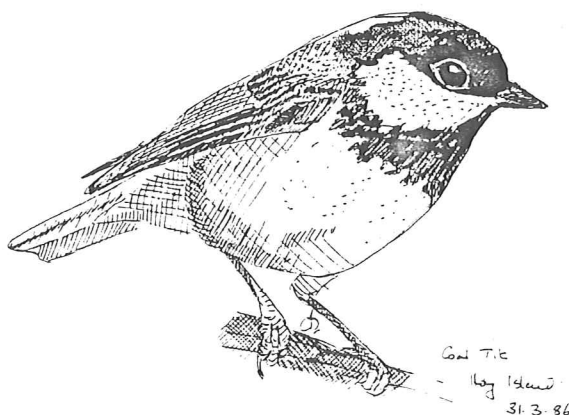
Noted at Bolam and Wingates.

Willow Tit

One-four noted at Ford Castle, Warkworth Lane, Seaton Burn and Backworth.

Coal Tit

19 were at Ford Castle on 27th (JAT). More unusual were singles at Hauxley on 23rd/31st and Holy Island on 31st (HRS/CB).

Coal TitBlue Tit

30 were at Ford Castle on 27th (JAT).

Great Tit

27 were at Gosforth Park on 12th and 18 at Ford Castle on 27th (JAT).

Nuthatch

Up to six were at Bolam and one-four at Close House, Mitford, Capheaton, Matfen, Riding Mill, Aydon, Hexham, Jesmond Dene, Bothal and in the N. of the county at Ford Castle.

Treecreeper

One-four noted at Nunnykirk, Ford and Holywell areas.

Jay

One-three were noted at six widespread localities. More unusual perhaps, was one on Ross Links on 14th (IF).

Magpie

12 at Seaton Burn was the largest gathering (AJJ).

Rook

In Newcastle on 3rd there were six occupied nests at St. Andrew's Church and eight at the Haymarket (DA).

Carrion Crow

A large flock of 70 was at Commonburn on 28th (AMB).

Tree Sparrow

20 were at Hauxley on 2nd (AJB).

Chaffinch

The largest flocks were 400 at Tarsset on 17th (JCD), 200 at Matfen on 9th (RW) and 75-100 at Capheaton, Hexhamshire and Brenkley between 6th-9th.

Brambling

The largest flocks were 100 at Calder on 9th (AMB), and 75 at West Woodburn on 15th (MH), 20-70 were also at Rothbury, near Chatton, Ellington, Tarsset, Matfen and Capheaton. One-three continued to visit gardens at Ponteland. A male was in song at Bywell on 15th (BNR).

Siskin

18 were at Seaton Burn on 12th (JAT) and eight at Bothal on 1st (JRT). Birds at feeding stations in gardens included up to ten at Ponteland and one-four at Gosforth, Morpeth, Wylam, Heddon, Corbridge, Hexham and Matfen. A return to local breeding areas noted at Ordley on 31st (BNR). More unusual was two flying in off the sea at Ross on 22nd (RKS).

Linnet

80 were at Cresswell on 1st (JRT/KWY) and 27 Prior's Park on 15th (CB).

Twite

One was at Seaton Sluice on 1st (JDM), four at Boulmer on 2nd (AJB) and another at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Redpoll

20 were at Seaton Burn on 16th/17th (AJJ/DS).

Mealy Redpoll

5 were at Hauxley on 2nd (AJB) and four still at Amble Braid between 4th-8th (EMY).

Crossbill

30 were at Detchant Wood on 2nd (JMA) and five-six noted at Threestoneburn, Stonehaugh and Riding Mill. They appear to be scarcer at Kielder this spring. One was singing at Ross on 1st (JC).

Bullfinch

Eight were at Morpeth Abbey on 15th (ADMc).

Hawfinch

Two were at Featherstone Castle on 16th (WAK) and four arrived back in Jesmond Dene by 28th (MPF).

Lapland Bunting

One was at Boulmer on 7th (IF).

Snow Bunting

Ten were at Ross Back Sands on 1st (JC), six at Druridge on 9th (PCL) and five at Newbiggin on 2nd (AMB). Singles were also noted at Boulmer, Blyth and St. Mary's Island.

Yellowhammer

Flocks of 30-32 were at Earsdon, Corbridge and Juniper (IC/MR/BNR).

Reed Bunting

One was still visiting a garden at Wideopen on 27th (AIB).

Corn Bunting

22 were at Bothal on 31st (AJJ). One-four, including some in song, were at Seahouses, Cresswell, Woodhorn, Newbiggin, Guide Post, Seaton Delaval and St. Mary's Island.

Please send all April records, in Vooous order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QX, by 8th May at the latest.

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### Indoor Meetings

Please remember that there will be no further indoor meetings until September 1986. A full list of meetings for the 1986/87 winter session will be published soon.

### Collection of Local Natural History Books for Sale

Martyn Elwell (Tel. Prudhoe 33326) has for sale a collection of Local Bird Books including classics by Bolam, Hancock, Chapman etc. If you are interested please contact Martyn direct.

## Requests for Information

### 1. Black Grouse

This species may be under-recorded within the county. If you see any Black Grouse during the course of this year I would be grateful if you could let me know. If you wish, please indicate if the locality should be kept confidential.

Mike Hodgson

### 2. From The Northumberland Wildlife Trust

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust has an ongoing task of compiling Natural History sightings of potential sights of Nature conservation importance, designated sights of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI's), and its own reserves, many of which we have little bird information on.

The Trust would therefore welcome any bird sightings from the following localities.

FORD MOSS	OS sheet 75	Grid Reference 374 971
PAWSTON LAKE	OS sheet 74	Grid Reference 854 316
HAVANNAH POND	OS sheet 88	Grid Reference 215 718
KIDLAND FOREST	OS sheet 80	Grid Reference 910 120

The best way in which to submit records is to enter them on separate record cards and send them to the Recorder.

T. Brereton

## Future Field Trips

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
17/18.5.86	Norfolk Weekend	Colin Bradshaw
24.5.86.	Holy Island	Ian Kerr
18.5.86.	Bamburgh (Ringing)	Mike Hodgson
June Weekend	Censuses	Nick Rossiter
5.7.86.	Bass Rock	T.B.A.
Mid August	Teeside	Alan Johnston
Late August	Pelagic trip from North Shields out to sea (and back !)	Mike Bell

If anyone is interested in any of the above please contact COLIN BRADSHAW.





# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

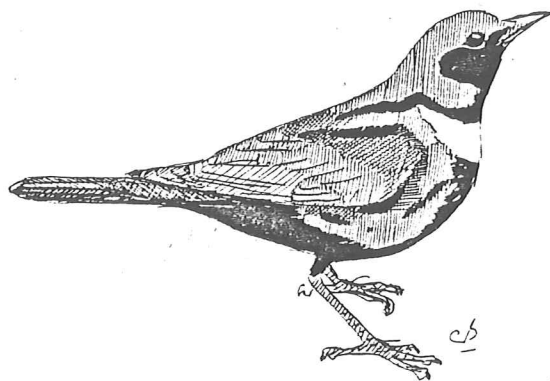
## MONTHLY SUMMARY - APRIL 1986

It was generally a cold month with mean temperatures well below the normal average although the last few days did show some improvement. It was also very wet with the heaviest rainfall occurring on 15th. Hardly surprising the amount of sunshine experienced was below normal. A period of winds from an easterly sector and very wet and misty coastal weather from 15th produced an interesting influx of migrants.

Sea-watching produced the usual spring N. movement of Fulmars, Gannets and Kittiwakes and several Manx Shearwaters and Arctic Skuas. 60 Barnacle Geese flying over Bellingham on 25th almost certainly originated from the Solway Firth. A drake Ring-necked Duck appeared at Holywell Pond on 29th (is this last year's bird?) where the Ferruginous Duck was still present. A pair of Ruddy Ducks were seen between 26th-30th at Seaton Burn.

Birds of prey produced some interesting records with five Hen Harriers, an Osprey on 16th, Marsh Harrier on 26th and Rough-legged Buzzard on 27th. Waders on passage included Whimbrels, Black-tailed Godwits, Greenshanks and from 23rd Common Sandpipers.

The arrival of summer visitors was well underway with many of the species putting in their first appearances. Wet weather coupled with easterly winds mid-month caused an exciting 'fall' along the coast.



Ring Ousel  
Tyneside 17.4.86.

Although a number of localities received these small migrants Holy Island again proved the place to be. On 18th, for example, that locality held 520 Robins, 130 Dunnocks, 26 Ring Ousels, 20 Black Restarts, a Hoopoe and two Great Grey Shrikes! These were followed by a Firecrest on 19th and Water Pipit on 20th. Three coastal migrant Hawfinches added to the interest. Perhaps the bird of month was a superb male Rustic Bunting found by two members in Holywell Dene on 19th. Altogether a quite exciting month with other interesting species including Jack Snipe, Laughing and Mediterranean Gulls, Black Guillemot, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Waxwing, Mealy Redpoll and Lapland Bunting.

Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

Seven between Budle Point-Stag Rocks on 1st was the largest gathering (DHH/MB). One-five noted at four other localities.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were at Budle Point and flying N. at Annstead on 1st (DHH/MB) and off Ross Back Sands on 11th (KH/MA).

Great Northern Diver

One flew S. at Whitley Bay on 26th (MBi/JAT).

Little Grebe

Ten were at Arcot Pond on 19th (LJM), nine at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (IF) and three pairs each at Holywell Pond and Seaton Burn (JAT/AJJ). One-four noted on six other waters.

Great Crested Grebe

Six were at Seaton Burn and up to five at Holywell Pond (AJJ/ISD). One-two were also at Bothal, Cresswell, Hadston, Angerton, Caistron, Hallington, Langley Dam, Whittle Dene, Arcot, Killingworth Lake and Wallsend Swallow Pond. On the sea one was off Hadston on 1st (MC), one at Holy Island on 26th (MA) when three were in Druridge Bay (JRT/KWY)

Red-necked Grebe

On 1st singles were off Hadston (MC) and Budle Point (MB/DHH). Another was at Stag Rocks on 19th (ES/DRS).

Slavonian Grebe

On 1st one was off Hadston (MC) and 11 between Budle Point-Stag Rocks (DHH/MB) and one-three were in the Ross/Holy Island area up to 12th.

Black-necked Grebe

Two were at the regular breeding locality on 1st increasing to nine pairs by 28th. One was off Hadston on 21st (MLC) and three at Holy Island on 26th (MA/KH).

Fulmar

226 were at Cullernose Point on 26th (RKS). Steady N. passage was noted at Hauxley, Stag Rocks and Holy Island on 5th (HRS/ES). 100 flew N. at Tynemouth on 7th (AH) and heavy N. passage again seen at Holy Island on 22nd (MR).

Manx Shearwater

Five were off Cresswell on 6th and one on 19th (ADMc).

Gannet

200 per hour moved N. at Annstead Point on 1st (DHH/MB). 191 flew N. at Berwick on 4th (JDL), 132 N. at Embleton on 5th (RKS), 200 N. at Craster on 12th (ES) and heavy N. passage noted at Holy Island on 22nd (MR). Smaller numbers noted at several other localities.

Cormorant

52 were at Blyth harbour on 11th (MHP) and 25 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 26th (JAT). One-seven were at four inland localities and seven roosted in a tree at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (RKS). Singles showing the characteristics of the continental race were at Seaton Burn on 6th (MHS) and Bolam Lake on 19th (LJM).

Grey Heron

Five were at Longhoughton Steel on 26th (RKS). One-three noted at five widespread localities.

Mute Swan

13 were at the Blyth Estuary on 13th (LJM) and at Capheaton on 28th (RW) and 12 at Seaton Burn on 16th (AJJ). Breeding pairs noted at Bolam, Capheaton, River Pont at Matfen, Angerton, Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond although at the later site one adult was found dead, probably shot, on 24th.

Whooper Swan

22 were at Druridge Pool on 1st (DHH/MB), seven-eighteen at four surrounding areas between 2nd-29th may have been from this herd. 21 near Capheaton on 2nd decreased to one by 19th (MLC/MH). The herd of 51 at Prestwick Carr gradually decreased to three by 30th (AIB et al). One-five also at Caistrion, Holy Island, Grindon and Langley Dam between 5th-27th.

Pink-footed Goose

Six were at Caistrion on 18th (MR).

Grey Lag Goose

300 were at Budle Bay on 5th (WTL/ES) when 360 were at Caistrion declining to ten by 26th (MR). 151 were at Grindon Lough on 12th (RKS) 2-45 were also at Hallington, Whittle Dene, Hauxley and Threestoneburn. A maximum of 46 were at Holywell Pond on 5th (JRT/KWY) and one-six in five nearby localities.

Canada Goose

Up to eight were at Arcot Pond during the month. Two breeding pairs noted at Capheaton (RW) and another at Brenkley (P&PM). One was at Caistrion on 27th (MR).

Barnacle Goose

60 flew N.E. at Bellingham on 25th. This interesting report can be compared to a previously unpublished record of 450 Barnacle Geese moving over Kielder on 30th April, 1983. Plotting their course shows that they would arrive in Norway somewhere between Stavanger and Bergen ! (BL).

Brent Goose

35 were at Holy Island on 6th reducing to two by 22nd (JDL/MR).

Shelduck

A maximum of 64 was in Budle Bay on 20th (RKS), 20 were at Longhoughton Steel on 26th, and up to 16 at Hauxley and 12 at Cresswell Pond (MA/LJM). Nine flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 6th (KR), two flew W. at Holywell on 28th (ADM) and one was at Seaton Burn on 27th (AJJ).

Wigeon

46 were at Druridge Pool on 5th (P&PM), 95 at Grindon on 12th when 44 were at Derwent Reservoir (RKS/JSB). 2-25 were noted at seven other localities. A pair had returned to the regular breeding locality by 13th.

Gadwall

One-five were at Cresswell Pond during the month (JAT/MLC et al). Singles were at Grindon Lough on 19th (JSB), Caistrion on 27th (MR) and Arcot Pond on 28th (LJM).

Teal

190 were at Druridge Pool on 18th and 53 at Gosforth Park on 12th (ISD) 10-30 were at four other localities. Birds were present in suitable moorland breeding localities at Harwood on 18th and Threestoneburn on 26th (MH/AH).

Mallard

41 at Seaton Burn on 2nd was the largest gathering (AJJ).

Pintail

A pair were at Seaton Burn between 1st-13th (AJJ), one at Arcot on 19th and two on 24th and a pair at Druridge Pool on 27th (DY/SY). A drake was on the sea at Longhoughton Steel on 26th (RKS).

Shoveler

The largest gatherings were 12 at Druridge Pool on 26th (JRT/KWY), nine at Holy Island lough on 6th (JDL) and up to ten at Arcot Pond, although smaller numbers were noted at 11 other localities particularly in the S.E. of the county. At one locality a nest with 12 eggs was found on 27th. Three were on the sea at Longhoughton Steel on 26th (RKS).

Pochard

24 were at Holywell Pond on 19th (IC). 1-17 noted at seven other localities.

Ring-necked Duck

A drake was at Holywell Pond on 29th/30th, still present well into May (JEF/P&Pm). It seems likely that this is the same bird that was present in the area for much of last year. Notes would be appreciated by the Recorder.

Ferruginous Duck

The drake reported at Holywell Pond during March remained throughout the month and into May.

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 52 at Holywell on 26th (JAT), 42 at Caistron on 13th, 32 at Seaton Burn on 2nd and 31 at Whittle Dene on 9th (MR/AJJ).

Scaup

Nine were on Holy Island lough between 2nd-10th (DPa et al) and one on 12th. Up to seven were at Hauxley between 1st-19th (HRS). One was at Arcot Pond on 1st and 19th (LJM).

Eider

475 were between Newbiggin-Cambois on 13th (MHP), 143 at Stag Rocks on 24th (BNR) and 82 at Blyth harbour on 10th (HG).

Long-tailed Duck

A maximum of 19 was at Stag Rocks on 12th (AJ). One-four also noted at Holy Island, Seahouses harbour, Annstead, and Low Newton between 1st-26th.

Common Scoter

A maximum of 200 was in the Ross/Stag Rocks area on 11th (KH/MA). 3-19 also noted at Tynemouth, St. Mary's Island, Hauxley and Holy Island.

Velvet Scoter

Three were at Druridge Bay on 5th (JRT/KWY), four N. at Seaton Sluice on 6th (KR/PWD) and one S. at Stag Rocks on 18th (KDS).

Goldeneye

The largest gatherings were 45 at Holywell Pond on 5th (JRT), 42 at Capheaton on 16th (RW), 29 at Cambois on 19th (LJM) and 22 at Seaton Sluice on 6th(KR). One-nineteen were at nine other localities.

Red-breasted Merganser

12 were at Berwick on 14th (JDL), 11 at Budle Bay on 5th (ES/DRS), and up to 11 in Druridge Bay. One-five were in seven other coastal localities. A drake was at one inland locality from 18th.

Goosander

Breeding numbers along the North Tyne may be well reduced as only half of the number of nests found compared to the 1985 total (BL). Eight were at Caistron on 18th (MR) and smaller numbers in six other inland localities. Six were at Foxton on 12th (WTL/ES).

Ruddy Duck

A pair were at Seaton Burn between 26th-30th (AJJ et al).

Marsh Harrier

An immature male was at Holywell Pond on 26th (MHP).

Hen Harrier

An adult male was at Prestwick Carr on 4th and Seaton Burn on 11th, 12th and 18th (AIB/AJJ). Two 'ringtails' were together at Budle Bay on 18th (KDS/MHP) and single 'ringtails' were noted at two inland localities.

Sparrowhawk

One-two noted in about 16 widespread localities.

Rough-legged Buzzard

One was watched for 10 minutes on Holy Island on 27th before it moved off N.W. (KDS/TMM).

Osprey

One was at Kielder Water on 16th (per BL).

Kestrel

About eight were in the Holywell area on 26th (JAT).

Merlin

One was on Holy Island between 11th-20th (KH/MA) and others at five inland localities.

Peregrine

One was at Black Low on 12th (JDL).

Red Grouse

Freshly broken egg-shells found at Simonside on 5th (IDM).

Black Grouse

Up to three were at Threestoneburn (AMB) and two at Allenheads on 13th (WAK) and Redesdale on 17th (BL).

Red-legged Partridge

Pairs were noted at Laverock Hall, Slaley, Caistron, Hepple, Holystone, Calder and Beal.

Grey Partridge

16-22 were at Holywell and St. Mary's Island on 26th (JAT/MBi).

Water Rail

Singles were at Gosforth Park on 4th/12th (ISD), Hauxley on 3rd, 19th and 27th (HRS) and Caistron on 20th (MR).

Moorhen

More unusual records concerned one at Prior's Park/Tynemouth Haven between 15th-25th (AH) and another in a Whitley Bay garden on 24th (per IDM).

Coot

160 were at Seaton Burn on 1st decreasing to 53 by 29th (AJJ) and 104 at Capheaton on 16th decreased to 30 by 28th (RW). One was at North Shields Fish Quay between 1st-19th (DMT).

Wader Count - 13th April, 1986

Only six stretches were counted this month:- Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Newbiggin-Blyth (KDS/MHp), Blyth Estuary (LJM).

Oystercatcher

165 were noted on the wader count. 42 were at Cresswell Pond on 12th (KWY) and 53 at St. Mary's Island on 30th (IC). Inland 250 at Caistron on 5th declined to 50 by 20th (MR) and two-six noted at four other localities.

Ringed Plover

Small numbers noted at several coastal and inland breeding sites.

Golden Plover

600-800 were at Boulmer on 12th (ES), a maximum of 300 at St. Mary's Island on 5th and 23rd (IDM), 153 at Longhoughton Steel on 26th (RKS), and 100 at Howick on 19th.

Grey Plover

A total of 20 were seen on the wader count. 350-400 were at Ross on 26th (ISD). One-six in four other localities.

Lapwing

Nest with four eggs was found near Caistron on 5th (IDM) and brood a hatched at Seaton Sluice on 26th (CMA).

Knot

150 were at Holy Island on 5th and 13-25 noted at Amble, Hauxley and St. Mary's Island between 4th-19th (ES/HRS).

Sanderling

58 were at Berwick Little Beach on 14th (JDL) and 54 at St. Mary's Island on 19th (IC).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 292 noted during the wader count included 224 between Seahouses-Beadnell. In addition 60 were at Stag Rocks on 5th and 145 between Seaton Sluice-St. Mary's Island on 26th (ES/JAT).

Dunlin

Only 153 noted during the wader count. 40-50 were at Druridge Pool on 27th (IF) and one-three at Havannah Pond and Backworth.



Ruff

Three were at Druridge Pool on 27th (IF/DPa).

Jack Snipe

One was at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Snipe

'Drumming' birds included up to six at Arcot Pond and one at Blanchland. 12 were at Hauxley on 11th and ten at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (HRS/EC).

Woodcock

Singles were noted in four suitable breeding localities. Along the coast between 12th-27th one-two noted at Holy Island, Holywell Dene, Prior's Park and Wallsend.

Black-tailed Godwit

One flew W. after dark at Westerhope on 2nd (IK) and further singles were at Druridge Pool on 19th (ADMc), Prestwick Carr on 20th/21st (MH), Seaton Burn on 23rd (per AJJ) and St. Mary's Island on 24th (IDM).

Bar-tailed Godwit

900 were at Holy Island on 12th (JDL). Ten were at Newton on 1st (P & PM)

Whimbrel

Five flew N. at Holy Island on 12th (AJ), where two present on 20th(CB). Singles flew N. at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (IF) and Hauxley on 26th (HRS) and five flew S. at Druridge Bay on 27th (DY/SY).

Curlew

132 were at Holy Island on 2nd (DPa), 55 at Eals on 13th (BNR), 40 at Arcot on 14th (LJM) and 45 at Budle Bay on 20th (RKS).

Spotted Redshank

One was still at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd/4th (IF).

Redshank

A total of 566 was noted during the wader count. 40 were at Druridge Pool on 23rd (LJM). Small numbers noted in several breeding areas during the month.

Greenshank

Singles were at Brenkley between 27th-30th (KR/PWD) and well inland at Allendale on 24th (per BNR).

Common Sandpiper

One at Seaton Burn on 23rd was the first (AJJ). Another was inland at Sharperton on 24th (TMM) and after 25th one-six were at eight localities although the only coastal records involved two at Cresswell and one at Hauxley on 26th.

Turnstone

A total of 641 was noted during the wader count. 240 were at Berwick Little Beach on 14th (JDL) and 143 at Tynemouth on 15th (CB).

Arctic Skua

Two were off Tynemouth on 6th (AH).

Mediterranean Gull

An adult was at Tynemouth Haven on 1st (AH).

Laughing Gull

The Newcastle bird was last reported on 4th.



Little Gull

An adult was at North Shields Fish Quay between 25th-27th (DMT).

Black-headed Gull

4,500 roosted at Hallington on 5th and 1,700 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (BNR).

Common Gull

21,000 roosted at Hallington on 5th decreasing to 6,500 by 18th and 12,000 roosting at Derwent Reservoir on 6th decreased to 3,600 by 19th (BNR). On 12th about 1,000 were off Annstead (MLC/AS). A large N. movement occurred over Riding Mill on 16th (BNR). 800 were at Prestwick Carr on 19th (AIB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Small numbers noted in about ten widespread localities during the month. 34 had returned to the regular moorland breeding site by 13th.

Herring Gull

140 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (BNR).

Iceland Gull

A second-year was at North Shields Fish Quay on 10th and a first-year on 11th/13th (DMT). An adult flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 6th (AH) and probably the same bird was at Seaton Sluice on 9th (TMM).

Glaucous Gull

At least four individuals reported at North Shields/Tynemouth during the month (DMT/AH). An adult was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 4th (IF) and probably the same bird at Holywell on 5th (KWY/JRT). A first-year was at Seaton Burn on 19th (AJJ) and another at Holy Island on 6th (DPa).

Kittiwake

253 flew N. at Bondicarr on 3rd and steady N. passage noted at Hauxley on 4th/5th (MC/HRS). 152 were on ledges at Cullernose Point on 26th (RKS). Up to 92 were present at the North Shields warehouse colony.

Sandwich Tern

Small numbers were in many coastal localities throughout the month with 41 S. at Holy Island on 27th the largest number noted.

Common Tern

One was at Cresswell on 23rd (ASJ).

Auk (Sp)

60 flew N. in 15 minutes at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Black Guillemot

One was close inshore at Stag Rocks on 26th (MH).

Stock Dove

One-four noted at Harthope Valley, Bolam and Cramlington.

Woodpigeon

1,000 were at Ordley on 7th (BNR).

Cuckoo

The first was at Seaton Burn on 26th (AJJ) and another at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 30th (IF).

Barn Owl

Singles were at Dilston, Blyth, near Alnwick and Goswick during the month.

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Backworth and Kirkley (GPB/AHB) and a pair at Widdrington (JCD).

Tawny Owl

In the Kielder and Slaley study areas very few birds appear to be breeding this year following a bad winter, wet spring and a shortage of food (BL). Two were at Earsdon on 26th (KWY) and road casualties found at Annstead and Mitford.

Long-eared Owl

Following last year's excellent breeding season no nests have been found in Kielder so far this spring (BL). Singles were found dead at Hauxley on 5th and 7th (HRS). One was at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ), and another at Arcot on 10th (TMM). Between 18th-27th singles were along the coast at Holy Island, Holywell Dene and Hadston (KDS/AH/MJS).

Short-eared Owl

One-three were in eleven coastal or near coastal localities. Inland one-two were at seven widespread localities although none had been located in the Kielder Forest this month.

Kingfisher

One-two were at Jesmond Dene, Gosforth Park, Prestwick Carr, Mitford and Cresswell.

Hoopoe

One was on Holy Island on 18th (MHP/KDS et al).

Green Woodpecker

A large increase in the number of record cards this month as our breeding survey gets under way. Birds noted in about 24 widespread localities so far. Nick Rossiter, the survey organiser, has commented that the breeding season may be a little late this year, so keep trying.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three seen in about 14 widespread localities including a number 'drumming' and one nest-hole being excavated on 3rd. One was still at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was at Linnels on 5th (BNR).

Skylark

30 were at Hadston on 21st (NWR).

Sand Martin

Three at Caistron on 19th (MR/P & PM) were the first arrivals. On 21st one was at Ovingham (BNR) and two at Seaton Burn (AJJ) where 37 were present on 26th (BG). Between 24th-30th one-ten were at seven other localities.

Swallow

One at Seaton Burn on 16th was the first and numbers increased there to 50 by 28th (AJJ). One was at Holywell Pond on 18th/19th (GPB). Between 20th-30th they were reported in many widespread localities with a more general influx on the 26th/27th. Numbers were still low however, 30 at Capheaton on 27th and 22 at Ovingham on 30th (BG/BNR) being the largest gatherings.

House Martin

The first arrivals were singles at Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (AJJ/IF). One was at Arcot on 25th increasing to 19 by 30th (LJM). Between 26th-30th one-six were at eight other localities.

Tree Pipit

One near Bywell on 21st was the first arrival (MPF). Between 26th-30th one-four were at three inland localities. The only coastal records involved one at Hauxley on 26th (JRT/KWY) and two at Holywell Pond on 27th (KR/PWD).

Meadow Pipit

Passage noted during the month. 33 were at Prestwick Carr on 4th (AIB) and 66 at Caistrion on 5th (MR). Steady N. movement was noted at the Simonsides on 13th and Prior's Park and Prestwick Carr on 19th (BG/CB/AIB). 100 were on Holy Island on 20th. A roost at Prestwick Carr held 170 on 6th, 80 on 8th declining to only 17 by 20th (MH). One was song-flighting at Byker Metro station on 18th ! (BL).

Rock Pipit

12 were between Beadnell-Seahouses on 18th (MLC/AS) and eight pairs counted between St. Mary's Island-Seaton Sluice on 26th (JAT). The Scandinavian race bird was still at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (IC).

Water Pipit

One was at Holy Island on 20th (CH/CB).

Yellow Wagtail

One at Backworth (JEF) and two in Allendale on 21st (per BNR) were the first arrivals. Three were at Cresswell on 23rd (LJM) and between 26th-30th one-six were in 12 other localities.

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male was at Backworth on 25th (CED).

Grey Wagtail

Seven were counted in Jesmond Dene on 13th (AIB). One-three were noted in six other localities.

White Wagtail

One was at Prior's Park on 15th (AH/CB) and another at St. Mary's Island on 17th (IF). Between 18th-29th one-three were at Tynemouth, Briardene, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Backworth, Seaton Burn, Holywell, Brenkley, St. Mary's Island, Cresswell, Warkworth Lane and Holy Island.

Waxwing

One was at Whitley Bay on 20th (IDM).

Dipper

Six pairs were on the Carey Burn on 4th (TAC). Clutches of two and four in nest-boxes at Threestoneburn on 26th had disappeared by 5th May (AMB). A nest at W. Woodburn was washed out by flood water 10th-12th but re-built by 28th (JH/MHo). One-four noted at seven typical localities.

Duncock

An influx on 18th brought 130 to Holy Island (KDS/MHp) with at least 31 still present on 22nd. About 20 were at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) and smaller numbers at Bamburgh and Craster on 20th.

Robin

50 were at Prior's Park on 15th and 60 on 16th/17th (MC/AH). A large 'fall' on 18th brought at least 530 (perhaps 700) to Holy Island (MHP/KDS) and 100 at Hauxley (NWR). On 19th/20th 100 were at Beal, 50 at Holywell Dene, 30 at Bamburgh and 'many' at Craster and Boulmer. Many of these birds showed the greyish characteristics of the continental race. Numbers on Holy Island dwindled to 58 by 22nd.

Black Redstart

Singles were at Blyth Cemetery and Newton on 11th (MHP/ASJ). One was at Prior's Park on 15th where up to four individuals noted between 16th-20th (CB/AH). On 16th three were at Whitley Bay Cemetery and singles at St. Mary's Island and Blyth (JEF/MHP). On 18th at least 20 were on Holy Island where three were still present on 27th (KDS/MHP et al) and between 17th-26th one-three were at Holywell Dene, Briardene, Hartley, Tynemouth Beach, Cresswell, Hauxley and Boulmer.

Redstart

The first was a female at Hauxley on 12th (HRS) followed by single males at Prior's Park on 15th (AH) and Beacon Hill on 18th (ASJ). Between 25th-29th one-three were in six inland and four coastal localities.

Whinchat

The first arrivals were three at Budle Bay and one at Holy Island on 20th (RKS/CB). Singles were at Druridge, Cresswell and Cullernose on 26th and between 27th-30th one-six were at the Carey Burn, Seaton Burn and three coastal localities.

Stonechat

A pair was at Low Newton on 5th (RKS).

Wheatear

Small numbers were noted in many coastal localities during the month, particularly after the 15th. 28 on Holy Island on 18th was the maximum number reported (KDS). Inland many were back on high ground by mid-month (TAC et al).

Ring Ousel

Two pairs displaying in the Harthope Valley on 4th were the first (TAC). Three were at Muggleswick Common on 12th (JSB) and by mid-month they had returned to many breeding sites with, for example, six at Redesdale on 17th (BL) and a flock of ten at the Carey Burn on 26th (NTBC trip). Coastal passage was conspicuous from 17th when two were at Hauxley and one at Tynemouth where three were present the next day (HRS/CB). On 18th there were 26 on Holy Island (MHP/KDS) where numbers dwindled to five by 22nd. Between 19th-26th one-three were also seen at Tynemouth, Holywell Dene, St. Mary's Island, Hauxley, Craster and Beal.

Blackbird

150 were at Prior's Park on 15th where numbers fluctuated from 30-100 between 16th-22nd (CB). 300 were on Holy Island on 18th (KDS/MHP).

Fieldfare

Pre-emigration flocks were conspicuous during the month with 1,500 near Old Park Wood on 2nd (MLC), 600 at Hallington on 5th (BNR), 400 at Nunykirk/Netherwitton on 12th (RW), 500 N. at Ponteland on 16th (EC) and 600-700 at Capheaton on 27th (BG). Parties of 20-200 were noted in 12 other localities up to 29th. On the coast 170 were on Holy Island on 18th (MHP/KDS).

Song Thrush

180 were on Holy Island on 18th (KDS) and 10-20 at Holywell Dene on 19th (JRT/KWY).

Redwing

The largest gatherings were 120 at Juniper on 9th (BNR) and 200 (many in full song) held up by cloud and mist at Billsmoor on 16th (MH). 15-30 were in three other inland localities. Small numbers were in three coastal localities after 15th with 30 at Holy Island on 20th (CB). The last this month was one found dead at Earsdon on 28th (ADM).

Grasshopper Warbler

The first was one 'reeling' at Prestwick Carr on 23rd followed by further singles near Ponteland on 28th and Seaton Burn on 29th/30th (EC/AJJ).

Whitethroat

One at Hadston on 21st was the first arrival (NWR).

Blackcap

Singles were at Earsdon, Seaton Burn, Holywell Dene and Bamburgh between 26th-30th.

Chiffchaff

Five were on Holy Island on 18th (MHP/KDS) when two were at Hadston (TMM). Singles were at Holywell and Hauxley on 19th/20th (JRT/HRS) and three-four at Bamburgh on 27th (BRS). Inland one-three were at eight widespread localities after 21st.

Willow Warbler

Singles at Hadston and Seaton Burn on 20th (MJS/AIB) were the first arrivals. One-eight were in seven localities between 21st-25th and a more general influx occurred after 26th with birds in many areas by the end of the month. Coastal passage was light with a maximum of ten at Prior's Park on 26th (PPRS).

Goldcrest

Between 13th-26th four-ten were in five coastal localities.

Firecrest

One was seen briefly on Holy Island on 19th (AJB).

Pied Flycatcher

Three males at Dipton on 24th were the first (DP) and two males were at Devil's Water on 27th (WAK).

Long-tailed Tit

The nest at Mitford mentioned last month was predated and an adult killed by 16th (ASJ). One-two noted at four other localities.

Marsh Tit

One-three were noted in seven widespread localities.

Willow Tit

One-four noted at Prestwick Carr, Seaton Burn and Bolam.

Coal Tit

Singles were at Prior's Park on 1st/2nd (AH) and Hauxley between 4th-19th (HRS).

Great Tit

28 were at Gosforth Park on 30th (JAT).

Nuthatch

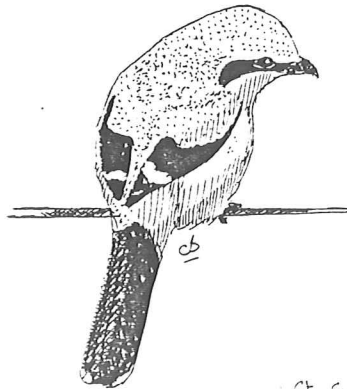
One-four were noted at 12 localities including a pair displaying at Jesmond Dene on 27th (AJB) and another pair at a nest-hole at Hareshaw Linn on 1st (JH/MHo).

Treecreeper

One-six were in seven widespread localities. More unusual was one at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Great Grey Shrike

One was on Holy Island on 17th, two on 18th/19th with one remaining until 20th (MHP/KDS et al).



St Grey Shrike  
Holy Isle 20.4.86

Jay

Up to eight were at Gosforth Park on 1st (MRS) and one-four at eight other localities.

Magpie

22 were at Seaton Burn on 23rd (JAT) and 16/17 at Arcot and Holywell Pond.

Rook

302 nests were counted at Kirkley Hall (320 in 1985) (IK). 40 occupied nests noted at Bamburgh Village on 20th (BRS).

Hooded Crow

One was at the Coquet Estuary on 21st (EMY).

Raven

A pair were present at Kielder during the first half of the month (BL).

Starling

Several thousands moved N. at dusk at Ordley on 2nd where 700 flew N.E. on 19th (BNR). 1,000 moved S. at Prestwick Carr on 4th probably going to the Newcastle city centre roost (AIB). A partially leucistic bird was at Hexhamshire on 9th (BNR).

Chaffinch

200 were at Old Park Wood on 3rd (MLC/AS) and 50-60 at Cambo and Redesmouth. 160 were on Holy Island with other migrants on 18th (KDS/MHP).

Brambling

Inland flocks of 15-30 were noted at Eshott, Old Park Wood, Calder and Whittingham with one-nine at five other localities. Along the coast small numbers were in several localities between 15th-27th with a maximum of 25 on Holy Island on 19th (ES) and at Holywell Dene on 26th (JAT). Birds were still coming to two Ponteland gardens between 1st-22nd (PWW/EC).

Greenfinch

30 were at Rothley Lodge on 18th (MLC/AS).

Goldfinch

18 were at Druridge on 5th (WTL/DRS).

Siskin

Flocks of 60 at the Harthope Valley on 6th, and 30-40 at Harbottle on 27th/30th were the largest gatherings (TMM/BG). Up to 15 were present at Seaton Burn between 2nd-18th (AJJ). On the coast one was at Prior's Park on 16th (CB) and six at the Coquet Estuary on 18th (EMY). One-ten were visiting gardens and feeding stations at Forest Hall, Whitley Bay, Cramlington, Morpeth, Ponteland, Throckley and Heddon up to 28th.

Linnet

200 were at Holywell Pond on 26th (JAT) and up to 60 at Blyth Cemetery.

Twite

Four were at Amble Braid/Warkworth dunes on 6th and 12th (MW/GPB).

Mealy Redpoll

One was at Druridge on 10th (MJS).

Crossbill

Seven were at Threestoneburn on 19th (AMB). More unusual was a male at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Bullfinch

One-four noted in eight localities. One on Holy Island on 19th was an unusual record (AJB).

Hawfinch

Four were in Jesmond Dene all month (MPF). Interesting records of migrants on the coast involved singles at Briardene on 18th/19th (NM/AJB), North Shields on 20th (WAK) and on Holy Island on 26th (JCD).

Lapland Bunting

An adult male was singing at Druridge on 20th and 22nd (MHP/TMM/KDS).

Yellowhammer

Flocks of 20-50 were noted at Holywell, Seaton Burn and Old Park Wood.

Rustic Bunting

A superb adult male presented itself to just two lucky observers at Holywell Dene on 19th (JRT/KWY). This will be the 5th record for the county, and the second on in spring.

Reed Bunting

One at Prior's Park on 16th (AH/MC) may have been a migrant.



Corn Bunting

Eight roosted at Ellington on 2nd (KE). One-two were at St. Mary's Island, Shankhouse, Cresswell and Boulmer.

Please send all May records, in Vooous order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QX, by 8th June at the latest.

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Indoor Meetings 1986/87

The list of indoor meetings for the next winter session is as follows:-

1986

September 11th	Bob Spencer	"Birds in Winter"
October 9th	AGM, with mystery speaker.	
November 13th	Colin Bradshaw	"Siberia"
December 11th	Rob Fuller	"Birds and Woodland Management"

1987

January 8th	Brian Little	"Israel and Bird of Prey Passage in the Eastern Mediterranean"
February 12th	Paul Greenwood	"Size and Sex and Books on Birds"
March 12th	Speaker to be announced	
April 9th	Member's Night	

Nick Rossiter

Members Night April 10th 1986

We were treated to four good talks. Ken Shaw ably opened the proceedings with a talk on birds of the Canaries which showed us much of the local colour. He was followed by Tim Melling giving an informative talk on Northumberland's butterflies which included a slide of each one currently found here.

Peter West had the tactful job of explaining the rules of the photographic competition and the reasons for selecting the winner. Colin Bradshaw with his slide of a Grey Partridge in amazing pose was the winner with the best of the others being by Roger Forster (Little Grebe), Stuart Hingston (Little Owl) and John Proudlock (Whitethroat). Colin received a handsome handshake from Peter; we did intend to present a trophy but none had materialised by the time of the meeting. The committee has decided to rectify this at the September meeting.

Colin did not return to his seat. Instead he gave the third talk of the evening on birds of Caucasus entitled 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich', this title being clearly selected to embarrass the chairman. The evening concluded with a talk with the seemingly mundane title of 'Garden Birds'. The speaker was Martin Eccles and it soon appeared that these garden birds were somewhat different from those of say Gosforth or Ponteland since Martin is at present living in Gambia.

All speakers and Peter West are to be thanked for giving us interesting presentations that made for an enjoyable members night.

Nick Rossiter

Weather News

The detailed weather summary provided by the Newcastle Weather Centre will not in future be reproduced in the bulletin. This is an effort to keep the cost of postage down (even the weight of glue on an envelope can send the postage into the next rate upwards). However the summaries will still be available to members as they are lodged in our club library. Any member wishing to browse through the most depressing aspects of North East weather should contact our Librarian, Alan Johnston.

Northumberland's Birds

Many Members purchased all three volumes of this excellent work. The club has financed the production of a supplement to bring the publication up to date to the end of 1985. Only 100 copies of this supplement have been printed and they are available now, to Club Members only, price £2.00 plus postage from our Sales Officer, Muriel Cadwallender.

In the very near future we shall be offering a service to have all parts of the publication bound into one single volume.



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - MAY 1986

The weather during the month produced temperatures only a little above average but the amount of rainfall was above average for the time of year. Some hail showers were also reported. Winds were generally strong during the period and mainly from the south west. On 27th Newcastle Weather Centre recorded a gust of 59 knots.

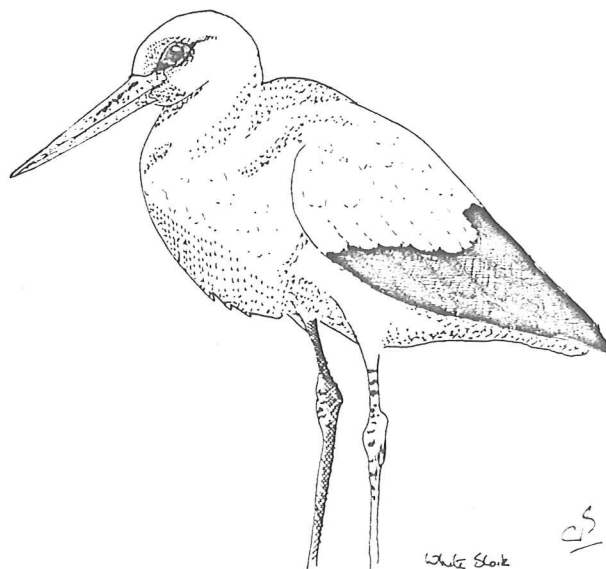
Despite the rather unpromising weather the month was not uninteresting and a number of rare or scarce species appeared although there were no large 'falls' along the coast.

Three White Storks arrived at Beal on 7th and remained in the area until 8th although one was at nearby Spindleston on 12th/13th. Interesting duck records included the Ring-necked and Ferruginous Ducks remaining at Holywell Pond and two Ruddy Ducks at Capheaton during the last week. Floodwater at Druridge Pool proved attractive to Garganey where a maximum of four was noted. Marsh Harriers were conspicuous with at least seven individuals seen and two Ospreys arrived, one at the Long Nanny on 21st being totally exhausted.

The best bird of the month must be a Black-winged Stilt, sadly in an injured state, at Brock Mill on 20th. This species has not been reported in the county for 32 years. Other waders included a Temminck's Stint on 16th, Avocet between 27th-29th and more surprising a Pectoral Sandpiper on 10th, all at Cresswell Pond. Four Black Terns were noted.

The lack of any large coastal influx of small migrants was disappointing but the last trickle of winter visitors were seen and summer visitors occupied their breeding areas. Particularly pleasing was an apparent increase in the numbers of returning Sand Martins. Lesser Whitethroats were reported from many localities and two Reed Warblers arrived on the coast. Two Red-backed Shrikes appeared and a splendid male Golden Oriole was found at Prestwick Carr. The discovery of a singing male Firecrest poses the question of potential breeding in the county but it may have been an off-passage bird.

Other interesting species reported included Hen Harriers, Buzzard, Little Ringed Plovers, Dotterel, Mediterranean Gull, Turtle Doves, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Black Redstart.



White Stork

May 86

Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

One-two were at Stag Rocks, Hauxley and Cresswell between 4th-14th and five in Druridge Bay on 31st (ES/WTL).

Black-throated Diver

One flew N. at Dunstanburgh on 29th (DHH).

Great Northern Diver

One flew N. at Holy Island on 24th (NTBC trip).

Little Grebe

One-six were noted at 13 typical waters.

Great Crested Grebe

A maximum of eight was at Seaton Burn on 4th where an injured bird was caught on 14th, but eventually died (AJJ). Seven were at Arcot Pond on 16th (LJM) and one-five at Holywell, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Killingworth Lake, Brenkley, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir, Catcleugh and Northumbrian Loughs. One was at the Coquet Estuary between 8th-28th (EMY), one off Cresswell on 5th (MA) and others on the sea and lake at Hadston on 3rd (MH).

Black-necked Grebe

At least nine pairs present at the regular breeding site during the month. Singles were at Holywell Pond on 6th and 16th (JEF/JAW et al), Seaton Burn on 14th (AJJ) and Arcot Pond on 15th (LJM). All possibly the same bird.

Fulmar

45 were at Howick on 4th (P&PM) when light passage noted at Hauxley (HRS). One flew E. at Bardon Mill on 10th (IF/TB).

Manx Shearwater

One flew N. at Dunstanburgh on 29th and a total of 53 N. at Annstead Point on 30th (DHH/MB/BM).

Gannet

50-60 were off Holy Island on 18th (JDL) where a steady S. movement occurred on 25th (NTBC trip).

Cormorant

39 were at Holy Island on 29th (LJM). One-four were noted inland at Grindon Lough, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond. A bird showing the characteristics of the continental race was at Warkworth on 17th (KH/MA).

Grey Heron

At at site in the S. of the county four pairs had at least 11 young on 19th but two nests still contained eggs, perhaps indicating breeding problems early in the season due to bad weather (IK/BG). One-eight also noted at about 16 other localities.

White Stork

On 7th three birds arrived across Holy Island causeway and landed at Beal Road Ends (BB/MHp). They remained for about 30 minutes before moving off, being re-discovered later near Elwick Farm. On the morning of 8th the same three appeared to take off from the Bradford/Spindleston area and rise high on thermals over Budle Bay before moving S.E. over Bamburgh Golf Course and Castle (JCD). One was present near Spindleston on 12th/13th and from the brief description given may have been one of the original three (ES/MBS et al). A farmer also reported one on

a ploughed field at Mitford on 11th/12th (per NJW) and there were also unconfirmed reports of further singles at Thrunton and near Stannington. Any further information would be appreciated by the Recorder.

#### Mute Swan

Breeding records included two pairs at Caistron (MR), one pair at Capheaton (RW), seven cygnets at Lilburn Pond (ETN/JRN) and five at Seaton Burn (AJJ) on 28th/31st. 107 were at Berwick on 6th (JDL) and 23 at Blyth Estuary on 3rd (LJM).

#### Whooper Swan

Three were still at Prestwick Carr on 1st (AIB). Singles were also at Langley Dam on 10th (TAC/BNR), Druridge on 13th and Grindon Lough on 25th (MJS).

#### Pink-footed Goose

One was at the Long Nanny on 11th (RD).

#### Grey Lag Goose

21 were at Caistron on 4th where a brood of six was present by 31st (MR). Up to 15 were at Holywell Pond and several surrounding localities during the month. Four were at the Long Nanny on 16th (RD).

#### Snow Goose

Three flew S.E. over Ladycross on 2nd (CJ), no doubt escapees !

#### Canada Goose

Successful breeding noted at Brenkley where four goslings present at the end of the month and a brood of six goslings at Capheaton on 31st (MRS et al). One-four also noted at Holywell, Arcot Pond, Seaton Burn and Northumbrian Loughs.

#### Barnacle Goose

Two were at Druridge Pool on 16th (MJS) and one at Whittle Dene on 30th (AGH).

#### Brent Goose

Five were in the Cresswell area on 5th (JRT). Three were at Holy Island causeway on 11th (DPa). One was at St. Mary's Island on 26th with possibly the same bird at Backworth on 30th (IDM/GCP). Single dark-bellied birds were at Boulmer on 23rd (IK), Hauxley on 29th (HRS) and Fenham on 30th (BRS).

#### Shelduck

70 were at Budle Bay on 11th and 53 on 30th (BRS). 38 were at Cresswell Pond on 24th (ES/DRS) and up to 14 on the Coquet Estuary (EMY). A brood of seven was at Hauxley Pool on 29th (CED). A pair were inland at Caistron during the month with four present on 10th (MR).

#### Wigeon

11 at Druridge Pool on 3rd (ES/WTL) was the largest count. One-four noted at five other localities during the month.

#### Gadwall

Up to three were at Cresswell Pond during the month and one-two at nearby Druridge Pool, Hadston Lake and Warkworth Lane Pond. Singles were also at Caistron on 3rd/4th (KDS/P&PM) and Grindon Lough on 19th (MJS).

#### Teal

16 were at Grindon Lough on 3rd (JMM). Five pairs were noted on a 2 Km. stretch of breeding river at Coquetdale on 3rd where four pairs found at lakeside sites on 13th (IK).

Mallard

Breeding successes included eight broods at Caistron by 31st (MR), three broods at Seaton Burn (31 young) and Holywell Pond (19 young) (AJJ/ISD) and others at Backworth, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Gosforth Park, Weetslade, Bolam, and in Newcastle at Exhibition Park and the Civic Centre (TB) !

Garganey

All birds reported were drakes. The first was on Holy Island on 3rd (GWD). Birds were present at Druridge Pool between 8th-28th with a maximum of four on 27th (JAW/TMM et al). Another was at Holywell Pond on 29th (IF/AJB).



Garganey  
March 85

Shoveler

Continuing to be well-reported with a maximum of seven at Grindon on 5th (JMM) and one-five at 17 other widespread localities.

Pochard

19 at Holywell Pond on 31st was the largest gathering (ISD).

Ring-necked Duck

The drake at Holywell Pond remained until at least 24th.

Ferruginous Duck

The drake at Holywell Pond remained until at least 24th.

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were up to 40 at Caistron (MR), 34 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st and 30 at Holywell and Druridge (IF/ISD).

Scaup

Two ducks were at Hadston Lake on 3rd-5th (ETN/MA) where a pair present on 29th (CED). A pair were also on Druridge Pool on 7th (JAW).

Eider

300-400 were off Bamburgh on 28th (MPF). First young reported at the Coquet Estuary on 27th (EMY) and Fenham Mill on 30th (BRS).

Long-tailed Duck

Four were off Chevington on 3rd (MH). Nine were at Stag Rocks on 2nd where one still present on 10th (DY/SY et al).

Common Scoter

200 were at Stag Rocks/Ross on 5th (MA/KH), 60 flew N. at Holy Island on 24th and 800 were off Hadston on 28th (AMB/JCD).



Goldeneye

One-two were seen at eight widespread localities between 1st-30th.

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 23 was at Fenham Flats on 30th (BRS) and 16 in Druridge Bay on 31st (ES/MBS). Six flew N. at Hauxley on 4th (HRS). A drake was present at one inland locality all month.

Goosander

Four pairs were at Bywell on 8th when another pair was on the River Pont near Ponteland (BNR/EC). Eight ducks flew downstream at Corbridge on 10th (TAC/CJ). Smaller numbers noted in five typical localities.

Ruddy Duck

Two drakes were at Capheaton on 23rd and 25th (JS) and one still present on 31st (JRT/KWY).

Marsh Harrier

Probably seven individuals noted during the month. The first was well inland over the Blanchland Moors on 1st (CJ). Further singles were at Holy Island on 6th (GCP) and at Newton Pool on 11th-18th with perhaps the same bird at the Long Nanny on 21st (PCL/LC et al). Two were at Druridge Pool on 12th (MJS) and on 13th singles at Holywell Pond (MHP/SC) and near Belford (TMM), the latter bird was seen flying over a White Stork !

Hen Harrier

Single 'ringtails' were at Holy Island on 6th (TMM/MHP) and Druridge on 21st (ES). Another flew in off the sea at St. Mary's Island on 7th (KDS).

Sparrowhawk

One-two noted in about 18 widespread localities.

Buzzard

One was at Netherwitton on 6th (JMA). A buzzard (sp) was at S. Alnmouth on 24th and moved off S.E. (ETN/JRN).

Osprey

Singles were high over Hadston Lake on 12th (MJS) and at the Long Nanny on 21st (LC).

Merlin

Two were at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and one at Beal on 10th (CJ/BNR).

Black Grouse

Two pairs were at Threestoneburn (AMB) and one-three at Harwood and the Otterburn Ranges (ADM/MH).

Red-legged Partridge

Pairs and single birds noted at Laverock Hall Farm, Seaton Delaval, Hepple, Rothbury, Warenford and Waren Mill during the month.

Pheasant

A melanistic male was at West Deanraw on 6th (TB).

Water Rail

One was trapped at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS).

Coot

84 were at Seaton Burn on 24th where the first young were seen on 28th, at least three weeks later than usual (AJJ). 50 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (IF).



Oystercatcher

22 pairs were in territory along a two Km. stretch of river in Upper Coquetdale on 3rd and three pairs were displaying at Linnshiels Lake, a new area, on 13th (IK). On the coast 70 were at Bamburgh on 28th (MPF) and 60-65 noted at Hauxley and St. Mary's Island (HRS/IC).

Black-winged Stilt

An apparently injured bird was found at Brock Mill, near Beal on 20th (RW). This will be only the second record for the county the last being as long ago as 4th September, 1954 at Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Avocet

One was at Cresswell Pond between 27th-29th (MHP/TMM et al). On the evening of 29th it moved to Hauxley Pool (HRS) but was not reported again.

Little Ringed Plover

Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 7th and 11th (ADM/RD), Chevington Burn on 17th (KDS/TMM) and Seaton Burn on 26th (per AJJ). Between 22nd-28th one-two were present at Havannah Pond (AHB).

Ringed Plover

Strong passage noted during the month particularly after 8th and at Holy Island where up to 600 counted near the causeway (RKS/IK et al). A maximum of 300 were at Budle Bay on 26th (AJB/ADM) and 100 at Coquet Estuary on 25th (EMY). 30-50 were also at Boulmer and Annstead. Two nests with eggs noted at Holy Island by 6th (GCP).

Dotterel

Two were on Holy Island on 5th (MJS) and three on 10th (PCL).

Golden Plover

26 were at St. Mary's Island on 3rd (IDM) and 40 at Druridge on 5th (JRT), 17 'northern' birds were at Hexhamshire on 25th (CJ).

Grey Plover

A maximum of 72 was at Black Low on 10th (DPa). One-four were also noted at Cresswell, Coquet Estuary, and Budle Bay.

Knot

40 were on the Coquet Estuary on 5th with only ten by 18th (EMY).

Sanderling

4-10 were at Holy Island and Hauxley between 18th-24th (JDL/HRS). 180 were at Bamburgh on 28th (MPF).

Little Stint

Singles were at Holy Island causeway on 4th (KWR/NJW), Cresswell Pond on 7th (JAW) and Goswick Sands on 10th (JEF).

Temminck's Stint

One was at Cresswell Pond on 16th (MHP/TMM).

Pectoral Sandpiper

One, with an injured right leg, was at Cresswell Pond on 10th (TAC/CJ/BNR). This will be the second spring record for the county.

Purple Sandpiper

32 were at Seaton Sluice on 10th (AJB). 20-30 were at Bamburgh on 10th with 15 still present on 28th (IF/MPF).

Dunlin

600 were at Holy Island causeway on 15th/18th (DPa/JDL), 150 at Budle Bay on 18th (BRS), 100 at Coquet Estuary between 13th-15th (EMY) and 150 flew S. at Stag Rocks on 27th (BNR). One was in breeding territory in the S. of the county on 10th.

Ruff

Flood water at Druridge Pool attracted birds throughout the month with at least seven individuals involved. Several males were in breeding plumage and display was noted on 18th and 29th. Singles were also at St. Mary's Island on 6th, Hauxley on 10th and Cresswell on 18th/19th (MPF/AGH/IF).

Snipe

'Drumming' birds were noted at eight widespread localities.

Woodcock

One-two were noted in six suitable breeding localities. One was found as a 'kill' at Dipton on 1st (DP). A migrant was on Holy Island on 7th (MHP).

Black-tailed Godwit

At Druridge Pool there were four on 8th, two on 14th and six on 16th (JAW/MJS) with presumably the same six at Cresswell Pond on the latter date where one-two present on 1st and 21st-24th (TMM/ES). One-two were at Fenham Flats on several dates and singles at Hauxley on 4th (KDS) and Holywell Pond on 31st (ISD).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A maximum of 460 was at Holy Island on 18th(JDL). Two-nine were also at Budle Bay, Coquet Estuary, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Whimbrel

One-five were in six coastal localities on several dates. Inland singles were noted at Alwinton on 7th, Cupola Bridge and Hallington on 10th and near Slaley on 26th (IK/P&PM/BNR).

Curlew

44 were at Black Low on 24th (JDL).

Redshank

Birds noted on several lowland and moorland breeding territories including five pairs in 2 Km of Upper Coquetdale on 3rd and young hatched at Arcot Pond by 25th (IK/ADMc)

Greenshank

Three were at Holy Island causeway on 4th (NJW). Singles were at Brenkley on 2nd, Budle Bay on 12th and 16th with two on 21st (MRS/KDS/MHP). Two were at Druridge Pool on 29th (CED).

Wood Sandpiper

One was at Cresswell Pond on 18th (ADMc).

Common Sandpiper

Pairs and single birds noted in about 13 widespread inland localities and small numbers at nine coastal areas during the month.

Turnstone

185 were at Berwick Little Beach on 9th (JDL), 46 at St. Mary's Island on 5th (IC) when 32 were at Hauxley (JRT). An unusual record was one, well inland, at Holystone on 3rd (IK).

Arctic Skua

One flew N. at Annstead Point on 30th (MB/DHH)

Mediterranean Gull

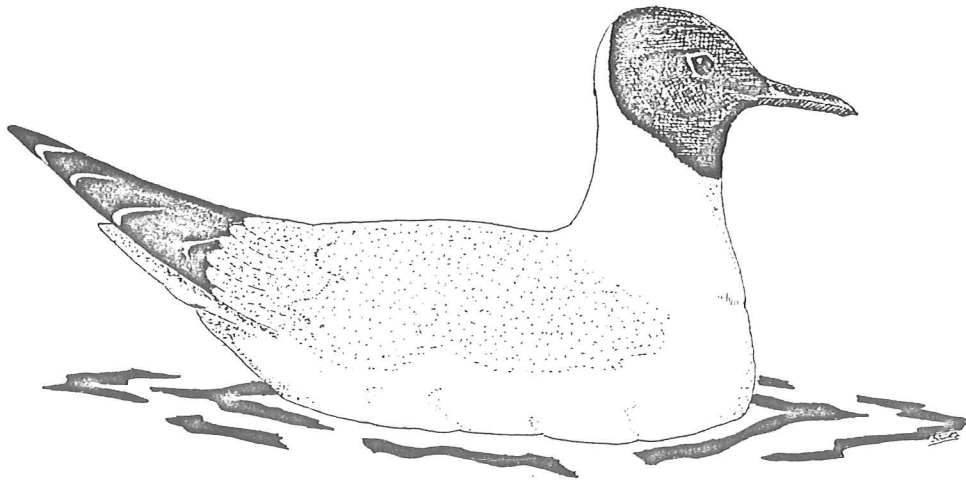
An adult was still at Craster on 4th (RKS).

Little Gull

One-three were noted at Cresswell Pond, Hadston Lake, Hauxley and Newton Pool on several dates during the month (MJS/JEF et al). Others were at Holy Island/Beal on 4th and 20th/21st and Annstead on 14th (KDS/AIB). All were immatures although an adult was at North Shields Fish Quay on 3rd-5th (DMT/TB).

Black-headed Gull

250 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd. Colony counts included 900 pairs at Caistron, 600 at Holy Island Lough, 220 at Newton Pool, 1,300 at Holburn Moss and up to 2,300 birds at two colonies on moorland in S.W. of the county.

Common Gull

500 were at Hallington on 3rd when 310 roosted at Derwent Reservoir declining to 34 by 26th (BNR). Three pairs returned to a breeding site used last year and a partial clutch had been laid by the end of the month.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

52 at Caistron on 24th increased to 500 by 31st. A Scandinavian race bird was present there on 24th (MR).

Herring Gull

13 nests noted at Holburn Moss on 27th (BNR).

Glaucous Gull

Three (Adult, second summer and first summer) were seen in the Tyne Estuary/North Shields area during the month. A second summer was at Holy Island on 4th (MHP/KDS) when a first summer at Hadston Lake (MJS). An adult was at Cresswell on 5th (TMM), perhaps the same bird at Hauxley on 31st where a second summer was present on 29th (TMM/HRS).

Great Black-backed Gull

26-50 noted at three coastal localities.

Kittiwake

Over 1,000 present at Dunstanburgh on 4th (P&PM). Other counts included 61 nests at North Shields Warehouse, and 15 and three nests at two other riverside colonies (DMT). About 50 were on ledges near Seahouses on 25th (MLC/AS). Light N. passage noted at Holy Island on 24th. An adult was inland at Seaton Burn on 3rd (AJJ).

Sandwich Tern

100 were at Cresswell on 6th (GCP) and 500 at Beadnell beach on 11th (RD). Smaller numbers noted in other coastal localities.

Roseate Tern

One at Holy Island on 10th (DPa) was the first. Two were at Longhoughton Steel on 23rd (IK/PWW) and three on the Farnes on 25th (ES/MBS).

'Commic' Tern

A maximum of 60 was at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Common Tern

Small numbers were in five coastal localities. Two flew upstream at Howdon on 22nd (JP), one was at Holywell Pond on 25th (CS) and two at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th and 30th (IF).

Arctic Tern

The first records came from inland localities on 4th when two were at Seaton Burn (AIB/GB) and one at Caistron where three, including one in winter plumage, arrived on 27th (MR). One flew N. at Tynemouth on 10th (AH), ten were at Beadnell on 11th (RD) and two at Annstead on 15th.

Little Tern

Four at Holy Island on 4th were the first arrivals (KDS/MHp). They were reported regularly in several coastal areas after 6th particularly in Budle Bay where a maximum of 37 were present on 11th (KDS). Singles were at Hauxley Pool on 10th (HRS) and Hadston Lake on 18th and 22nd (MJS).

Black Tern

Singles were at Arcot Pond on 3rd (LJM), Seaton Burn on 20th (AJJ), Hauxley Pool on 24th and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th (BW).

Auk (Sp)

Steady N. passage noted at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Stock Dove

One-two noted in six widespread localities.

Turtle Dove

One was well inland at Harwood on 3rd (ES/DRS). Two were at Seaton Burn on 18th (DPa) when one was at Hauxley and Hadston (HRS/KDS). Further singles were near Weetslade on 21st (TAC), Prior's Park on 20th/24th (CB) and Newton on 31st (ES).

Cuckoo

One-two were in about 22 widespread inland localities during the month but very few seen in coastal areas.

Barn Owl

One was at Craster on 11th (JMA).

Little Owl

A pair noted nesting near Medburn during the month (EC). One-two also seen at Druridge, Glororum, Backworth, Stamfordham and Once Brewed.

Tawny Owl

Only five nest-boxes, out of 40 available, occupied in Hexhamshire (CJ). Nests noted at Hartburn and Bothal (TAC) and one-two birds seen or heard at 13 other localities.

Long-eared Owl

At least one was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th (IF). Singles were also well-inland at Harwood and Threestoneburn (MH/AMB). Other singles, presumably migrants were at Annstead on 25th (GB) and Warkworth Lane and Bamburgh on 29th (CED/BRS).

Short-eared Owl

In coastal or near coastal areas singles were at seven localities up to 14th and others at Seaton Burn on 26th and Beal on 20th. Further inland a nest with two young and four eggs found on 25th and one-two noted in five other localities.

Swift

The first were singles at Craster, Warkworth and Hexham on 2nd (SY/JMA/BNR). One-four were in five widespread localities on 3rd and from 5th onwards reports became more frequent. By the end of the month they had arrived in many localities with the largest gatherings being 50 at Seaton Burn on 14th, 120 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th and 100 at Holywell Pond on 27th (AJJ/IF/JRT).

Kingfisher

Singles were at Mitford on 8th (ADMc) and Corbridge on 30th (MR).

Green Woodpecker

Continuing to be well-reported with singles and up to three pairs reported in about 16 widespread localities this month.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two seen or heard in about 18 widespread localities. One collected fat from a bird-table at Warton on 3rd (P&PM) and a pair were collecting food near Medburn on 28th (EC).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was calling at Slaley on 24th (BNR).

Sand Martin

A welcome increase in numbers this spring. A colony at Corbridge which had declined to under 30 pairs during 1984/85 had increased to 200 pairs by 26th (MR). Much smaller colonies of six-twelve were re-occupied at Bellingham, Ponteland and Lucker during the month (HWR/EC/MSH). Eight nest holes were found at Seahouses on 25th (MLC). 30 at Seaton Burn on 5th was the largest gathering elsewhere (AJJ).

Swallow

Small numbers and light passage noted in several localities during the month. 150 were at Seaton Burn on 20th (AJJ) when 105 flew N. at Holy Island (RN). Three nests located at Horton by 31st where only one was found during 1985 (LJM).

House Martin

Several colonies were re-occupied and nest-building commenced during the month. The largest gatherings were 40 at Seaton Burn on 3rd and 80 at Holywell Pond on 27th (AJJ/JRT). 30 flew N. at Holy Island on 20th (RN).

Tree Pipit

Birds were noted in about 18 widespread breeding areas during the month. The only indication of coastal passage was one-two at Bamburgh on 3rd/4th (BRS).

Meadow Pipit

About 15 pairs noted in the Hauxley area on 24th (HRS).

Yellow Wagtail

Noted in about 26 widespread localities including some moorland breeding areas during the month. The largest gatherings were 20 at Cresswell Pond on 5th (MA/KH) and 15 at Backworth on 7th (AH).

Blue-headed Wagtail

Single males were at Backworth on 1st/2nd and 21st (GPB/JP), Cresswell between 20th-30th (TMM/NWR), Chevington Burn on 20th, and Holy Island on 21st (MHP/BB).

Grey Wagtail

Confirmed breeding noted at River Allen (four pairs), Barrowburn, near Medburn and near Ponteland (JP/EC), and Langleeford (ES). Pairs and singles were in several other suitable areas.

Pied Wagtail

50 roosted in young conifers at Slaley on 2nd declining to 20 (plus one White) by 16th (CJ). A pair laid five eggs in a Dipper nest-box at Lilburn Burn by 10th (AMB).

White Wagtail

Between 1st-28th one-two were at Hauxley, Backworth, Holy Island, Cresswell, Seahouses, N. Blyth, St. Mary's Island and Prestwick Carr. One was well inland at the Otterburn Ranges on 10th (MH).

Dipper

The two pairs, both 'washed-out', at Threestoneburn had relaid clutches of five eggs each by 23rd (AMB).

Black Redstart

One was at St. Mary's Island on 15th (LJM).

Redstart

Small numbers were in about 14 typical breeding areas during the month. Along the coast six were on Holy Island on 4th (NJW) and one-two at Prior's Park, Hauxley, Alnmouth, Embleton, Bamburgh and Fenham between 2nd-11th.

Whinchat

Both coastal and inland breeding localities occupied during the month with birds noted in about 16 widespread areas. Five pairs were counted along a one mile stretch of the River Pont after 8th (EC). Coastal passage indicated by 15 on Holy Island and nine at Bamburgh on 4th (NJW/BRS).

Stonechat

A pair reared four young at the Long Nanny (LC). Singles also seen at S. Alnmouth, Embleton, Warkworth and Hauxley.

Wheatear

60 were on Holy Island on 4th (NJW/TB) when 23 were at Bamburgh (BRS). Smaller numbers seen in several other coastal localities during the month. Perhaps more unusual was one in Exhibition Park, Newcastle on 7th (TB). Single 'Greenland' birds were at Seahouses on 14th (AIB) and Holy Island on 24th (NTBC trip).

Ring Ousel

Coastal migrants were at Holy Island on 6th (MHP/BB) and Prior's Park on 10th (AH). Noted as more numerous than usual in the S. Cheviots (IK/BG).



Fieldfare

38 were at Seaton Burn on 3rd (AJJ) and 65 at Holy Island on 7th (MHP). Between 3rd-6th smaller numbers were at four other localities and the last was one at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 20th (AH/IF).

Redwing

The last were five on Holy Island on 7th where one was seen on 21st (MHP) and one at Prior's Park on 16th (AH).

Grasshopper Warbler

Four-five were 'reeling' at Hadston on 3rd (MJS) and up to three heard at Seaton Burn and Ponteland/Medburn (AJJ/EC) during the month. One-two were seen or heard in eleven other widespread localities including one at 800 feet a.s.l on moorland in Coquetdale on 7th (IK).

Sedge Warbler

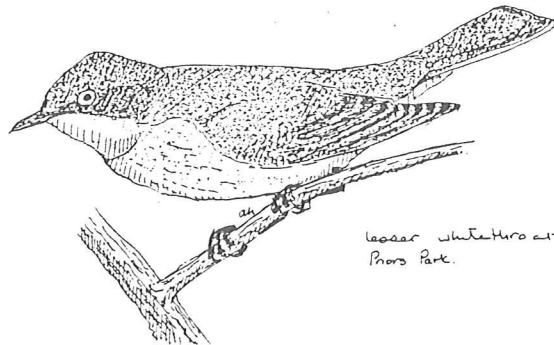
The first were singles at Seaton Burn (DY/SY) and Hauxley on 2nd (HRS). On 4th six were at Bamburgh and one-three at Caistron, Hauxley and Seaton Burn. Birds became more widespread after 7th with reports in many localities. About 20 were singing at Newton Pool on 16th (MLC), 18 at Bamburgh on 18th (BRS) and 17 at Caistron by 31st (MR).

Reed Warbler

One was at Prior's Park on 20th and another trapped at Hauxley on 24th (AH/HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

The first arrivals were 12 at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) when singles were also at Backworth and Newton Pool (MH/DY). Between 3rd-7th one-six were at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Hadston, Holywell, Brier Dene, North Shields and Seaton Burn. Smaller numbers were in several localities during the month including some in full song.



lesser whitethroat  
Prior's Park.

Whitethroat

From 2nd onwards small numbers were noted in 23 widespread localities although coastal passage was light. Six were singing near Medburn, after 10th, where numbers appear to be increasing again (EC) and more than usual in the Lucker/Belford/Bamburgh areas late in the month (BRS).

Garden Warbler

The first arrival was one at Craster on 4th (RKS). On 5th singles were at North Shields (TB) and inland at the Northumbrian Loughs (JMM). One was in Leazes Park on 9th and after 14th small numbers were noted in 11 inland localities. Two were at Bamburgh on 18th and 30th (BRS).



Blackcap

Coastal passage was light with only one-four at four localities. Inland birds were seen or heard in 15 widespread areas.

Wood Warbler

The first were two at Staward Peel and singles at Harwood and Allen Banks on 3rd (RKS/ES/KIB). One was in Jesmond Dene from 4th-22nd. After 8th reports became more widespread with birds recorded in 19 localities. One on Holy Island on 4th (NJW) was the only coastal record.

Chiffchaff

One-two were noted in six coastal localities during the month. Only small numbers were reported from inland breeding areas.

Willow Warbler

Light coastal passage reported throughout the month with a maximum of 22 at Bamburgh on 4th (BRS), Holy Island on 17th (MHP) and in Holywell Dene on 3rd (AJB).

Firecrest

A male was singing in an inland locality on 26th.

Spotted Flycatcher

The first was one at Meldon Park on 4th (AJH). No more were reported until 10th when three were at Slaggyford (ES) and one at Seaton Burn (IF). Numbers built up slowly from 13th with birds reported in many widespread areas by the end of the month. Coastal passage was light.

Pied Flycatcher

Breeding areas were occupied during the month with birds noted in 12 localities. Eight nests with eggs noted at Nunnykirk by 30th (RW) and five pairs in nest-boxes at Haltwhistle on 31st (JMM). One at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and another on Holy Island on 4th (TB) were the only coastal records.

Long-tailed Tit

Pairs and single birds noted in six widespread localities.

Marsh Tit

Pairs and single birds were at Briarwood Banks, Bolam, Allenbanks, Featherstone and Harthope Valley.

Willow Tit

One was near Stocksfield on 17th (KIB).

Blue Tit

Several reports of a late breeding season, perhaps two-three weeks later than usual.

Great Tit

As with Blue Tit, a late breeding season indicated in several areas.

Nuthatch

Noted at Wallington, Bolam, Briarwood Banks, Riding Mill, Slaley, Nunykirk, Matfen, Wylam, Close House, Whittingham and Allen Banks, with one visiting a nest-hole at the latter site.

Treecreeper

One-two noted at seven widespread localities.

Golden Oriole

An adult male was at Prestwick Carr on 29th/30th (AIB/ADM).

Red-backed Shrike

Single males were at Holy Island on 6th (MHP) and near the public incinerator at Percy Main on 16th (AH/GH).

Jay

One-four noted at nine widespread localities.

Rook

In central Newcastle there were 26 occupied nests at St. Thomas's Church and 11 nests at St. Andrew's Church (DA).

Tree Sparrow

12 were at Backworth on 12th (AJ).

Chaffinch

Counts of singing males included 15 at Thrunton on 2nd (JRT/KWY) and 21 at Spindlestone on 28th (BRS).

Brambling

The last was one at Holy Island on 7th (BB/MHP).

Siskin

20 were near Wooler on 9th and 12 at the Otterburn Ranges on 10th (MH) with one-seven at another nine inland localities. Coastal migrants included seven flying W. at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS) when two at Holywell Dene (AJB), one at N. Sunderland on 15th (AIB) and three at Hauxley on 29th (HRS). Two visited a nut feeder at Ponteland between 1st-14th (EC) and one at Boulmer on 3rd (P&PM).

Linnet

Flocks of 40-60 noted at Hauxley and Berwick Hill up to 15th (HRS/EC)

Twite

One was on Holy Island on 4th (KDS).

Redpoll

40 were at Beltingham on 15th (TB) with smaller numbers in five other breeding areas.

Crossbill

Up to 20 were noted at Harwood (ES/MW) and two-nine at Langleeford, Thrunton, Debdon, and Wallington.

Bullfinch

Pairs and singles noted at five widespread localities.

Hawfinch

Up to five were noted in Jesmond Dene where a nest was built but later deserted (AJB et al). One-two were also seen at Hepscott, Melkridge and Wallington (JKJ/AIB et al).

Corn Bunting

Up to six were at Cresswell/Druridge (LJM et al) and singles at Annstead, Long Nanny, Alnmouth, Bothal, Laverock Hall and St. Mary's Island.

Please send all June records, in Vooos order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QX - by 8th July at the latest.

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Situations Vacant at the Northumberland Wildlife Trust

The N.W.T. are starting a one year Community Programme Project at their Hauxley Reserve, Amble. Posts available include a Project Supervisor, an Education Officer and a Warden (all full-time) and two part-time Wardens.

These posts are only open to unemployed people fulfilling the M.S.C. rules. For more information please contact, The Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle Upon Tyne. (Tel: (091) 2320038).

Green Woodpecker Survey

This survey ends on 30th June and I would be grateful if all survey forms could be returned to me as quickly as possible. It is possible that new sites will be found in July this year because of the late season. Please enter these on club record cards and return them to the Recorder in the usual way.

Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, NE46 1SX

B.O.E.E. - Wader Counters Wanted

This is the now annual plea for volunteers to count waders along specific stretches of the Northumbrian coastline during the forthcoming year (Aug 1986 - April 1987). Before I tell you how you can get involved perhaps it would be worthwhile to give you some comments from Mike Moser, the B.T.O. Estuaries Officer, in a recent letter to the club.

He indicates that the very comprehensive series of B.O.E.E. counts made over the last few years, coupled with the results of the recent Winter Shorebird Count (both of which many members have participated in ) have allowed an updating and refining of the estimates of the British wader populations. These estimates are vital for conservation purposes, being used to evaluate sites as S.S.S.I.'s or Special Protection Areas.

Between June-December 1985 he answered 21 requests for B.O.E.E. data and between January-May 1986 the total has been a further 20. Many of these requests have been for site evaluations in relation to looming threats to the areas concerned. Mike hopes that one of the results of these activities is that some M.P.'s will now know a little more about estuaries and waders than they did !

The importance of these regular counts is now well established and the club hopes to obtain good coverage of our coastline during the next season. Please let me know if you wish to participate as soon as possible. Existing counters should also confirm that they are going to continue counting the same stretches as last season. It would be nice to introduce some new faces, perhaps newer or less experienced members, to the pleasures (??) of counting waders during our bracing winter weather!

The dates for the monthly counts are as follows:-

<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
10th August	** 18th January
** 21st September	** 15th February
19th October	15th March
16th November	12th April
** 14th December	

\*\* denotes a Priority count month

If you can help please contact me now.

Mike Hodgson (tel. 2520511)

#### Holy Island Field Trip - May 24th

Although only five members were able to take part and the weather was against the appearance of rarities, a good range of species was still ticked off. A series of strong westerly winds ensured that very few late spring migrants were present except for a nice pair of Yellow Wagtails and a very impressive Greenland Wheatear but a spell of sea-watching at Emmanuel Point was very productive. Common Scoter were moving, there was a continual passage of Gannets, Kittiwakes, auks and terns but the highlight was a north-bound Great Northern Diver. As the tide rose a couple of hours in the shelter - and hot sunshine - at Beal Point produced a continual fly-past of waders, notably some 500 Northern Ringed Plovers, smaller groups of summer-plumage Dunlin and some very handsome Grey Plover in full breeding dress. But the bird, or rather the birds, of the afternoon were a pair of Little Terns which spend an hour fishing and courtship feeding, only some 40 yards from the party. Although, despite the unpromising weather conditions, the party ticked off almost 60 species and one member achieved one ambition - a decent photograph at last of a Skylark.

Ian Kerr

#### British Birds Magazine

Club members have once again been invited to take advantage of the reduced subscription scheme for the premier birding journal. This gives a year's subscription at £18 instead of the normal £24. The club has applied for the special subscription leaflets and these will be included in a future bulletin covering the year from 1st August.

The Birds of the Tynemouth Area by Mary Carruthers and Ken Shaw, illustrated by Colin Bradshaw and Michael Watson is now available. Price £1.00. Copies from Mary Carruthers, 13 Manor Road, Tynemouth, NE30 4RJ, (£1.50 , including postage) or at all indoor meetings next winter.



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

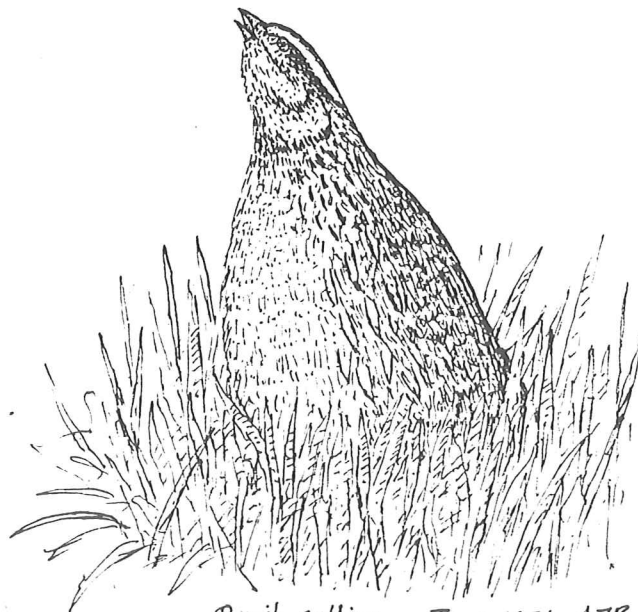
MONTHLY SUMMARY - JUNE 1986

Temperatures during June were just about average although coastal areas were kept cooler with the easterly winds blowing in off the North Sea. Tynemouth had the distinction of having the lowest temperature in the U.K. on 26th, reaching a mere 16.4 deg. C. It was a generally dry month although there were one-two days with heavy rainfall. It was also the sunniest June in the region for several years. Winds during the first half were mainly between South and North West but light easterlies occurred later in the month.

Sea passage was conspicuous during two periods between 1st-7th and again on 21st/22nd with good numbers of Manx Shearwaters, Fulmars, Gannets, Auks and several Great and Arctic Skuas. As usual the summer movements of Canada Geese were noted and the Ringed-necked, Ferruginous and Ruddy Ducks all continued in residence. The location of four broods of Shovelers reflects the species abundance in lowland areas during the spring. Of other breeding records received both Blue and Great Tits in nest-boxes have had a very poor season although Pied Flycatchers seemed to have fared better. Moorland Kestrels were very successful but Black-necked Grebes are late with their season. A male Blue-headed Wagtail carrying food indicated breeding in the county for a second consecutive year. Two churring Nightjars were located at one site on 30th. A Quail delighted a number of observers at Prestwick Carr on 1st and others were seen during the month. Perhaps they will remain to breed.

A Reed Warbler was at Seaton Burn on 14th and a wandering Hobby at Low Newton late in the month. The summer gathering of Little Gulls in the Cresswell/Hauxley area did not reach the numbers reported in 1985. The division between the end of the spring passage and the start of autumn movements is sometimes difficult to detect, particularly with waders but by the end of the month small numbers appeared already to be returning. The Pectoral Sandpiper at Hauxley is unlikely to have made a recent Atlantic crossing but where were the two Little Ringed Plovers, well inland, at Ladycross going to? (or coming from). The most exciting record, however, was a Terek Sandpiper at Hauxley from 29th. This failed or non-breeding bird provided magnificent views for many, many people and extended the county list by another one.

Out-of-season species noted during the month included Whooper Swan, Pink-footed, Barnacle and Brent Geese, Scaup, Glaucous Gull and two Redwings.



Quail calling June 1986 AHS



CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

One flew N. at Hartley on 4th (DY) and three N. and one S. at St. Mary's Island on 5th/6th (JDP).

Black-throated Diver

One, in summer plumage, flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 7th (AJB).

Little Grebe

A pair were feeding two young at Arcot on 11th where another feeding one youngster on 20th (LJM). Confirmed breeding also noted at Corbridge (two pairs), Wallsend Swallow Pond and Holywell Pond (MR/IF).

Great Crested Grebe

A pair with one young at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th was the only successful breeding noted (IF) although 'breeding' pairs were at Corbridge and Caistrion (MR). Up to eight adults were at Holywell Pond and Hallington Reservoir (ISD/BNR) and six- seven at Seaton Burn and Arcot (AJJ/LJM). Pairs were also at Druridge Pool Angerton and Colt Crag.

Black-necked Grebe

At the regular breeding site no young were seen during the month although on 1st July three-four broods of very small young were noted. Three adults were also at Holywell Pond on 3rd (ISD).

Fulmar

450 flew N in one hour at St. Mary's Island on 5th and 600 per hour N. noted there and at Beadnell on 6th (JDP/WGJ). Inland records involved singles at Shaftoe Crags on 2nd (MLC), Seaton Burn on 4th (AJJ) and Kielder Water on 17th (IRH). A bird laid an egg in a garden wall at Foxton beach but the site was later deserted (JMA).

Manx Shearwater

Passage noted offshore on nine days between 1st-28th. Ten flew N. at Druridge and ten S. at St. Mary's Island on 1st (RD/MSH) and smaller numbers were off these localities on 4th. At least 58 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 5th (JDP) and the heaviest passage occurred over the next two days. A total of at least 293 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 6th (JDP/KDS) when 30 per hour N. at Beadnell (WGJ) and 45 N. at Hadston (MJS). On 7th 75 flew N. at Annstead in one hour (MHP/KDS), 46 N. at St. Mary's Island (AJB), parties of three-four N. at Beadnell all day (WGJ) and 76 N. during a five-hour sail between Tynemouth-Beadnell (BSB). Smaller numbers were noted thereafter, although on 22nd 62 flew N. at Annstead (IC/MB), 30 N. at Cresswell (RD) and 24 at St. Mary's Island (MHP).

Gannet

N. passage noted on several dates with the heaviest being up to 260 per hour at St. Mary's Island and Beadnell on 6th (JDP/WGJ) and 500 in one hour at Cresswell on 22nd (RD) when 200-340 per hour noted at St. Mary's Island and Annstead Point (MHP/IC).

Grey Heron

At the site mentioned in last month's bulletin five pairs reared a total of at least 15 young (IK/BG). Two adults accompanied a juvenile at Havannah Pond on 5th (AIB). 17 were at Black Low on 7th (JDL) and one-four noted at another ten localities.

Mute Swan

Breeding records included two pairs at Caistrion (six and three cygnets, although latter was reduced to one), Angerton (three cygnets), Holywell Pond (four),

Jesmond Dene (three). The brood at Seaton Burn reduced to four by 11th and no young were hatched at Matfen or Capheaton. 270 were at Berwick on 27th (JDL).

#### Whooper Swan

An adult was at Grindon Lough on 2nd and 8th (BNR/MJS). The pinioned bird at Annstead has been 're-located' to Berwick harbour (per JFG).

#### Pink-footed Goose

One was at Berwick on 27th (JDL).

#### Grey Lag Goose

Up to 22 were at Holywell Pond during the month (AJB et al).

#### Canada Goose

Typically, birds were moving through the county during the month. On 8th 32 were at Holywell Pond (GSR), 20 flew S. at St. Mary's Island (IDM), and 31, on the sea, at Hadston later flew N. (MSH/IC). On 9th 45 flew E. at Amble (JMA), 14 S. at North Shields (SY/DY), 12 S.W. at Ellington (JS) and ten N.W. at Ladycross (CJ). Six were at Holywell on 10th (ISD) and on 14th 11 flew over Seaton Burn and two N. at Seahouses (AJJ/JFG). Four flew E. at Amble on 26th. One-eleven were also noted at Corbridge, Long Nanny and Capheaton. 48 geese (sp) flying S. at Tynemouth on 9th may also have been this species (CB).

#### Barnacle Goose

One was still at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 1st (PWD/KR).

#### Brent Goose

The dark-bellied bird was still at Backworth on 1st (IDM).

#### Shelduck

Breeding records included one brood (eight young) at Cresswell Pond (MLC), one brood (11 young) at Budle Bay (RKS), 27 young at Hauxley (LJM) and perhaps five pairs with young at Coquet Estuary although none could be seen after 22nd (EMY). More interesting was a pair escorting seven young along the old A.1 north of Belford on 28th (ISD), presumably from a nest site inland on crags where they have been seen prospecting several times. A maximum of 74 adults was in Budle Bay on 21st (JFG).

#### Wigeon

At the regular breeding site probably six pairs were present and one brood of three seen on 22nd. At another site up to 12 birds were present. One-six were also noted at Holy Island lough, Newton and Druridge pools.

#### Gadwall

One-two were at Cresswell Pond between 1st-13th (AJB/ADM), three at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd (JRT) and one-two at Holywell Pond and Seaton Burn on 27th/28th (MHP/AJJ).

#### Teal

Three-seven noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Alnmouth and three drakes at Byerhope.

#### Mallard

Further broods hatched brings the total so far this season of a minimum of 100 young at Seaton Burn (AJJ), 29 young at Holywell Pond (ISD), 28 young at Wallsend Swallow Pond (IF) and 11 broods now at Castron when up to 150 eclipse drakes present by the end of the month (MR). Other broods noted at Brenkley, Arcot and Shankhouse (JLM).



Shoveler

Breeding was confirmed at three localities. At least four young were present at Backworth on 11th (JS), a brood of seven, large, young at Newton Pool on 17th (JFG) and two broods (ten and two young) in a damp meadow near Shankhouse on 29th (LJM). One-nine birds were reported from a further five localities.

Pochard

The first broods were at Holywell Pond on 8th with five broods (total 19 young) present by 24th (ISD). Up to 17 were noted at Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond (AJJ/IF).

Ring-necked Duck

The Holywell drake was at Arcot on 4th and 22nd/23rd and back at Holywell Pond on 15th. Whilst at Arcot it was accompanied by the drake Ferruginous Duck (LJM et al).

Ferruginous Duck

The drake at Holywell Pond was seen on 8th, 15th and 29th and also at Arcot Pond on 4th and 22nd/23rd.

Tufted Duck

By the end of the month there were seven broods at Caistron (MR) and three broods (22 young) at Seaton Burn (AJJ). 56 were at Holywell Pond on 24th (ISD) and 2-24 at seven other waters.

Scaup

A pair was on Druridge Pool on 1st (AJB/ADM).

Eider

About 150 ducklings were at Coquet Estuary on 7th (EMY), over 100 ducklings at Holy Island on 15th and 128 ducklings between Craster-Low Newton on 22nd (RKS). Up to 600 adults were at Holy Island during the month.

Common Scoter

On 7th 50 flew N. at St. Mary's Island (AJB) and on 8th 60 N. and 24 S. at Longhoughton (MR). On 22nd 350 flew N. at St. Mary's Island and 100 N. at Cresswell (MHP/RD). 350 flew N. at Holy Island on 23rd (JFG). Large rafts on the sea included 330 at Holy Island on 1st (JDL) and 700-750 off Hadston between 8th-22nd (IC/MSH).

Velvet Scoter

Two were off Hadston on 8th and singles flew N. at St. Mary's Island and Newbiggin on 22nd (IC/MSH/PWD).

Goldeneye

Two flew N. at Tynemouth on 21st (CB) and seven N. at Cresswell on 22nd (RD).

Red-breasted Merganser

43 were at Fenham Flats on 8th (DPa) and up to seven at Cresswell-Druridge on 1st-22nd (RD). Eight flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 6th (JDP) and one N. at Seaton Sluice on 7th (CS).

Goosander

A duck accompanied about ten young at Kielder Water by 17th (IRH). Two-four also seen at Linhope and Angerton (MW/TAC).

Ruddy Duck

The drake at Capheaton was still present on 1st and 18th-30th (RW et al).

Sparrowhawk

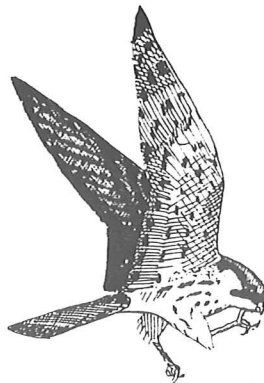
One-two noted in seven widespread localities.

Kestrel

A good breeding season indicated in the S. Cheviots with several broods of five young. An abundance of vole fur found at sites indicating a major food source. (BG/IK).

Hobby

One flew S. at Low Newton on 28th (CB/CH/RV).



Hobby Nether Pool

June 86

CS

Peregrine

One was still on the coast at Ross Links on 3rd (JDP) and singles noted in three inland areas.

Black Grouse

Only one cock bird 'lekking' at a traditional site at Harwood on 25th where up to 12 have been noted in recent years (MH).

Red-legged Partridge

A pair were at Shankhouse/Horton all month (LJM). Two were at Caistron on 1st (MR) and one at Netherwitton on 28th (MHp).

Quail

One was heard calling and seen at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PWD/KR et al). A pair and a single bird were also reported from two other localities during the month.

Coot

155 were at Seaton Burn on 28th where 49 young have been hatched so far this season (AJJ). Other brood counts included five at Arcot, three at Wallsend Swallow Pond and two at Brenkley (LJM/IF).

Oystercatcher

107 were at Black Low on 7th (JDL) and up to 70 at Hauxley and Cresswell Pond during the month (IC/MSH/LJM).

Little Ringed Plover

Two paused briefly, well inland, at Ladycross on 17th (CJ).

Ringed Plover

In the Holy Island area 700 were still present on 1st dropping to about 80 by 7th (JDL). 45 were at Boulmer Haven on 2nd (JSe). Three pairs were present at Hauxley Pool (IC/MSH), a pair held territory at a disused mine at Burradon (AIB) and a nest with four eggs found on Boulmer Airfield (JSe).

Golden Plover

25 pairs were located in an area of 21 Sq. Kms. at Hexhamshire Common (BNR) but breeding numbers are reported to be low in the Whitfield and Otterburn Ranges areas (WGJ/MH). Also noted on breeding territory at Blanchland Moor, Muggleswick Common and the Simonsides.

Grey Plover

Nine were at Black Low on 8th (DPa) and one in Budle Bay on 21st (JFG).

Lapwing

53 pairs were located in an area of 21 Sq. Kms. at Hexhamshire Common (BNR). Post-breeding flocks of 15-70 noted in four areas after 15th.

Knot

Four were at Cresswell on 26th (MHp).

Sanderling

20 were at Holy Island on 1st (JDL), six at St. Mary's Island on 5th (IF) and five at Long Nanny on 11th (ISD).

Pectoral Sandpiper

An adult was at Hauxley Pool, for only a brief time, on 18th (TMM).

Dunlin

50 were at Beal on 1st (JDL). From 28th up to 23 were at Cresswell Pond, 12 at Hauxley and one-three at Burradon and Backworth (JRT/LJM et al). One was at a moorland site on 2nd.

Ruff

Singles were at Hauxley on 22nd/28th (MJS et al) and Cresswell Pond on 23rd/28th (AJ/MLC).

Snipe

14 pairs were located in an area of 21 Sq. Kms. at Hexhamshire Common (BNR). Up to 11 were 'drumming' at the W. Simonsides on 25th (MH) and others noted at Arcot and Holy Island lough.

Woodcock

Birds including some 'roding', noted at Dipton, Kidland Forest, Alnwick and Redesdale early in the month.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were at Black Low on 8th and 21st (DPa/JDL).

Bar-tailed Godwit

240 were at Beal on 1st (JDL) and up to three at Hauxley after 21st (JRT).

Whimbrel

Up to six were at Black Low up to 8th (DPa/JDL). One was at Cocklawburn on 7th (IK) and two, well inland at Coanwood on 2nd (BNR). No more reported until 21st when one was at Hauxley (JRT). One-two were at Cresswell, the Tyne Estuary, and Tynemouth between 23rd-29th (AJ/DMT/CB).

Curlew

64 pairs were located in an area of 21 Sq. Kms. at Hexhamshire Common and 12 pairs in 11 Sq. Kms at Devil's Water (BNR). Breeding birds also found in a further seven moorland areas. 146 were at Black Low on 21st (JDL) when 30 flew N. at Stag Rocks and 18 were at Hauxley on 28th (JFG/JSB).

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Druridge Pool on 15th (AIB), Backworth on 17th (JEF) and two at Black Low on 21st (JDL).

Redshank

11 pairs were located in an area of 21 Sq. Kms. at Hexhamshire Common and four pairs on moorland in the S.W. of the county where none were found in 1985 (BNR). Up to 30 were at Backworth after 23rd (IDM).

Greenshank

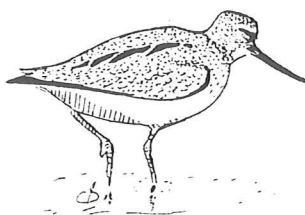
One was at Backworth on 15th (CS) and one-two at Cresswell on 19th/21st (MHP/MJS).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Backworth between 26th-30th (IDM).

Terek Sandpiper

One was found at Hauxley Pool on the evening of 29th and was seen by many observers on the 30th and again on 1st July (JEF et al). This will be the first record of this species in the county.



Terek Sandpiper

Hand-drawn

July 86

Turnstone

13 were at Hauxley on 1st (IC) and parties of eight at Newton and Seahouses on 22nd.

Arctic Skua

Small numbers were noted offshore between 4th-7th and again on 21st/22nd. The largest counts involved six N. at St. Mary's Island on 6th and five N. there on 22nd (KDS/MHp). Another was at Budle Bay on 16th (DS).

Great Skua

On 6th three flew N. at the Long Nanny and singles at Craster and Beadnell (KDS/WGJ). Further passage on 7th involved ten N. at Annstead and two at Newbiggin and St. Mary's Island (MHp/BSB). On 21st one flew N. at Beadnell, and on 22nd four N. at St. Mary's Island and two N. at Annstead (MB/MHp). A sick bird picked up at St. Mary's Island on 29th had, eventually, to be destroyed as a result of gangrene (DMT).

Little Gull

Birds were present at Cresswell Pond up to 22nd with a maximum of six present at one time. Most were first summer birds. Up to four were at Hauxley between 1st-5th and one-two at Hadston Lake and Druridge Pool.

Black-headed Gull

The colony at Capheaton is down to about 25% of its normal size (RW).

Common Gull

226 first summer birds roosted at Rayburn Lake on 8th (BNR). Much smaller numbers noted in two other localities.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

16 pairs were breeding at the regular moorland site by 2nd although by early July this colony had completely failed, probably due to control measures by gamekeeper. Two-three pairs were suspected of breeding on roof-tops in central Newcastle (IK). 142 were at Caistron on 14th (MR).

Herring Gull

A pair were on eggs at the regular moorland Lesser Black-backed Gull colony but failed to be successful.

Glaucous Gull

At least two first summer birds were in the Tyne Estuary area up to 29th (CB/DMT) and others at Amble Braid on 9th (TMM) and St. Mary's Island on 17th (AJB).

Kittiwake

Only one successful nest noted at the P.T.A. building, North Shields. A maximum of 296 was at North Shields Fish Quay on 24th (DMT). 600 per hour moved N. at Beadnell on 6th (WGJ) and up to 1,000 per hour N. at St. Mary's Island and Cresswell on 21st/22nd (IC/RD).

Sandwich Tern

50 flew S. at Holy Island in one hour on 8th (ADM).

Roseate Tern

Up to five were at Cresswell Pond between 21st-23rd (MHp/KDS et al) and up to three at Hauxley Pool during the month. Two were at Longhoughton Low Stead on 8th (MR) and at Coquet Estuary on 18th (EMY).

Common Tern

Six were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd and two-four during the remainder of the month (IF). One-two also visited Holywell Pond and the River Tyne up to Scotswood.

Little Tern

One-five were seen at St. Mary's Island, Cresswell, Low Newton, Budle Bay and Holy Island during the month.

Black Tern

Singles were at Druridge on 6th (ES/MBS) and Hadston Lake on 12th (TMM).

Auks (Sp)

600 per hour flew N. at Beadnell on 6th (WGJ) when 1,150 flew N. in three hours at St. Mary's Island (JDP). On 22nd 1,050 flew N. at Annstead in one hour (MB/IC) and 270 N. at St. Mary's Island (MHP).

Guillemot

200 were at Dunstanburgh on 22nd (RKS).

Razorbill

22 were at Dunstanburgh on 22nd (RKS) and 12 between Amble-Coquet Island on 28th (LJM).

Stock Dove

One-two were at Swinhoe and Prestwick Carr.

Turtle Dove

Singles were at the Newcastle-Tynemouth coast road on 4th (KDS) and Bamburgh on 8th (BRS). A pair were well inland at South Tynedale on 14th (AJR).

Cuckoo

One-three noted in about 18 widespread localities. One hatched in a Dunnock's nest at Rothbury on 19th (JSe).

Little Owl

Singles were seen at Middleton Mill on 20th (IK) and the Dyke Neuk on 23rd (MLC).

Tawny Owl

Singles noted in four localities. Two were found, recently dead, in a chalet at Ovingham on 5th, having presumably entered by the chimney and were unable to get out (FC).

Long-eared Owl

In the S. Cheviots four young were reared at a ground nest-site traditionally used by Merlins ! (BG/IK).

Short-eared Owl

Single birds were noted in three inland localities.

Nightjar

Two birds were 'churring' at one site in the county on 30th.

Swift

The largest gathering was 500 at Seaton Burn on 22nd (AJJ) although 70-130 were noted at Holywell and Corbridge. At least eight pairs are nesting under the Coquet Bridge at Rothbury (JSe).

Kingfisher

Singles were noted at Plessey Woods, Wylam, Dipton Mill and the Corburn.

Green Woodpecker

Singles and pairs noted in about 14 widespread localities this month.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Breeding was confirmed at eight widespread localities and birds seen or heard in about a further ten areas including singles visiting bird tables at Iesbury and Alnwick. At least five pairs were in the Dipton area.

Sand Martin

16-18 were at Etal on 22nd (JDL) when about 12 pairs at Seahouses (JFG).

House Martin

25 appeared at Prior's Park during a thundery shower on 2nd (CB). 200 were at Holywell Pond on 4th (IC). Ten occupied nests noted at Capheaton and 11 at Matfen (RW).

Tree Pipit

Singing birds seen and heard in about ten typical breeding areas.

Rock Pipit

Three-four pairs were feeding young in the Annstead area on 22nd (JGF).

\* Yellow Wagtail

Birds were noted feeding young in several localities from 11th.

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male carrying food on three dates between 15th-26th at Backworth suggests successful breeding (MA/KH/WAK).

Grey Wagtail

Three juveniles were at Wylam on 8th (MA). One-three birds noted in eight other widespread localities.

Dipper

Successful breeding noted at W. Woodburn (the third attempt, two nests having been washed-out) (JH/MH), Eals (AJ) and Bothal Mill (LJM).

Whinchat

Five pairs were located in a 21 Sq. Kms area at Hexhamshire Common (BNR) and numbers noted as well down in the Harthope Valley (JSe). Young were being fed by the end of the month.

Stonechat

A pair reared a second brood (3 young) at the Long Nanny (MSH/IC). A pair with two juveniles were also seen at Low Newton (DS/RKS).

Wheatear

Noted in about eight breeding areas during the month.

Ring Ousel

Up to three pairs were on one escarpment in Coquetdale indicating a good breeding population this year (IK/BG). Singles were also seen in another five typical localities.

Redwing

Two were seen in the S.W. of the county on 7th and one on 27th raising hopes that this species may breed in the county again.



Mistle Thrush

13 were at Prestwick Carr on 8th (AGH) and 20 near Housesteads on 29th (IF).

Grasshopper Warbler

Five were trapped and ringed at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ). Others were 'reeling' at Eshott and Hadston on 16th (MSH/TMM).

Sedge Warbler

Young were being fed in the nest, at Newton by 22nd (RKS). They were also noted in six other widespread areas.

Reed Warbler

One was trapped at Seaton Burn on 14th (AJJ/JCD).

Lesser Whitethroat

Between 1st-8th two pairs were at Wylam (MA) and singles at Corbridge, Arcot and Seaton Burn.

Whitethroat

Two were at Holy Island on 1st (JDL). Four were singing in a newly cleared wood at Eshott on 16th (MSH) and two-four also noted at Prestwick Carr and Seaton Burn.

Garden Warbler

A pair were feeding two young at W. Woodburn by 8th (M&JH). Singing birds were noted at Hexham, Little Harle and Rothley up to 26th (MLC/FC).

Wood Warbler

One-seven were seen or heard in seven typical, breeding, areas during the month.

Chiffchaff

A late migrant was on Holy Island on 1st (JDL). One-six were noted in six other localities during the month.

Willow Warbler

Fledged young were noted at Seaton Burn and Horton by 28th (AJJ/LJM).

Spotted Flycatcher

Three pairs are breeding in open-fronted nest-boxes at Matfen (RW) and a pair at Nunnykirk built a nest inside a Swallow's nest (JSe). One-four seen in eight other localities.

Pied Flycatcher

At Nunnykirk eight pairs laid 50 eggs in nest-boxes and hatched and fledged 43 young (RW). Six pairs bred in nest-boxes at Brinkburn and singles at Belsay and Corbridge (WGJ/MR).

Long-tailed Tit

Family parties were noted at Linnels, Dipton, Staward and Arcot.

Blue Tit

A poor breeding success noted at some nest-box study areas. Four pairs reared only 28 young (including one brood of 12) at Eshott (MSH/IC). Two pairs reared only nine young at Nunnykirk (in 1985 seven pairs reared 63 young) (RW) and at Kirkley Hall only one pair bred, rearing six young (IK). Six young were also reared from a box at Lesbury (JMA).

Great Tit

A poor breeding success noted in some nest-box study areas. At Eshott seven pairs reared only 25 young (including three broods of one) (MSH/IC), 15 pairs laid 93

eggs and fledged 76 young at Nunnykirk (in 1985 18 pairs laid 122 eggs and fledged 94 young) (RW), and at Kirkley Hall only two pairs bred rearing 14 young (IK). Several broods were found dead in the nest. At Corbridge 12 pairs bred successfully compared to 22 pairs in 1985 (MR). More enterprising was a bird feeding young in a nest in a traffic light at Newburn Bridge on 17th ! (AJ).

#### Nuthatch

A pair were feeding young at Brinkburn on 12th (WGJ). Up to five were seen at Wallington on 1st (AJB/ADM).

#### Starling

A flock of 200 was at Elsdon on 23rd (MH).

#### House Sparrow

A pair fledged young from a House Martin nest-box at Cramlington (LJM).

#### Goldfinch

Five pairs were breeding at Matfen Village (RW) and small numbers noted in many widespread localities.

#### Redpoll

Two were on Holy Island on 1st (JDL).

#### Crossbill

Flocks of 13-34 were seen at Dipton, Ladycross, Juniper, Alwinton and Kyloe during the month. A family party of four was at Ordley on 15th (BRN).

#### Hawfinch

Breeding was confirmed in Jesmond Dene on 25th when a pair were seen with at least two juveniles (MPF). One-two were also at Hexham and Alnwick early in the month (KD/JMA).

#### Corn Bunting

Probably nine singing birds noted in an area of 2 Sq. Kms at Boulmer/Alnmouth (JSe) and four in the Cresswell/Druridge area (JRT). One-two also seen at Annstead, Lynemouth, Ellington and Shankhouse (IC/LJM).

Please send all July records, in Vooous order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QX by 8th August at the latest.

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		Bamburgh Ringing Station

### Indoor Meetings 1986/87

Please remember that the first indoor meeting of this coming winter session will be held on Thursday, 11th September, 1986 in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University, at 7.00 p.m. We start in grand style with our guest speaker, Bob Spencer, talking on 'Birds in Winter'.

We now have a speaker for the March 1987 meeting. Steve Petty will be talking to us about 'Tawny Owls in upland spruce forests'.

### Field Trips

Two trips are planned for August

Saturday 16th August - A morning trip to Teesmouth for waders, etc. The leader will be Alan Johnston who led this successful trip last year.

Sunday 17th August - One for the more adventurous ! An all day boat trip to the North Sea Fishing Grounds. Boats leave North Shields at 8.00 a.m. and there are only a limited number of places. Cost approx. £7.00. The leaders for this trip will be Mike Bell and Ken Shaw.

If you wish to participate in either of these field trips please contact Colin Bradshaw now. (Tel. 2572389).

### Nominations for Committee Members 1986/87

Members are reminded that nominations for committee membership election should be in the hands of the Secretary, Ian Kerr, no later than 18th September 1986.

Each nomination should be presented in writing and have a proposer and a seconder, both of whom must be club members, and should indicate that the nominee is prepared to stand for election. The appropriate election will take place at the A.G.M. on 9th October, 1986.

### Northumbrian Birdwatch

On Monday 26th May 1986, Andrew Booth, Nial Moores and I set off on a 19½ hour birdwatch in Northumberland. Despite choosing a bank holiday we saw 119 species which we claim as a new county record. We visited 26 sites between 0400 - 2330 hours and saw a fair number of interesting species including Black-necked Grebe, Gadwall, Garganey, Black Grouse, Ruff, Firecrest, Nuthatch, Crossbill and Hawfinch. Not as many of the easier species were missed as usual, although we should still have seen Greylag, Merganser, Sparrowhawk, Roseate Tern, Grasshopper Warbler, Treecreeper, Long-tailed Tit, Marsh Tit and possibly a few others. Perhaps one day a team will see a lot more of the possible species. I estimate that on 26th May we could have seen 132 species or more had a few more hours of daylight been available.

A.D. Mould

### Geoff Macfarlane Memorial Trust Lecture

Dr Peter Lack of the B.T.O. will give a talk on the Winter Atlas Project, on Monday 20th October, 1986 in the Physics Building at Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. Tickets will be available from September onwards at the R.S.P.B. office in Newcastle, the Hancock Museum, and at the Durham and Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club meetings in September and October. Tickets may also be obtained directly from J.C. Day, 2 Grange Avenue, Benton, Newcastle, NE 12 9PN. The price of admission will be £2.00 for adults and £1.50 for OAPs, unemployed persons and those under 16. NB. The Winter atlas is due to be published in August or September this year.

## ANALYSIS OF THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

Of some 250 questionnaires sent out 105 were returned i.e: 42% of members responded. An analysis of the replies is shown below.

### Q.1 How long have you been a member of the Club?

The 105 returns represented a very even cross-section of Club members - a reflection worth bearing in mind when considering the replies to the other questions

Membership of between 0 and 2 years	26 replies = 24.8%
0 and 5 years	27 replies = 25.7%
6 and 10 years	17 replies = 16.2%
over 10 years	35 replies = 33.3%

### Q.2 Do you belong to RSPB? 83 Club members (79%) said they did

SOC? 6 (5.7%) were members

BTO? 39 (37.1%) were members

In reply to membership of other Clubs the response was:-

N/B Wildlife Trust 48 members (45.7%)

Wildfowl Trust 7 members (6.7%)

Natural History Soc. 15 members (14.3%)

Durham Bird Club 8 members (7.6%)

BOU 3 members

Teesmouth Bird Club 2 members

a further 14 members belonged to one or more other clubs.

### Q.3 Were you ever a Junior Member of the TBC/NTBC?

8 members replied that they had been (7.6%)

### Q.4 Have you ever made use of the Club's Library?

18 members (17.1%) said that they had

### Q.5 Have you ever made use of the Club's sea-watching facilities

50 members (47.6%) stated that they had

Two members in reply to Q.4 and 5 did not know of either facility!

## LECTURES

### Q.6 Do you think the lecture programme is sufficiently varied?

93 members (88.6%) said yes

4 members (3.8%) said no

8 members (7.6%) did not reply (new members who have not experienced a full lecture season)

Those who said NO and a number who said YES suggested that there should be more lectures on:-

taxonomy/field identification (3 members)

general natural history topics (1)

conservation aspects (2)

bird art (1)

### Q.7 Is one members' night sufficient each session?

82 members said satisfactory (78.1%)

8 said unsatisfactory (7.6%)

15 did not reply (14.3%)

Of those stating that one night was not sufficient comments included:-

too many speakers in the session (1)

seems very cliquey (1)

an additional members night needed (1)

Q.8 How many of last season's meetings did you attend?

Full session - 9 meetings	8 members	7.6%	)	
8	23	22.0%	)	
7	14	13.3%	)	= 61%
6	4	3.8%	)	
5	5	4.8%	)	
4	10	9.5%	)	
3	4	3.8%	)	
2	0		)	
1	3	2.9%	)	
0 **	13	12.4%	)	
not a member last season	11	10.5%	)	

\*\* Mostly unable to attend because of distance but two members could not because meetings started at 7.00 p.m. and not at 7.30 p.m., and one member found difficulty attending because of age.

Q.9 If you cannot attend meetings regularly because of distance problems please indicate how far away you live.

Replies to this question appeared to cause some confusion as some people who attended regularly had also completed this question.

Members living more than 100 miles away - 3  
more than 50 miles - 5  
20 to 50 miles - 4  
10 to 20 miles - 7  
less than 10 miles - 4

Q.10 Would you attend "County" meetings?

34 members said yes, without any reservations (32.4%)  
3 members said they would attend some meetings  
1 member specifically stated Alnwick only  
1 member specifically stated Morpeth only  
2 members specifically stated Hexham only  
1 member stated definitely not Alnwick

Q.11 Have you attended a May meeting in the last two years?

50 members stated that they had (47.6%)  
11 respondents were not members at the time of a May meeting

Q.12 Have you ever been on a TBC/NTBC field trip ?

59 members (56.2%) stated that they had but in answer to

Q.13 How many field trips have you been on in the last 12 months?

the breakdown was

4 field trips	2 members
3 field trips	6 members
2 field trips	11 members
1 field trip	14 members
	<u>33 members</u>

Q.14 Are you a car owner?

The response to this question showed that car ownership is high with 84 members (80%) owning cars, but in reply to the second part of the question - Would you use your car for field trips? - only 64 members (61%) said that they would.

Q.15 What field trips are you prepared to go on?

87 members (83%) replied to this question  
Venues are listed in order of preference :-

Holy Island	59 members
Ross Sands	58 members
Inland Northumberland	57 members
Solway	56 members
Farne Islands	54 members
Firth of Forth	49 members
Norfolk Weekend	36 members
Loch Fleet Weekend	30 members
Continental Weekend	22 members

In addition 4 members suggested Yorks/Lincs/Humberside

3 members suggested Leighton Moss

2 suggested a week on the Scillies

2 a trip to Teeside

and 1 member for each of Morecambe Bay; Bass Rock; Cairngorms; Hulne Park;

Welsh weekend; Cornwall long weekend;

W. Scotland or Ireland week;

1-2 weeks in Spain or E. Africa;

"boat trips".

General remarks included

3 people who said would go on trips if they were by coach

1 member who doesn't go because field trips are "cliquey"

1 member who wanted a trip on "sample survey work"

1 who said would go on weekends if trips were not too spartan

## PUBLICATIONS

### Q.16 Bulletin - are you satisfied with the content?

100 members (95.2%) stated categorically that they were satisfied.

- are you satisfied with the presentation?

101 members (96.2%) indicated satisfaction.

of the 5 members (4.8%) who said no to either of the above questions the criticism consisted of comments that:-

weather summary too long (1 member)

need for more local news and info. about field trips (2)

notes needed on escaped birds (1)

notes needed about conservation problems (1)

no need for records on commoner species (1)

why do some reports not go in Bulletin/Birds of Northumberland (2)

### Q.17 Do you regularly send in record cards for the Bulletin?

59 members (56.2%) stated that they did

On the question of how many per month the replies were:-

0 - 5 records per month 9 members

5 - 10 16 members

10 - 20 17 members

over 20 17 members

### Q.18 Birds in Northumbria - are you satisfied with the content?

97 members (92.4%) stated satisfied

are you satisfied with presentation?

96 members (91.4%) were satisfied

2 members did not reply to the question

5 members indicated that they were not satisfied

comments from the 5 members and some from satisfied members were:-

need for ringing report (1 member)



need for distribution map, graphs and tables (3)  
 need for general county map (2)  
 list of species not accepted by BB - retrospective (1)  
 initials next to rarer bird sightings (1)  
 text turgid - more members articles, more magazinelike (2)  
 more notes on conservation (1)  
 more illustrations needed (1)  
 more on rarities (1)  
 as all information in Birds in Northumbria is in Bulletin why produce it - spend money on reserves and hides (1)

**Q.19 What other publications would you like to see produced?**

8 members expressed a need for an Access guide  
 3 members wanted species guides for selected areas  
 2 members wanted more occasional papers  
 1 member suggested a county atlas  
 The member who suggested not producing Birds in Northumbria felt that as well as the Bulletin a 5 year summary Bulletin could be produced.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Q.20 Do you feel you are getting value for money?**

100 members (95.2%) felt that they were  
 1 member said no  
 4 members (3.8%) did not reply to question

**Q.21 Are subscriptions too high : too low : bearable?**

No members said too high  
 9 members (8.6%) said too low  
 94 members (89.5%) said bearable  
 2 members did not complete answer

**Q.22 In reply to the question will you covenant your subscription next year**

63 members (60%) said yes and 3 members (2.9%) stated perhaps.

SURVEYS AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

**Q.23 Have you taken part in any survey work organised by the Club (including BTO etc)**

64 members (61%) indicated that they had participated at one time or another.

**Q.24 Are there any ornithological activities that you would like to see the Club more involved in?**

The number in brackets indicates the number of members suggesting the proposal  
 More active in conservation matters and the provision of hides (5)  
 Establish a grapevine (5) and a migration watchpoint (1)  
 Involve more members in activities (2)  
 Provide information on who deals with oiled birds (2)  
 Become more involved in species protection (1)  
 Produce register of important ornithological sites (1)  
 Form local groups and have mini-excursions (1)  
 Hold summer evening walks particularly for bird song (1)  
 Have special species trips eg. gulls; sea watching (1)  
 Organise foreign bird holidays (1)  
 2 members suggested species for future Club surveys - Hawfinch; Tree Sparrow; Corn Bunting; Barn Owl; Nuthatch



Q.25 Would you attend a Club social event?

98 members replied (93.3%) - 69 (65.7%) were in favour

29 (27.6%) said categorically no

(3 members said not applicable due to distance)

Preferences for type and venue of social events were:-

In private room in pub	54 members (51.4%)
a non alcoholic social	28 members (27.6%)
meal/buffet	48 members (45.7%)
in the evening	67 members (63.8%)
in the afternoon	9 members (8.6%)
in Newcastle	54 members (51.4%)
outside Newcastle	41 members (39.0%)

### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

A return of 42% from a postal survey is quite a high response, although obviously one would have liked even more replies. In surveys of this type findings have shown that those persons who reply are usually the ones who are most interested in the topics under survey and that non-respondents are, by and large, satisfied or have no strong views on the subject.

The questionnaire was answered by a broad spectrum of members and clearly indicates that they are overwhelmingly in favour of the Club's lecture programme (Q.6), the publications policy with regard to both the Bulletin (Q.16) and Birds in Northumbria (Q.18), and feel that they are getting good value for their subscription (Q.20). The percentage of members who participate in Club activities is however variable. The Club's library is obviously under used - is it necessary? The sea watch facilities have been used by a large proportion of members and encouragingly nearly two thirds of members have taken part in survey work. All must be further publicised and developed.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the survey was the low number of members who have taken advantage of field trips. In the answer on venues for field trips (Q.15) it is significant that "local" places are still the most popular. Criticism of the various questions was frequently from one member only, but the inclusion of maps of county locations in Birds in Northumbria and the production of a new edition of the Access Guide seem well worth following up. On the arrangement of social functions (Q.25) members have provided some useful statistics for the Committee to consider - (a pint and a packet of crisps in a Newcastle pub one evening?).

In essence the questionnaire returns have confirmed and for the first time quantified the suspected feelings and attitudes of the vast majority of the general membership. Some areas of activity however are not as satisfactory as they could be, and neither the Committee nor the general membership should become complacent about them.

John C. Day



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - JULY 1986

Breeding records continued to arrive with the highlights being the Black-necked Grebes at last showing signs of success with up to 18 young hatched. Wigeon, at their regular site, hatched five broods and a further two broods of Shovelers were found. Nightjars were located at a further two sites in the county.

Sea-watching produced good numbers of Manx Shearwaters and the first Sooty Shearwaters of the autumn. Numbers of Arctic Skuas were not particularly high but a number of observers saw a delightful adult Long-tailed Skua on Holy Island. More surprising perhaps were the early records of both Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes.

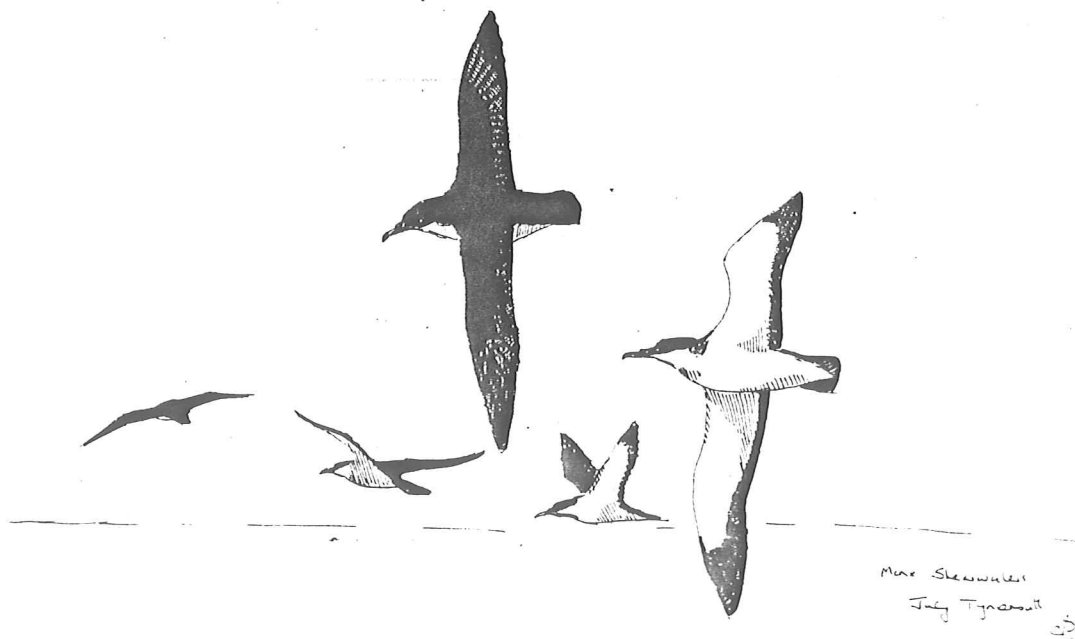
A Spoonbill graced Cresswell Pond during the evening of 1st but departed quickly. The almost regular trio of Ring-necked, Ferruginous and Ruddy Ducks were all still present early in the month but other unusual birds were scarce.

A further two Hobbies were seen on 3rd and 19th.

The pulse of wader passage quickened and many species were reported in coastal localities during the month. The first Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers appeared and strong Whimbrel passage occurred. A juvenile Little Ringed Plover was at Hadston on 20th and a number of Black-tailed Godwits were seen. The Terek Sandpiper at Hauxley remained only until the evening of 1st and there were, apparently, a number of disappointed birders at that site on 2nd.

A few summer visitors started to move out of their breeding areas but six Crossbills at Hauxley on 13th may have been immigrants.

Other interesting species noted during the month included Hen Harrier, Glaucous and Mediterranean Gulls, Turtle Dove and Blue-headed Wagtail.



CLASSIFIED LISTLittle Grebe

Further breeding records included a third pair at Arcot Pond (three young) (LJM), at least one brood at Newton Pool (four young) (IF), two broods (one and two young) at Seaton Burn (AJJ) and two broods (four young) at Holywell Pond (ISD). A bird was sitting on a nest at Rothley on 15th (MLC) and a pair were nest-building at Capheaton on 18th (RW).

Great Crested Grebe

A second pair at Wallsend Swallow Pond had three small young by 30th (IF). Two broods were at Angerton on 15th (MLC/AS), a brood of three was at Seaton Burn on 23rd and a pair were nest building at Arcot Pond on 24th (AJJ). Two young hatched at Corbridge by 21st (MR). Up to six adults were at Holywell Pond during the month (ES et al). A family party of four were on the sea at Druridge Bay on 10th (KH/MA) and an adult off the Long Nanny on 19th (ISD).

Red-necked Grebe

An early adult, in summer plumage, was on the sea at Cresswell on 13th (RD).

Slavonian Grebe

Two were at Holy Island on 20th (MC/ADM).

Black-necked Grebe

At the regular breeding site nine-ten pairs had hatched 15-18 young during the month.

Fulmar

N. passage occurred on 23rd with 171 at Hauxley and 59 at St. Mary's Island (HRS/PRJ).

Sooty Shearwater

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (MHP) and nine N. at Hauxley on 24th (MC).

Manx Shearwater

Passage was noted at several coastal localities on many dates during the month. At Seaton Sluice a total of 612 moved N. during eight hours of sea-watching on various dates with a peak of 166 on 12th (MHP). On 13th 350 flew N. at Tynemouth including a large flock of about 200 (CB), this movement also being noted at Cresswell and Beadnell. 100 moved N. at Tynemouth on 23rd and smaller numbers were seen in other areas.

Gannet

At Seaton Sluice 110 N. on 12th and 50 N. on 24th (MHP).

Cormorant

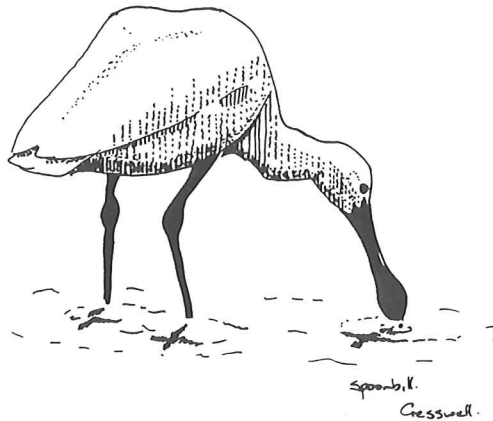
Singles were noted at Holywell and Seaton Burn on several dates (CS/AJJ).

Grey Heron

The largest gatherings were 14 at Black Low on 5th (JDL), eight at Slaggyford on 6th (WAK) and nine at Foxton/Almouth on 31st (ES). One-six were in eight other localities. One arrived high from the N.E. at the Farne Islands on 13th and was mobbed by up to 100 terns (Sp) (WGJ).

Spoonbill

One was at Cresswell Pond during the evening of 1st but not reported subsequently (LJM et al).

SpoonbillMute Swan

A further brood of six was at Bolam on 15th (MLC). The number of cygnets at Angerton was reduced to two by 1st and at Jesmond Dene only one cygnet had survived by 20th (AS/MLC/MPF). 220 were at Berwick on 22nd (JDL).

Grey Lag Goose

Two flew S. at Boulmer on 30th (JSe) and one was at Colt Crag on 31st (BNR).

Snow Goose

Two were at Colt Crag on 31st (BNR).

Canada Goose

A family party (six young) was at Hallington on 6th (BNR). 46 were at Colt Crag on 31st and eight at Capheaton on 13th.

Shelduck

Further breeding records included two broods (eight and three young) at Druridge and one brood (four young) at Hadston on 7th (IK). 35 were at Black Low on 5th (JDL).

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site on 27th there were five broods (total ten young). One pair at this site failed to raise a brood. At another site up to 16 adults were present but there was no evidence of breeding. Three-five were noted at Seaton Burn, Derwent Reservoir and Holy Island Lough.

Gadwall

Two were at Holywell Pond on 2nd (MHP).

Teal

Four broods (25 young) were noted at Caistron (MR). Single broods of three young and two young were at Threestoneburn and a site in the S.W. of the county (AMB/BNR). Nine-ten were also at Bothal and Seaton Burn (LJM/AJJ).

Mallard

Further breeding records increased the total of young hatched this season to 119 at Seaton Burn, 37 at Holywell Pond and 35 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (AJJ/ISD/IF). Other broods were noted at Hauxley (two), Arcot, Blanchland, Ovingham, Wylam and Derwent Reservoir. 200 were at Caistron on 12th/20th (MR).

Shoveler

Two broods (11 and nine young) were at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ).

Pochard

A further two broods at Holywell Pond on 1st brings the total of young hatched at this site to 33 (ISD). 12 were at Arcot Pond on 14th (LJM).

Ring-necked Duck

The drake at Holywell Pond was still present on 1st.

Ferruginous Duck

The drake at Holywell Pond was with the Ring-necked Duck on 1st.

Tufted Duck

There were 13 broods (76 young) at Caiströn during the month (MR). A further three broods at Seaton Burn brought the total of young hatched there to 49 (AJJ) and there were five broods (45 young) at Holywell Pond (ISD). Other breeding successes included two broods (ten young) at Pawston Lake, two broods (19 young) at Wallsend Swallow Pond (ES) and single broods of seven at Grindon Lough and Arcot Pond (BNR/LJM). A total of 75 was at Whittle Dene on 14th (AGH).

Scaup

A drake was at Cresswell Pond on 13th/14th (FH/JRT).

Eider

740 were at Holy Island on 20th (JDL).

Common Scoter

At Seaton Sluice a total of 133 flew N. and 65 S. during the month (MHp). Movements of 5-40 were noted at five other coastal localities on several dates. 90 were in Duridge Bay on 5th (MA).

Red-breasted Merganser

11 were off Hadston on 12th (ADMc). Three flew N. at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and two were at Cresswell on 13th.

Goosander

A brood of nine was on the River Coquet at Caiströn on 27th (MR). Five flew N. at Slaggyford on 8th (CJ/BNR) and one was at Alnmouth on 31st (ES).

Ruddy Duck

The drake at Capheaton remained until 18th (RW).

Hen Harrier

A 'ring-tail' was at Budle Bay/Ross Links on 21st and 27th (DPa/JDP). On the latter date it was mobbed by six Arctic Skuas !

Sparrowhawk

On the coast one-two were at Seaton Sluice and Seaton Delaval on 16th/19th (TAC).

Kestrel

Nine were at Gosforth Park on 27th including one family party of five (ES).

Merlin

Singles were back on the coast at Hadston on 2nd and Holy Island on 27th (WAK/RKS).

Hobby

Single birds were at Druridge Pool on 3rd (AH/GH) and Seaton Burn on 19th (GB/AJJ).

Peregrine

A single was in one inland locality.

Black Grouse

Singles were at Threestoneburn on 5th and Barhaugh on 27th (AMB/BNR)

Red-legged Partridge

Two were at Caistrone on 6th (MR) and singles at Horton on 16th and Newbrough on 26th (LJM/RKS).

Grey Partridge

A pair with 16 young were at Horton on 16th (LJM). Other broods of 8-14 were noted at Threestoneburn, Ovingham, Ladycross, Seaton Burn and Holywell Dene. One at Colt Crag on 20th landed on the reservoir for a few seconds before flying to dry land ! (BNR).

Coot

Eight broods were noted at Arcot Pond (LJM) and about 20 young at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th (IF) where 97 adults present on 21st. 260 were at Seaton Burn on 23rd (AJJ).

Oystercatcher

A maximum of 68 was at Cresswell Pond on 10th (MA/KH) where a partial albino bird was present on 29th (FH/JECM). 50 were at Hauxley on 27th (HRS). Inland a flock of 14 were at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (BNR).

Little Ringed Plover

A juvenile was at Hadston Lake on 20th (KDS/MHp).

Ringed Plover

Two pairs breeding at Caistrone reared only one young although a family party of five present on 20th probably came from the nearby River Coquet (MR). A nest with three eggs was found in rubble dumped on the sea-front at N. Blyth (AMB). A maximum of 15 was at Backworth on 6th (IC).

Golden Plover

Birds moved into coastal localities during the month. Ten at Hauxley on 21st increased to a maximum of 400 by 24th (HRS), 220 were at Boulmer on 30th (JSe), 120 at St. Mary's Island by 29th (IDM) and 30-90 also noted at Holywell, Holy Island and Budle Bay. 33 were inland at Caistrone on 27th (MR).

Grey Plover

Five were at Black Low on 5th (JDL) and a 'few' in Budle Bay on 13th (ADM).

Lapwing

Large post-breeding flocks were 900 at Colt Crag on 20th (BNR), 300 at Caistrone on 27th (MR) and 120-250 at Derwent Reservoir, Whittle Dene, Amble and Ilderton Dod between 18th-31st. Smaller numbers noted in four other localities.

Knot

Numbers gradually building up during the month with the passage of returning birds. The largest gathering was 300 at Holy Island by 26th (MHp) 30-32 were at Budle Bay and Cresswell Pond on 28th/29th (MSH/JRT) and two-six were at St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Hauxley and the Coquet Estuary.

Sanderling

Six were at Monk's House on 16th (TO) and up to four at Holy Island and Hauxley.



Little Stint

One was at Cresswell Pond on 6th, 25th and 28th with two present on 29th (JECM/FH et al).

Curlew Sandpiper

Single adults were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd/3rd and 25th (MHP et al) and Hauxley on 26th (JEF).

Purple Sandpiper

Six were at St. Mary's Island by 11th (IDM), nine at Tynemouth Pier on 13th (CB) and five at Monk's House on 16th (TO).

Dunlin

The largest gatherings were 250 at Holy Island on 20th (JDL) and 191 at Cresswell Pond on 18th (MA). Up to 25 were noted at Hauxley, Embleton, and St. Mary's Island. Inland two-ten were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Backworth, Seaton Burn, Caistron, Grindon and Derwent Reservoir. Distraction display on three territories in the S.W. of the county indicated breeding.

Ruff

Two were at Cresswell Pond from 10th increasing to five by 20th (MA/CS). One-two were also at Seaton Burn, Holywell Pond, Druridge Pool and Hauxley during the month.

Snipe

Five-seven were at Backworth, Laverock Hall, and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Woodcock

One was at Beltingham on 25th (TMM).

Black-tailed Godwit

One was at Cresswell Pond on 5th and two between 18th-20th (ES/DRS et al). Four were at Caistron on 17th/18th two remaining until 20th (MR). Two were in Budle Bay on 16th/17th (TO) and at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 19th-21st (IF/JS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Numbers at Holy Island increased to a maximum of 250 on 26th (IF). 70 were in Budle Bay on 28th (MSH) and one-seven also seen at St. Mary's Island, Cresswell, Hauxley and Boulmer. On 7th four arrived high from the E. at Hauxley (IK).

Whimbrel

Passage reported throughout the month with many records. At Boulmer birds were moving SSW almost daily between 26th-31st with a maximum of 25 on 30th (JSe). On 31st a very large total of about 100 were in Budle Bay (ADMc). One-twelve were seen in a further ten coastal localities on many dates.

Curlew

About 860 were at Black Low on 5th (JDL) and 100 at Budle Bay on 28th (MSH). 50 were at Hauxley on 7th (HRS) and 46 at St. Mary's Island on 29th (IDM). Inland 51 roosted on Hexhamshire Common on 2nd (BNR).

Spotted Redshank

One was in Budle Bay on 27th/28th (RKS/MSH).

Redshank

75 flew N. in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 12th (MHP). The largest gatherings were 250 at Black Low on 5th (JDL), 150 at the Coquet Estuary on 30th (EMY) and 100 at Hauxley and Budle Bay on 27th/28th (HRS/MSH) 30-60 were also at Backworth and Cresswell Pond.



Greenshank

Up to six were at Black Low/Beal on 5th and 15th (JDL/TO). One-two were noted in eight, mainly coastal localities after 4th. Further inland one was at Caistron between 6th-27th (MR).

Green Sandpiper

Singles were at Backworth on 1st (Mhp/JM), Arcot on 3rd (MJS) and Embleton, Newton and Seaton Burn between 19th-31st. Inland one was at Caistron between 6th-20th (MR).

Terek Sandpiper

The bird at Hauxley Pool remained only until 1st.

Common Sandpiper

One-four were seen in 12 coastal localities during the month although seven were at Hadston on 26th and at Alnmouth on 31st (Mhp/ES et al).

Turnstone

39-40 were at Cresswell and St. Mary's Island on 29th (JRT/IDM) and 30 at Coquet Estury on 31st (EMY). Six flew W. over Seaton Burn on 22nd (AJJ) and two over Holywell Pond on 27th (CS).

Arctic Skua

Although passage was not noted as heavy, birds were seen throughout the month. A total of 16 flew N. and five S. in ten hours sea-watching at Seaton Sluice (Mhp). Up to 20 were in Budle Bay on three dates (DPa/CB), 16 at St. Mary's Island on 31st (KDS) and up to nine at Holy Island (JDP). One-six were in a further seven coastal localities.

Long-tailed Skua

An adult was present on Holy Island on 11th/12th and 17th and gave excellent views to several observers (TMM/TB/ICM et al).

Great Skua

Singles flying N. were seen at Cresswell on 11th, Seaton Sluice and Beadnell on 12th and St. Mary's Island on 23rd (Mhp/WGJ/IF). On 20th singles moved both N. and S. at Blyth.

Mediterranean Gull

An adult in summer plumage was at St. Mary's Island on 7th and 12th (JAW/IH/KWR) and almost certainly the same bird at Seaton Sluice on 11th (PRJ).

Little Gull

Birds were present at Cresswell Pond between 2nd-14th with a maximum of six, including four adults, on 10th (KH/MA et al). Records of other adults included two at Seaton Sluice on 20th (CS), three at Tyne Estuary on 21st (DMT), one S. at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (MHP) and at Tynemouth on 24th and 26th (CB).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roost counts included 900 at Scotswood on 1st, 190 at Colt Crag on 20th increasing to 3,100 by 31st. A movement of gulls down the S. Tyne valley towards Alston on 20th involved mainly this species (BNR).

Common Gull

Two pairs reared five young at a site in S. of the county. 340 roosted at Colt Crag increasing to 8,500 by 31st, nearly all adults (BNR). 50 were at Calder on 18th (AMB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

A very weak flying juvenile was seen at a moorland site on 27th suggesting local breeding. A bird showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race was at St. Mary's Island on 8th (IDM).

Glaucous Gull

A first summer bird was in the North Shields/Tynemouth area between 3rd-27th (DMT/CB) and probably the same bird at Blyth on 21st and flying S. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (MHP).

Great Black-backed Gull

82 were at the Tyne Estuary on 1st (DMT).

Kittiwake

A nest with two young was on a building at Newcastle Quayside (MSH). 1,000 were in the Tyne Estuary area on 6th increasing to 2,000 on 7th (CB). 580 flew N. off Berwick on 19th (JDL). Single juveniles, perhaps the same bird, were at Seaton Burn on 20th, 23rd and 27th (AJJ).

Sandwich Tern

70 were at Hauxley on 1st (CMA). Numbers building up at Tynemouth Haven with a maximum of 96 on 6th. The first juveniles were noted here on 19th.

Roseate Tern

One-two were at Tynemouth Haven between 1st-12th (AH/CB) and two were at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th with one on 25th (DMT). One was at Hauxley on 3rd (JAW) and two at Black Low on 13th (JDL).

"Commic Tern"

A 'portlandica' type bird was at Tynemouth on 1st (AH).

Common Tern

Five were at Seaton Burn on 8th and one-two between 12th-24th (AJJ). Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond for most of the month (IF) and three flew N. over Heddon on 9th (JSB).

Auks (Sp)

One hour sea-watches at Seaton Sluice on 12th and 24th produced 40 N. and 70 N. respectively (MHP).

Puffin

Noted moving N. on several dates at Seaton Sluice with a maximum of 35 per hour on 23rd (MHP).

Stock Dove

Three were at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Turtle Dove

One was at Hadston on 2nd (CB).

Cuckoo

Singles were at Druridge Pool on 3rd (AH), Hauxley on 5th (MBS) and Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ).

Barn Owl

A pair attempted to breed in the Dalton area but failed (RW). One-two were seen at Druridge on 2nd and 8th (ADM/C/GAF).

Little Owl

Singles were at Acklington and E. Thirston on 8th (ETN/JRN) and 15th (JMA) and at Great Whittingham on 31st (RW).

Tawny Owl

One was at Prior's Park on 15th (CB).

Long-eared Owl

One was at Gunnerton on 20th (TMM/TB).

Short-eared Owl

Three young were reared at one nest in the S. of the county. One was at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Nightjar

Single birds were found in a further two sites in the county during the month.

Swift

The largest gatherings were 300 at Holywell on 4th (MHP) and 200 at Seaton Burn on 19th (AJJ). 15 were feeding around Inner Farne on 13th (WGJ) and 60 moved S. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Kingfisher

Four at Mitford on 14th included at least one juvenile indicating successful breeding and an adult entering a nest-hole at this locality on 16th may indicate a second clutch (ADM/C). One-two were also seen at Ponteland, Corbridge, Beltingham and Castron.

Green Woodpecker

One at the Harthope Valley on 20th (GAF) and two at Slaley Forest on 31st (CJ) were the only records.

Sand Martin

About eight were entering nest-holes at Foxton on 5th (GSR). 40 were at Reaveley Greens on 18th (AMB) and 20 at Seaton Burn on 22nd (AJJ).

Swallow

About 40 per hour moved S. at Seaton Sluice during the afternoon of 30th (CMA).

House Martin

About ten pairs were nesting at Warkworth bridge (KIB). 100 were at Seaton Burn and 30-40 at St. Mary's Island and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st/22nd (AJJ/IF).

Tree Pipit

One was still singing at Angerton on 1st (MLC).

Meadow Pipit

Up to 120 were on Holy Island on 20th (JDL).

Yellow Wagtail

Ten were at Hauxley on 27th (HRS) and 16 at St. Mary's Island on 31st (KDS). One-seven were in six other coastal localities.

Blue-headed Wagtail

At Backworth on 4th a male was with seven Yellow Wagtails including several juveniles (DY/SY).

Grey Wagtail

At least one pair bred successfully in Jesmond Dene (MPF). A family party was at Allenbanks on 26th (RKS).

Pied Wagtail

Five young were reared in a hollow log nailed to Sandy Bankier's cottage wall at Threestoneburn ! Many family parties in Coquetdale indicated a good breeding season in that area (IK/BG). On the coast the largest gathering was 18 at Berwick on 22nd (JDL).

Redstart

Several were collecting food in the Slaggyford area on 12th (ES/WTL) and one-two present all month at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Whinchat

Five pairs were feeding young at Thrunton on 18th (GAF). Two were at Cresswell Pond on 20th (CS).

Stonechat

The second brood was still near the Long Nanny early in the month (ES/KIB).

Wheatear

Many family parties were in Coquetdale on 5th (IK/BG) and others noted in several areas around W. Woodburn (MH/JH). One was at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Mistle Thrush

Ten were at Rothley Park on 15th (MLC/AS) and 25 at Barhaugh on 27th (BNR).

Grasshopper Warbler

Two were still 'reeling' at Seaton Burn up to 21st (AJJ et al) and singles were also heard at Prestwick Carr (GB), Hadston on 7th/14th (IK/JRT) and Heddon between 19th-30th (JSB).

Sedge Warbler

Small numbers noted in five coastal localities.

Lesser Whitethroat

One was collecting food at Arcot on 20th and 27th indicating breeding (ES/MBS). One-two were at Corbridge on 11th (MR).

Whitethroat

Family parties were noted at Earsdon, Ordley and Newton.

Wood Warbler

Three were at Cragside on 1st (MPF).

Chiffchaff

Eight were singing at Cragside on 1st (MPF) and one-two were singing in three other localities up to 15th.

Willow Warbler

Singles were noted on the coast from 25th.

Goldcrest

One was at Prior's Park on 12th (AH).

Spotted Flycatcher

They were seen in about nine widespread areas including several family parties. This species seems to be well-represented in the county this summer.

Pied Flycatcher

One-two were noted at Harthope and Threestoneburn.

Long-tailed Tit

A family party was at Harbottle on 10th (IK).

Marsh Tit

Three were at Cragside on 1st (MPF).

Willow Tit

One in Prior's Park on 12th was an unusual record (AH).

Nuthatch

An apparent family party was seen in Jesmond Dene on 18th (TMM).

Jay

Three were at Ladycross, feeding on a gooseberry bush, on 28th (CJ).

Chaffinch

Flocks of 45-50 were at Newbiggin and Juniper on 23rd and 30th (BNR).

Greenfinch

A pair were nest-building at Seaton Sluice on 28th (CMA).

Siskin

One-three were noted at Happy Valley, Harbottle and Threestoneburn.

Linnet

About 200 were near St. Mary's Island on 19th (IDM) and 25-40 noted at Slaley and Castron.

Redpoll

On the coast one was at Tynemouth on 13th and two on 29th (CB).

Crossbill

A maximum of 16 was at Slaley on 16th (CJ). About six at Hauxley on 13th may suggest immigration (HRS).

Hawfinch

Birds were present in Jesmond Dene for most of the month (MPF).

Corn Bunting

One-two were at Horton, Shankhouse, Backworth, Cresswell, Druridge, Boulmer, Newton and E. Thirston.

Please send all August records, in Vooous order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX by 8th September, 1986.

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		Hauxley Ringing Station

Indoor Meeting - Thursday 11th September, 1986

The first indoor meeting of the 1986/87 season will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. Our speaker will be Bob Spencer who will give a talk entitled 'Birds in Winter'.

Field Trip - Holy Island

There will be a field trip to Holy Island on Sunday 28th September, 1986. If you have a spare seat in your car and can give a lift to another member or if you require a lift, please contact Colin Bradshaw (tel. 2572389). Everyone should meet at the main car park on the island at 9.30 a.m. The leader for the day will be Ian Kerr.

Little Grebe Survey

Would members who volunteered to help with this survey please ensure that their completed survey forms (including Nil returns) are returned to the survey organiser Alan Johnston, 27 Park View, Wideopen, Newcastle NE13 6LH as soon as possible.



### The Moths and Butterflies of Northumberland and Durham

Part one of this publication (covering Macrolepidoptera) is expected towards the end of the year. The Northern Naturalists' Union, who are producing the book, are offering concessionary rates (£4.50 to members of N.N.U., £6.00 to non-members) for orders received by 31st August. It will comprise of approx 300 pages with distribution maps and there will be only a limited printing.

If you wish to order a copy you should send a cheque (and include £1.00 for postage and packing), made payable to Northern Naturalists' Union, to T.C. Dunn, Hon. Editor/Treasurer, The Poplars, Durham Road, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 3LY.

### Northumbria's Merlins - Request for Information

As members will know, the breeding ecology of the Merlin has been the subject of a long-running study in Northumberland which has yielded a wealth of information about Britain's only raptor whose numbers are showing a steady and very worrying decline.

Much less is known about Merlin movements and activities outside the breeding season. Many of them certainly move to the coast where perhaps most people see them, but the Winter Atlas project also confirmed that others remain inland during winter.

During the coming autumn and winter the club would like to receive all records of Merlin sightings whether coastal or inland as the first stage of a proposed study of their wintering activities and requirements.

Dr. Peter Lack of the B.T.O. is to provide details of all the Winter Atlas sightings for Northumbria and this should give us very valuable baseline data for the forthcoming study.

The aim is to collect details of all sightings which should be entered on record cards and sent to Mike Hodgson in the usual way. If possible, observers are asked to give details of the sex of the bird and any notes about its activity - hunting, resting etc. and the time of day for the sighting.

It is hoped that the information gathered could eventually form the basis of a paper on wintering Merlins.

### County Records Committee - proposed constitutional amendment.

After long discussion between the club committee and members of the present records committee the following proposed amendment to section 5B of the constitution will be presented for discussion at the October AGM.

Your committee are unanimously recommending the change and propose that the section should read as follows: "Each of the elected members shall not serve for more than three consecutive years. Each shall not be eligible for re-election until 12 months has elapsed since their last term of office on the records committee"

Proposed - C. Bradshaw

Seconded - J.C. Day

### IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL MEMBERS

#### Subscriptions 1986/87 and Deed of Covenant

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions will fall due on the 1st October, 1986.

The club is now fully registered as a Charity and as such can ask members to consider covenanting their subscriptions for a period of four years.

Eddie Slack, who has been guiding the committee through the process of registration for over a year now, has prepared an information sheet and examples of the two forms required to covenant your subscription.

Please take the time to read his notes and consider covenanting your subscription.

We hope to have the forms available at the September and subsequent indoor meetings but if you normally re-subscribe by post then forms will be available from our Treasurer, John Day, 2 Grange Avenue, Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

CHARITABLE STATUS

The Charity Commissioners accepted the Clubs application for registration as a charity with effect from 29th May 1986 (Charity No. 517641).

One of the advantages of charitable status is to enable the Club to claim repayment of income tax on covenanted subscriptions which will amount to:

£3.68 on the present ordinary subscription of £9.00

£4.08 on the present family subscription of £10.00

Some facts about covenants to charities:-

1. Who should enter into a covenant?

Any member who is a taxpayer to at least the gross amount of the annual subscription, that is, £12.68 on the present £9.00 ordinary subscription £14.08 on the present family subscription.

2. Are there any disadvantages?

There are NO disadvantages to a taxpayer of a covenanted subscription to a charity, the gross amount being allowed as an allowable deduction from your income and those fortunate enough to be higher rate tax payers gain a further advantage since relief is given at the higher rate payable.

3. Who should not enter into covenants?

Non-taxpayers, for example, students, the unemployed, pensioners on basic state benefits. In short those who do not pay income tax. (NOTE: Legally any one can enter into a deed of covenant, even a non-taxpayer, but the member may be assessed for the amount of income tax recovered by the Club).

If any members are doubtful they can consult Eddie Slack, (Tel. Office 2612121 Home 2813901) in complete confidence.

4. What if I cease to be a member within 4 years?

In practice - nothing - the Club will not claim the subscription nor reclaim the income tax - and you do not claim the deduction on your tax return.

5. Completion of the covenant (copy attached)

The amount is your subscription, £9.00 for present ordinary membership and £10.00 for present family membership.

It should be signed and witnessed, but not by a relative.

If MUST be dated before PAYMENT of your subscription.

6. What disclosure is required by the Inland Revenue

Simply enter the gross amount of your subscription to the nearest £ in the relevant section of your Income Tax Return which is £13 for present ordinary membership and £14 for present family membership.

7. Are

7. Are there any other forms to complete?

Only a Form R185(AP) an example of which is attached, and which, for administrative reasons, is best completed at the same time as the covenant.

We strongly recommend all members who are taxpayers to complete a deed of covenant and Form R185(AP) a very simple exercise with no disadvantages to the member but considerable financial advantages to the Club. At the present basic rate of income tax 200 covenants at £9.00 would result in a tax repayment of £736 !!

Please join the covenantors - millions of others have with other charities - as the RSPB, National Trust, it must be right.

FILL IN THE FORMS AND HELP THE CLUB

Eddie Slack - August 1986

EXAMPLE OF R185(AP)

## Certificate of deduction of Income Tax - Annual payment under Deed of Covenant

Only use this form if income tax has been deducted from the payment

I certify that on paying to.....  
NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB  
2 GRANGE AVENUE, BENTON, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE12 9PN.  
of.....  
the amount shown below in column 2 I deducted the income tax shown in column 3, and that this tax has been or will be paid by me either directly or by deduction from other income when received by me.

Annual payment under Deed of Covenant executed on -	Gross payment	Income tax deducted by me	Net payment	Date paid	Consecutive number of annual payments
1	2	3	4	5	6
	£	£	£		
	12 68	3 68	9 00		1
or	14 08	4 08	10 00		

Enter in CAPITAL letters please

- Payer's name and address

Postcode

- If you are employed, your employer's name and address

OR-If a company or if you are in business the business address

Postcode

- District and reference to which Tax Returns are made (if known)

Please do not write in the spaces below

District stamp

"Duty assessed" stamp

Signature Date

This form should be signed by the person deducting the tax and responsible for accounting for it to the Revenue. Where that person is deducting tax for his employer as secretary, cashier etc. this should be stated.

The person receiving the payments should keep this form. It will be needed as evidence of tax deducted if a claim to relief from tax is made.

R185(AP)

Printed in the UK for HMSO. 3393686. 4/84. 5629...



DEED OF COVENANT

I .....  
(Full name in capitals)

of .....

.....  
(Full address in capitals)

hereby covenant with the NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB ("the charity") that for the term of four years (or during my lifetime whichever period is the shorter) will pay annually to the funds of the charity out of my taxed income a net sum of £            (or such sum equivalent to the annual membership subscription whichever is the greater).

Dated this            day of            198

Signed, sealed and delivered by

.....

In the presence of:  
Signature of witness

.....

Address

.....

.....

.....







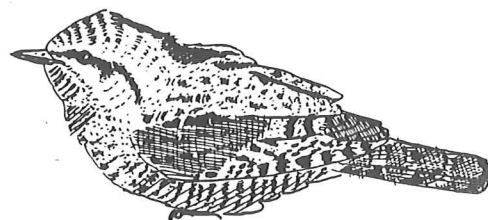
# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - AUGUST 1986

The weather during August could be fairly described as poor. Temperatures were below normal in all areas, rainfall was well above average and it was dull with about two-thirds of the normal amounts of sunshine. Winds during the first half came from the west to south-west. Between the 25th-27th the passage of a low, caused by 'Hurricane Charley', across the British Isles produced very heavy rainfall and strong N.E. winds resulting in an interesting, if uncomfortable, period for observers.

Sea-watchers were rewarded with reasonable numbers of Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, and Pomarine, Arctic and Great Skuas. The highlights offshore, however, were a Little Shearwater moving N. at Tynemouth on 18th and a sub-adult Long-tailed Skua at Seaton Sluice on 24th. Both Teal and Wigeon were moving N. from 24th. Enterprising ringers have had reasonable success in catching Storm Petrels using tape recordings but most unexpected was the capture of a Leach's Petrel at Boulmer on 17th. Up to three Mediterranean Gulls were in the Tyne Estuary and a number of Black Terns were reported. There were indications of return passage of Canada Geese but a Pink-footed Goose was a little out of season. As usual wader passage continued throughout the month including Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers, good numbers of Whimbrel, two Little Ringed Plovers and a Temminck's Stint. Perhaps the best waders were at least three Red-necked Phalaropes which obliged many people over a period of four days. During this period an influx of Ruff resulted in some large gatherings on recent floodwaters. A very early Jack Snipe appeared near St. Mary's Island on 27th.

The period of north-easterlies during the last week of the month caused a 'fall' of night migrants along the coast. In addition to the typical species such as Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts there were at least 13 Wrynecks, seven Red-backed Shrikes, seven Reed Warblers and two Red-breasted Flycatchers. More impressive were two Greenish Warblers trapped at Prior's Park on 27th and Hauxley on 28th. Perhaps the most interesting record during the month was two Redwings at Prudhoe on 13th. Early immigrants?



W. M. M. S.  
P. M. S. R. C.  
cb



Red-necked Phalarope  
Prudhoe 13th 86

Altogether quite an exciting month with other interesting species being Garganey, two Hen Harriers, several Quail, Corncrake, Glaucous Gull, Black Guillemot and two Barred Warblers.

Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

One was off Cresswell on 10th and between 22nd-31st one-two were seen at St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Cresswell, Craster, Bamburgh, Ross and Holy Island.

Little Grebe

Family parties still present at Newton Pool, Holywell, Arcot and Wallsend Swallow Pond but no young seen at Seaton Burn. One-five noted on five other waters.

Great Crested Grebe

Breeding attempts at Caistron and Arcot both failed (MR/LJM). Birds were still present on several typical waters and singles were on Druridge Pool and Hadston Lake on 30th/31st (KIB/ISD). Singles were on the sea at Druridge and Cresswell on 3rd (GB) and three were off Hadston on 31st (MA).

Black-necked Grebe

Nine well-grown young were at the regular breeding site on 19th. A moulting adult was at Colt Crag on 30th (BNR).

Fulmar

350 per hour moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (MHP), heavy N. passage was noted at Hauxley on 22nd/23rd (HRS) and 160 per hour N. at Holy Island on 30th (JRT/KWY). A dark phase bird flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 13th (KDS).

Shearwater (Sp)

A large brown and white shearwater off St. Mary's Island on 23rd may have been a Cory's (BB).

Sooty Shearwater

16 flew N. and one S. at Tynemouth on 6th (AH) and singles N. at St. Mary's Island on 8th and Berwick on 9th (KDS/JDL). After 17th they were noted almost daily from several localities with the highest counts being 79 N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (KDS/MHP), 118 N. at Cullercoats on 25th (KW) and a total of 37 N. and three S. at Annstead between 24th-28th (CK). About 20 were seen from the boat-trip out of Tynemouth on 23rd (CB).

Manx Shearwater

Passage was noted on many dates throughout the month. The heaviest movements involved 42 N. at Seaton Sluice on 7th (MB), 30 N. and six S. at St. Mary's Island on 8th (KDS), 50 N. at Seaton Sluice on 9th and 197 N. on 24th (MHP/NJW), 68 N. at Tynemouth on 25th (CB) when 134 N. at Cullercoats where 246 N. on 30th/31st (KW).

Little Shearwater

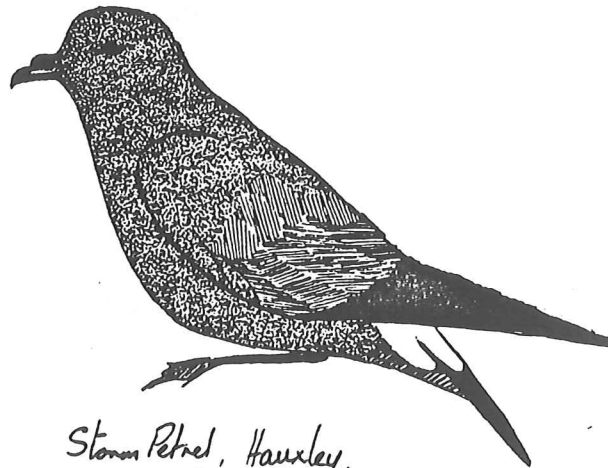
A small shearwater flying N. at Tynemouth on 18th was considered to be this species (KDS/MPC/AH). Detailed notes have been submitted and if accepted this will be the first definite record for the county. Both previous records in September 1946 and August 1961 are open to some doubt.

Storm Petrel

Several ringers have been attempting to attract this species using a tape-recording of their calls. At Hauxley two were trapped on 10th and about 10 were attracted. Efforts on 23rd attracted about 23, ten being trapped including one carrying a ring from elsewhere. Further singles were present on 25th and 30th (HRS). Four were trapped at Boulmer on 17th (MPC).

Leach's Petrel

One was trapped at Boulmer, with Storm Petrels, on 17th (MPC). This is the first record since 1980, all previous records being prior to 1954.

Storm Petrel

*Storm Petrel, Hauxley.  
Aug 86.*

Gannet

600 flew S. at Tynemouth on 6th (AH). Strong N. passage was noted between 23rd-31st with up to 750 per hour noted at Cullercoats, St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Cresswell, Hauxley, Ross and Holy Island.

Cormorant

52 were at Berwick Harbour on 16th (DPa) and 21 at Tyne Estuary on 30th (DMT). One-two visited Seaton Burn.

Shag

43 were at Berwick Little Beach on 9th (JDL).

Grey Heron

The largest gatherings were 19 at the Coquet Estuary on 25th (EMY), 11 at the Berwick by-pass on 31st (JDL) and six at Foxton on 2nd (ES). One-four were at ten other localities.

Mute Swan

299 were at Berwick Harbour on 13th (JDL). A pair with five cygnets were at Killingworth Lake on 1st (LJM).

Pink-footed Goose

One was at Berwick Harbour on 8th (JDL).

Grey Lag Goose

Six were at Budle Bay between 1st-3rd (CK) and up to 11 in the Holywell/Arcot area during the month.

Canada Goose

90 roosted at Colt Crag on 11th (BNR). On 16th 117 flew S. at Hauxley (HRS), 34 were at Holywell Pond (IR/JRT) and ten flew S. at Cresswell (JP). One-eight were also noted at Fenham Flats, Derwent Reservoir, Brenkley and Kielder Water.

Shelduck

20 flew N. at Alnmouth on 13th (CDH), 25 N. at Hauxley on 31st (HRS) and 15 flew S. at Coquet Estuary on 20th (EMY). Inland a juvenile was at Caistron between 3rd-14th (MR/PM), others at Arcot on 24th (MJS) and Wallsend Swallow Pond between 25th-30th (WIL) and two at Prestwick Carr between 29th-31st (MRS/IK).

Wigeon

Only small numbers noted on a few waters during the month. However N. passage was evident from 24th when 340 off Cullercoats (KW), 215 in two hours at Seaton Sluice (MHP), 245 in 1½ hours at Ross (JDP) and 443 at Holy Island (JDL). A total of 384 flew N. at Annstead between 24th-28th (CK).

Gadwall

A maximum of seven was at Cresswell on 23rd (JRT), four were at Holy Island Lough on 3rd (JDL) and one-two at Druridge Pool.

Teal

N. passage was conspicuous offshore late in the month. On 24th 515 moved N. in two hours at Seaton Sluice (MHP), 456 at Cullercoats (KW), 435 at Ross (JDP) and 334 at Holy Island (JDL) with smaller numbers in other coastal localities. A total of 850 moved N. at Annstead between 24th-28th (CK) and 302 N. at Cullercoats on 30th (KW). 5-45 were on about seven waters.

Mallard

Numbers at Caistron increased to 400 by mid-month (MR). 240 were at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ) and 123 at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (BNR). A brood of six was at Bothal on 13th (MSH).

Pintail

About 30 were at Druridge on 27th (CW) and two at Cresswell on 31st (MA).

Garganey

One was at Cresswell on 31st (MA).

Shoveler

The largest gatherings were 31 at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ), 30 at Cresswell on 24th (MSH) and 20-21 at Holywell and Druridge on 13th and 27th (ISD/CW). One-17 were at seven other waters.

Pochard

29 at Seaton Burn on 30th (AJJ) was the largest gathering.

Tufted Duck

Further broods included three (total seven young) at Whittle Dene (CDH), one (three young) at Corbridge (MR) and another of four young at Wallsend Swallow Pond (IF). 44 were at Colt Crag on 30th (BNR) and 5-20 at Tynemouth Boating Lake, Prestwick Carr and Seaton Burn.

Scaup

Five were at Druridge on 16th and four on 30th (ES/KDS). One was at Cresswell Pond on 30th/31st (KWY/JRT).

Eider

153 were at Football Hole on 17th (RKS) and 400 at Boulmer on 19th (ETN/JRN).

Common Scoter

About 250 were off Hadston on 2nd (KH). On 24th 130 flew N. at Ross (JDP), 145 at Holy Island (JDL) and 113 at Cullercoats (KW). Smaller numbers were moving at other coastal localities on several dates.

Velvet Scoter

One flew S. at Hadston on 2nd (KH), three N. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (BB) and one N. at St. Mary's Island on 27th (SC).

Goldeneye

One was at Hadston Lake on 9th and 14th (KDS/MA).

Red-breasted Merganser

One at Hauxley on 2nd was the only record (ISD/ES).

Goosander

39 were at Castron on 17th (MR) and three at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (BNR). Interesting coastal records involved one at Boulmer on 24th (P&PM), 16 S. at Tynemouth on 25th (CB), three at Hauxley on 27th and one at Hartley on 29th (SY).

Hen Harrier

One was in the Holy Island/Ross area from 3rd (JDL et al). A 'ring-tail' was at Chatton on 10th (WAK).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were at Hauxley on several dates during the month (HRS) and singles in about eight coastal localities, and one-two in six other areas.

Kestrel

One-three noted in about ten widespread areas. Two juveniles were found dead on Ross Links during the month. Both had been struck at the base of the skull, perhaps by a Peregrine (JDP).

Merlin

At least three were on Holy Island on 25th (CB/CH) and singles were seen in five coastal and four inland localities during the month.

Hobby

One crossed the River Tyne towards Scotswood on 2nd (MPF). Others were at Hauxley on 24th (HRS) and Hexham on 31st (KD).

Peregrine

One flew E. at West Denton on 4th (IK). Other singles were at Holy Island on 9th, 30th/31st (PWW et al) and Hauxley on 31st (HRS). Another chased a Cuckoo at Ross Links on 24th (JDP).

Red Grouse

60 were on a fell at Hexhamshire on 10th and two 'shoots' in the S.W. produced average numbers for the time of year (CJ).

Red-legged Partridge

Two pairs near Ryal managed to rear one young only (JSt). Two juveniles were at Castron on 25th (MR).

Quail

Seen on several days near Belsay where five rose together in front of a Combine Harvester on 24th (JSt).

Water Rail

One was at Newton Pool on 22nd (JRT).

Corncrake

One was present at Beadnell between mid-June to early August (PC).

Coot

Five pairs bred successfully at Corbridge, including one pair rearing three broods (MR). 355 were at Seaton Burn on 20th (AJJ), 244 at Capheaton on 19th (RW) and 142 at Holywell on 16th (KWY).

## Wader Count - 10th August 1986

Only six stretches were counted. Budle Point-Seahouses (APM), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC), Boulmer-Howick (IK), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Coquet Estuary (PWW).

### Oystercatcher

A total of 363 was noted during the wader count. 92 flew S. in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 6th (MHp) and 102 were at Cresswell on 30th (JRT/KWY)

### Little Ringed Plover

One was at Holywell Pond between 16th-20th and two on 30th (IR/ES et al).

### Ringed Plover

A total of 117 was noted on the wader count including 62 between Boulmer-Howick. 110 were at the Long Nanny on 17th (RKS) when 80 at Holy Island. 95 were at Berwick Little Beach on 9th (JDL) and 50-60 at Budle Bay on 2nd (WTL/MBS).

### Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 1,000 at Hauxley on 31st (HRS). 520 at Longhoughton Steel on 25th when 400 at St. Mary's Island (JRT/KR), 740 at Holy Island on 23rd (JDL), and 400 at Budle Bay on 21st (CK). Inland 131 were at Caistrone on 25th (MR).

### Grey Plover

A total of only four noted on the wader count. Numbers at Holy Island increased to 260 by 24th (JDL) and 230 were in the Budle/Ross area on 21st (ASJ).

### Lapwing

1,500 were at Caistrone on 24th (MR) where an albino was present on 14th (P&PM). 600 were at Hauxley on 1st (HRS) and on Coquet Estuary during the month (EMY) 250 were also at Wallsend Swallow Pond.

### Knot

Only 93 were noted on the wader count. Cresswell Pond attracted birds throughout the month with a maximum of 60 on 2nd (JSB et al). 120 were at Bondicarr on 5th (WAK) and 52 at Black Low on 2nd (JDL).

### Sanderling

30 were at Holy Island on 12th (JDL), a maximum of 14 at St. Mary's Island on 31st (IR) and one-six at three other localities.

### Little Stint

One was at Budle Bay on 2nd/3rd (ES/MBS) and another was at Druridge Bay on 9th (DP). Three were in Budle Bay on 16th (NJW) and two at Holy Island on 17th (DPa) where one-two present 27th-31st (MR). Three were at Druridge on 28th (KDS) declining to one on 31st and one was at Cresswell Pond on 30th (KWY). Further inland singles were at Holywell Pond on 28th/31st (ISD/IR) and at Prestwick Carr on 29th (MRS).

### Temminck's Stint

One was at Cresswell on 14th (BB).

### Curlew Sandpiper

Two were at Cresswell on 22nd (KDS/TMM) and one on 27th when seven were at Hauxley (HRS). Four at Druridge on 28th increased to eight on 30th (AH et al) when two were at Amble (KDS). Two were at Prestwick Carr on 29th and one on 30th/31st (MRS/IK). Three were at Holy Island on 31st (JDL).



Purple Sandpiper

40 were on the Farne Islands on 21st (ASJ). Three-five also noted at Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's Island.

Dunlin

A total of only 146 noted during the wader count. In addition 250 were at Fenham Flats on 9th (JRT/KWY) and 20-40 at Hauxley, Druridge, Cresswell Pond and St. Mary's Island. Up to eight were at Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Ruff

Strong passage through the county noted during the month. Up to 15 were at many coastal localities early in the month although there were 44 at Cresswell on 9th (KDS) and a maximum of 26 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th (IF). A peak influx occurred between 27th-30th with many birds resorting to flooded fields. During this period about 100 were near Druridge Pool, 100-150 at Prestwick Carr, 80 near Radcliffe, 45 at Holy Island and 40 at Cresswell (MN/MRS/IK/SY et al) with smaller numbers at several other localities. These appear to be some of the largest gatherings recorded in the county.

Jack Snipe

An early bird was near St. Mary's Island in heavy rain on 27th (KR).

Snipe

The largest gatherings were 50 at Grindon on 6th (KDS), 29 at Caistrone on 17th (MR), 16 at Holy Island (JDL) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (ES). Nine-ten were also at Shankhouse and Colt Crag.

Woodcock

One was at Beltingham on 24th (KE).

Black-tailed Godwit

Two-three were at Holy Island on 2nd and one on 27th (JDL/MR). Another was at Howick on 30th (RKS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

420 at Holy Island on 2nd increased to 1,200 by 31st (JDL). One-four were found in coastal localities between Boulmer-Cresswell.

Whimbrel

Passage continued throughout the month. At Tynemouth 109 moved S. on 6th, 21 on 14th, 42 on 19th and 100 on 22nd (AH/CB). 16 flew S. at Coquet Estuary on 11th and 26 on 18th (EMY) when 21 were in Budle Bay (ASJ). 25 were over Amble on 1st (JSe). One-sixteen were noted in several other coastal localities. Further inland singles were at Caistrone on 3rd, Ladycross on 11th and Colt Crag on 30th (MR/CJ/BNR).

Curlew

A total of 97 was noted during the wader count. 154 were at the Long Nanny on 17th (RKS), 97 at Boulmer on 24th (P&PM), and 88 at Black Low on 2nd (JDL), 25 were at Colt Crag on 11th (BNR). A brood of four young had just fledged at Hexhamshire on 10th (CJ).

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS), Hadston on 9th (KDS) and Black Lough on 12th (PC). From 13th numbers increased with a maximum of seven at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (KDS), six at Hadston on 17th (NJW) and up to four at Cresswell Pond, Druridge and Hauxley. One-three were also seen in five other coastal localities.



Redshank

A total of 272 was noted on the wader count, although 300 were at the Coquet Estuary on 9th (EMY). 60-70 were also at Hauxley Pool and Cresswell Pond. 58 flew S. in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 13th (MHP).

Greenshank

Birds were noted throughout the month. The largest gatherings were ten at Hauxley on 11th (JP), eight at Black Low on 8th (DPa), and Hadston Lake on 17th (NJW), and up to six at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Druridge (IF/MN). One-five were in a further nine coastal or near coastal localities. Inland numbers at Caistrone reached a peak of seven on 17th (MR), three were at the Derwent Reservoir on 16th (RKS) and one at Colt Crag on 30th (BNR).

Green Sandpiper

The largest gatherings on the coast were four at Hauxley on 11th (ISD), and three at Brenkley on 3rd (AIB), Seaton Burn on 9th (AJJ) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (KR). One-two were in a further eight localities during the month. Inland two at Caistrone on 3rd reached a peak of seven on 17th with five still present on 30th (MR/P&PM). Another was at Grindon Lough on 24th (KE).

Wood Sandpiper

Six were at Black Lough on 12th (PC) and between 3rd-25th one-two were at Hauxley, Druridge, Hadston, Seaton Burn, Black Low and Spindlestone. Seven were at Druridge on 28th with five still present on 30th (AH/AJB et al). Further inland singles were at Caistrone on 17th (MR) and Prestwick Carr on 30th (IK).

Common Sandpiper

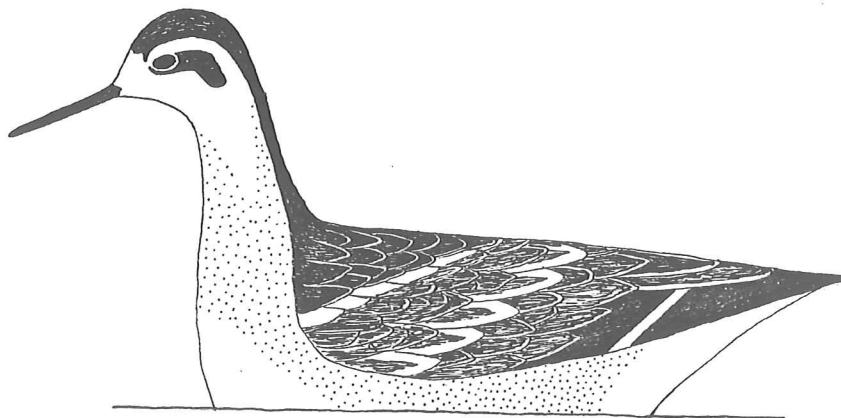
Six were at Hadston Lake on 17th (KDS/MHP) and four were at Budle Bay on 10th (RKS), Hauxley on 16th/27th (HRS) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd (IH). One-three were in ten other coastal localities. Three flew in off the sea at Tynemouth on 26th (CB). Inland three were at Ovingham on 3rd (JSB), one at Scotswood on 7th, two at Derwent Reservoir on 10th and singles at Newburn and Colt Crag on 14th and 30th (AJ/BNR).

Turnstone

A total of 299 was noted during the wader count. 80 were at St. Mary's Island on 18th (IH). One arrived from the S. at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (IF).

Red-necked Phalarope

At least three, perhaps five, individuals were seen late in the month. One was on a small pool at Cresswell on 27th (MN/DY/SY et al). At the flood-water at Druridge three were present between 28th-30th although one did fly off to the N. on 29th (MN/CW et al). One was still present on 31st. One was also at Hadston Lake on 30th/31st (TMM/MHP et al). All were considered to be juveniles.



Red necked phalarope  
Hadston Lake

T.M. Melling

Pomarine Skua

At Tynemouth four flew S. on 14th, one N. on 22nd, seven on 23rd, two on 24th and singles on 25th and 28th (AH/CB). Five flew S. at Cullercoats on 17th and one N. on 24th (KW). Single adults flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 22nd and St. Mary's Island on 23rd (MHP/BB). One flew N. at Ross on 24th and three S. at St. Mary's Island on 26th (JDP). A juvenile flew N. at Holy Island on 30th (JRT/KWY) and an adult on 31st (AJB).

Arctic Skua

Noted throughout the month. A maximum of 35 was in Budle Bay area on 2nd (CK), 25 at Holy Island on 24th (JDL) and a flock of 22 was off Tynemouth on 25th (AH). Smaller numbers were seen at various localities on many days. The heaviest passage movements involved 188 S. at St. Mary's Island on 26th (MPC), 249 S. at Cullercoats on 30th (KW), a total of 60 in eight hours off Annstead (CK), 59 S. at Tynemouth on 22nd (AH), and 74 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (KDS). Up to 20 were seen on the boat-trip off Tynemouth on 23rd (CB).

Long-tailed Skua

A sub-adult flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (NJW/KDS et al).

Great Skua

Small numbers were noted in several localities prior to 22nd. On 23rd ten flew N. at Cullercoats where 19 N. and one S. on 25th and 15 N. on 30th (KW). 20 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 26th (MPC) and six N. on 27th (ASJ). Eight were off Tynemouth on 26th (CB) and on 30th ten N. at Stag Rocks and five N. at Holy Island (KDS).

Mediterranean Gull

Up to three (Adult, 1st summer, 2nd summer) were in the Tynemouth/North Shields Fish Quay area between 4th-31st (DMT/AH et al). A ringed adult was at Low Newton on 23rd and the same at Craster on 30th (RKS).

Little Gull

Two flew S. off Hadston on 2nd (JECM/JM) and three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th (IF). Between 6th-31st singles were noted at Budle Bay, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice and North Shields Fish Quay. Two flew N. at Cresswell on 31st (IK).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roosts included 4,700 at Scotswood on 7th, 2,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th and 3,300 at Colt Crag on 11th increasing to 6,000 by 30th (BNR). About 2,000 were at Beal on 19th (JDL) and Prestwick Carr on 30th (BG/IK).

Common Gull

4,000 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 10th increasing to 6,000 by 29th. 20,000 at the Colt Crag roost on 11th were nearly all adults but 26,000 there on 30th included about 10% juveniles (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

73 at Castron on 17th decreased to 50 on 24th (MR). Small numbers noted in several coastal localities.

Herring Gull

370 roosted at Scotswood on 7th (BNR). 109 were at the Tyne Estuary on 10th (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

One first summer bird present most of the month in the Tyne Estuary with a second bird on 10th (DMT/AH).

Great Black-backed Gull

18 roosted at Scotswood on 7th (BNR). 131 were at the Tyne Estuary on 23rd (DMT).

Kittiwake

78 pairs bred at the North Shields warehouse colony rearing about 110 young (DMT). 1,800 were at Berwick on 13th (JDL), 309 on Hauxley Pool on 3rd (HRS) and 189 at North Shields Fish Quay on 30th where a yellow-legged bird present on 17th and 20th (DMT). A juvenile flew W. at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (KR).

Sandwich Tern

313 were at the Tyne Estuary on 5th (AH), 100 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd when 200 at Hauxley Pool (AGH) and 200 at Longhoughton Steel on 16th (IK). Heavy tern passage of up to 1,400 per hour at Seaton Sluice on 13th/14th involved about 40% Sandwich (MHP).

Roseate Tern

At Tynemouth three on 3rd rose to a peak of eight on 16th (including the first three juveniles) (CB). Between 2nd-21st one-four were at St. Mary's Island, Cresswell, Hauxley, Newton Point and Budle Bay.

'Commic' Tern

100 were at Alnmouth on 13th (CDH), and 400 at Budle Point on 19th (CK). Steady N. passage was noted at St. Mary's Island on 24th (MSH). On the River Tyne two were at Scotswood on 12th (BNR) and one E. at Newburn on 26th (MR).

Common Tern

About 400 were in the Tynemouth area on 3rd (CB) when 50 at Cresswell Pond and 60-70 at Hauxley Pool (AGH). 64 were at the Long Nanny on 17th (RKS). Up to 12 were noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond where two young have been reared this summer (IF). Groups of three-four flew W. at Newcastle Quayside on three dates (IK) and singles were at Seaton Burn and Holywell on 4th.

Arctic Tern

210 were at Holy Island on 3rd (JDL) when 29 were at Tynemouth (CB).

Little Tern

On 2nd four were at Embleton Bay (RKS) and one S. at Hauxley (HRS). One was at Alnmouth on 13th (CDH).

Black Tern

One flew S. at Hauxley and Druridge on 2nd (JRT/KH). One was at Cresswell on 14th, two flew S. at Tynemouth on 17th (CB) and two N. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (KR). Singles were at Killingworth Lake on 26th (GPB) and Wallsend Swallow Pond (AJ), Holywell (ASJ) and Cresswell Pond (MN) on 27th when one N. at St. Mary's Island (KDS). Between 28th-31st one-three were in the St. Mary's Island area (SY et al).

Guillemot

About 20-30 off Snab Point on 10th included a good number of juveniles (MSH). Two juveniles were at St. Mary's Island on 21st (CDH).

Razorbill

Seven were off St. Mary's Island on 12th (IF).

Black Guillemot

One flew N. at Annstead Point on 8th (CK).

Puffin

About 12 were seen on the boat-trip out of Tynemouth on 23rd (CB).

Stock Dove

Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th (CDH).

Woodpigeon

One was nest-building at Alnmouth Common on 31st (MSH).

Collared Dove

At E. Brunton 205 on 2nd increased to about 300 by 18th (AHB/APM).

Turtle Dove

One was at Radcliffe on 28th (HRS).

Cuckoo

On 2nd singles were at St. Mary's Island and Hauxley (KR/HRS), two were at Hadston on 9th (KDS/MHp), and further singles at Wallsend Swallow Pond 13th (LH), near Greenhaugh on 23rd (JMA), Caistron on 25th (MR) and Prior's Park on 26th (PPRS).

Barn Owl

Successful breeding was noted at Druridge and Newlands (ASJ/TO). One was at Pawston on 3rd (WAK).

Little Owl

A pair reared two young at Druridge (ASJ). One was at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Tawny Owl

One was over the dunes at Hauxley at 2345 hrs on 23rd (HRS).

Short-eared Owl

Singles were at St. Mary's Island on 9th and 19th (ISD/JRT) and Newton on 17th and 30th (JP/RKS).

Swift

Birds remained in several areas early in the month with numbers declining thereafter. S. passage was noted at Hauxley and Hadston on 1st/2nd (HRS/KH). After 25th one-nine were seen in five areas although 20 flew E. at St. Mary's Island on 27th (KR).

Kingfisher

A pair were feeding young at Mitford on 5th (ASJ). Singles were at Wylam, Beltingham, Caistron, Hulne Park, Alnmouth, Coquet Estuary, Jesmond Dene and Seaton Burn during the month.

Wryneck

Three were at Prior's Park on 26th and two on 27th (PPRS). Five were on Holy Island on 27th with two still present on 31st (TMM/MHp et al). Two were at Hauxley on 27th/28th (HRS) and singles at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 27th (KR), Bamburgh on 28th (BRS) and Hadston on 31st (MJS).

Green Woodpecker

Three were at Lemington on 24th (JS). Singles were also noted at Ordley, Linnels, Ladycross and Grasslees Burn.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Singles noted at W. Woodburn, Lesbury, Prestwick Carr, and Kielder. On the coast singles were at Prior's Park on 20th (AH) and Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Sand Martin

20 were near the colony at Seahouses on 8th (MLC). Two-ten were noted at Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Bothal.

Swallow

S. passage was noted at Hauxley on 9th where a further 200 S. on 31st (HRS). 200 were at Caistrone on 17th (MR) and 100 at Seaton Burn on 27th although the regular roost has not formed there this autumn (AJJ).

House Martin

Three pairs were feeding young in North Shields town centre (ASJ). 60 were at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Meadow Pipit

Birds were moving off the fells at Derwent Reservoir from 16th (MD). 30 were at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Yellow Wagtail

One was still inland at Carrshield on 3rd (BNR). On the coast the largest gatherings were 20 at Hauxley on 9th (HRS) and 10-12 at Cresswell Pond and Wallsend Swallow Pond (IF/KWY). One-eight were in seven other localities.

Grey Wagtail

A family party was at Lesbury between 6th-11th (JMA). On the coast singles were at Hauxley on 17th and 31st (HRS) and Hadston on 23rd (JRT).

Pied Wagtail

21 at Hauxley on 13th was the largest gathering (HRS).

Dunnock

19 were ringed at Hauxley during the month (HRS).

Redstart

Singles were in six inland localities up to 11th. Ten were at Prior's Park and Hauxley on 27th (PPRS/HRS) and one-two at seven other coastal localities between 27th-31st.

Whinchat

One-two were inland at Ordley and Hexhamshire on 6th and 10th (BNR) and a family party of four still at Otterburn on 24th (J&MH). Six were at Prior's Park on 26th-27th (PPRS) and 15 at Hadston on 30th (HRS).

Wheatear

Inland four were at Upper Coquetdale on 24th (LJM) and one at Alnwick Moor on 29th (JMA). Small numbers were on the coast early in the month but an influx from 26th brought 15 to Whitley Bay Cemetery (KDS), 30 at Prior's Park on 27th (PPRS) when 14 on Holy Island (MHp) and ten at Blyth Cemetery (MSH) and 40 at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Song Thrush

An influx of 30-40 noted at Prior's Park on 27th (CB).

Redwing

Two were at Prudhoe on 13th (BNR).

Mistle Thrush

Large post-breeding flocks included 26 at Caistrone on 17th (MR), 28 at Reedsford on 2nd, 70 at Howtel on 19th (APM) and 30 at E. Woodburn on 23rd (J&MH).

Grasshopper Warbler

Singles were at Hadston on 3rd (MJS), Seaton Burn on 9th and 15th (AJJ) and Warkworth Gut on 10th (JEF).

Sedge Warbler

Small numbers moved through Hauxley during the month with a maximum of 12 on 23rd (HRS). One-three noted in five other localities.

Reed Warbler

Four were trapped at Hauxley between 27th-31st (HRS) when up to three were at Prior's Park (PPRS).

Barred Warbler

Singles were at Budle Bay between 19th-21st (CK) and Prior's Park on 26th (KDS).

Lesser Whitethroat

Singles were at Horton between 9th-23rd (LJM), Arcot on 6th (DRS), W. Fleetham on 20th (GB) and Caistron on 24th (MR). On the coast one was at Hauxley on 8th, two on 14th and further singles on 28th and 30th (HRS). One-two were at Prior's Park, and singles at Tynemouth Park and Holywell Dene between 26th-29th.

Whitethroat

One-two noted in six coastal localities during the month.

Garden Warbler

Small numbers were at Seaton Burn, Prior's Park and Hauxley early in the month. From 27th an influx brought 20 to Prior's Park (PPRS), ten on Holy Island and Hauxley (MR/HRS) and one-five in five other coastal localities.

Blackcap

Singles were at Hauxley on four dates up to 17th. Between 27th-31st one-two were at Holy Island, Bamburgh and Hauxley.

Greenish Warbler

Singles were trapped at Prior's Park on 27th (PPRS) and Hauxley between 28th-31st (HRS). These will be the 12th-13th records for the county.

Wood Warbler

Coastal migrants involved two at Prior's Park on 8th and one on 9th (AH) and another on Holy Island on 27th (MR/MHp).

Chiffchaff

Two were on Holy Island on 27th (TMM/MHp).

Willow Warbler

Light passage noted in several areas early in the month with a maximum of 36 at Hauxley on 9th (HRS) and 40 at Prior's Park on 18th (PPRS). Between 26th-31st an influx along the coast brought about 60 to Hauxley (HRS) and 3-15 to five other localities.

Spotted Flycatcher

Several family parties noted during the month. Between 18th-31st one-three were on the coast at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley and Tynemouth.

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Singles were at Prior's Park on 26th (PPRS) and Cresswell on 28th (WO).

Pied Flycatcher

Between 14th-17th one-two were at Hauxley and Prior's Park. On the 27th/28th up to 40 were at Hauxley (HRS), 30 at Prior's Park (PPRS), 15 at Holy Island (MR) and 14 at Bamburgh (BRS). Between 27th-31st one-ten were also noted in eight other coastal localities.



Willow Tit

Successful breeding was noted at Spindlestone (CK). Up to six were at Seaton Burn (ES/AJJ) and more unusual one-two at Hauxley on 23rd/24th (HRS).

Coal Tit

One was at Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Blue Tit

A leucistic bird was trapped at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).

Nuthatch

Singles were at Matfen and Linnels on 8th/9th (RW/BNR).

Red-backed Shrike

Probably two present at Prior's Park on 26th (PPRS), two on Holy Island on 27th (MR) and singles at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 27th/28th (KR/JEF), Cresswell on 27th (DY/SY) and Bamburgh between 28th-30th (BRS).

Carriion Crow

'Many' were noted at Prestwick Carr between 29th-31st (MRS).

Starling

800 were at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

House Sparrow

250 roosted at Horton during the month (LJM).

Tree Sparrow

17 trapped at Hauxley between 1st-17th indicated light passage (HRS).

Chaffinch

200 were at Corbridge on 3rd (DP).

Greenfinch

150 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (ES/DRS) and 200 at Seaton Delaval on 28th (MLC/TAC).

Goldfinch

Several family parties were noted at Matfen (RW). 15 were at Ordley on 1st (BNR) and 12 at Tynemouth on 25th (ES).

Linnet

Flocks of 100 were at Ordley on 8th and Newton on 16th (BNR/IK) and 500 at Seaton Delaval on 27th (MLC).

Crossbill

One was at Caistron on 3rd (MR) and two at Ordley on 6th (BNR).

Bullfinch

A family party was at Linnels on 9th (BNR).

Corn Bunting

One-two were at Boulmer and the Long Nanny.

Please send all September records, in Voous order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX - by 8th October, 1986 at the latest.



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A.G. Hetherington	J. Patrick	Hauxley Ringing Station
A.J. Hewitt	J. Pattinson	Prior's Park Ringing Station

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Thursday 9th October 1986

The club's A.G.M. will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. on 9th October 1986. It is important that as many members as possible attend the A.G.M. After the formal business and election of the new committee our mystery speaker (whoever he may be ?) will give a talk on either a desert in the Middle East or a jungle in West Africa !

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1986/87

Subscriptions are due on 1st October 1986. The new rates for 1986/87 are as follows:-

Ordinary £11.00  
 Family £12.00  
 Junior £ 5.00

Please consider convenanting your subscription this year and help the club's finances.

GEOFF MACFARLANE MEMORIAL LECTURE - 20th October, 1986

This memorial lecture will be given by Dr. Peter Lack, of the B.T.O., on the Winter Atlas Project in the Physics Building at Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. - Tickets, price £2.00 for adults, £1.50 for O.A.P.'s, unemployed persons and those under 16, are available from the R.S.P.B. office in Newcastle, the Hancock Museum, the Durham and Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club meetings or direct from John Day, 2 Grange Avenue, Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE12 9PN.

Please give your support to this event and buy your tickets now.

SYNCHRONISED SEA-WATCH

We are trying to organise a sea-watch which club members can participate on 8th November. If you are interested please contact Colin Bradshaw or Ken Shaw. It is hoped that coverage can be arranged from Tynemouth to Holy Island.

BLACK GROUSE IN NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

There is good evidence from studies in the Peak District and in Deeside in Scotland that the Black Grouse is a generally declining species. Even in its more stable areas, very large fluctuations can take place in population levels from year to year. The research projects on the species in other parts of the country may also tell us more about their habitat requirements.

The status of the Black Grouse in North-East England is uncertain but in some areas a decline has also been reported. The time is right, now, to determine its status and preferred habitat in this area and then to advise landowners on how they can encourage this species. To this effect a Black Grouse Study Steering Group has been formed whose first task will be to initiate a survey of Northumberland and Durham. The initial members of the group are Sandy Bankier, Brian Bates, Bryan Galloway, Peter Garson, Mike Hodgson, Colin Jewitt, Nick Rossiter and Ken Shaw.

The steering group wishes to acquire all past information on leks up to and including the 1986 breeding season. Sightings of individual birds or groups away from leks are also of interest. Please send details as soon as possible and by October 31st at the latest to Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX (tel. Slaley 509).

CLUB SOCIAL - Friday 28th November, 1986 - 7.30 pm - Midnight

Following last year's most enjoyable social evening in Tynemouth, we are this year holding one in Jesmond at the Grosvenor Hotel, Grosvenor Road, which is just a few minutes walk from the West Jesmond Metro Station. There is a little more room this year so please bring your friends and help to make the evening a success.

Music and a Buffet are included in the price at £3.50 and the room has it's own bar which is open until 11.30 p.m. Tickets from Muriel Cadwallender, 32 Manners Gardens, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0DW. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

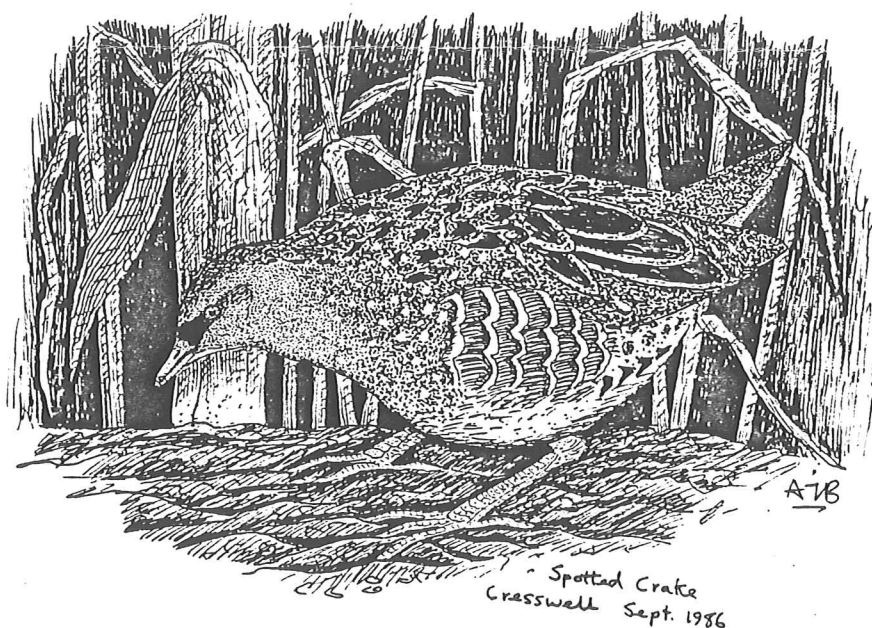


# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 1986

Temperatures during September were a little below average although the last few days of the month were warm. A very dry period with the lack of rainy days breaking several records for the time of year. Tynemouth for example had the least number of September rain days since records began in 1930. The large amount of sunshine also broke records at several weather stations. Winds were mainly light and predominately from the west. Strong gusts of over 40 knots were recorded on 3rd and 21st.

Despite some good numbers of Fulmars, Gannets and Kittiwakes sea-watching was relatively poor with only small movements of skuas and shearwaters. Highlights, however included one, if not two Long-tailed Skuas on 12th and a Great Shearwater on 17th. Two more Storm Petrels were trapped at Hauxley on 12th. A Bittern surprised one observer in Gosforth Park on 28th. Duck numbers began to build up as usual, with some large concentrations of Mallard. Geese also become conspicuous on passage with Pink-feet, White-fronted, Barnacles and Brent all being reported. A Common Buzzard arrived from the E. at St. Mary's Island on 28th when a Rough-legged Buzzard was near Earsdon. Cresswell Pond attracted many observers with a chance to see a Spotted Crake which remained between 14th-30th.



Spotted Crake  
Cresswell Sept. 1986

Passage waders began to decline in numbers as the month progressed. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Druridge Pool from 22nd delighted many people as it kept company with a Little Stint. Another highlight was 'our' Laughing Gull returning to the Newcastle area for the fourth winter. Amongst the passerines many summer visitors had moved out but incoming winter visitors were represented by only single Fieldfare, Redwing, Snow Bunting and two Bramblings! A Wood Warbler at Tynemouth on 10th was an interesting record. Hauxley produced a female or immature Scarlet Rosefinch on 15th but it was not seen subsequently. A small influx on 26th/27th brought a total of five Yellow-browed Warblers to three localities on the coast.

Other interesting species included Garganey, Hen Harrier, Goshawk, Quail, Little Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, Mediterranean Gulls, Wrynecks and a Raven.

Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

Numbers in Druridge Bay increased from 13 on 13th to a maximum of 38 on 26th (DY/SY et al). At St. Mary's Island between 9th-24th a total of 36 flew N. and 19 S. (AJB). One-six also noted in seven other coastal localities.

Black-throated Diver

Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 14th (KR/PWD).

Little Grebe

Further indications of breeding were an adult and juvenile at Throckley Pond on 11th (RGW) and a family party (three young) at Hartburn on 14th (TAC/MLC). A maximum of 18 was at Holywell Pond on 14th (MA/KH) and 11 at Bothal Pond on 13th (JRT/KWY). One-seven were on nine other waters.

Great Crested Grebe

Successful breeding now confirmed at Arcot Pond (two young) despite attempted predation of nest by Great Black-backed Gull (LJM). Birds with young were still present at Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month (AJJ/PMc). One-two were at Holywell, Druridge Pool, Hartburn and Whittle Dene. One flew N. at Holy Island on 7th (JDL/DPa).

Red-necked Grebe

A juvenile was off Hadston on 9th (MJS). Two in Druridge Bay on 26th (DY/SY) and at Holy Island on 27th (MA/ES et al).

Slavonian Grebe

One flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 24th (AJB).

Black-necked Grebe

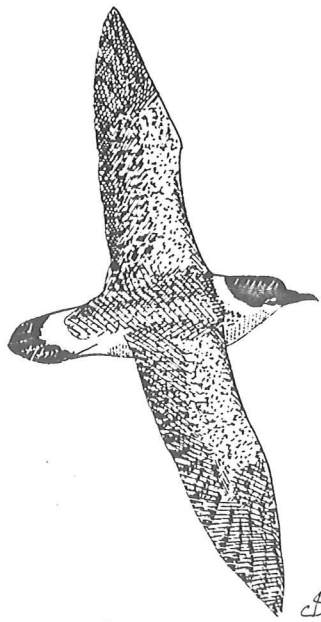
Two full grown young were still at the breeding site on 2nd.

Fulmar

N. passage included 900 per hour at Hauxley on 10th (HRS), 1,200 per hour at Tynemouth on 12th (CB) when 500 off St. Mary's Island (LH) and 300 per hour at Seaton Sluice on 18th (MHP).

Great Shearwater

One flew N. at Cullercoats on 17th (LH).



Gr. Shearwater

Cullercoats

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Sooty Shearwater

During a total of nine hours sea-watching at Seaton Sluice up to 18th a total of 31 flew N. with a maximum of 12 on 8th (MHp). One-seven were noted at Tynemouth, St. Mary's Island, Newbiggin, Cresswell, Hauxley and Stag Rocks on seven dates up to 27th.

Manx Shearwater

A total of 30 flew N. in nine hours sea-watching at Seaton Sluice up to 18th (MHp). 19 flew N. and three S. at St. Mary's Island between 3rd-16th (AJB) and three-four flew N. at Hauxley on 6th/10th (HRS).

Storm Petrel

A further two were trapped at Hauxley on 12th (HRS).

Gannet

Heavy N. passage included 620 at Seaton Sluice on 19th (MHp) when 560 per hour at Holy Island (IK), where 415 passed in 25 minutes on 14th (JDL) and 300 per hour at Cullercoats on 17th where 300 had moved S. on 4th (LH). Fishing parties included 190 off the River Tweed on 3rd (JDL), up to 100 off Bamburgh (KR) and 20-50 at Druridge Bay and Ross Back Sands.

Cormorant

71 were at Blyth harbour on 18th, 26 at the Tyne Estuary on 7th (DMT) and 36 at Dunstanburgh on 20th (JP). Singles were noted inland at Seaton Burn and Derwent Reservoir.

Shag

20 flew N. at Hauxley on 20th and 21st (HRS).

Bittern

A single was at Gosforth Park on 28th (DHWB).

Grey Heron

The largest gatherings were 14 at Alnmouth on 20th (DRS/MBS) and 11 near Amble on 21st (MLC/TAC). Nine were at Holywell on 7th (ISD) and eight near Old Hartley on 25th (RHA). One-seven were seen in a further 17 widespread localities.

Mute Swan

309 were at Berwick harbour on 3rd (JDL). The family party at Killingworth remained all month (LJM) and another family of eight were at Bolam (MLC). Two-ten were also at eight other localities.

Pink-footed Goose

One was at Holy Island lough between 20th-27th (JRT/KWY). Six flew N. at Newton Pool on 22nd (ISD), and on 23rd skeins of 150-200 flew S. at Druridge and 30 S. at Cresswell (IF/ASJ/KIB). A single was at Cresswell on 30th (FH).

White-fronted Goose

Two flew S. at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Grey Lag Goose

29 were at Caistron on 27th (JP) when 26 were at Colt Crag (RW). 10-15 were also at Budle Bay, Rayburn Lake and Holywell Pond.

'Grey' Goose (Sp)

110 flying S. off Warkworth on 23rd may have been Pink-feet (PWW).

Snow Goose

Two 'feral' birds still being seen at Capheaton and Hallington.



Canada Goose

90 were at Capheaton on 4th (ASJ), 42 near Whittle Dene on 11th (FC) and 84 at Hallington on 14th (RW). 12 flew N. at Druridge Pool on 23rd (AIB/GB).

Barnacle Goose

On 24th 65-70 flying in Druridge Bay eventually moved W. (ADMc). On 27th 80 went S. at Hauxley (HRS), 60 S. at Stag Rocks (BRS), 47 moved into Budle Bay (CK/MA), and seven flew N.W. at Holy Island (DPa). Movement continued on the following day with 55 S. and 42 N. at Seaton Sluice, 38 N. and 62 S. at St. Mary's Island (KR/PWD/IC), 85 S. at Amble (FC) and perhaps part of this flock, 65-70 strong moving W. over Cresswell Pond (ADMc). 40 also flew over Howtel (JMA). On 29th a total of 53 flew S. at Fenham Flats (ISD). Birds were also heard moving over North Shields at 00.30 hrs on 25th (SY).

Brent Goose

Records of pale-bellied birds included seven S. at Hauxley on 6th (HRS), two at Cresswell village on 23rd (KIB) and 17 N. there on 24th (WAK). A single bird was at Newton Point on 7th and a dark-bellied bird arrived from the E. at Holy Island on 28th (IK).

Shelduck

29 were in Budle Bay on 21st (RKS). Six flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 4th (AJB). Inland one at Pretwick Carr on 1st increased to four on 8th (AGH/AIB). One also remained at Wallsend Swallow Pond for most of the month.

Wigeon

214 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on 14th (PH) and 120 at Budle Bay on 22nd (ISD). 30 were noted at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pool, Swinhoe Lake and Holborn Moss with much smaller numbers at several other waters. N. passage offshore included 130 in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 10th (MHp), where 173 passed on 14th (KR) when 100 noted at Hauxley (HRS). 175 moved N. at St. Mary's Island on 15th (AJB).

Gadwall

One was at Cresswell Pond on 19th (JECM/JM).

Teal

120 at Caistron on 6th increased to 270 by 28th (MR). Other large gatherings included 450 at Holburn Moss on 27th, 88 at Newton Pool on 28th (ISD), and 50-60 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn, Gosforth Park, and the Northumbrian Loughs. Smaller gatherings were on about ten other waters. A total of 225 flew N. at St. Mary's Island between 3rd-15th (AJB), 135 N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (MHp) where 62 N. on 14th (KR).

Mallard

Some very large concentrations during the month. At Caistron numbers peaked at 1,000 on 14th (MR). A maximum of 450 was at Seaton Burn on 24th (AJJ), 300 at Corbridge on the 7th, 280 at Pawston Lake on 26th and 250 at Budle Bay on 22nd (ISD) and Hartburn on 14th (MLC). 100-130 were also noted at Holywell Pond, Lilburn Pond, Northumbrian Loughs, Derwent Reservoir, Colt Crag, Holborn Moss and Newton Pool.

Pintail

One-three were noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn, Prestwick Carr, Hartburn, Caistron, Cresswell, Hauxley, Budle Bay and Holy Island during the month.

Garganey

One was at Cresswell Pond on 7th (MA/KH et al).

Shoveler

32 were at Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ). A maximum of 30 was at Cresswell Pond on 6th when 25 were at Druridge Pool (AJR). Two-nine on seven other waters.

Pochard

At Seaton Burn 13 on 3rd increased to 155 on 30th (AJJ/GB). 53 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on 14th (PH) and 20 at Cresswell Pond on 29th (MLC).

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 88 at Cresswell Pond on 27th (KWY/JRT), 85 at Sweethope Lough on 13th (AJR) when 73 at Whittle Dene (MR). 10-40 were on nine other waters.

Scaup

Singles were at Hadston Lake between 6th-10th (JRT et al), Cresswell Pond on 17th and 27th (ADMc/KWY) and Hauxley Pool between 25th-29th (HRS).

Eider

900 were at Holy Island on 14th (JDL) and 100-200 off Stag Rocks, Craster and Hauxley.

Common Scoter

A maximum of 71 was at Druridge Bay on 3rd (AJB). A total of 55 flew N. at Seaton Sluice in nine hours sea-watching up to 18th (MHp) and 37 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 12th (AJB).

Velvet Scoter

Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice and Annstead on 14th (KR/BRS). One flew N. at Druridge Bay on 26th (DY/SY).

Goldeneye

Singles were at Druridge Pool on 25th (AJR) and Hauxley on 28th/30th (HRS).

Red-breasted Merganser

Five were at Holy Island on 27th (ES/WTL).

Goosander

43 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on 14th (PH) when 20 were at Caistron (MR). 13 were at Lesbury on 28th (JMA) and ten at the Derwent Reservoir on 5th (CJ). Two-seven were also at Mitford, Kimmer Lough, Black Lough and Pawston Lake. One flew N. at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

Hen Harrier

A male was near Derwent Reservoir on 20th (KR).

Goshawk

One moved S. over Chapel House Estate, Newcastle in the early morning of 12th (MH).

Sparrowhawk

One-three were seen in 24 widespread localities including one flushed from a Magpie 'kill' at Craster on 7th.

Buzzard

One was at Hulne Park on 20th (JEF). Two moved E. over Hexhamshire Common on the same day and one was present here on 26th (BNR/CJ). One arrived from the E. at St. Mary's Island on 28th (SY) when another was at Seaton Burn (per AJJ).

Rough-legged Buzzard

One was watched between Earsdon-Holywell on 28th (DA).



Kestrel

One-five were noted in about 13 widespread localities.

Merlin

One-two were seen in about six coastal localities and others were noted in nine inland areas.

Peregrine

Singles were on the coast at Budle Bay on 2nd (ASJ), Holy Island on 27th (MA/KH) and Druridge Pool on 4th where the bird attempted to take a juvenile Coot from the water ! (ISD). Inland singles were noted at four localities.

Black Grouse

One-two still present at Threestoneburn all month (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

Two were at Caistron on 6th (MR).

Grey Partridge

Large coveys included 41 at Backworth on 12th (GPB), 22 at St. Mary's Island on 24th (IDM) and 20 at Holywell on 27th (JRT/KWY). Others of 3-14 noted at six other localities.

Quail

One was flushed by a Combine Harvester near Belsay on 20th (JSt).

Water Rail

One was at Seaton Burn on 10th (MJS) and one-three seen and heard at Gosforth Park and Newton Pool on several dates after 13th (MRS/ISD).

Spotted Crake

An unidentified crake seen briefly at Cresswell Pond on 6th was probably the Spotted Crake which was seen regularly between 14th-30th (ADM et al).

Moorhen

A maximum of 37 was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (AJB).

Coot

The largest gatherings were 290 at Capheaton on 2nd (RW), 210 at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJJ) and 172 at Holywell Pond on 28th (IC). 25-78 noted on five other waters.

WADER COUNT 21st September, 1986

Budle Point-Seahouses (APM), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/DRS), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/EC/MRS), Newbiggin-Cambois (KDS/MHp), Blyth Estuary (LJM), St. Mary's Island (IDM).

Very good coverage achieved in this 'priority' month.

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,198 noted during the wader count. 178 were at Cresswell Pond on 27th (JRT/KWY) and 60 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS). One was still inland at Corbridge on 11th (MR).

Little Ringed Plover

A juvenile was at Bondicarr on 11th (HRS).

Ringed Plover

A total of 133 noted during the wader count. 50 were at Hauxley on 13th (HRS). Further inland one-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Prestwick Carr (LH/AIB) and heard calling in thick fog over Ladycross on 23rd (CJ).

Golden Plover

1,000 in the Hauxley area on 6th increased to about 5,000 by 27th (HRS). The St. Mary's Island flock held a maximum of 1,500 on 1st (BG et al). About 1,500 were near Boulmer on 20th (ES) and 700-750 were also seen at Holy Island and Newton Pool (JDL/ISD). Inland 200 were at Castron on 20th (MR), when ten at Hallington (BNR). 22 flew S.W. at Ladycross on 29th(CJ).

Grey Plover

A total of only 15 noted during the wader count. Up to 360 were in the Holy Island /Ross area on 7th and 13th (JDL/MH).

Lapwing

The largest gatherings were 550 at Castron on 14th increasing to 950 by 20th (MR), 500 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS), and 100-300 at Holy Island, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Prestwick Carr, Hexham and Hallington.

Knot

A total of 90 noted during the wader count. In addition 175 were at Holy Island on 27th (DPa) and 50-60 at Cresswell Pond on 14th (BG).

Sanderling

A total of 23 noted during the wader count were all at St. Mary's Island. 148 were at Holy Island on 6th (JDL), 50 at Ross on 16th (ISD) and up to 26 at Hauxley.

Little Stint.

Singles were at Holywell Pond on 1st (LH), Cresswell on 6th/7th (ADMc), Holy Island on 7th (JDL) and Druridge Pool between 22nd-26th (DS et al).

Temminck's Stint

One was at Warkworth on 8th (FH).

Curlew Sandpiper

Three were at Prestwick Carr on 1st/2nd (AGH/MH), one-two at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 2nd-8th (LH/MRS), two at Cresswell on 7th and 25th (KWR/AJB), and at Holy Island on 6th (JDL) and a single at Boulmer on 20th (ES).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 156 noted during the wader count.

Dunlin

A very small total of only 149 noted during the wader count. 435 were at Holy Island on 7th (JDL), 80 at Ross on 16th (ISD) and 35 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS). One-three were inland at Castron, Prestwick Carr and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One was found in the company of a Little Stint and Redshank at Druridge Pool on 22nd and remained until at least 24th (DS/TJT/GPB et al). Any later dates would be appreciated. On 28th it was reported at Cresswell Pond. This will be the ninth county record, the last being at Holy Island on 19th September, 1985.

Ruff

The large gathering at Prestwick Carr reported last month decreased to 85 by 3rd, numbers gradually declining until all had departed by 14th (IK/AGH et al). Birds were present all month at Wallsend Swallow Pond with a peak of 15-20 present

between 20th-30th (LH/ES et al). A maximum of 12 at Hauxley on 21st (ISD). One-eight were also noted at Holy Island, Druridge Pool, Cresswell and St. Mary's Island.

#### Snipe

The largest counts involved 64 at Seaton Burn on 14th (AJJ), 50 at Cresswell Pond on 24th, up to 40 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (LH), and 42 at Prestwick Carr on 1st (AGH). Two flew high to S. at Tynemouth on 26th (CB). Inland 12 were at Caistron on 27th (JP).

#### Woodcock

One flew S. over Tynemouth on 26th (CB).

#### Black-tailed Godwit

Three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond from 3rd-16th, two remaining until 21st and one to the end of the month (LH/MRS et al). Three were at Budle Bay on 27th/28th (CK). One-three were also noted at Holy Island, Hauxley, Hadston, Cresswell, and St. Mary's Island on several dates.

#### Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of only 11 noted during the wader count. 1,150 were at Holy Island on 6th (JDL) and one-nine also seen at St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley.

#### Whimbrel

One-seven noted at Hauxley, Holy Island and St. Mary's Island up to 18th.

#### Curlew

A total of 390 noted during the wader count. 350-400 were at Budle Bay on 22nd (ISD), 140 at Black Low on 6th (JDL), 40 flew N. at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS) and 44 at St. Mary's Island on 8th (IC).

#### Spotted Redshank

Birds were present all month at Wallsend Swallow Pond with a maximum of ten on 3rd (LH/JS et al), and three still present on 30th. One-two were also at Holy Island, Hauxley, Druridge, Cresswell, Backworth and Prestwick Carr during the month.

#### Redshank

A total of 932 noted during the wader count. In addition 305 were at Black Low on 6th (JDL), 260 at Budle Bay on 28th (RKS), 150 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS) and 148 at Cresswell Pond on 13th (JRT/KWY).

#### Greenshank

Ten at Black Low/Beal Sands on 6th was the largest gathering (JDL). A maximum of six was at Prestwick Carr on 8th (AIB/MRS et al) when four at Druridge Pool (LJM), and up to three at Wallsend Swallow Pond (LH). One-three were also noted at Backworth, Seaton Burn, Cresswell, and Hauxley. Further inland two were at Caistron on 6th (MR).

#### Green Sandpiper

One-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond throughout the month (LH/GCP et al) and at Newton Pool between 19th-22nd (ISD). Three were on a farm pond near Belsay between 20th-24th (JSt). Another was at Prestwick Carr on 6th (MRS).

#### Wood Sandpiper

One was at Prestwick Carr on 1st and two on 8th (AGH/AIB). Two-three were still at Druridge Pool on 3rd (AJB) and another at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th (PWD/KR).

Common Sandpiper

Inland singles were at Caistron on 6th, Ovington on 11th and Whittle Dene on 13th (MR/BNR). One-three were at Newton Pool, Arcot, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Tynemouth and Hauxley with the last this month at the latter locality on 26th.

Turnstone

A total of 939 noted during the wader count when 70 were at Hauxley (HRS).

Pomarine Skua

At St. Mary's Island one flew N. on 3rd, three N. on 10th, four N. on 11th, two S. on 12th, one S. on 13th and 15th and one N. on 17th (AJB/KDS/KWR). Two moved N. at Hauxley on 10th (HRS), one in Budle Bay on 14th (CK), one N. at Newbiggin on 17th (FH) and Stag Rocks on 21st (TAC). Between 24th-26th two flew N. at Tynemouth one S. at Cresswell and a party of five N. at Druridge (CB/DY/SY).

Arctic Skua

The heaviest passage involved 25 N. and five S. at St. Mary's Island on 10th where nine N. and 15 S. on 12th(AJB). Much smaller numbers were seen in a further eight coastal localities during the month.

Long-tailed Skua

One, possible two, moved N. at St. Mary's Island on 12th (KWR).

Great Skua

Two flew N. at Newbiggin on 3rd (FH) when 14 S. at St. Mary's Island where a further three N. and two S. between 4th-15th (AJB). Singles moved N. at Druridge, Cresswell, Newton and Seaton Sluice between 7th-19th.

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult was still at Craster on 20th/21st (RKS). Another adult was at North Shields Fish Quay on 7th (DMT).

Laughing Gull

The Newcastle bird returned, hopefully to stay for its fourth winter, being seen on Dame Allen's School field, Fenham on 25th (MH).

Little Gull

An adult was at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 8th-29th (LH et al). At St. Mary's Island an adult flew N. on 10th and a first year S. and second year N. on 15th (AJB/DY/SY). Other singles included immatures at Hadston Lake on 5th (HRS), Long Nanny on 12th (ASJ), Cresswell on 13th (RD), a second year at North Shields on 14th (DMT) and an adult S. at Tynemouth on 17th (CB).

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts included 3,500 at Scotswood on 19th, 3,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th, 3,400 at Colt Crag on 27th and a huge 12,000 at Hallington on 20th. The latter appears to be the largest inland roost recorded, for this species, in the county (BNR). About 1,000 were feeding at flood-water at Prestwick Carr on 7th (BG) and 800 were at Budle Bay on 27th (BRS).

Common Gull

1,500 roosted at Hallington on 20th, 1,100 at Sweethope on 22nd, 12,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th and 18,000 at Colt Crag on 27th (BNR). 300 roosted at Caistron on 14th (MR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

130 arrived from the N.E.-E. at Caistron on 6th although numbers here declined to 87 by 20th (MR). Also on 6th 90 were at the Long Nanny (JCD). 80 at Budle Bay on

20th included two showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race (JRT/KWY). One-four were noted in five other localities.

#### Herring Gull

210 roosted at Scotswood on 19th and 200 at Hallington on 20th (BNR). 300 were at the Tyne Estuary on 15th (DMT). An adult at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th showed the characteristics of the Scandinavian race (PWD).

#### Glaucous Gull

A first-year bird at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd/5th (DMT) may have been the same bird that visited Holywell Pond on 9th and 28th (AJB/DA).

#### Great Black-backed Gull

16 roosted at Scotswood on 19th (BNR). 195 were at Blyth harbour on 28th (LJM) and 186 at the Tyne Estuary on 13th (DMT).

#### Kittiwake

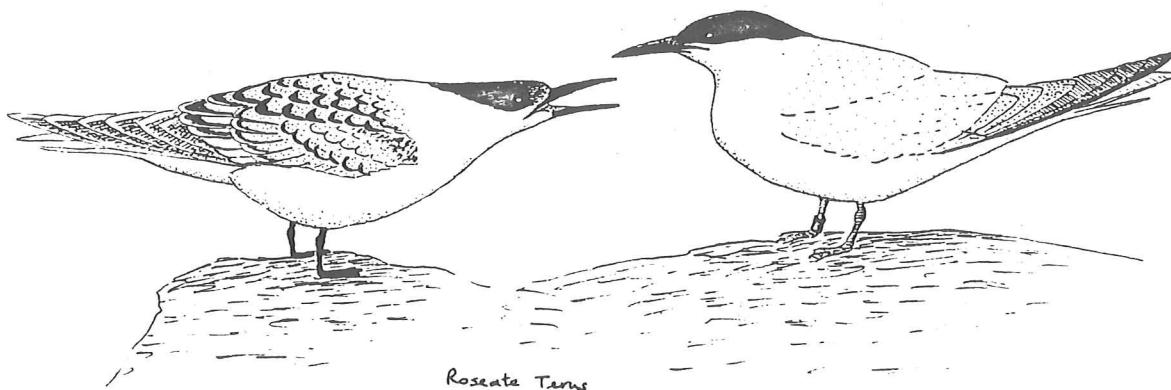
N. passage included 100 per hour at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS), 800 per hour at Cullercoats on 17th (LH) and 1,000 per hour at Seaton Sluice early on 18th when about 2,000 were in Blyth Bay (MHp). 87 were at North Shields on 16th (DMT). Inland one was at the gull roost at Hallington on 20th (BNR).

#### Sandwich Tern

398 were at Berwick on 3rd (JDL). Steady S. passage was noted at Hauxley on 13th and Boulmer on 28th (HRS/BG).

#### Roseate Tern

At least eight (three juveniles) were at St. Mary's Island on 11th where two present on 13th (AJB). An adult was at Tynemouth haven on 14th (GB) and an adult with a juvenile at Blyth harbour on 18th (DMT).



Roseate Terns  
St. Mary's Island Sept. 1986 AJS

#### 'Commic' Tern

40 were at St. Mary's Island on 20th (IDM).

#### Common Tern

Numbers dwindling rapidly during the month. About ten were in Blyth harbour on 19th (MSH), an adult feeding two juveniles at Tynemouth haven on 24th (SY), and one at St. Mary's Island on 28th/29th (KR/RW).

#### Little Tern

One was at Tynemouth on 28th (DA).

#### Auks (Sp)

50-55 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th and 18th (MHp).

Guillemot

About 15 were off Cresswell on 14th (TAC) and eight at Holy Island (JDL).

Razorbill

Singles were at Druridge Bay on 20th and Holy Island on 27th (MA).

Little Auk

Two very early reports. Two were off Seaton Sluice on 3rd and one at Stag Rocks on 21st (WAK/TAC/MLC).

Stock Dove

Two young were still in a nest-box at Slaley on 8th (CJ). One-two were noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Woodpigeon

Two young still in a nest at Gosforth Park on 7th (ISD).

Cuckoo

A juvenile was still being fed by a pair of Meadow Pipits at the Simonsides on 1st (ASJ). Another juvenile was at Cresswell on 7th/8th (ADM et al).

Barn Owl

A pair probably bred near Haltwhistle (per KIB). One was at Jesmond on 27th (per MRS).

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Wallhouses, Stamfordham and Horton.

Tawny Owl

Singles seen or heard in four localities. A road casualty was found near Charlton Mires on 14th (RD).

Short-eared Owl

One-three were present at St. Mary's Island after 15th (IC/AJB). One-two were also seen at Seaton Burn, Backworth, Hauxley, Newton and Ross Links.

Swift

One flew N. at Blyth on 3rd. On 4th one-two were at Killingworth, Mitford, Prestwick Carr and Otterburn. The last was one S. at Holywell Pond on 9th (AJB).

Kingfisher

One-two were at Castron, Corbridge, Riding Mill, Plessey Woods, Jesmond Dene and Prestwick Carr during the month.

Wryneck

One was feeding at an ant's nest in a Hexham garden on 1st (per AJR). Another was found dead at Howick Haven on 3rd (JMA).

Green Woodpecker

Singles noted at Dipton, Billsmoor and Castron.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two noted in ten widespread localities. On the coast one was at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Skylark

Light S. movement noted at Hauxley on 11th and 25th and S.W. movement inland at Ladycross on 29th/30th (HRS/CJ).



Sand Martin

20 flew S. at Hauxley on 4th (HRS) and one-two at Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond up to 7th (AJJ/KR). The last was one at Seaton Burn on 21st (BG).

Swallow

S. passage noted at Hauxley, Seaton Burn and Druridge on several dates (HRS/MRS). The largest gatherings involved 150 at Juniper and 60 at Ovington on 5th (CJ/DP) and 100 at Seaton Burn on 30th (AJJ).

House Martin

A second brood fledged near Belsay (JSt). The adults at a nest at Lesbury ejected their chicks from the nest and deserted the site on 13th (JMA). At the Cramlington colony the birds were last seen on 28th (LJM). Large gatherings included 260 at Juniper on 5th (CJ), 150 at Seaton Delaval and Seaton Burn on 6th (MLC/AJJ) and 150 at Corbridge on 15th (DP). 20-60 were in four other localities up to 28th.

Tree Pipit

Two flew S.E. over Ladycross on 10th (CJ).

Meadow Pipit

Steady S. passage noted in about nine coastal localities on several dates involved birds in flocks of up to 50. Inland 160 were at Ladycross on 2nd (CJ), several hundreds on the Simonsides on 13th (PWW) and 13-30 at three other localities.

Rock Pipit

About 20 were at St. Mary's Island on 20th (BG).

Yellow Wagtail

One was at Hauxley on 6th (HRS), three at Holy Island on 7th (JDL), and singles at Cresswell and St. Mary's Island on 20th/23rd (KIB/BG). The last were two at Warren Mill on 27th (GB).

Grey Wagtail

Eight were at Corbridge on 1st (DP), seven in Jesmond Dene on 28th (AJB) and one-three in five other localities inland. Along the coast singles flew S. at Tynemouth on four dates between 13th-26th (CB), four were at Howick on 21st (MSH) and one-two in four other areas.

Pied Wagtail

38 flew W. over Corbridge on 11th. Roosts included 40-50 at Caistron on 14th, 40 at Ordley on 9th (MR/BNR) and near Wark on 22nd (MD), 60 at Corbridge on 27th (JD) and 12 at West Denton (MH). Gatherings of 9-19 noted in several other localities.

Robin

About 12 were at Hauxley on 25th and 20 at Prior's Park on 26th (HRS/CB).

Redstart

Singles were at Jesmond on 5th (J&MH), Prestwick Carr on 6th/7th (BG) and a male, in full moult, trapped at W. Allendale on 16th (JPL). One was also at Hauxley on 27th.

Whinchat

A family party of five were still at Prestwick Carr on 6th (MRS) when 13 were at Seaton Burn (LR). One-two were at Ordley and Whittle Dene up to 14th (RGW/BNR), when five at Embleton and one at Bondicarr (RKS/HRS).

Stonechat

Singles were seen at Holy Island, Hadston and Druridge and a pair at Annstead.

Wheatear

One-six were in 12 widespread coastal localities during the month. Inland singles were still at Langlee on 14th and Calder on 21st (AMB).

Blackbird

An influx noted at Amble on 26th (EMY) when about 100 at Prior's Park (CB).

Fieldfare

The first was one at Holy Island on 27th (ES/MBS).

Redwing

One was at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Sedge Warbler

One was inland at Caistron on 6th (MR) when five at Seaton Burn reducing to one by 21st (AJJ/BG). The last were singles at Cresswell on 23rd (GB) and Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Barred Warbler

An adult and a juvenile were at Prior's Park on 26th (CB/PPRS). The adult remained until 27th and the juvenile until 28th.

Whitethroat

Singles were at Prestwick Carr on 6th (MRS), Hadston on 8th (MJS), Corbridge on 11th (MR) and Hauxley on 15th (HRS).

Garden Warbler

One-two were at Seaton Burn, Prior's Park and Hauxley between 2nd-6th.

Blackcap

One-two were still inland at Seaton Burn, Prestwick Carr, Close House, Belsay, Caistron and Matfen where five were present on 20th. Singles at Hauxley on 6th and 14th (HRS) were the only coastal records.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Two were at Prior's Park on 26th joined by a third on 27th (PPRS). Other singles were at Hauxley on 26th/27th (HRS) and Holy Island on 27th (DPa).

Wood Warbler

One was at Prior's Park on 10th (PPRS).

Chiffchaff

Inland singles were at Ordley, Jesmond Dene and Seaton Burn between 13th/17th and three at Matfen on 20th one remaining until 30th (RW). Singles were at Hauxley and Prior's Park between 20th-26th (HRS/PPRS).

Willow Warbler

On 2nd four were at Ordley (BNR) and about 20 at Matfen where a few still present on 8th (RW). Singles were also at Horton on 7th and Seaton Burn on 13th (LJM/AJJ). On the coast about ten were at Hauxley on 3rd and one-five there and at Prior's Park up 27th.

Goldcrest

One-four were at Whitley Bay Cemetery, St. Mary's Island and Hauxley between 12th-25th (HRS/AJB). At St. Mary's Island one perched on the leg of a tripod while the observer was seawatching!

Spotted Flycatcher

Inland two family parties were at Langleeford on 2nd (ASJ). Four were at Matfen on 2nd and two on 20th (RW). Along the coast one-two were seen at Prior's Park, St. Mary's Island and Hauxley up to 27th.

Pied Flycatcher

Two-three were at Prior's Park on 3rd/4th and again between 26th-29th (PPRS/CB). One-three were at Hauxley between 3rd-15th and singles on 28th/30th (HRS).

Long-tailed Tit

12 were at Sidewood on 27th (JCD).

Marsh Tit

Two were at Cresswell on 9th (RGW). Also noted at Bolam.

Willow Tit

Three-four were noted at Prestwick Carr and Spindlestone during the month.

Coal Tit

Two-three were at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Blue Tit

A maximum of 36 was at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Great Tit

About ten were at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Nuthatch

One-four were noted at Jesmond Dene, Close House, Riding Mill, Ordley, Matfen, Hexham, Bolam and Belsay.

Jay

Eight were at Gosforth Park on 24th (MRS) and five at Slaley and Ladycross (CJ).

Raven

One flew W. at Castron on 6th (MR).

Starling

'Hundreds' were feeding on flying ants at Corbridge on 25th (DP).

House Sparrow

A roost of 250 still at Horton until mid-month. Gatherings of 100-250 noted at Holywell Dene and Seaton Burn (KIB/GB).

Tree Sparrow

20 were at Seaton Burn on 14th (AJJ).

Chaffinch

80 were at Hexhamshire on 2nd (BNR).

Brambling

The first were singles at St. Mary's Island on 24th (AJB) and Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Greenfinch

100-150 feeding on stubble at Seaton Delaval all month (MLC).

Goldfinch

The largest charms were 20 at Lesbury on 8th (JMA), 18 at Castron on 28th (MR),

and 15 at Bamburgh and Cramlington. A fledged juvenile was still being fed by adults at Amble on 21st (JMA).

#### Siskin

On the coast two flew S. at Prior's Park on 26th (CB), one was at Hadston on 27th/28th (JRT) and three-four at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

#### Linnet

Light S. passage was noted at Hauxley on 4th where up to 80 present on other dates. Flocks of 40-45 were at Caistron, Seaton Delaval and St. Mary's Island.

#### Twite

One was at Cresswell on 5th (TLC).

#### Crossbill

Two were at Colt Crag on 27th (BNR).

#### Scarlet Rosefinch

An immature or female was trapped at Hauxley on 15th (HRS).

#### Bullfinch

One-two noted at Sidewood, Belsay and Swinhoe Lake.

#### Snow Bunting

The first was one at Cresswell on 14th (ADMc).

Please send all October records, in Voous Order, to Mike Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QX, by 8th November, 1986.

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INDOOR MEETING - THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 1986

This meeting will be held, as usual, in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University, starting at 7.00 p.m. Our speaker will be Dr. Colin Bradshaw (our very own!) who will give a talk entitled 'Siberia'. He may not have any photographs of the salt mines but is sure to entertain with many interesting species for migration watchers!.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1986/87

These are now overdue. If you have not already done so please re-subscribe now to our Treasurer, John Day, 2 Grange Avenue, Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne and please consider covenanting your subscription (see previous bulletins). The current subscription rates are: Ordinary £11, Family £12, and Junior £5.

BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA 1985

It appears that a few copies of the annual report were bound with blocks of pages in the wrong sequence, or in some cases part of the classified list missing. Please check your copy and if you have one which is faulted please contact Ian Kerr, telephone Tyneside 2676974, who will arrange for a replacement copy. We need to collect in any faulted copies to take our complaint back to the printer.

SOCIAL EVENING - FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 1986

Tickets are still available from Muriel Cadwallender, 32 Manners Gardens, Seaton Delaval, NE25 0DW, or at the November club meeting for this social event. Please come along and have a bite to eat and a chat with your bird-watching (or other) friends.

SEATON SLUICE WATCHTOWER

Keys are now available for the new watchtower on Rocky Island. They can be obtained from Muriel Cadwallender, address above, or at club meetings, price £2.50. In the near future the shutters at the watchtower will be modified to allow easy access to the elements and the birds.

THE NUTHATCH IN NORTHUMBERLAND

I am currently looking at the status of Nuthatch in Northumberland with the view to documenting the spread of the species. No doubt some members may have a number of unpublished records (particularly prior to the 1970's) and I would be grateful for any information concerning these. I am also interested in any breeding behaviour at sites e.g. singing males, holding territory, inspecting and plastering of nest holes etc and especially details of confirmed breeding i.e. young being fed in the nest, recently fledged juveniles nearby, family parties. Nuthatches will also breed in nest-boxes and I would like to obtain any nest-box details e.g. position of nest-box, height, clutch and brood sizes, success rate, etc. I would be pleased if anyone can supply any information concerning the above. Mike Hodgson.

WADER COUNTERS WANTED

I still have three sections of coastline without a regular wader counter this winter. These are:

Berwick Harbour,  
Cresswell Village to Newbiggin,  
Tyne Estuary.

If anyone can help with regular monthly counts please contact me as soon as possible. Mike Hodgson (Tel. 2520511).

AVENUE BOOKS

Some time ago we mentioned that club member Brian Bullough had opened a book shop dealing mainly with Natural History subjects. Brian now has a catalogue available, free, which lists his stock. These are available from Brian at 43 Hedley Avenue, Blyth, NE24 3JP or his shop Avenue Books, Land of Green Ginger, Front Street, Tynemouth. They will also be available at the November club meeting.



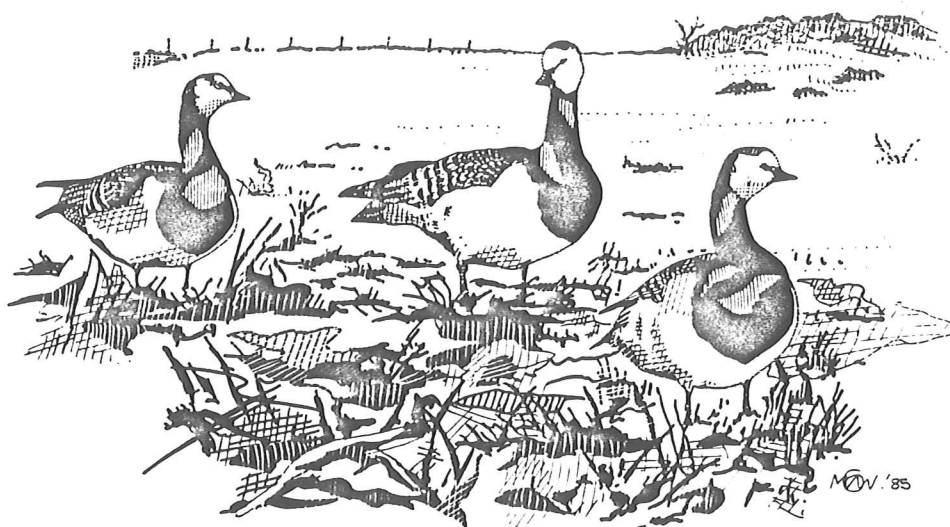
# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - OCTOBER 1986

The weather during the month showed a very mild pattern being relatively warm and below average rainfall. Several weather stations reported their sunniest October on record and others the sunniest since 1981. Winds were mainly from the south-west but only two days of really strong winds were noted. The lack of easterlies was noticeable.

For some observers the month was disappointing and not living up to past standards for the time of year. However it was still an interesting period even though passerine immigration was not heavy and rarities were few.

Numbers of Red-throated Divers built up as usual and there was a large gathering of 91 Red-breasted Mergansers off Ross. Sea-watching was generally quiet with only a few skuas and no heavy passages of ducks. Two Bitterns were found but a new species for the county was a Cattle Egret near Barrasford up to 11th. Arriving Whooper Swans were accompanied by disappointingly low numbers of juveniles. Small numbers of Bewick's Swans also appeared. Goose passage was still conspicuous with more Barnacle Geese passing through early in the month and the Brent Goose flock at Lindisfarne building up to 1,200 by 31st.



A male Marsh Harrier moved S. at Craster on 15th. A tame Pectoral Sandpiper was seen by many during its stay at Backworth between 7th-14th. Although numbers of passage waders dwindled several Jack Snipe were seen.

Passerine immigration was uncharacteristically light but the first main thrush arrival occurred on 5th with good numbers of Redwings and Song Thrushes. The large gathering of Reed Buntings at Druridge on this date was notable. There were, however, few Fieldfares during the month. About seven Yellow-browed Warblers were found and Hauxley fared better than most coastal localities with a Firecrest on 8th and a long staying Golden Oriole between 14th-31st. Up to 40 Lapland Buntings frequented Holy Island between 11th-25th. Other interesting records during the month included Hen Harriers, Buzzards, Mediterranean and Laughing gulls, a party of Waxwings and Twite.

Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.



CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

A maximum of 46 were in Druridge Bay between Hadston Lake and Chevington Burn on 11th (MH), including many in full summer plumage. 25 were off Warkworth on 5th and Holy Island on 12th (AJJ/BG) including some in wing moult. One-five noted off Hauxley, Beadnell and Bamburgh.

Black-throated Diver

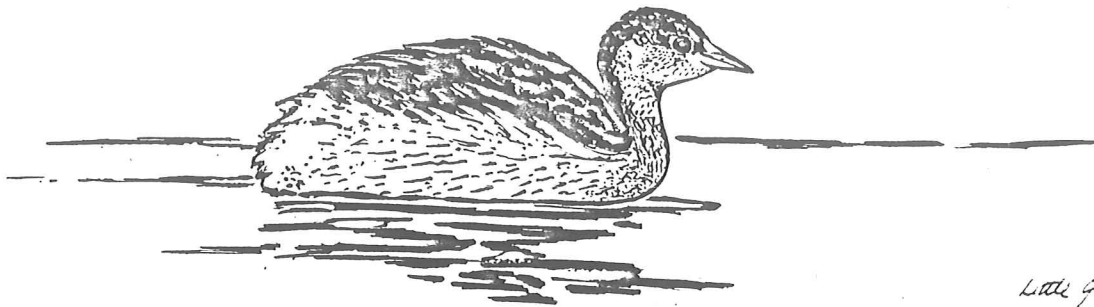
Singles were at Holy Island on 11th and Beadnell on 12th (RKS), Druridge Bay on 19th (BDG/ISD), Bamburgh on 24th (MH/JSe/PWW), and Holy Island on 26th (MRS).

Great Northern Diver

Three flew S. at Hauxley on 12th (HRS) and singles were noted there on 11th, 25th and 27th. One was in Druridge Bay on 11th (KIB/GSR) and another off Holy Island on 26th (DPa).

Little Grebe

Largest concentrations were 11 at Holywell on 8th (KR), 10 at Cresswell on 13th (MLC) and five at Arcot on 15th (LJM). One-four were noted on five other waters.

*Little Grebe*Great Crested Grebe

A maximum of four were at Seaton Burn on 17th. Three were at Hallington on 12th (RW), two at Hartburn on 16th (MLC/TAC) and the family party of four remained at Arcot all month. One-two were on three other inland waters. Offshore, one flew N. at Hauxley on 4th, three-four were in Druridge Bay on 7th (JECM/JM) and one was off Holy Island on 12th.

Red-necked Grebe

All reports were from Holy Island with three-four off the Heugh on 23rd (IK/BG/AJJ et al). One-two were noted on six other dates.

Slavonian Grebe

One was off Holy Island on 25th, another on Hadston Lake on 26th and two off Bamburgh the same day (JECM/JM/JDL et al).

Fulmar

Four were still at Bamburgh Castle on 4th. The only other reports involved two off Hauxley on 17th and one at Holy Island on 24th.

Sooty Shearwater

The only reports involved one N. at Holy Island on 4th and one S. at Hauxley on 25th when two moved S. off Holy Island.

Manx Shearwater

One N. off Holy Island on 24th was the only sighting.

Gannet

Passage N. was noted with 200 per hour at Hauxley on 4th and 100 per hour at Holy Island on 25th (HRS/ES/IDM). Feeding parties of 50 were in Skate Road on 2nd and 150 at Bamburgh on 18th. One-twenty were noted from four other sea-watching localities.

Cormorant

20 were at Hauxley on 7th and a maximum of 21 at North Shields Fish Quay on 12th (DMT). Inland, two were in trees at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (BNR/CJ) and five flew NE at Backworth on 12th (KR).

Shag

Movement N. was noted at Hauxley with 20 on 4th and 30 on 8th. At least 60 gathered off Dunstanburgh Castle on 1st (IK/PWW).

Bittern

One found at Seaton Burn on 4th remained until at least 15th (AJJ et al). Another was at Caistron on 18th (MR).

Cattle Egret

A juvenile found near Barrasford on 30th September remained until 11th October. This was the first county record (JC/RF).

Grey Heron

Six were near Newton Pool on 19th (RKS) and a maximum of five were on Holy Island from 19th-26th. One-five were also noted from nine other widespread localities with two mobbing two Buzzards in Upper Coquetdale on 6th providing the most unusual sighting (TAC).

Mute Swan

A maximum of 215 were in the Tweed Dock area on 19th. 13 at Cresswell on 18th was the only other sizeable gathering with one-seven noted in eight other localities.

Bewick's Swan

A family party of six arrived from E. at Grindon Lough on 26th (SJH) while two were with Whooper Swans moving S. at Hauxley on 31st.

Whooper Swan

Wintering flocks arriving during the month held very few juveniles indicating a poor breeding season. The usual Holywell gathering reached 100 on 26th but only 12 juveniles were present (PL) while at Lindisfarne in the final week a flock of 111 had only ten juveniles (BL). Parties of five-thirtyfive were seen in ten other areas.

Bean Goose

Two were with Greylags at Budle Bay on 22nd (MR).

Pink-footed Goose

Two skiens totalling 89 flew S. at Ladycross on 23rd (CJ) while on 26th a flock of 90 fed in stubble near Hallington (BNR). Seven flew in at Holborn Moss on 12th (ISD) and seven were at Grindon Lough on 26th (SJH). A single was at Holywell from 8th-31st.

White-fronted Goose

One was with the Budle Bay Greylags on 22nd (MR).

Grey Lag Goose

The regular wintering area at Budle Bay held a maximum of 2,500 on 25th (BL). Other larger counts included 138 at Colt Crag on 12th (RW), 199 at Caistrone on 26th (MR) when 260 fed in stubble near Hallington and 44 at Holywell on 31st (JEF). Four-thirty were noted at three other localities.

Canada Goose

Hallington provided the only records with a maximum of 89 feeding in stubble with Grey Lags on 26th (BNR).

Barnacle Goose

Continued arrival was noted on 2nd with 85 birds resting at Budle Point (ASJ). On 4th 111 at Lindisfarne included ten with yellow Darvic rings (DO'c/BL). A flock of 60 were in Budle Bay on 15th as passage continued. Elsewhere, four were near Newton Pool on 12th (RKS) and a single was at Cresswell Pond from 4th-25th.

Brent Goose

Numbers at Lindisfarne rose from 127 on 5th to 650 by 24th and 1,200 by 31st (BL/IK/ASJ). Ten dark-bellied birds were present on 25th. Light passage N. was noted from Hauxley between 5th-22nd and 20 moved N. off Warkworth on 19th (PWW). A single light-bellied bird was at Cresswell Pond from 1st-4th.

Shelduck

A return from moulting grounds was noted with numbers in Budle Bay rising from 29 on 11th to 75 by 26th. 12 were on the sea at Cresswell on 7th. Inland records involved singles at Holywell Pond and Hallington, both on 12th.

Wigeon

Over 10,000 were at Lindisfarne by 12th and coastal passage N. was noted from Newton on 4th. Elsewhere on the coast, 120 were at Cresswell by 10th. The main counts inland involved 57 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (BNR/CJ), 160 at Swinhoe on 12th (ISD), 57 at Angerton on 16th (TAC/MLC) and 120 at Grindon Lough on 25th (JSB).

Gadwall

One-four frequented Seaton Burn during the month, two were at Druridge Pool on 11th (MA/KH) and singles were at Holywell on 25th (JRT/KWY) and Newton Pool on 26th (JDL).

Teal

The main gatherings included 450 at Holborn Moss on 12th, 120 at Cresswell Pond on 13th, 174 at Seaton Burn on 19th, 250 at Holy Island Lough and Derwent Reservoir, also on 19th, and a peak of 440 at Caistrone on 26th. 15-80 were present in six other areas.

Mallard

Peak counts included 500 at Caistrone, 480 at Seaton Burn, 235 at Derwent Reservoir, 223 in Budle Bay, 220 at Kimmer Lough, 200 on Northumbrian Loughs, 150 at Pawston Lake, 144 at Holy Island Lough, 114 at Colt Crag and 100 at Sweethope Lough. Up to 50 were noted in six other areas and 105 were on the sea at Newton Point on 26th.

Pintail

Seven on Fenham Flats on 10th was the largest group (KWY). Four were on the sea off Hadston on 13th (MJS). Two-three were at Seaton Burn and two frequented Wallsend Swallow Pond (AJJ/AGH/SJL et al). Two were also at Grindon Lough (SJH) with singles noted at Pawston lake and Holy Island Lough.

Shoveler

A maximum of 64 were at Seaton Burn on 6th. One-three were noted during the month at Grindon Lough, Cresswell Pond, Holywell Pond, Newton Pool, Arcot Pond and Holy Island Lough.

Pochard

A peak of 89 at Seaton Burn on 4th dropped to only two by 22nd but at nearby Arcot Pond numbers went from 32 on 7th to 82 by 29th. The only other big parties were 38 at Grindon Lough on 18th (JSB/RKS) and 30 at Hadston Lake on 29th (HRS). Ten-fifteen were regularly at Cresswell Pond and Caistron (PRW/MR).

Tufted Duck

Maximum counts involved 76 at Colt Crag and Hallington, 63 at Cresswell Pond, 27 at Seaton Burn and 17 at Arcot Pond. One-twelve frequented five other waters.

Scaup

Six were off Ross on 4th (ISD) and four off Hadston on 13th (MJS). One-two were regularly at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pool and Hauxley Reserve (ADML/IF et al). One was near St. Mary's Island on 8th and 19th (KWY/IDM) and a female was at Seaton Burn on 12th (AIB).

Eider

The only counts were 400 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 161 at Cresswell (MA/KH).

Long-tailed Duck

Numbers were generally low, 14 off Ross on 22nd and 18-20 at Bamburgh on 26th being the largest counts (MR/JDL). Two-eight were reported from Hauxley, Cresswell, Newton Point and Holy Island.

Common Scoter

A maximum 100 of were in Druridge Bay where many drakes displayed on 23rd (MH). Passage N. was noted with 33 at Holy Island on 5th and 50 at Craster on 18th.

Velvet Scoter

Up to ten were in Druridge Bay during the month (AY/DY/SY/AJ et al) Three were off Holy Island on 12th and the same day three were at Newton Point.

Goldeneye

Movement S. was noted at Hauxley with 15 on 25th while elsewhere along the coast only two-ten were noted from seven localities. Inland 11 at Hallington on 26th was the largest count with one-ten at six other waters.

Red-breasted Merganser

The largest concentrations were 91 off Ross on 2nd and 40 at Warkworth on 5th (ASJ/AJJ). At least 20 were at the mouth of the River Aln on 26th (BG). Two-eleven were also noted at Druridge and Holy Island.

Goosander

The only parties noted were 14 at Caistron and 11 at Pawston Lake on 11th (MR/JS) while five "red-heads" were noted at Derwent Reservoir. Singles were noted at four other localities.

Marsh Harrier

An adult male flew S. off Craster on 15th (PWW).

Hen Harrier

"Ringtails" were noted on the Simonsides on 15th (MH) and at Branch End on 24th (SJH).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were seen in over 30 widespread areas, 11 of them coastal sites. Two regularly hunted suburban gardens at Chapel House/Chapel Park, Newcastle, and singles were regularly seen over the city centre and Tyne Bridge areas.

Buzzard

Two were mobbed by Herons in Upper Coquetdale on 6th (TAC) and a single was over the Simonsides on 15th (MH).

Kestrel

Three flew in from E. at Tynemouth on 5th suggesting immigration (CB). One-two were reported from 15 other scattered localities.

Merlin

Two males and one female were present on Holy Island from 18th-24th. There were 36 other sightings during the month, 29 on the coast and seven inland.

Peregrine

Hunting birds were noted on several occasions. An immature male struck a pigeon near Druridge Pool on 5th (EC/MH et al). One dropped a wader while being mobbed by gulls at Holy Island on 9th (ASJ), two adults chased Lapwings at Caistron on 19th (MR) and a first-year bird struck a Redshank and chased a Redwing at Fenham Mill on 25th (BL). One made a "half-hearted" stoop at ducks at Grindon, also on 25th (JSB). Singles were noted at Hadston and Hauxley during the month and two were noted together at Holy Island on 11th, 19th and 23rd, talon-grappling being seen on the latter date.

Red Grouse

The only reports were singles near Thrunton Woods on 2nd and a party of five coming down from higher ground to feed in a field at 990 feet at Ilderton Dod on 25th (MGA/AMB).

Black Grouse

Two males were at Humbledon, near Wooler, on 20th (AS) and there were occasional sightings of singles at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

Caistron produced coveys of 12 on 11th and 19th (MR) and two groups comprising 21 birds on 31st (IF). Singles were noted at Chillingham, Rothbury and Calder.

Grey Partridge

Larger coveys included 65 near St. Mary's Island (IDM), 40 at Horton (LGM), up to 40 at Backworth (IF), 17 at Caistron (MR), and up to 16 at Seaton Burn and Hauxley. Two flew across the Tyne on 28th and after crossing Scotswood Road, Newcastle, landed in a grassed area (BL).

Water Rail

Two were noted at Seaton Burn on several dates and two were also noted at Newton Pool on 3rd and Gosforth Park on 7th. Singles were reported at Holywell during the month.

Moorhen

12 were at Bolam Lake on 16th. An adult escorted two juveniles at Chevington indicating local breeding despite disturbance from opencast mining.

Coot

Maximum counts included 325 at Seaton Burn on 12th but this was 200-300 fewer than average over the past four Octobers. Other large groups were 128 at Holywell, 70 at Cresswell Pond and 50 at Angerton.

### Wader Count

The following areas were counted during October: Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WTL/DRS), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington (TPMW), Chevington-Cresswell (BDG/EC/ISD), Newbiggin-Blyth (KDS/MPC), St. Mary's Island (IDM).

### Oystercatcher

A total of 592 were noted during the monthly count. In addition 1,000 were at Guile Pont on 4th and a peak of 177 at Cresswell during the month.

### Ringed Plover

181 were noted on the monthly count. 96 were at Berwick Little Beach on 3rd (JDL) and a peak of 60 were on Hauxley beach on 10th. One found dead at Beadnell in August had been ringed as a breeding female at Loch Fleet, Highland, in May 1976.

### Golden Plover

The build-up of wintering flocks was noted. Largest counts involved 2,100 at Lindisfarne, 2,000 at Hauxley, Druridge Bay and St. Mary's Island and 600-700 at Boulmer and Alnmouth.

### Grey Plover

Only 13 were noted on regular the wader count. However, about 400 were at Lindisfarne on 16th.

### Lapwing

Larger gatherings included 1,500 at Druridge, 700-800 at Caistron, 400 in Coquet Estuary and 300 at Derwent Reservoir. Immigration was indicated by five from E. at Hauxley on 18th and 40 moved W. at Ladycross on 16th.

### Knot

Groups of 45 were at Cresswell Pond on 18th while during month a maximum of 60 were at Hauxley.

### Sanderling

26 at St. Mary's Island on 8th was the largest group. Birds were regularly on Hauxley beach with a maximum of 21 on 30th.

### Little Stint

Two were on Beal Sands on 4th while between 1st-9th one was at Cresswell Pond.

### Pectoral Sandpiper

One found at Backworth Pond on 7th remained until at least 14th (JEF/GPB et al).

### Curlew Sandpiper

One was on Hauxley beach on 1st.

### Purple Sandpiper

A total of 80 were noted on the regular count. The usual wintering area at Bamburgh held a maximum of 103 on 22nd.

### Dunlin

Only 127 were noted in the monthly count. In addition about 270 were at Holy Island causeway on 25th and a maximum of 40 at Hauxley Reserve during month.

### Ruff

Six at Hauxley Reserve on 16th was the largest group, two-five being present during the rest of the month. Five visited Hadston Lake on 11th. Singles were at four other localities.



Jack Snipe

Two were at Holy Island on 5th and 12th and singles were noted there on four other dates. One was at Backworth on 8th.

Snipe

Main groups were 40 at Druridge Pool, 30 at Cresswell Pond, 22 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, 20 at Seaton Burn, and 15 at Holy Island Lough. One-four were regularly at Hauxley Reserve.

Woodcock

Immigration was indicated by singles in four coastal areas, a very tired bird being watched flying in from E. at Druridge on 23rd.

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were at Holy Island on 12th. Singles were noted during the month at five other localities.

Bar-tailed Godwit

An estimated 2,000 were at Lindisfarne on 9th. Elsewhere numbers were low with 12 at Hauxley being the only group noted.

Whimbrel

Two were at Hauxley on 7th and a single at Beal Sands on 18th.

Curlew

150 were noted on the regular monthly count. 96 were on Holy Island on 25th while inland a maximum of 42 were at Castron.

Spotted Redshank

One-two were at Fenham-le-Moor on 11th (BG) and two-three frequented Wallsend Swallow Pond from 2nd-12th (ES/KR et al).

Redshank

A total of 1,036 were found in the monthly count. Other large groups included 719 at Lindisfarne on 4th and a peak of 150 at Hauxley on 18th.

Greenshank

Six were at Lindisfarne on 4th and one at Holy Island Lough on 5th.

Green Sandpiper

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd.

Turnstone

935 were noted during the monthly wader count. 75 were at Berwick Little Beach on 3rd and a peak of 80 at Hauxley on 2nd.

Pomarine Skua

One adult flying N. off Holy Island on 4th was the sole record.

Arctic Skua

Seven individuals were noted during the month from Cresswell, Hauxley and Holy Island.

Great Skua

There were ten sightings involving about 22 birds from six sea-watching localities.

Mediterranean Gull

The Craster bird was noted on 1st and 4th.

Laughing Gull

The Newcastle General Hospital bird was noted on 8th (MPF).

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts involved 5,000 at Derwent Reservoir, 4,000 on factory roofs at Scotswood and 1,500 at Colt Crag Reservoir (BNR). 1,000 gathered in Budle Bay on 24th (BRS).

Common Gull

Surveys of roosts revealed 12,000 at Derwent Reservoir and 14,000 at Colt Crag (down from 18,000 in September). 700 also roosted at Caistron. A Norwegian-ringed bird was found dead at Holywell.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

48 were in Budle Bay on 12th and 42 roosted at Caistron on 18th declining to 16 by 26th. One-six were noted daily at Seaton Burn with one-two also noted at six other localities.

Herring Gull

1,200 roosting in Coquet Estuary was the largest count (EMY). 450 were off Budle Bay at dusk on 11th and 600 juveniles were at North Shields on 18th.

Glaucous Gull

Two first-winter birds were at North Shields (SY/DMT).

Great Black-backed Gull

Large groups included 600 near Druridge Pool (FH), 520 at Berwick (JDL), 354 near Blyth Cemetery (MSH) and up to 300 in the Coquet Estuary (EMY). 40 roosted at Colt Crag and 25 at Scotswood (BNR).

Kittiwake

Steady passage N. was noted off Hauxley on 4th. 14 were present at the North Shields colony on 4th and 45 at the Fish Quay on 19th (DMT).

Sandwich Tern

Seven remained at Bamburgh on 2nd and singles were at Newton on 4th and Holy Island on 11th. At Newton on 15th a juvenile was food-begging to nearby gulls (ETN/JRN).

'Commic' Tern

Two were at Seahouses on 18th.

Common Tern

Singles were at Holy Island and Collywell Bay on 11th, Hauxley on 18th and North Shields on 19th.

Auks (Sp)

12 flew N. in 15 minutes at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (MSH) and light N. passage occurred off Hauxley on 29th.

Guillemot

Small numbers were noted offshore, particularly at Holy Island between 18th-25th.

Stock Dove

Feeding groups of 20 were noted near Hartley on 12th (IDM), 45 at Holywell on 20th (DY/SY) and 18 in a turnip field at Juniper on 25th (CJ).

Woodpigeon

30 feeding on mainland near St. Mary's Island was the only report.

Collared Dove

Singles were noted in Hauxley wood during the month.

Barn Owl

Singles were noted near Morpeth, Holy Island causeway and Horton. Near Wooler on 26th a youngster only 2½-3 weeks old was found at foot of a nest indicating the protracted breeding season for the species (per BG).

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Ponteland, Whittingham and Ellingham.

Tawny Owl

Calling birds were noted from Ellingham, Monkseaton and S. Gosforth. Other singles were at Birtley (GAF) and Seaton Burn where an individual roosted from 4th-21st (AJJ).

Short-eared Owl

One-two were present in the St. Mary's Island/Holywell area during the month. Other singles were at found Newton Pool, Fenham Flats, Cresswell, Hauxley, Seaton Burn and Wark.

Kingfisher

Two were seen at Caistron with singles reported from the Redesmouth-Bellingham stretch of N. Tyne (HWR/DA), Wylam and Jesmond Dene.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Singles were reported from eight widespread localities.

Green Woodpecker

One was noted near Hepple on 19th (per WAK).

Skylark

Flocks were noted in many coastal areas. Between 10th-13th S. and W. movement were noted with 109 W. in 15-20 minutes at Lindisfarne on 11th when 85 per hour moved S. at Hadston (JDL/MH). Small groups arrived from E. at Holy Island on 12th (BNR) and steady S. movement was noted during 13th at St. Mary's Island (MSH). 242 flew W. at Beal on 18th. Inland 10-40 were noted from three localities.

Swallow

Numbers dwindled rapidly with the largest parties noted being five at Hadston 5th (DA), 16 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS), eight at Holy Island on 11th (BG) and 20 at Embleton on 12th (RD). One-five were noted in 13 other localities, the last a single at Alnmouth on 28th (JMA).

House Martin

A total of 14-15 were at Denton, Newcastle, on 9th. Singles were noted in four other areas, the last being at Beadnell on 21st.

Meadow Pipit

Up to 50 were in the Hauxley area and 30 were noted at St. Mary's Island on 14th.

Rock Pipit

Groups of 20 were noted at Cresswell, Hauxley, and Beadnell with at least 15 at St. Mary's Island. An influx was suggested at Holy Island where they were more prominent than usual between 18th-24th.

Grey Wagtail

Two flew S. at Prior's Park on 1st (CB) and singles were noted in five other areas including Newcastle City Centre.

Pied Wagtail

Up to 31 roosted at Seaton Burn from 16th (AJJ/AIB) and 24 were at Berwick Little Beach early in the month.

Waxwing

Ten were at Kielder on 9th (per BL).

Dipper

Two were singing near Felton on 10th-11th, three were in the Harthope Valley on 16th and singles were noted on two other streams (ETN/JRN/ASJ et al).

Wren

Two mobbed a Weasel at Cresswell on 3rd and two-threese were noted at Morpeth (DA/AS). At least 35 passed through Hauxley during the month (HRS).

Dunnock

An influx was indicated with many being noted at Hauxley and Holy Island (IK/HRS).

Robin

Influxes were noted in coastal areas. 21 were ringed at Hauxley during the month and they were prominent in the Holy Island, Fenham, Blyth, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's Island areas.

Redstart

Singles were at Holy Island and Priors Park (CB/BSB/MJS).

Whinchat

Two were on Holy Island and one at Hauxley on 5th (JDL/HRS).

Wheatear

Two-three were noted in seven coastal areas, the final record involving two at Holy Island on 13th (BSB).

Ring Ousel

A light influx occurred on 5th with two on Holy Island and one at Cresswell (BL/BG/IK). Singles also occurred at Holy Island on 12th (SJH) and Hauxley on 16th (HRS).

Blackbird

Light arrivals were noted on several dates. Over 100 were at Priors Park on 5th, and arriving at Hauxley on 16th, when 35 flew into Holy Island from E. and small-scale arrivals continued there between 19th-25th (CB/ASJ/HRS/IK).

Fieldfare

Unusually for October only very small numbers were noted on the coast although light influxes were reported from 23rd, when 11 then arrived on Holy Island. In the final week they were more prominent inland with up to 400 per day W. at Ladycross, 30 at Caistron on 26th and over 100 at Windyhaugh on 31st.

Song Thrush

Arrivals from E. were noted on 5th with 200-300 on Holy Island, 150 at Prior's Park and 40 at Cresswell (JDL/BL/CB/BG). Smaller numbers were noted at Bamburgh but "several hundred" were reported arriving at Hauxley (BRS/HRS). Between 6th-8th 29 moved W. over Ladycross (CJ).

Redwing

An influx occurred on 5th with 1,500-2,000 over Hauxley, "large numbers" at Holy Island, at least 100 at Newton Pool area and about 160 at dawn at Baimburgh were followed by arrivals throughout the morning (HRS/BL/ISD/HRS). Lighter arrivals were noted at Cresswell. Another influx occurred on 12th with a peak of 3,000 per hour reducing to 300 per hour at Holy Island (NRG). Most passed W. without pausing. A lighter influx occurred on 24th-25th with at least 200 on Holy Island. Inland 400 were feeding on Yew at Wallington on 26th.

Mistle Thrush

18 were noted with Fieldfares and Redwings at Ladycross on 8th (CJ). Other parties during the month included 14 at Coldmartin Lough on 3rd (ISD) and 15-20 at Horton Grange on 18th (AGH).

Lesser Whitethroat

One was on Holy Island on 6th (MJS).

Garden Warbler

Singles were at Hauxley on 9th and 11th and Prior's Park on 13th and 15th (HRS/KDS/DS).

Blackcap

A male at Matfen on 1st was the only inland record (RW). One-two were noted in seven coastal localities but 14 were in Prior's Park on 15th (KDS).

Yellow-browed Warbler

Singles were noted at Prior's Park on 5th, 7th, 12th-13th and at Blyth Cemetery on 13th-14th (CB/MPF/MSH et al). One was at Hauxley on 5th and two were present from 14th-17th (HRS). Another was found near St. Mary's Island on 13th (DS).



Yellow Browed Warbler

5.10.86  
P. R. K.

Chiffchaff

One was inland at Matfen from 3rd-6th (RW). One was singing at Alnmouth Common on 5th (MSH) and two-three on Holy Island on 11th-12th included one singing bird. One was at Arcot on 13th (MJS) and four were trapped at Hauxley between 12th-14th.

Willow Warbler

Singles were at Hauxley on 5th and Holy Island on 11th (HRS/RKS).

Goldcrest

The only coastal record was from Hauxley, a maximum of eight noted on 8th. A noticeable increase in numbers was reported in Hexhamshire area by mid-month although there were fewer than usual at Threestoneburn (CJ/BNR/AMB).

Firecrest

A first-year male was ringed at Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Spotted Flycatcher

One was at Bothal on 7th (KWY).

Pied Flycatcher

One was in Prior's Park on 1st, at least one was at Hauxley from 2nd-8th while another was on Holy Island on 5th (CB/HRS/KWY).

Long-tailed Tit

Eight were in a mixed tit flock at Buckshaw on 18th (AS).

Marsh Tit

Nine were at Allenbanks on 23rd (SJL).

Coal Tit

Coastal records may have indicated immigration. Two were at Bamburgh and two at Craster on 5th, three at Hauxley on 6th and six flew W. over dunes at Hadston on 11th.

Blue Tit

Coastal records involved 15 at Bamburgh on 4th and over 30 at Hauxley during the month. Inland 50 were at Wallington on 26th.

Great Tit

Two-six noted at Hauxley and Blyth Cemetery while 30 were at Wallington on 26th.

Nuthatch

Four-five were noted at Wallington, three-four at Jesmond Dene, two at Riding Mill and singles at Hulne Park, Close House, Stocksfield, Hexham and Matfen.

Treecreeper

Three were at Allenbanks on 18th.

Golden Oriole

A second-year female was at Hauxley from 14th-31st (HRS).

Jay

Two-three were noted in seven typical woodland localities.

Magpie

A flock of 14 was at Wylam on 5th while six were at Hauxley on 18th (JSB/HRS).

Rook

Flocks of 200-300 noted daily at Cramlington.

Carrion Crow

80 roosted at Sweethope on 26th (BNR).

Starling

1,000 were at Hauxley on 11th and 200-300 arrived from E. in small parties at Holy Island on 12th (NRG). Parties of 50-200 were noted moving W. each evening at Matfen (RW).

Tree Sparrow

Seven were at Hauxley on 14th.

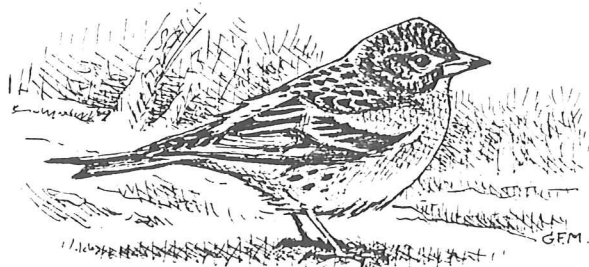


Chaffinch

The largest groups noted were 20 at Hauxley on 13th and at least 40 in the College Valley on 24th.

Brambling

Light arrival was indicated between 4th-7th with 25 at Craster and one-three in three other coastal localities. Heavier movement occurred on 11th-12th with about 200 passing through Holy Island. One-ten were also noted in five inland areas.

Greenfinch

A flock of 150 was in stubble at Seaton Delaval between 1st-24th (MLC).

Goldfinch

A charm of 20 at Howick Haven on 20th was the largest group noted.

Siskin

Feeding parties of 25-30 were at Langley on 16th while 15 were in the Harthope Valley on 26th (SJH/GAF).

Linnet

A flock of 370 at Lindisfarne on 11th was the largest noted. Parties of 150 and 100 were in the Dunstanburgh and Hauxley areas.

Twite

A party of 30-40 were at Brock Mill on 19th (BG). One was at Cresswell on 23rd (ASJ).

Redpoll

Larger parties included 50 at Prestwick Carr and Caistron, 40 at Hauxley and 25 at Arcot.

Crossbill

One-five were noted from Ladycross, Blanchland, Sweethope and Threestoneburn.

Bullfinch

One was at Hauxley on 29th.

Lapland Bunting

Scattered groups totalling about 40 birds were on Holy Island from 11th-25th (NRG/IK et al). Up to three were at St. Mary's Island from 11th-14th (IDM et al).

Snow Bunting

Very few were found. One was at St. Mary's Island on 18th and four were at Hauxley and two at Hadston on 26th.

Reed Bunting

At least 200 were feeding in an area of Mugwort at Druridge Bay on 5th, the largest gathering noted by the observers for many years (BG/IK).

Corn Bunting

One at Hauxley on 25th was the only record.

Please send all November records, in Vooous order, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX by 8th December at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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B.D. Green	H.W. Richardson	Bamburgh Ringing Station
		Hauxley Ringing Station

INDOOR MEETING - THURSDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 1986

This meeting will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University, starting at 7.00 p.m. Our speaker will be Rob Fuller, from the B.T.O., whose talk is entitled 'Birds and Woodland Management'.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1986/87

These are now long overdue. If you have not paid your subscription by the end of November 1986 then this will be the last bulletin you will receive. Please arrange to pay outstanding subscriptions to John Day, 2 Grange Avenue, Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne, now. It is costly to the club if individual reminders have to be posted out again.

N. AND T.B.C. 'BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR 1986'

Last year we organised a photographic competition to find the best bird photographs taken by members and some of the results were shown at the April Members's Night. We now plan to run this event annually and entries can be made for photographs taken during 1986. The same panel of judges will decide the ultimate winner and again we will present the best at the next Member's Night.

The rules of the competition are as follows:-

1. The competition is open to members of the Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club.
2. Photographs must take the form of 2 x 2 transparencies only and must not be glass mounted. Up to three per entrant will be accepted.
3. Photographs must be taken in the area covered by the Club's annual report, Birds in Northumbria.
4. Photographs of captive birds will not be admitted.
5. Any photograph which depicts a species for which a N.C.C. licence is required should be accompanied by a copy of the appropriate licence.
6. The photographer's name should be clearly marked on the transparency mount.
7. Photographers should provide a S.A.E. for the return of their transparencies or arrange to collect them personally.
8. An entry fee of £1.00 should be enclosed with entries.
9. The Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club can accept no responsibility for any transparency and entries are accepted only on this condition.
10. The judges decision will be final.

Entries should be made:

- a) by post to Ian Kerr, 27 Eddrington Grove, Westerhope, Newcastle, NE5 1JG (Tel.2676974), or
- b) by hand to Ian at any club meeting.

The closing date for the competition is 31st January, 1986.

#### FIELD TRIPS

29th-30th November	Norfolk Weekend	All places full
Sat 31st January 1987	Ross/Budle Bay (for grebes, divers, sea-duck, etc) Meet 9.00 a.m. Seahouses Harbour. Leader Mike Hodgson	
Sat 14th February 1987	North Shields Fish Quay (for Glaucous, Iceland and other Gulls) Meet 9.00 a.m. Lifeboat Station Leaders Ken Shaw and Colin Bradshaw	
Sat 7th March 1987	Caerlaverock/Lock Ken (Geese, ducks, etc) Leaders John Day and Alan Johnston Details of times, places to be arranged.	

If you are interested in any of these trips please contact Colin Bradshaw now. If you require a lift or have a spare seat in your car please let Colin know.

SALES NEWS

The club can now offer for sale a nice line in greetings cards, the designs of which have been taken from the illustrations in Birds of Northumbria 1985. The four species depicted are Smew, Slavonian Grebe, Hen Harrier and Pomarine Skua. They come in packs of eight (with envelopes) for a mere £1.00!! The inside is blank so that you can write your own messages. They are very useful for Christmas so buy now from our Sales Officer, Muriel Cadwallender, 32 Manners Gardens, Seaton Delaval or at any club meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1986/87

The following officers have been appointed by your committee for 1986/87.

## Chairman and Recorder

Mike S. Hodgson  
45 Elmtree Gardens  
Whitley Bay  
NE25 8QX  
(Tel: 252 0511)

## Secretary

Ian Kerr  
27 Eddrington Grove  
Westerhope, Newcastle  
NE5 1JG  
(Tel: 267 6974)

## Treasurer

John C. Day  
2 Grange Avenue  
Benton, Newcastle  
NE12 9PN  
(Tel: 266 3071)

## Assistant Secretary

Ken D. Shaw  
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28 Whitley Road  
Whitley Bay  
(Tel: 253 3424)

## Field Meetings Secretary

Colin Bradshaw  
9 Tynemouth Place  
Tynemouth  
North Shields  
(Tel: 257 2389)

## Indoor Meetings Secretary

B. Nick Rossiter  
West Barn  
Lee Grange, Ordley  
Hexham NE46 1SX  
(Tel: Slaley 509)

## Sales Officer

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32 Manners Gardens  
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Whitley Bay NE25 0DW  
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## Librarian and Information Officer

Alan J. Johnston  
27 Park View  
Wideopen, Newcastle  
NE13 6OH  
(Tel: 236 5263)

## Bulletin Distribution Officer

Sandy Bankier  
12 Lartington Gardens  
South Gosforth  
Newcastle NE3 1SX  
(Tel: 285 4201)

The committee have also appointed the two members of the Records Committee to join the Recorder for 1986/87. As four nominations were made an election was necessary. Bryan Galloway and Brian Little were duly elected to serve for 1986/87.

A GUIDE TO SUBMITTING ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS

Members joining the club are issued with a guide to contributing records but this is now out of date and because of the growth of our membership requires further detailed information. A revised Guide to Submitting Ornithological Records is enclosed with this bulletin for use by all members. Please take the time to read through it. By following the guidelines you can help to ease the work of preparing the bulletin each month and also to assist the County Records Committee. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. (Tel: 2520511) Mike Hodgson.

RECORD CARDS AND RARE/UNUSUAL BIRD REPORT FORMS

Recently I have received several envelopes containing record cards which have been marked with a surcharge by the G.P.O. When sending record cards by post please remember to use the correct amount of postage.

If you require further supplies of record cards please send me a suitably sized, s.a.e. Some envelopes that I receive are so small that I can barely get three cards into them! Record cards are also available at club meetings. The special report forms for rare and unusual species are also available, from me, on request

Mike S. Hodgson

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

At the A.G.M. in October the proposed constitutional amendment outlined in the July 1986 bulletin attracted the required number of votes for adoption. Because of the expense of sending out complete new constitutions to all members we would ask you to note that Section 5 b) now reads:

'The committee shall elect two people, who need not be Club Committee members, one of whom need not be a Club member, to join the Recorder to form a Records Committee, whose job is to consider all records for publication in the annual report. Each of the elected members shall not serve for more than three consecutive years. Each shall not be eligible for re-election until 12 months has elapsed since their last term of office on the Records Committee'.

NEW SPECIES FOR THE COUNTY ?

We do have some jokers in the club! This month I received a record card for a Penguin at Hauxley. Described by Martin Davison and Ian Fisher as about the size of a Willow Warbler, having reddish upperparts with a hint of black and white and all red underparts. It was watched for five minutes before being predated and devoured by a ravenous John Day ! Must have been a boring October at H.R.S. - Before acceptance more detailed notes will be required

GOSFORTH PARK NATURE RESERVE

We have just heard that the first stage of restoration work on the lake at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve has now been completed. The area of the lake has been more than doubled and islands created and, of course, two hides are available. The depth of the waater in the lake now varies and will undoubtedly attract back the wildfowl and waders which were previously noted in the reserve before the demise of the lake.

Club members who wish to visit the reserve should note that visiting arrangements are unchanged; if you are not a member of the N.H.S. of Northumbria then details can be obtained from the Hancock Museum, Newcastle.

THANKS

Are due to Ian Kerr who compiled the Classified List, at short notice, this month.



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 1986

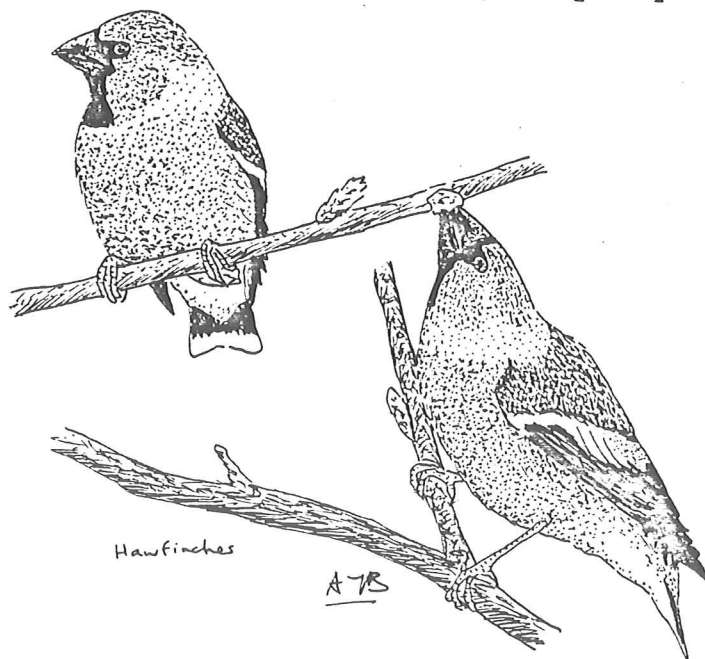
November saw the continuation of the mild weather experienced during the previous month. Winds were mainly from the westerly sector and strong on several occasions. Periods of NE and S winds occurred during the first couple of days and mid-month.

On 1st a small passage offshore produced records of Arctic, Great and Pomarine Skuas, a Sooty and several Manx Shearwaters and at least three late 'Commic' Terns. However the organised sea-watch on 8th saw very little movement. Long-tailed Ducks in the Stag Rocks/Ross area reached 45 by 8th and 12 Red-necked Grebes were present on 26th. Records of Whooper Swans increased but the numbers of juveniles remained low. Several Bewick's Swans arrived and geese, particularly Grey Lags, were still prominent. A 'redhead' Smew was found at Bolam Lake but disappeared for a few days when the water froze over. A Spotted Crake, the second this year, appeared at Wallsend Swallow Pond on just one day.

The regular wader count received extensive coverage this month resulting in high counts of some species but others, such as Sanderling and Dunlin, remained scarce. Late migrant, or perhaps wintering, waders involved Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Green Sandpiper. Several Jack Snipe were noted but Woodcock, often prominent during November, were scarce. A late Sandwich Tern was seen on 16th and several Swallows up to the 29th. Passerine immigration was light with small numbers during the first few days and again mid-month. Thrushes were particularly noticeable by their absence along the coast. A Great Grey Shrike was at Bamburgh on 18th and several Long-eared Owls arrived from 13th.

At Holy Island Lapland Buntings were conspicuous for most of the month with a peak of 97, one of the largest gatherings recorded in the county.

Other interesting species included five Hen Harriers, Bitterns, Mediterranean and Laughing Gulls, Little Auk, Black Redstarts, Twite, Mealy Redpoll and Hawfinch.



Hawfinches

Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.



CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

Druridge Bay held a maximum of 20 on 2nd (MA et al) when a flock of 17 N. on 29th (MH). Ten were seen off Emmanuel Head, Holy Island on 16th (JDL) and one-eight were in a further nine coastal localities, including a flock of seven N. at Tynemouth on 9th (AH).

Black-throated Diver

One-two were off Holy Island on 1st/2nd (JDL). Singles were at Hauxley on 8th (HRS), Stag Rocks on 9th (DPa), Druridge on 13th (IF) and off Hadston on 23rd (ADMc).

Great Northern Diver

Singles flew N. at Hauxley on 3rd and S. on 8th (HRS) when two N. and one S. at Holy Island (DPa). One was at Stag Rocks on 21st and three on 26th (DY/SY/MH).

Little Grebe

Up to 11 were at Cresswell Pond during the month (EC/AGH) and five at Holywell Pond and Foxton (ISD/JMA). One-two were at four other localities. One on the sea at St. Mary's Island on 4th was attacked by a Great Black-backed Gull (MSH).

Great Crested Grebe

Five were at Hallington on 15th (RW), the family party remained at Arcot until 4th (LJM) and one-three were also noted at Whittle Dene, Hadston Lake, Holywell Pond and Seaton Burn although at the last site up to five individuals were involved. One was at St. Mary's Island on 19th (LH/SY).

Red-necked Grebe

Two at Stag Rocks on 8th increased to at least 12 on 26th (AGH/MH). Two were at Holy Island on 21st (DY/SY) and one at Druridge Bay on 26th (ASJ).

Slavonian Grebe

Four were at Stag Rocks on 26th (MH) and one-two at Ross on 2nd and 22nd (MJS).

Fulmar

Eight at Bamburgh Castle on 7th increased to 39 by 21st (GCP/DY). Up to seven were on Holy Island.

Sooty Shearwater

One flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 1st when it or another N. at Holy Island (JC/DPa). Another moved N. at the first site on 2nd (IC).

Manx Shearwater

On 1st birds moving N. involved nine at St. Mary's Island, six at Hauxley and one at Holy Island (KDS/HRS/DPa).

Gannet

50 flew N. at Newbiggin on 1st (JRT/KWY) when steady S. passage noted at Tynemouth (CB). 60 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and 119 S. at Ross Back Sands on 9th (JDL).

Cormorant

102 were at Blyth Harbour on 3rd and 31 at the Tyne Estuary on 26th (HG/DMT) 32 flew N. and 19 S. at Hauxley on 8th (HRS). Inland one-four were noted on five waters as far west as Kielder and including two roosting in trees at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (RKS). Three were at Corbridge on 19th but the usual roost there has not developed as yet (MR).

Shag

148 were at Lindisfarne on 2nd where many were moving N. Numbers increased to 260 by 23rd (JDL).

Bittern

Singles at Seaton Burn on 9th and Caistron on 16th were probably the birds reported last month (AJJ/MR).

Grey Heron

Nine at Boulmer on 15th and seven at Alnmouth and Close House on 8th and 30th were the largest gatherings (ES/GCP). One-five were noted in another ten widespread localities.

Mute Swan

98 were at Berwick Harbour on 3rd (JDL). 13 were at Capheaton on 20th, 11 at Rothley on 13th (MLC) and one-nine at seven other waters.

Bewick's Swan

One was at Fenham Mill on 2nd (ADM/ASJ). Two were at Holy Island on 15th (JRT/KWY) and four (one juvenile) at Caistron on 16th (MR). Two were at Warkworth Lane on 29th (MH) and Whittle Dene on 30th (RGW).

Whooper Swan

At Holywell Pond a peak of 127 on 5th (total of 15 juveniles) dropped to only one by 29th (ISD et al). The herd in the Bothal-Druridge area reached a peak of 141 by 29th (TMM/KDS et al). At Seaton Burn 29 were present by 21st (AJJ), the Holy Island herd held a maximum of 47 on 7th (GCP) and 53 (ten juveniles) were at Grindon on 22nd (RMH/JSB). Up to 18 were noted in at least eight other localities. Single birds wearing yellow colour rings were at Caistron on 9th and Grindon on 11th.

Pink-footed Goose

58 were at Hallington on 1st (BNR) and 54, probably part of the same flock, at Colt Crag on 3rd (JRT). 55 flew S. at Ladycross on 6th (CJ) and 39 W. at Seaton Delaval on 22nd (TAC). One was at Holywell all month with three on 12th-14th. Other singles were at Caistron on 2nd and Berwick on 3rd (MR/JDL).

Grey Lag Goose

4,100 in the Elwick area on 15th was by far the largest gathering reported (JDL) 1,500-2,000 were at Holborn Moss on 3rd (ISD) and 1,500 at Budle Bay on 6th (ASJ). Other large groups included 539 at Colt Crag on 3rd (JRT), 210 at Grindon on 15th (CJ), 208 at Caistron on 9th (MR) and 200 at Windy Gyle on 20th (JSe). The Holywell flock increased to 170 by 12th, some of these probably accounting for records in the surrounding areas (JEF et al). 43 flew W. at Threestoneburn on 2nd (AMB) and 97 'grey' geese flew S. at Ladycross on 19th (CJ).

Canada Goose

77 were at Hallington on 15th (RW) when seven at Derwent Reservoir (RKS). 13 were at Arcot on 20th (LJM) and six over Warkworth on 29th (JMA).

Barnacle Goose

One flew S. at Ross on 9th (JDL). Two were at Holywell Pond between 17th-29th (JEF/ISD).

Brent Goose

About 1,500 were in the Lindisfarne area by 2nd (ASJ et al). One flew N. at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS) and two were at St. Mary's Island on 10th (MRS). Single dark-bellied birds were at Hadston Lake on 13th (IF) and St. Mary's Island on 15th (JC/SY).

Shelduck

40 were in Budle Bay on 8th (ES/DRS). One was at Holywell Pond on 29th (GS/JSr).

Wigeon

The largest gatherings were 1,250 at Elwick on 15th (JDL), 150 at Druridge Pool on 29th (JC) with up to 200 on the sea offshore, 170 at Grindon on 19th (ETN/JRN), and 120 at Hartburn on 16th (TAC/MLC). 20-80 were noted in several other localities. A total of 60 N. off Hauxley between 1st-3rd (HRS) and many were moving off Holy Island on 2nd probably due to shooting activity (JDL).

Gadwall

Four were at Seaton Burn on 1st and one at Holywell Pond on 6th (AJJ/MSH).

Teal

The largest gatherings were 220 at Caistrone on 2nd (MR), over 100 at Newton Pool, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Grindon Lough and 10-80 at about nine other waters. 20 flew N. at Hauxley on 2nd/3rd (HRS) and 20 arrived from E. at Cresswell on 16th (AGH).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 450 at Seaton Burn on 16th (AJJ) when 360 at Hartburn and 311 at Derwent Reservoir (MLC/BNR), 300 at Caistrone on 2nd/9th (MR), 290 at Colt Crag on 15th (RW) when 200 at Kimmer Lough (ISD) and 190 at Holywell on 5th. 30-165 were noted at 11 other waters. On the sea 113 were off Cresswell on 2nd (MA), 80 off Boulmer on 15th (WTL) and up to 53 at St. Mary's Island (IDM/SJL).

Pintail

Two drakes were at Seaton Burn on 12th/13th, one remaining until 30th (AJJ). Other single drakes were at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 1st-4th (ES/DRS), Holywell Pond on 9th (IC) and Budle Bay on 15th (JRT).

Shoveler

37 at Seaton Burn on 1st reduced to three by 30th (AJJ). Four drakes were on the sea at Druridge Bay on 2nd and two drakes and a duck there on 16th (MA/AGH).

Pochard

58 at Killingworth Lake on 20th, 52 at Hallington on 15th, 42 at Arcot on 1st and 40 at Hadston Lake on 16th were the largest gatherings (LJM/RW/ISD). 4-30 noted on eight other waters.

Tufted Duck

145 at Hallington on 15th and 69 at Bolam on 16th were the largest gatherings (RW/MLC). 10-40 were on nine other waters. Two arrived high from the E. at Newton Point on 8th (BNR).

Scaup

Two were on Cresswell Pond between 2nd-15th (AIB/GB). Singles were at Hadston on 29th (ES/WTL) and at St. Mary's Island throughout the month (IDM).

Eider

200 were off Stag Rocks on 29th (JC). 40 flew N. at Hauxley on 2nd and 79 N. and 24 S. on 8th (HRS).

Long-tailed Duck

A total of about 45 was in the Ross/Stag Rocks area on 8th (MH/AGH). 21 were off Holy Island on 2nd (JDL) and one-two at Annstead, Beadnell, Hauxley, St. Mary's Island and Druridge Pool during the month.

Common Scoter

150 were in Druridge Bay on 2nd when 100 flew N. at Hauxley (AGH/HRS) 25-40 were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area.

Velvet Scoter

Birds were present in Druridge Bay all month with a peak of 20 off Hadston on 2nd (MJS et al). One visited Druridge Pool on 23rd (MGA). One-two were also noted at Holy Island, Longhoughton Steel, Hauxley and St. Mary's Island during the month.

Goldeneye

Light coastal passage was noted during the first three days when 50 N. at Druridge (MA), 40 at Seaton Sluice (GCP) and 30 at Holy Island (JDL) with smaller numbers in other localities. 43 were at Holywell Pond on 22nd (ISD) and 20-25 at Bakethin, Hadston Lake and the River Tyne at Wylam/Heddon. Smaller numbers were on ten other waters.

Smew

A 'redhead' was at Bolam Lake between 16th-19th and again on 28th (MLC/RKS/ASJ).

Red-breasted Merganser

11 flew N. at Hauxley on 1st/2nd and six N. at Druridge (HRS/TO). 30 were at Ross on 2nd (ASJ) and one-six noted at Holy Island, Stag Rocks, Dunstan Steads, and Druridge Bay during the month. On Hadston Lake three were present on 16th increasing to eight by 22nd (ISD/MJS et al). Two were on Duridge Pool on 2nd (MA).

Goosander

Up to ten were on the River Tyne at Wylam on 23rd (MA), and eight on the River Aln at Lesbury-Foxton on 1st increased to 13 by 8th (WD/JMA). One-seven were at ten other localities inland.

Hen Harrier

A male was on Holy Island on 15th (JRT). Single 'ringtails' were at Craster (WD/JMA) and Druridge Pool (MA/ES) on 8th. One was at Holywell Pond between 6th-14th with two present on 12th (SY/SR/JW et al).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were noted at about 20 widespread localities. Singles were present throughout the month in Newcastle City Centre, attracted by the Starling roost (IK) and in W. Newcastle six casual sightings, as against four of Kestrel, during the month (MH).

Buzzard

One flew NW at Aydon, near Corbridge on 15th (AJH).

Kestrel

One-two noted in about 18 widespread localities.

Merlin

One-two were in eight coastal localities. Inland singles were seen in another four areas.

Peregrine

One-two were in the Ross-Holy Island area up to 9th (DPa et al) and a single at Newton on 30th (JDL). Two were at one inland locality.

Red Grouse

16-18 were at Darden Burn, Cheviot and near Allenheads (JSe/GCP).

Black Grouse

Five were at Hexhamshire during the month and at least three at Threestoneburn where 'lekking' noted on 2nd (CJ/AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

Coveys of 17 at Caistron on 2nd (MR) and 15 at Netherwitton on 4th (JMA).

Grey Partridge

40 were at St. Mary's Island on 20th (SJL). Coveys of 6-16 were noted in a further ten localities.

Water Rail

Singles were at Newton and Gosforth Park on 1st (ES/ISD), Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd/4th (LH/GCP), Holywell on 5th-19th, Druridge on 23rd (MJS) and at Seaton Burn throughout the month (AJJ).

Spotted Crake

One was watched for about 40 minutes at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (JSr/GWC).

Moorhen

36 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 30th (JRT).

Coot

320 at Seaton Burn on 2nd increased to 483 by 30th (AJJ). 95 were at Holywell on 9th (IC), 80 at Hartburn on 16th and 71 at Capheaton on 20th (MLC/TAC).

WADER COUNT - 15th November, 1986

The following areas were counted: Budle Point-Seahouses (APM), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WPL/ES), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/EC/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth-Seaton Sluice (NWR), St. Mary's Island (IDM), Tyne Estuary (SY). Excellent coverage was achieved this month.

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,050 noted during the wader count. In addition 170 were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (MA) and 302 at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL).

Ringed Plover

A total of 330 noted during the wader count. 40 were at Berwick Little Beach on 2nd (JSg) and 85 at Budle Bay on 8th (BNR). One was inland at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (JRT).

Golden Plover

About 3,000 were at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (IDM) and 2,500 at Druridge on 13th (IF). Other large counts included 1,600 at Newton Pool on 30th (JDL) and 650 near Belsay during the month (JSt). Three were still on moorland at Allendale Common on 22nd (KD).

Grey Plover

A total of 37 noted during the wader count. Up to 500 were also noted in the Ross/Lindisfarne area (ASJ/JDL).

Lapwing

The largest flocks involved 2,000 near Ponteland (EC), 1,000 at Whittle Dene, St. Mary's Island, Blyth, Coquet Estuary and Druridge and 600-850 at Westerhope, Hexham and Caistron. Other gatherings of 200-600 noted in a further eight areas.

Knot

A total of only 257 noted during the wader count although 200 were at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (IDM) and 220 at Budle Bay on 30th (JDL).

Sanderling

Only 168 noted during the wader count. 60-65 were also seen at Guile Point and Holy Island causeway (IK/JDL) and 40 at Berwick (JSg).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 494 noted during the wader count although numbers at Stag Rocks increased to 200 by 30th (JSw).

Dunlin

A total of 595 noted during the wader count. 2,100 were at Holy Island causeway on 23rd (JDL). One was still inland at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 30th (JRT).

Ruff

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 16th (MA).

Jack Snipe

Three were at Druridge Pool on 7th and 13th with two on 16th (IF). Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th (MBS/ES) and one at Whittle Dene on 30th (RGW).

Snipe

Large counts were over 100 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th (ES/WTL) and 28 at Druridge Pool on 7th (IF).

Woodcock

Between 1st-20th one-two were noted along the coast at Holy Island, Hauxley, Hadston and St. Mary's Island. One flew along a main road at Cowgate on 2nd (MSH).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 30 noted during the wader count. 1,000-1,300 were at Fenham Flats on 15th and 22nd (CB/JDL).

Curlew

A total of 206 noted during the wader count when 166 were in Budle Bay (KWY/JRT). 261 were at Lindisfarne on 23rd (JDL). Inland ten were at Grindon and Hallington on 15th and 30th (CJ/BNR) and two-three at Brenkley (AMB).

Spotted Redshank

Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st, one remaining throughout the month (DRS/ES et al).

Redshank

A total of 968 noted during the wader count. 330 were at Black Low on 1st (JDL) and 250 at Berwick on 2nd (JSg).

Greenshank

Two were at Beal Sands on 22nd and one on 23rd (JDL).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Caistron on 2nd (MR).

Turnstone

A large total of 1,586 noted during the wader count. 74 were on a ploughed field at Craster on 1st (RKS) and 60 at Berwick on 2nd (JSg).



Pomarine Skua

A total of 11 flew N. and 12 S. at St. Mary's Island on 1st when a further 15 unidentified Skuas were seen (KDS et al). Four also moved S. at Holy Island on this date. On 9th at least one was in the Holy Island/Ross/Bamburgh area (DPa/KR).

Arctic Skua

On 1st three flew N. at St. Mary's Island, two N. at Seaton Sluice (JC), singles N. and S. at Hauxley (HRS) and two S. at Holy Island (DPa). One was off Ross on 2nd (ADM/ASJ).

Great Skua

On 1st ten flew S. and six N. at St. Mary's Island (KDS et al) and one-three were off Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin, Druridge and Holy Island. One flew N. at Druridge on 30th (JECM/KH).

Mediterranean Gull

The Craster bird was still present during the month. A second winter bird flew N. at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS).

Laughing Gull

The Newcastle bird was seen on five days during the month.

Little Gull

Two adults were at Druridge Bay on 5th (ASJ) and another at Seaton Sluice on 29th (JDS/GWS).

Black-headed Gull

1,000 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 1st (HRS). Up to 900 were in the Tyne Estuary (DMT). Inland roost counts included 2,900 at Scotswood on 19th and at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd, and 4,000 at Hallington on 30th while on the coast 1,700 roosted at Budle Bay on 8th (BNR).

Common Gull

800-1,000 per hour moved N. at Tynemouth on 8th (CB). 600 were at North Shields on 24th/25th (AH). 14,000 roosting at Hallington on 1st increased to 20,000 by 30th. 10,000 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and 800-890 at Colt Crag and Broomlee. 13,000 roosted at Budle Bay on 8th (BNR). A group of nine with other gulls at Alnmouth on 23rd showed the characteristics of the Russian race, L.c. *heinei* (BG/IK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Four were at Caistron on 9th and two on 16th (MR). Singles were noted in nine other localities.

Herring Gull

800 were in the Coquet Estuary on 8th (EMY), 200 roosted at Hallington on 1st and 130 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (BNR).

Iceland Gull

A second-winter bird was at North Shields Fish Quay on 5th and a first-winter at Tynemouth Haven on 16th (DY/SY).

Glaucous Gull

All reports were of first-winter birds. One was at North Shields Fish Quay between 1st-14th (DMT) and others flying N. at Cresswell on 8th (IK), at Hadston on 9th (MJS) when another N. at Holy Island (DPa), and on Holywell Pond on 14th (ASJ).

Great Black-backed Gull

200 per hour moved N. off Hauxley on 1st (HRS). 1,200 were at the Coquet Estuary on 10th (EMY). 60 roosted inland at Hallington and Derwent Reservoir on 1st and 22nd (BNR).

Kittiwake

150 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) when 39 were at North Shields Fish Quay (DMT).

Sandwich Tern

A late bird was at St. Mary's Island on 16th (LH).

'Commic' Tern

At least three were at St. Mary's Island on 1st (KDS/TO) when two, possibly the same were at Newbiggin (ADMc).

Common Tern

One flying N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st may have been one of the 'Commic' Terns noted above (JC).

Auks (Sp)

50 per hour flew N. at Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Guillemot

Small numbers were at Holy Island and Ross on 9th/16th (JDL).

Razorbill

One was at Cresswell on 9th (MGA).

Little Auk

Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st (JC). On 8th two flew N. at Tynemouth and one at St. Mary's Island (CB/WAK).

Puffin

One flew N. at Hauxley on 8th and another S. at Holy Island on 23rd (HRS/JDL).

Stock Dove

12 were at Ordley on 11th (BNR) and 11 roosted at Holywell Pond on 26th (ISD).

Woodpigeon

90 flew high to S. at Juniper on 12th (CJ) and 121 flew SE at North Shields on 14th (SJL).

Collared Dove

36 were at Seaton Delaval between 19th-30th (TAC). The roost at North Shields held 20 by 27th (RHA).

Barn Owl

A road casualty from the Borders was successfully released at Rothbury on 16th but another road casualty at Snitter on 25th had to be destroyed (JSe). One was at Acklington on 28th (NWR). Two broods of two and three were reared near Blagdon during the breeding season.

Little Owl

One on Holy Island on 23rd was a most unusual record (DPa/JDL). Other singles were at Bingfield, Kirkley Hall and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Tawny Owl

One in a Whitley Bay garden on 30th was hunting roosting Blackbirds (MSH). Other singles were seen in four other localities.

Long-eared Owl

Several immigrants noted. At least two were at Hauxley between 13th-15th (HRS). On 15th two were roosting at Seaton Burn (AJJ), and singles were at Holy Island (CB/KWY) and Holywell Pond (JEF/ASJ). Further singles were near Whalton on 16th (AHB) and at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th (IF/AJB).

Short-eared Owl

One-two were noted in 13 coastal or near coastal localities. One arrived from the E. at Cresswell on 2nd (IK) and another resting on the rocks at Beadnell on 15th was probably a recent immigrant (TAC). Inland one was at Castron on 2nd where it or another found dead, very emaciated, on 7th (MR/JSe).

Kingfisher

Singles were noted at Castron and Jesmond Dene (MR/MPF).

Green Woodpecker

Singles were seen at Howick, near Belsay and Falstone.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were in seven typical localities while one at Low Newton Village on 29th may have been an immigrant (RKS).

Skylark

13 arrived from the E. at Hauxley on 8th and ten moved W. at Horton on 9th (HRS/LJM).

Swallow

Two late birds were at Alnmouth on 6th and singles at Lesbury on 26th and Alnmouth on 29th (WD/JMA).

Meadow Pipit

30 flew W. at Prior's Park on 3rd (CB). Inland small numbers still in moorland areas at Ladycross and Sweethope (CJ/IK).

Rock Pipit

20 were at St. Mary's Island on 15th (JC/MBS).

Grey Wagtail

Singles noted at North Shields, Foxton and Matfen.

Dipper

Five were along a half mile stretch of the River Rede on 30th (HWR). One-two noted in another seven localities including a bird singing at Felton on 30th (ETN).

Robin

About 20 were at Holy Island on 15th (JRT/KWY).

Black Redstart

Two were on Holy Island on 15th (JRT/KWY).

Stonechat

A pair were at the Long Nanny on 15th (JRT/KWY) and singles noted at Low Newton, Druridge and Chevington.

Blackbird

Only light immigration noted at the coast. A maximum of 70 was at Hauxley on 2nd, 70 flew W. at Prior's Park on 13th (HRS/AH) and 50 were on Holy Island on 15th (JRT/KWY). Smaller numbers noted at Holywell Dene and St. Mary's Island.

Fieldfare

Still relatively scarce during the month. Inland parties of 200-1,000 flew W. daily at Ladycross between 1st-15th, where 2,000 moved E. on 17th and a roost of 500 developed between 19th-30th (CJ). 800 were near Ponteland on 28th (EC) and flocks of 300 at Slaley on 22nd and Great Whittington on 29th (BNR/RW). 30-116 were seen in another 12 localities but passage at the coast was virtually nil.

Song Thrush

One was singing at Fenham on 18th (MH).

Redwing

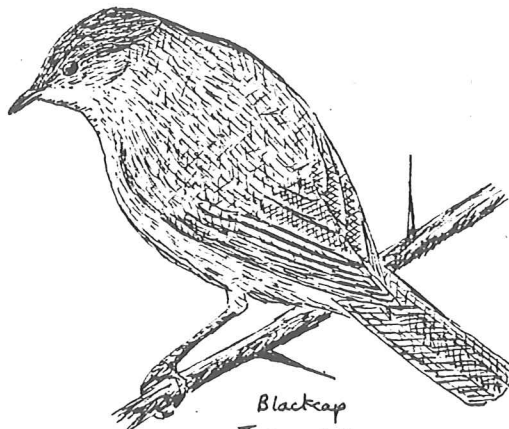
100 at Lindisfarne on 2nd, 25 at Hauxley on 15th and 35 at Holywell Dene on 16th were the largest numbers on the coast (JDL/HRS/IC). Further inland 40 were at Seaton Burn on 22nd (AJJ) and 8-20 at about four other localities.

Mistle Thrush

One-three were at Hauxley between 1st-15th (HRS). 18 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th (IF). One was in full song at Ladycross on 6th (CJ).

Blackcap

Singles were at Hauxley on 2nd, 3rd and 8th and Prior's Park on 2nd and 11th (HRS/CB). A total of ten were in Jesmond Dene on 19th, all feeding on elderberries (MPF). Singles were at Matfen on 26th (RW), Hexham on 27th (VW) and Holywell Dene on 29th (GS).



Blackcap  
Jesmond Dene  
Nov. 1976     AZB

Chiffchaff

One-two were at Holy Island, Prior's Park and Hauxley between 2nd-15th (MJS/HRS/AH). One was at Corbridge on 19th (MR). Single 'phylloscopus' were at Bolam on 2nd (WAK) and Vindolanda on 16th (TGD/BD).

Goldcrest

Two at Hauxley on 2nd/3rd was the only coastal record (HRS). Small numbers were noted at Bolam, Sweethope and Threestoneburn.

Long-tailed Tit

Flocks of ten were at the Harthope Valley on 2nd and Wylam on 9th (JSe/MA).

Marsh Tit

Noted at Hulne Park and Bolam.

Willow Tit

Three were at Seaton Burn and one at Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Nuthatch

Five-six were noted at Bolam (ASJ) and one-three at Allenbanks, Wallington, Matfen, Close House, Jesmond Dene, Morpeth and Hulne Park.

Great Grey Shrike

One was at Bamburgh on 18th (JMA).

Jay

One-two were in six widespread localities.

Magpie

30 gathered to roost at Seaton Burn on 15th (ES/MBS).

Rook

500 were at Low Buston on 30th (JMA).

Carrion Crow

A partial albino was at Holywell on 8th (JRT/KWY).

Starling

One at West Cramlington on 6th had an abnormally long bill (JECM). An all white bird was at Newton-on-the-Moor on 25th (JMA).

Tree Sparrow

40 at Seaton Burn on 1st was the largest gathering (AJJ). Smaller numbers noted in four other localities.

Chaffinch

About 300 moved SW in 11 minutes at Ordley on 16th (BNR). 40 flew W. at Harehaugh on 6th (MLC). The largest flocks were 80-90 at Prestwick Carr on 20th (AGH) and 70 at Newbiggin on 16th (BNR).

Brambling

Three at Prior's Park on 2nd was the only report on the coast (CB). About 100 moved SW, with Chaffinches at Ordley on 16th. The largest flocks were 60 at Blanchland and Dilston Hall on 15th, and near Hexham on 16th (RKS/BNR). 1-24 noted in another six inland localities.

Greenfinch

Flocks of 30-53 were noted at Great Whittington, Holywell and Hartley.

Goldfinch

24 roosting in the Holly tree at Matfen on 3rd increased to 40 by 18th but none since (RW). 15 were at Ordley on 29th (BNR).

Siskin

Six arrived at Hauxley on 15th (HRS). 15 were at Seaton Burn on 22nd, 12 at Corbridge on 19th (AJJ/MR) and four-five at Bolam and Threestoneburn.

Twite

On 16th 30 were at Coquet Estuary (PWW) and 40-50 near S. Alnmouth (EMY). Singles were at Holy Island on 2nd (JDL) and Druridge Pool on 20th (IF).

Redpoll

On the coast three were at Hauxley on 8th and eight S. at Druridge on 16th (HRS/IF) 100 were at Bolam on 16th (RKS), 30 at Seaton Burn on 30th (AJJ) and 23 at Juniper (CJ).

Mealy Redpoll

Singles were at Prior's Park on 3rd (CB) and Heaton Park on 28th (AJB). Three were inland at Caistron on 23rd (MR).

Crossbill

17 were at Ladycross on 5th (CJ). Two-six were noted at Ordley, Juniper and the Simonsides.

Bullfinch

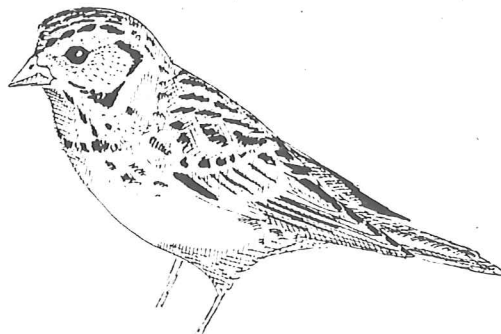
One was at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS). Ten were in Jesmond Dene during the month (MPF) and one-six at nine other localities.

Hawfinch

One was at Hulne Park on 8th (DRS), two at Kirkley Hall on 21st (TAC) and Hexham on 22nd (AJR).

Lapland Bunting

Immigration still apparent during the month particularly on Holy Island where birds were present up to 23rd with a peak of 97 on 15th (DPa et al). 10-15 were at Boulmer on 8th (AGH/MH) and one-four at St. Mary's Island, Hauxley, Hadston and Druridge on several dates. More unusual was one flying W., well inland, at Caistron on 2nd (MR).



One ? For Hays May 1962  
Nov 15 50

Snow Bunting

Birds were noted in many coastal areas during the month. A total of 56 were at Ross on 26th (IK/PWW), 26 on Holy Island on 15th (DPa) when 22 on Bamburgh beach (CH) and 23 in the Druridge area. One-eleven were seen in a further nine localities. Inland one was at the Harthope Valley on 27th (JSe).

Yellowhammer

80 were at Ryal on 15th (RW) and 20-30 noted at Stockfield and Great Whittington.



Please send all December records, in Vooous order please, to Mike S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QX by 8th January, 1987 at the latest.

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TG & B Davies	A.D. McLevy	J.R. Todd
K. Dawson	J & JEC Malloy	D.M. Turner
J.C. Day	B. Mecrow	R. Walton
W. Dickson	T.M. Melling	R.G. Waugh
J.E. Fergusson	I.D. Moorhouse	P.R. Weighill
I. Fisher	A.P. Mossop	P.W. West
M.P. Frankis	ET & JR Norris	J. Wightman
M. Freeman	T. Oliphant	M. Winter
B. Galloway	D. Patterson (DPa)	A. Woodhall
H. Garrod	G.C. Pollinger	V. Woolley
B.D. Green	A.J. Richards	K.W. York
L. Hall	H.W. Richardson	E.M. Young
M. Henry	M. Richardson	A,D & S Younger
		Hauxley Ringing Station

#### INDOOR MEETING - Thursday 8th January, 1987

The first meeting in 1987 will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. on 8th January, 1987. Our speaker, Brian Little, who needs no introduction to club members, will give a talk entitled 'Israel and Bird of Prey Passage in the Eastern Mediterranean'.

#### MEMBER'S NIGHT - Thursday 9th April, 1987

Our annual member's night will take place on this date. In addition to presenting the best bird photographs taken by members during 1986 we require three or four members who would like to give a short talk on a bird-related subject. If you are interested in doing so, please contact Nick Rossiter (Tel: Slaley 509 or at any club meeting). If you require any slides for your talk then the committee will try and provide them where possible.

#### FIELD TRIP - Loch Fleet and N. Scotland

We plan to run another weekend trip to this area in late March 1987. The cost will be about £15. If you are interested please contact Colin Bradshaw (Tel. 257 2389 or at a club meeting) as soon as possible.

Mike Hodgson.

Hodgson.

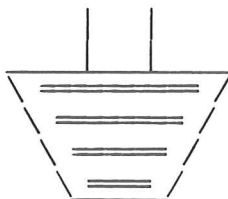
# BIRD PAINTINGS - AN EXHIBITION

may even pick up a bargain for your wall !

## BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR

1987 (see October bulletin).

\* \* \* \* \*





## The BTO Cormorant Survey in Northumberland 1985/86

Nick Rossiter

The first national survey of Cormorants Phalacrocorax carbo outside the breeding season was made in the winter of 1985/86. The survey was organised by the BTO/SOC to determine the population level of the species and its typical feeding habitat. The data obtained will be used to investigate whether the persecution that Cormorants suffer where there is an apparent conflict with fishing interests can be justified. The forthcoming breeding survey of Goosanders Mergus merganser in 1987 has a similar purpose.

The survey involved measuring the population in two ways by counting the species both in its daytime feeding areas and at its night-time roosts. The daytime figures were mainly obtained from the regular mid-monthly counts made for wildfowl inland (September 1985 - March 1986) and for waders on the coast (September 1985 - April 1986) with additional data from the important nature reserves in the north of the county on the Farnes and at Lindisfarne. Night-time roosts were counted in November 1985 and in January and March 1986, almost complete coverage of known sites being obtained inland and on the coast in the south of the county. In the north of the county, the roosting situation is more complicated with the birds probably roosting at various places in the Lindisfarne NNR/Farnes area. In view of the adequacy of daytime counts in these areas, roost counts were given a low priority in them. The Tweed Estuary is not a significant roost site, most Cormorants feeding here in the daytime leaving the estuary at dusk and moving north. Further south, the Tyne Estuary is also not a significant roost site, Cormorants from here moving south at dusk to Marsden Rock in County Durham. Total numbers moving south in the late afternoon from the lower reaches of the River Tyne included 60 on 5 January 1986 and 59 on 5 March 1986.

The results of the daytime counts are shown in table 1. The first clear conclusion is that despite the much publicised movement of the species inland, it is still basically a coastal species in Northumberland with the highest proportion of birds inland being 13% in December and about 12% from January to March. The movement inland commenced in strength in 1971 [Galloway, Meek & Armstrong 1972] and it will be interesting to see whether numbers here continue to increase. Through the winter, the species shows an increasing tendency to feed on rivers as opposed to reservoirs, the percentage inland on rivers rising from 49% in December to 90% in March. The cold weather of February will have forced many to move onto the rivers.

The table also shows that the most important sites for Cormorants are the Lindisfarne NNR and the breeding site at the Farnes. There is a major post-breeding dispersal from the Farnes in autumn but the counts elsewhere in the county do not change greatly over this period. This indicates that the birds leaving the Farnes largely move out of the immediate area, a conclusion confirmed by ringing recoveries. Thus in 1984 for example, there were 27 recoveries of Cormorants ringed on the Farnes. Eight were found locally, eight inland in southern England, nine on the Scottish coast and one each in Grampian and in Dorset [Hawkey 1985; Hodgson & Kerr 1985]. A summary of the movements of Cormorants away from the Farnes is given elsewhere [Galloway and

Table 1  
Daytime Counts of Cormorants in Northumberland, September 1985 - April 1986

	Sept	1985 Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	1986 Feb	Mar	Apr
<u>COAST &amp; ESTUARIES</u>								
NON-BREEDING SITES:								
Tweed Estuary	18	5	25	0	26	-	6	-
Lindisfarne NNR	152	146	204	184	164	248	86	141
Budle Point-								
Boulmer	24	38	26	19	9	8	25	4
Amble Area	23	27	37	24	36	24	35	13
(Boulmer-								
Chevington)								
Blyth Area	92	105	112	34	77	6	61	8
(Chevington-								
Seaton Sluice)								
North Shields Area	16	-	-	-	15	13	-	-
(St Marys Island-								
Tyne Estuary)								
TOTAL FOR NON-BREEDING SITES	325	321	404	261	327	299	213	166
BREEDING SITE:								
Farnes	-	331	70	2	-	-	100+	231
TOTAL FOR ALL COASTAL SITES	325	652	474	263	327	299	313+	397
<u>INLAND</u>								
RESERVOIRS, PONDS:								
Hallington	0	0	9	11	4	0	0	-
Whittle Dene	0	0	3	0	5	2	3	-
Kielder	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	4
Caistron	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	-
Derwent Reservoir	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0
Seaton Burn	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	-
Holywell	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-
TOTAL RESERVOIRS	0	0	14	21	16	7	4	4
RIVERS:								
Tyne (Scotswood-	4	6	9	4	9	22	23	8
Wylam)								
Tyne (Ovingham-	0	0	10	16	18	13	10	0
Hexham)								
Tweed (East Ord-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Carham)								
TOTAL RIVERS	4	6	19	20	27	35	36	8
TOTAL INLAND	4	6	33	41	43	42	40	12
TOTAL ON COAST AND INLAND	329	658	507	304	370	341	353+	409

Note: - indicates no data available.

Table 2  
Counts of Cormorants at Night-time Roosts in South and Central Northumberland,  
November 1985 - March 1986

	1985 November	1986 January	1986 March
<u>COAST &amp; ESTUARIES</u>			
Amble	38	43	37
Blyth	93	71	69
North Shields	-	4	-
TOTAL FOR COASTAL SITES	131	118	106
<u>INLAND</u>			
Hallington	9	0	0
Colt Crag	0	0	0
Kielder	6	7	3
Derwent Reservoir	2	0	0
River Tyne, Corbridge	12	29	9
TOTAL INLAND	29	36	12
TOTAL ON COAST AND INLAND	160	154	118

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Meek 1978], the furthest movements recorded being to France, Spain and Portugal.

The numbers found at night-time roosts are shown in table 2. Blyth and Amble are the two main roosts on the coast in the south of the county. The numbers found here at roost can be compared with the daytime counts for the same months for the two stretches of coast Chevington - Seaton Sluice and Boulmer - Chevington respectively. The reasonable agreement suggests that the Cormorants in these areas are rather sedentary, not moving far from their roosting sites.

Inland roosts were not apparently established to any great extent in the 1970's when the species first moved inland in numbers. In 1975, it was thought that some might be roosting in trees near Wylam on the River Tyne [Galloway, Hodgson & Meek 1976] and in 1978 five roosted in trees on the River Tweed [Galloway & Hodgson 1979]. However, by 1984, two roosts were firmly established inland on the River Tyne at Corbridge and at Kielder Reservoir and another roost occurred at Colt Crag in November [Hodgson & Kerr 1985]. The 1985/86 survey showed that the roosts in trees at Corbridge and Kielder continued, the highest counts in the survey being found in January of 29 and seven respectively. The late autumn roost at Colt Crag did not recur but a roost of nine birds was found at nearby Hallington Reservoir at the same time. Comparison of the inland daytime counts and the roost counts for January suggests that the feeding areas of the birds attending the Corbridge roost



include Whittle Dene, Hallington and the River Tyne downstream as far as Ovingham. Those feeding in the tidal area of the River Tyne below Wylam move east at dusk to roost at Marsden Rock.

As a result of the survey, we now have more accurate figures for our non-breeding Cormorant population than before. In October, the county population will have been about 700 birds allowing for under-coverage in a few areas. The population then reduces through November to a total of 300-400 birds from December to March before rising above this level again in April as birds return to the Farnes breeding colony. Whilst the Cormorant is now a very widely distributed species in the county in winter, it is perhaps less common than expected. Compared with the Shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis for instance, the Cormorant is much more widely distributed on the coast and is regularly found inland, but never reaches the concentrations that the Shag achieves such as over 4000 at the Farnes in November and December 1985 [Hawkey 1986].

Thanks are due to the observers listed below for providing the data for this survey. The assistance of the local organisers of the wildfowl and wader counts, Margaret Macfarlane and Michael Hodgson, in collecting the data is gratefully acknowledged.

#### Observers:

Anderson, D	Dutton, J	Kerr, I	Richardson, NW
Bankier, AM	Freeman, M	Little, B	Rossiter, BN
Bell, DG	Green, BD	Logan, WT	Shaw, KD
Bell, JG	Harrison, G	Macfarlane, JM	Slack, E
Cadwallender, ML	Hawkey, P	McDougall, LJ	Smith, MR
Cadwallender, TA	Hawking, M	Morley, I	Stimpson, A
Chadwick, I	Hepple, M	Norris, ET	Walton, R
Crabtree, E	Irving, JR	O'Connor, DA	West, PW
Davidson, IS	Johnston, AJ	Patterson, D	Williams, B
Douglas, CE	Jordan, R	Richardson, M	Woodhall, A

#### References:

- B Galloway and MS Hodgson (1979), Birds in Northumbria 1978, Tyneside Bird Club.
- B Galloway, MS Hodgson and ER Meek (1976), Birds in Northumbria 1975, Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club.
- B Galloway and ER Meek (1978), Northumberland's Birds, Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Northumb., 44(1).
- B Galloway, ER Meek and IH Armstrong (1972), Birds in Northumbria 1971, Tyneside Bird Club.
- P Hawkey (1985), Birds on the Farne Islands in 1984, publ. Farne Islands Local Committee of the National Trust, Alnwick.
- P Hawkey (1986), Birds on the Farne Islands in 1985, publ. Farne Islands Local Committee of the National Trust, Alnwick.
- MS Hodgson and I Kerr (1985), Birds in Northumbria 1984, Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club.



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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## MONTHLY SUMMARY - DECEMBER 1986

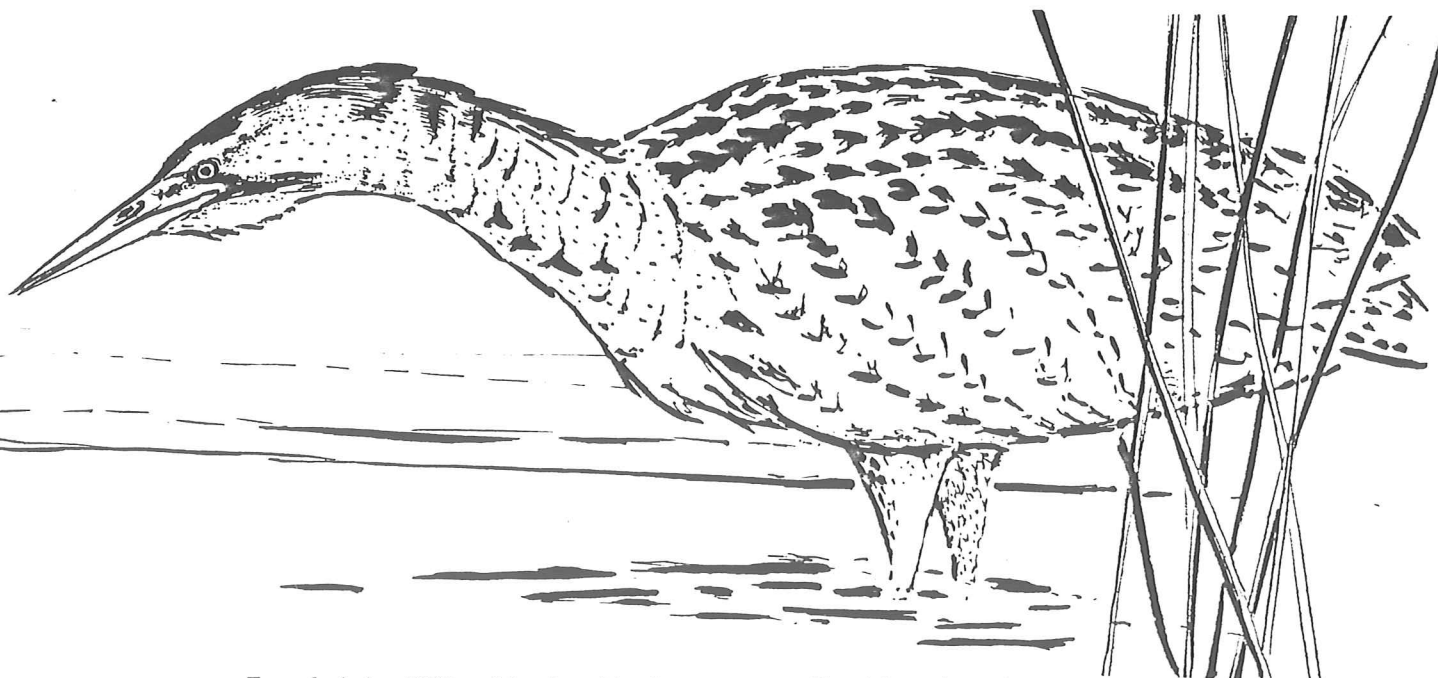
The mild weather continued during the early part of the month although temperatures dropped in the latter half with snow lying in inland areas from 15th and affecting some lower levels from 22nd. It was a wet month, with coastal areas having 10% to 20% above average rainfall and even more inland. A windy period, mainly from the S.- W. with gusts to or over gale force on several days.

A surprising start to the month was a Storm Petrel seen briefly in the Tyne Estuary on 5th. Geese were still prominent with Pink-feet and White-fronts indicating continuing arrivals. Long-tailed Ducks increased to about 100 off Ross Back Sands early in the month. A Snew arrived at Hadston on 14th and was still present at the end of the month. The Bittern, first reported in October, was still at Caistron.

The regular wader count revealed a distinct increase in the numbers of Purple Sandpiper and wintering Ruff and Spotted Redshank were noted. Unfortunately a phalarope at Newbiggin on 15th was seen too briefly for positive identification but was almost certainly a Grey. Four Mediterranean Gulls were noted including one away from the coast at Seaton Burn.

Numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings increased from 14th suggesting immigration and Waxwings began to appear from 26th, the forerunners of further birds early in the New Year. Surviving warblers included seven Blackcaps and at least four Chiffchaffs, one perhaps of the Siberian race, 11 Lapland Buntings were at Holy Island and two more at Hauxley. Finally a Great Grey Shrike, now a scarce visitor to the county, was found at Kielder on 12th.

Other interesting species included Bewick's Swans, three Hen Harriers, Jack Snipe, Laughing Gull, Pomarine Skua, Little Auks, Twite and Mealy Redpoll.



Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

A maximum of 15 was at Ross on 6th (JC) and eight in Druridge Bay on 27th (MBS/ES). One-three were in eight other localities.

Black-throated Diver

One was in Blyth Bay on 6th (PL).

Great Northern Diver

One flew S. at Holy Island on 14th (JDL).

Little Grebe

Ten were at Cresswell Pond on 18th (IF). Singles were noted at four other localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Three were at Hallington on 14th (RW). One-two were at Cresswell Pond, Arcot, Whittle Dene and Seaton Burn up to the 27th. At the last site a summer plumaged bird was noted on 24th. One was in the Coquet Estuary between 1st-6th (MA/EMY) and three off Ross on 6th (JC).

Red-necked Grebe

Four were in Holy Island harbour on 13th (DPa) and singles at Ross and Stag Rocks on 6th and 20th (JC).

Slavonian Grebe

Five were at Ross on 6th (JC) and two at Holy Island harbour and Stag Rocks on 13th and 20th.

Storm Petrel

One was seen briefly at North Shields Fish Quay on 5th (DMT).

Gannet

One flew N. at Ross on 1st, six N. and one S. at Tynemouth on 7th and another N. on 21st (MA/AH).

Cormorant

Large coastal counts included 43 at Amble Harbour on 1st (MA/KH), 21 at Blyth on 21st (LJM) and 31 at North Shields Fish Quay on 30th (DMT). 36 moved upstream at Newcastle Quayside on 3rd with similar movements on several other dates (IK). 11 were at Hallington on 20th (BNR) and one-three on four other inland waters.

Shag

231 flew N. in 35 minutes at Holy Island on 14th (JDL).

Bittern

One was still present at Caistron on 26th (MR).

Grey Heron

Five at Boulmer on 13th and Holywell on 14th were the largest gatherings (ES/IC) although one-four were noted at a further 18 widespread localities. An exhausted bird was picked up at Druridge on 28th (HRS).

Flamingo

An escapee was at Cresswell Pond between 12th-18th.

Mute Swan

135 were at Berwick Harbour on 23rd (JDL), 25 at Capheaton on 26th when 15 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (RW/JRT), and 20 at Coquet Estuary on 31st (EMY). One-twelve were at ten other localities.

Bewick's Swan

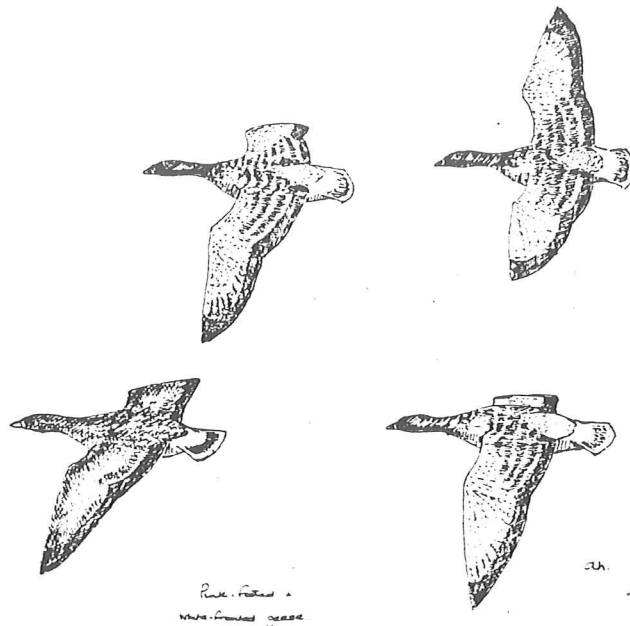
On 13th one was at Cresswell Pond (GSR/KIB) and four (one juvenile) at Seaton Burn (AJJ), with probably the same four with Whoopers at Woolsington on 26th (MPF). An adult and a juvenile were at Cresswell Pond on 24th (MD/IF).

Whooper Swan

134 (25 juveniles) were at Druridge Pool on 7th (ADMc) with this herd visiting Warkworth Lane Pond-Cresswell Pond on several dates. Other large groups involved 44 (three juveniles) on the Northumbrian Loughs (JMM), 35 (four juveniles) at Seaton Burn, these birds also moving to Woolsington and Prestwick Carr (AJJ/BG et al), 35 (six juveniles) at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (AJB) and 27 (two juveniles) at Hartburn on 13th (ADMc). 2-25 were also seen at ten other localities.

Pink-footed Goose

19 were at Holywell Pond on 6th, one still present on 31st (AJB et al). One was at Druridge Pool on 6th (MGA). 36 flew S. at Tynemouth Pier on 14th (AH).

White-fronted Goose

Three flew S., with Pink-feet, at Tynemouth Pier on 14th (AH).

Grey Lag Goose

400 were at Castron on 21st/27th (MR), 150 on the Northumbrian Loughs on 14th (JMM) when 132 at Derwent Reservoir (BNR), and 138 at Hoppen Kiln on 26th (WAK). The Holywell flock held 130, these birds again ranging into several nearby localities. 17 flew N. at Prior's Park on 6th (CB), 150 S. at Alnwick on 8th (JMA) and three arrived from E. at S. Alnmouth on 14th (ETN). 25 'grey' geese flew S. at Sweethope also on 14th (MLC).

Canada Goose

71 were at Hallington on 20th (BNR).

Barnacle Goose

Two were at Holywell Pond on 6th/7th when one was at St. Mary's Island (AJB/SJL).

Brent Goose

Numbers at Lindisfarne increased to about 1,800 by 28th (JDL). A dark-bellied bird was at Boulmer on 13th (IK).

Shelduck

210 were on Fenham Flats on 26th (KWY) and up to 178 in Budle Bay (JDL/ES). Four were inland at Seaton Burn on 21st (AJJ).

Wigeon

1,200 were on Fenham Flats on 26th (JRT/KWY) and 810 in Budle Bay on 27th (DPa). 150-200 were in the Cresswell/Druridge area (IF/JC), 130 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (CJ/BNR) when 101 at the Northumbrian Loughs and also at Hartburn on 20th (JMM/MLC).

Gadwall

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 28th (AJH).

Teal

The largest gatherings were 136 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR/CJ), 111 at Caistron on 27th (MR) and 90 at Cresswell Pond on 31st (ISD). 20-65 were at six other localities and 50 rested on the sea at Druridge on 15th (AGH).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 380 at Seaton Burn on 24th (AJJ), 352 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR/CJ), when 226 at Colt Crag (RW), and 227 at Holywell Pond on 7th (SJL). 40-160 were at 12 other localities. 96 were on the sea at Druridge on 15th.

Pintail

A drake was at Seaton Burn all month (AJJ).

Shoveler

13 were at Seaton Burn on 20th (AJJ). One-six were on five other waters. Three were again on the sea at Druridge on 3rd and 15th (MA/AGH).

Pochard

53 at Killingworth Lake on 6th was the largest gathering (LJM). 46 were on the Northumbrian Loughs on 14th (JMM) and 3-40 on 12 other waters. One flew N. off Tynemouth on 21st (AH).

Tufted Duck

80 were at Whittle Dene on 14th (MSH) and 78 at Seaton Burn on 26th (AJJ). 20-70 were on six other waters.

Scaup

Three were on Cresswell Pond between 13th-31st (JRT/KWY et al) and one-two at Hadston and Hauxley on several dates. One remained at St. Mary's Island throughout the month.

Long-tailed Duck

Numbers off Ross increased to a maximum of 80-100 on 5th (MW/AJ). 26 were at Holy Island on 28th (JDL).

Common Scoter

95 were at Cocklawburn on 28th (JDL), 40 at Ross on 6th (JC) and 23 off Hadston on 15th (AGH). A total of 37 flew N. at Hauxley on 15th and 22nd (IOK).

Velvet Scoter

A maximum of 12-14 was off Hadston on 31st (GPB). Singles were at Blyth Bay on 6th (PL) and Stag Rocks on 13th and 27th (ES/DRS).

Goldeneye

340 were at the Shad, Berwick on 31st (JDL). Along the River Tyne 100 flying upstream at Newburn on 23rd was the largest count (RGW). Only small numbers recorded in other areas with two-ten in a further 18 widespread localities. 43 flew N. at Tynemouth Pier on 21st (AH).

Smew

A 'redhead' was at Hadston Lake between 14th-31st (MJS/KDS et al).

Red-breasted Merganser

One-four were noted at Tynemouth, Birling Carrs, Football Hole and Holy Island. Eight flew S. at Hauxley on 31st (HRS). On Hadston Lake birds were present on many dates with a maximum of 13 on 15th (IF/AGH et al).

Goosander

The largest gatherings were 28 at Wylam on 30th (JSB), 18 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (CJ/BNR) and 15 at Berwick Harbour on 31st (JDL). One-nine noted in another ten localities. Along the coast one flew S. at Cresswell on 13th (KH/MA) and six N. at Birling Carrs on 26th (JR/IF).

Hen Harrier

Single males were at Elsdon on 1st (per IK) and Newcastle Airport on 14th (FC). A 'ringtail' was at Ross on 29th (MW).

Sparrowhawk

Singles were seen in about 24 widespread localities during the month. A female took a Lapwing at Caistron on 7th (MR), a male ate a House Sparrow in MRS's back garden at Kenton on 18th and another female visited a bird-table in Morpeth (ETN/JRN).

Kestrel

Many, widespread reports of one-two birds during the month. Many appear to be wintering in the Border Forests (BL). One attacked a Common Gull at Newcastle on 26th ! (KIB).

Merlin

Single birds were noted in five coastal localities. One was hunting over roof-tops at Byker on 1st (AJB).

Peregrine

Singles were at Druridge on 4th (IF), Beal on 14th (JDL) and flying N. near Blaydon on 21st (BL). Singles were also seen in three inland localities.

Red Grouse

Noted as prominent on high moorland in Upper Coquetdale on 31st (IK/BG).

Black Grouse

Singles were at Threestoneburn and Upper Coquetdale on 28th and 31st.

Red-legged Partridge

Four were at Netherwitton on 27th (RKS) and 20 at Buston Barns, Warkworth on 29th (JMA). A covey of 17 at Caistron on 14th contained several showing the characteristics of Chukar, probably hybrids (MR).



Grey Partridge

Coveys of 25 and 21 noted at Ross on 13th and Holywell on 27th (SJL).

Pheasant

An all white bird was at Hulne Park on 7th (JMA).

Water Rail

Singles were noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Gosforth Park, Seaton Burn and Newton Pool.

Moorhen

36 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (GS).

Coot

300 at Seaton Burn on 14th (AJJ), 157 at Hartburn on 20th (MLC/TAC) and up to 59 at Holywell Pond (IC) were the largest gatherings.

WADER COUNT - 13th December, 1986

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (APM), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WFL/ES), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington-Cresswell (BDG/EC/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), Newbiggin-Cambois (KDS/MHp), Blyth Estuary (LJM), St. Mary's Island (IDM), Tyne Estuary (SY).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,127 noted during the wader count. 167 were at Berwick Little Beach on 5th, 254 at Holy Island on 13th (JDL) and up to 120 at Cresswell Pond (JC/ISD).

Ringed Plover

A total of 394 noted during the wader count. About 75 were at Berwick Little Beach on 30th (JDL) and 40 at Newton on 7th.

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 2,000 at Druridge on 21st (AMB) and St. Mary's Island on 20th (IDM), and 1,000-1,500 at Newbiggin, Boulmer and Newton Pool. Inland 123 were at Caistron on 7th and 50 near Bellingham all month (MR/MD).

Grey Plover

A total of 46 noted during the wader count. 186 were at Holy Island on 6th (JDL) and one-seven at Hauxley and Berwick.

Lapwing

Up to 2,000 were in the Cresswell area (IF/MGA), 1,100 at St. Mary's Island on 13th (IDM) when 1,000-1,500 in the Boulmer area. Smaller flocks 200-800 noted in several areas. Inland 160 moved S.W. over Stocksfield on 22nd (BNR).

Knot

Only 175 noted during the wader count, 173 being at St. Mary's Island. In addition 450 were on Fehnam Flats on 26th (KWY/JRT) and 146 in Budle Bay on 27th (DPa).

Sanderling

Only 67 noted during the wader count although a maximum of 110 was at St. Mary's on 20th (IDM). About 70 were at Druridge Bay between Hadston-Hauxley and 47 at Berwick Little Beach on 31st (JDL).

Purple Sandpiper

An increase in numbers noted during the wader count when 679 were reported including 336 in the Budle Point-Seahouses stretch. In addition up to 24 were at Hauxley (HRS).



Dunlin

A total of 861 noted during the wader count. A maximum of 3,200 was at Holy Island causeway on 20th (JDL). Singles were at Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th and 21st (AIB/JRT).

Ruff

One was at Druridge Pool on 13th (JRT/KWY) and two at Cresswell on 31st (GPB).

Jack Snipe

Singles were at Cresswell on 7th and 26th (JMA/MD) and near Seghill on 17th (MSH).

Snipe

30 were at Newton Pool on 14th (RKS) where immigration suggested by a total of 20 arriving from the E. on 26th (IF/MD). 24 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (GS/JSr). One was still on breeding area at Hexhamshire Common on 27th (BNR).

Woodcock

Four were at Yeavinger Bell on 28th (AMB) when three at Prestwick Carr (AGH). Singles noted in five other areas between 14th-29th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 25 noted during the wader count, when 2,900 were at Holy Island Causeway (JDL). 200 were in Budle Bay on 27th (ES/MBS).

Curlew

A total of 106 noted during the wader count. About 160 were at Holy Island on 14th (JDL). Inland up to six were at Brenkley and 12 at Caistron (AHB/MR).

Spotted Redshank

One still present at Wallsend Swallow Pond all month.

Redshank

A total of 724 noted during the wader count. 100 were on flood water at Druridge on 18th (IF) and 70 at Hauxley Pool on 11th (HRS).

Turnstone

A total of 1,576 noted during the wader count. In addition 65 were at Berwick Little Beach on 31st (JDL) and up to 39 at Hauxley (HRS).

Phalarope (Sp)

A phalarope seen very briefly, with Black-headed Gulls, at Newbiggin on 15th was almost certainly a Grey Phalarope (AGH).

Pomarine Skua

One flew N. at Holy Island on 7th (DPa).

Arctic Skua

At Tynemouth Pier one flew N. on 7th and three S. on 21st. On the latter date another four skuas (Sp) flew S. (AH).

Mediterranean Gull

The Craster bird was still present during the month and almost certainly the same bird seen at Dunstanburgh on 28th (AJR et al). Other single adults were at Hadston Lake on 4th (IF) and Seaton Burn on 15th (AIB). A second-winter bird was on both sides of the River Tyne at Felling on 2nd (JC).

Laughing Gull

The Newcastle General Hospital bird was seen on 29th and 31st.

Black-headed Gull

Build-up at roosts included 8,000 at Scotswood on 19th and 3,400 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (BNR). A maximum of 1,300 was at the Tyne Estuary on 14th (DMT). A bird in full summer plumage was at Cramlington on Christmas Day ! (LJM).

Common Gull

A decline noted at inland roosts after mid-month with 6,700 at Hallington on 20th, 480 at Colt Crag on 21st and 8,400 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (BNR). 600 were on fields at North Shields all month (AH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

One-four were noted at Holy Island, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Seaton Burn during the month.

Herring Gull

Roost counts included 280 at Scotswood on 19th, 220 at Hallington on 20th and 1,250 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th. 600 were at the Tyne Estuary on 7th where an unusual plumaged adult, perhaps partial albino, was present on 6th and 28th (DMT/CB).

Iceland Gull

A first-winter was at North Shields Fish Quay on 28th (MGA) with perhaps the same bird at Holywell on 31st (JC).

Glaucous Gull

An adult was at North Shields Fish Quay during most of the month where a second-winter bird present on 15th (DMT et al).

Great Black-backed Gull

70 roosted at Hallington on 20th and 195 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (BNR). 150 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 31st (DMT).

Kittiwake

A maximum of only 21 at North Shields on 13th (DMT).

Auks (Sp)

350 flew N. at Tynemouth Pier on 7th (AH).

Guillemot

An oiled bird was ashore at Low Newton on 27th (RKS) and two at Seahouses on 14th (MLC).

Razorbill

One was off Hauxley on 18th (HRS).

Little Auk

Three flew N. at Tynemouth Pier on 21st (AH).

Stock Dove

Eight were at Druridge on 20th (ES/DRS) and six at Hallington on 14th (RW).

Woodpigeon

About 1,000 were near Blagdon on 25th (AIB/GB) and flocks of 300 at Prestwick Carr and Boulmer.

Collared Dove

The North Shields roost held 30 by 23rd (RHA). 16-25 were also noted at Arcot and Matfen.

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Eglington, Alnwick, near Newton, Cramlington, Blagdon and Ponteland. A road casualty was found S. of Berwick on 28th (JDL).

Little Owl

One was at Newburn on 3rd (RGW).

Tawny Owl

Two were roosting at Alnwick on 6th (JMA) and singles seen or heard in six other localities during the month. A grey-phase bird was at Yeavering Bell on 28th (AMB/BL et al).

Long-eared Owl

Two roosted at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 28th-31st (IF).

Short-eared Owl

Four were at St. Mary's Island on 21st (SH) and one-two were noted in another nine coastal localities. Just inland singles also seen at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Newcastle Airport.

Kingfisher

One was in Jesmond Dene all month (MPF) and another at Hulne Park on 7th (JMA).

Green Woodpecker

Singles were at the March Burn and Close House during the month (BNR/JSB).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were seen in 14 widespread localities including one at Low Newton on 27th.

Skylark

On 20th 32 were at Black Low and about 150 between Hauxley-Druridge (JDL/ES).

Meadow Pipit

Small numbers still on moors at Hexhamshire Common and near Alwinton on 27th and 30th (BNR/BG).

Rock Pipit

Eight were at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Grey Wagtail

Four were along the Ouseburn at Jesmond on 9th (AJB). Singles were noted in four other localities.

Waxwing

Birds began to appear from 26th when seven were at Plessey Woods declining to one by 28th (ADM et al). One at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th increased to four between 28th-31st (IF/AJB). Two were further inland at Gunnerton on 30th (MRy).

Dipper

One-two noted in six localities including birds in song at Felton and Alwinton.

Robin

One in full song after dark at Newcastle on 15th (LJM).

Stonechat

Singles noted in four localities between Seahouses-Druridge during the month.

Blackbird

300 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (IF) and 60-70 near Seghill on 17th

Fieldfare

Only small flocks noted during the early part of the month but numbers increased from 14th suggesting immigration. The largest gatherings involved 700 at Prestwick Carr on 26th-28th (AGH/BG), up to 500 at Wallsend Swallow Pond from 27th (IF/AJB) and 150-260 at Berwick Hill, Hebron, Seaton Burn, Caistron and Reaveley.

Redwing

Only very small numbers reported early in the month but 100 were at Prestwick Carr on 28th (BG/IK) and 25-40 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Close House and near Seghill. 15 flew in off the sea at St. Mary's Island on 21st (SH) and 60 passed high to W. over Close House on 22nd (WGS/MSH).

Mistle Thrush

20-30 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (IF). On 6th singing birds were noted at Gosforth Park and near Earsdon (KIB/WAK).

Blackcap

At least seven different individuals reported. At Wall a female was present between 8th-25th and a male between 26th-31st (JWP). One was at Newcastle University on 8th (JSr) and one-two females in North Shields on 9th and 12th (SY). A male was at Darras Hall on 26th (AGH) and another in woodland at Eshott on 28th (MSH/AJJ).

Chiffchaff

A ringed bird was still at Hauxley on 5th (HRS). Singles were at Wallington on 6th and North Shields on 21st (JRT/KWY). A very brown individual at Caistron on 7th may have been of the Siberian race, 'tristis' (MR). A phylloscopus at Wall on 25th was probably a Chiffchaff (JWP).

Goldcrest

About 25 were at Hulne Park on 13th (ES/WTL) and much smaller numbers noted at Harbottle, Sweethope, Bolam and Kirkley.

Long-tailed Tit

Small flocks of five-eight noted at Close House, Allenbanks and the March Burn.

Marsh Tit

One-three noted at Bolam, Allenbanks, Hexham, Linnels and Hulne Park.

Willow Tit

Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond and near Seghill.

Coal Tit

One-six were noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Close House and Bolam. Two were at Embleton Golf Course on 26th (MD).

Blue Tit

Details of ringing programmes included 53 trapped, and 32 retraps from previous years, during two mornings at Matfen (RW) and 42 trapped at Bolam on three days (JCD/WGS). 20 were near Seghill on 17th.

Great Tit

32 were ringed, during two mornings, at Matfen where one was 'controlled' from a nest-box at Nunykirk (RW). A total of 58 was ringed at Bolam on three days (JCD/WGS) and up to 20 present at Close House and Eshott (AJJ/MSH).

Nuthatch

About ten at Wallington on 6th (JRT/KWY). Up to nine were at Bolam and seven at Close House during the month (WGS/JCD et al) and one-three at Allenbanks, Bywell and Hulne Park. Two were at Eshott from 28th, another new locality (MSH/AJJ).

Treecreeper

One-three were noted in five widespread localities.

Great Grey Shrike

One was present in a clear-felled area at Kielder for several days from 12th (per BL).

Jay

One-four noted in several localities.

Magpie

30 were on Alnwick Moor on 10th (JMA). One-twelve seen in several widespread localities including suburban areas.

Jackdaw

The roost at Dipton held 9,000 birds between 28th-31st (BNR). Other large gatherings involved 1,500 at Felton on 8th (ETN/JRN) and 1,000 at Netherton on 26th (WAK).

Rook

Counts at the Dipton roost indicated a total of at least 8,500 birds between 28th-31st (BNR). A pre-roost flock of 2,500 was at Warenford on 1st (RMH) and 500-1,000 were noted at Felton and Netherton (ETN/WAK).

Carrion Crow

30 were at a pre-roost gathering at the March Burn on 31st (BNR).

Starling

1,500 were at Felton on 8th (ETN/JRN) and 1,000 at Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Tree Sparrow

50 were at Newburn on 2nd (RGW).

Chaffinch

100 were at W. Thirston on 8th (ETN/JRN) and flocks of 30-80 at several other localities.

Brambling

80 were at Calder on 21st (AMB/GC). Two-six at three other localities were the only other records.

Greenfinch

600 were near Powburn on 18th (ETN/JRN). Flocks of 30-80 noted in four other localities.

Goldfinch

30 were near Alnwick on 9th (JMA). One-nine were at five other localities including one in song at Caistron on 27th (MR).

Siskin

24 at Yeavinger Bell on 28th (AMB) and 17 at Corbridge on 7th (AJH) were the largest gatherings. One-fifteen noted at five other localities including some feeding on peanuts at Riding Mill on 25th (JH).

Linnet

90 at Seaton Burn on 23rd was the largest flock (AIB) with 30-40 in three other localities.

Twite

About 40 were at Warkworth on 14th (PWW).

Redpoll

70 were at the Rowley Burn on 27th (BNR) and 50 at Stocksfield on 11th (MD). 15-20 also seen at Seaton Burn, Allenbanks and Threestoneburn.

Mealy Redpoll

Two were near Alnwick on 10th (JMA).

Crossbill

Two were at Kielder on 21st (MD).

Bullfinch

12 were at Alnwick on 4th and 14th (JMA). One-eight were in another 14 widespread localities.

Hawfinch

Two pairs were at Hulne Park on 7th and others at Alnwick on 6th and 13th (JMA et al). Up to six were at Hexham (KD) and three at Wallington on 6th (JRT/KWY).

Lapland Bunting

Two were on Holy Island on 13th and 11 on 20th (DPa). Two flew over Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Snow Bunting

40 at Druridge Links on 27th was the largest gathering (ASn). 12 were at Newbiggin on 15th (AGH) and up to eight at Ross (MH). Singles were also at Hauxley and St. Mary's Island on 6th. Inland two were on Yeavering Bell on 28th (AMB/BL).

Yellowhammer

27 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th was the largest gathering.

Reed Bunting

One-two were in a garden at Wylam on 22nd/24th (MA).

Corn Bunting

One at Cresswell on 14th was the only record (WAK).

Please send all January records, in Voous order, to Mike Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QX by 8th February at the latest.

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#### INDOOR MEETING - Thursday 12th February, 1987

Our next meeting will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. on 12th February, 1987. Paul Greenwood, from Durham University, will give a talk entitled 'Size and Sex and Books on Birds'. What else can you say except that it should be interesting !

#### GRACE HICKLING M.B.E. - NATURALIST

Mrs Grace Hickling died on 30th December, 1986 and it is most fitting that she should be cremated on 7th January, 1987 1300 years exactly since St. Cuthbert died on Inner Farne in 687.

Grace was associated with the Farne Islands since 1940 and from 1948 she organised all of the bird ringing producing an enormous increase in our knowledge of the breeding biology and movements of the seabirds. In addition the study which she carried out on the breeding Grey Seals brought her world-wide acclaim as a acknowledged expert on the species.

Since 1948 and right up to the time of her death Grace was the Honorary Secretary of the Northumbria N.H.S. and she will be greatly missed by all of her friends especially in Northumberland and throughout the U.K.

Yet another chapter of the ornithological history of our county has sadly been brought to an end.

Brian Little.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB SURVEYS 1986

A summary of the results of the club's breeding surveys in 1986 is given below. Full reports of the surveys will be published in Birds in Northumbria 1986. Thanks are given to everybody who assisted in securing good coverage in these surveys.

##### The Little Grebe Survey by Alan Johnston.

The last survey of Little Grebe took place in 1976. A comparative study was made between April and July in 1986. Returns were received from a total of 69 sites, of which birds were reported from 33. However, due to the elusiveness of the species and the prolonged winter, breeding was only confirmed at 12 sites giving a total of 19 broods from 19 pairs. The preferred habitat is lowland ponds up to 250 feet above sea level with 51% of all records coming from this range. (see also the map shown elsewhere in this bulletin).

### The Green Woodpecker Survey by Nick Rossiter

In spite of appalling spring weather, very good coverage was achieved over most of the county in this, the first survey of Green Woodpeckers in our area. The provisional total for the number of sites at which the species was located is 103. Not all of these sites will have held breeding pairs but it is also likely that a number of sites were missed through the elusiveness of the species. The stronghold for the species are the Cheviots (c26 sites), the Wansbeck Valley and tributaries (c20 sites) and the Tyne Valley and its tributaries to the south (c27 sites). It is generally scarce in western areas of the county and along the coastal strip.

### SURVEYS NEWS

In an attempt to obtain much more comprehensive coverage in future surveys we have enclosed with this bulletin some brief notes about survey work and a form to complete if you are interested in this type of work. Please read through the notes and, if possible, help us co-ordinate future surveys by completing your registration form now.

### AVENUE BOOKS

Brian Bullough's shop is now on the telephone. The number is Tyneside 2575836.

### BTO SAWBILL SURVEY 1987

The aim of this survey is to assess the number and distribution of breeding Goosanders and Red-breasted Mergansers throughout the county.

Observers are asked to walk an allocated river section at least twice during the breeding season. The first visits should be during the period early March to mid-April and the second during July. Figures from the March-April visits will allow numbers and distribution of potential breeding pairs of sawbills to be estimated. The July visits will provide estimates of the number and distribution of family parties.

In order to cover all of the river systems in Northumberland we will need a great many observers. The more people who volunteer, the shorter the river sections to be walked will be.

Anyone who would like to take part in the survey or who would like more information, please contact Margaret Macfarlane, 7 Wildshaw Close, Southfield Lea, Cramlington, Northumberland. NE23 6LH - Tel. No. Cramlington 715399.

### WINTERING MERLINS IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Many members have responded to my appeal of last autumn for records of all sightings of Merlins with as much detail as possible about sex and behaviour during the winter months.

Can I thank everyone who has helped so far and re-new the appeal for records to continue to be sent into Mike Hodgson in the usual way for the rest of the winter.

Some interesting trends about the movements of the species and its winter concentrations are already emerging and it is eventually hoped to publish a report either in the bulletin or Birds in Northumbria.

All records from inland localities, particularly if birds are seen in potential breeding habitat, will be treated as strictly confidential and no locations will be published.

Ian Kerr.

### DISABLED BIRDERS

A centre for the handicapped in Wales which specialises in organising bird-watching activities is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year by running a national 24 hour birding competition on 30th May.

The organiser, Rob Evans, of Ffordd yr Orsedd, Llandudno, Gwynedd (Tel. 0492-78041) tells us that the aim is to recruit wheelchair users and those who are visually handicapped with object to see and/or hear as many species as possible on the day. They are also using the day to raise funds for the RSPB to be used to improve facilities at reserves for visitors with a variety of disabilities.

Rob says that actually participating in the event is regarded as more important than sponsorship and he wants to encourage any wheelchair birders, audio twitchers and as many able-bodied helpers as possible. If members know anyone who might be interested Rob's letter and a sponsorship form is available from Ian Kerr at club meetings or by post.

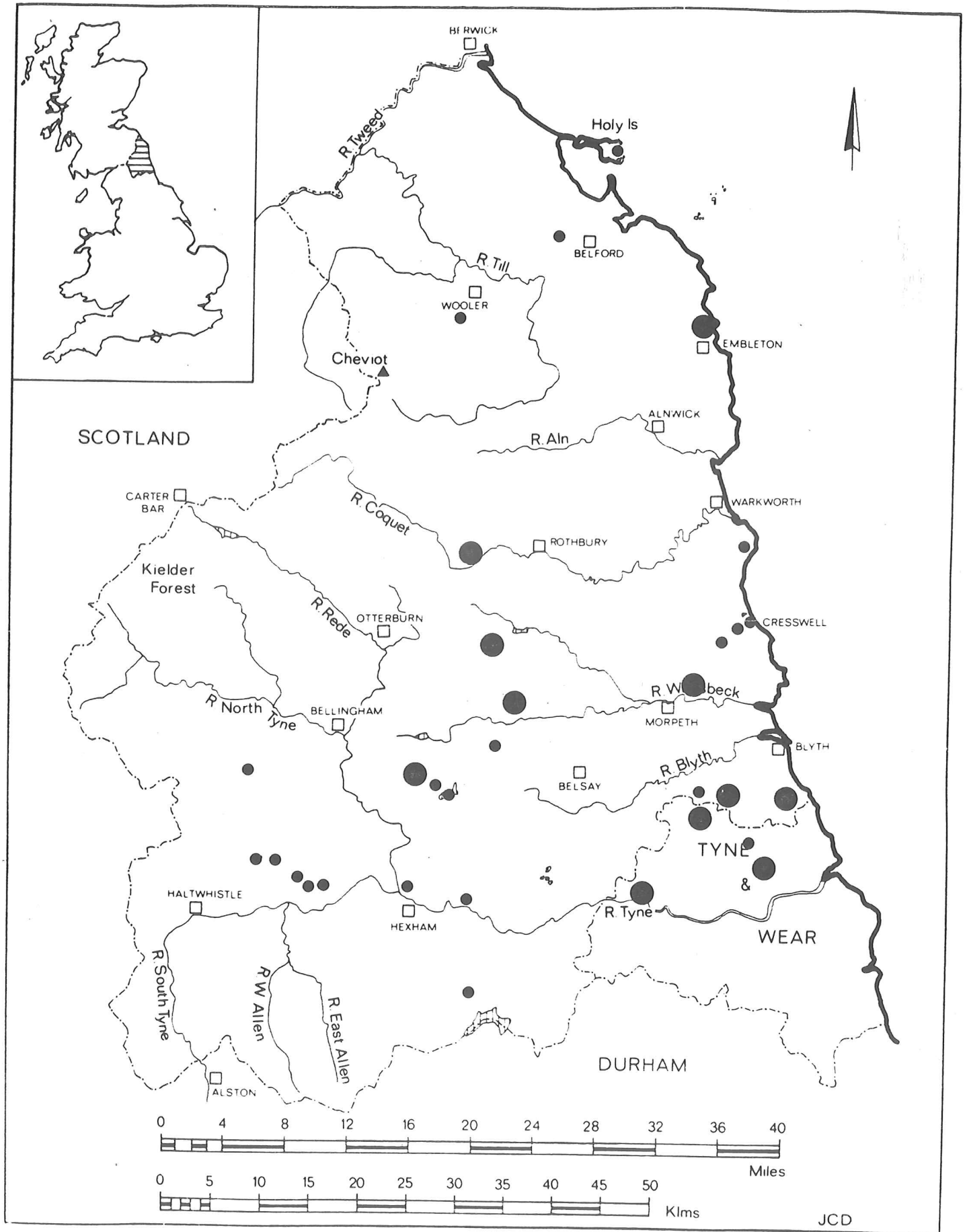
### NEW 'TWITCHERS' GRAPEVINE

The club has been sent details of a new national bird information service - BIRDLINE - recently set up and operating from Cromers Norfolk.

The organiser, Roy Robinson, said the intention would be to adopt a responsible attitude putting the interests of the birds first while understanding the obvious desire of members to see goodies when they occur.

Application forms for anyone interested in joining can be obtained from Ian Kerr at club meetings or by post but please send a s.a.e.

# NORTHUMBRIAN LITTLE GREBE SURVEY 1986



- Localities where Little Grebes were reported (not confirmed breeding)
- Localities where Little Grebes were confirmed breeding.