

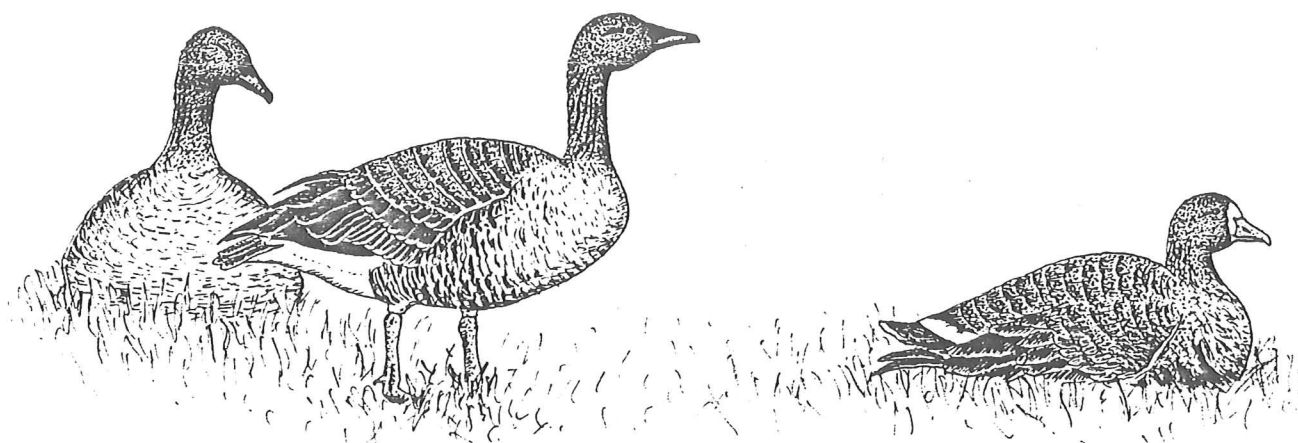


Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - JANUARY 1987

The year started with a month of contrasting weather. Temperatures were about normal during the first week but were followed by a bitterly cold spell from 11th-18th, made worse by the cold easterly air stream blowing straight off the continent. Heavy snowfalls occurred and accumulated rapidly. A thaw followed for a few days but temperatures dropped again at the end of the period. Ponds and even some rivers and areas along the coast were frozen over for varying periods during the month and the weather affected both birds and watchers.

A Ferruginous Duck at Hexham on 2nd gave a good start to the month. Duck numbers fluctuated as waters became frozen although good numbers of Goldeneye and Goosander were reported and at least 12 Smew were seen. Slavonian and Red-necked Grebes increased to quite large numbers in Skate Road and at least 150 Long-tailed Ducks provided a fine sight. A Black-necked Grebe was found at Newton Pool on 20th. Six-seven Bean Geese were in the Druridge area and Brent Greese had obviously been disturbed by the weather. Inland, the Breamish Valley was a strange setting for a, presumably storm-driven, Gannet on 14th. A number of Little Auks were noted, some, as usual, dead or dying.



Bean Geese with

White-fronted

AJB

Druridge Bay Jan 1987

The regular wader count showed that numbers of some species along the coast were changing, particularly Dunlin. Wintering waders included Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Black-tailed Godwit. A Grey Phalarope arrived at Seaton Sluice on 17th but more unusual was a Curlew Sandpiper at Alnmouth on 22nd !

There were several interesting records of Long-eared Owls along the coast. Waxwings were reported in many localities with flocks of up to 32. As usual passerines reacted to the cold weather with Skylarks moving and concentrating in coastal areas and some finch flocks building up. More surprising were reports of Blackcaps in 13 localities and Chiffchaffs in six. Lapland Buntings have been conspicuous on Holy Island since October 1986 and numbers appeared to increase again during the month.

Other interesting species included Bittern, Bewick's Swans, Goshawk, Mediterranean and Laughing Gulls, 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)

Up to 45 were in the Stag Rocks-Ross Sands area on 22nd and 31st (AGH/NTBC Trip). One-eleven were moving off St. Mary's Island and Tynemouth on 6th/7th (JDP/AH), a flock of 12 flew N. at Hadston on 10th (MH) and a total of 13 N. at Craster on 24th (ES/MBS). One-eight also seen in five other coastal localities.

Black-throated Diver

Two were off Cocklawburn on 24th and 31st (JDP/JRI), one (at least) in the Stag Rocks-Ross Back Sands area on 25th/31st (RKS et al) and another flew N. at Holy Island on 17th (DPa).

Great Northern Diver

At St. Mary's Island one flew S. on 6th and two N. and two S. on 7th (JDP). One was in the Blyth Estuary between 14th-18th (MHP/LJM) and at least one in the Stag Rocks-Ross Back Sands area between 18th-31st (DPa et al). Another was at Cocklawburn on 24th.

Little Grebe

Four were at Whittle Dene on 10th (MR) and Cresswell Pond on 6th (SJL). One-two were on only three other ponds. Birds resorting to rivers included up to six on the Tyne at Hexham with one-three at Wylam and Ryton, Foxton, Warkworth and the Wansbeck Estuary.

Great Crested Grebe

Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Holywell between 1st-7th, Whittle Dene between 18th-25th and two at Hadston Lake on 31st. One flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 7th (JDP) and another was at Tynemouth Pier on 18th (AH). More unusual was one at the Long Nanny burn on 24th (RKS).

Red-necked Grebe

Numbers in the Stag Rocks-Ross Back Sands area increased to 25-30 by 31st (NTBC Trip et al). Up to four were at Holy Island (IK) and singles at Hadston and Seahouses.

Slavonian Grebe

In the Stag Rocks-Ross Back Sands area numbers increased from ten on 22nd to a maximum of about 40 on 31st (AGH/NTBC Trip). One was at Newton Point on 24th (RKS).

Black-necked Grebe

One was on Newton Pool on 20th (MF/AW).

Fulmar

Up to 60 were at Bamburgh on 31st (IOK/JR). 11 pairs were on Tynemouth Cliffs on 24th (BSB), when three pairs were prospecting the bridge at Berwick (JSg), and six in Craster Quarry on 18th (RD).

Gannet

Three flew S. at Holy Island on 2nd (IK) and one N. and two S. at Tynemouth on 6th (AH). More unusual was one picked up in the Breamish Valley on 14th (per BL).

Cormorant

A maximum of 85 roosted at Blyth harbour on 30th (MHP) and 80 at North Shields Fish Quay on 16th (DMT). Inland up to 24 were on the R. Tyne at Newburn and 18 at Corbridge (STR/RMH), and one-four at Felton, Derwent Reservoir, Seaton Burn, Holywell Pond and Killingworth Lake. 25 were at Warkworth on 3rd (KIB).

Bittern

The bird at Caistron was still present up to 26th (MR/JH et al).

Grey Heron

Up to eight roosted at Close House (BG/STR), six at Old Hartley (RHA) and five at Gosforth Park (J&MH). One-four were in a further ten widespread localities.

Flamingo

One again seen at Cresswell between 25th-29th.

Mute Swan

A maximum of 230 was at Berwick on 11th (JDL). 32 were at the Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM), 18 at Hartburn on 25th (MLC/TAC) and 13 at Seaton Burn on 24th (AJJ). Smaller groups were noted in about 14 other localities including some resorting to the river at Tyne Green and up to six in the Tyne Estuary.

Bewick's Swan

Four (one juvenile) were near Lynemouth on 8th (AJW), three near Cornhill on 24th (JDP) and two at Cresswell on 25th (ASJ/ADMc).

Whooper Swan

Up to 80 were in the Ellington-Druridge area (JECM et al). 92-95 were along the Tweed at Wark-Cornhill (JSg/JDP), and up to 36 at Seaton Burn and Prestwick Carr where none present between 17th-26th (AJJ/AGH). Up to 19 were at Holy Island on 25th (GCP), and two-fifteen in another 11 localities.

Bean Goose

One flew over Hadston Lake on 3rd (ES/DRS). At Druridge Pool on 11th a group of six-seven were with White-fronts (AJB/KR/RD et al). Notes on these birds would be appreciated please.

Pink-footed Goose

Five were near Budle Bay on 25th (PWD/KR). Three were at Hallington on 10th (BNR) and singles at Holywell on 2nd (PRJ) and Berwick Harbour during the month.

White-fronted Goose

Two-three (european race) birds were in the Cresswell-Druridge area between 8th-17th (PRW/JCD et al). Another was at Budle Bay on 31st (AMB).

Grey Lag Goose

Up to 1,500 were in the Budle/Bradford area (IOK/JR et al). Other large gatherings included about 750 along the River Tweed near Carham (JDP), 239 at Hallington on 10th, 200 S.E. over Ordley on 8th, 180 at Grindon on 4th (BNR), 125 at Holywell (IC), 100 W. at Seaton Burn on 11th (AJJ) when 66 at Derwent Reservoir.

Snow Goose

Two at Hallington on 31st (KIB/GSR).

Canada Goose

65 were at Hallington on 10th and 31st (BNR/KIB). Singles were at North Shields Fish Quay on 7th (DMT), Holywell on 8th (SJL) and near Fenham Flats on 22nd (AGH).

Barnacle Goose

One was at Hoppen Kiln on 2nd (IF).

Brent Goose

Up to 1,200 were at Lindisfarne early in the month (ISD/JDL). Away from this locality many records received from coastal sites suggested further immigration. Five flew W. at Hauxley on 2nd (IOK) and four N. at St. Mary's Island on 4th where

eight on 13th (SJL). 36 flew N. at Hadston on 7th (ETN) where a dark-bellied bird seen on 8th/10th (IF). On 10th at least 25 arrived from S.E. at Druridge (TMM/MHp) and smaller numbers noted in this area up to 29th. A total of 38 arrived from E. at Hauxley on 17th (including three dark-bellied), when 31 flew S. at Boulmer (ES/WTL) and 23 arrived at the Coquet Estuary (EMY). 30 were at Alnmouth on 29th (JMA) and seven (one dark-bellied) flew N. at Stag Rocks on 31st (CD).

Shelduck

227 were at Black Low on 31st (JDL) and a maximum of 158 at Budle Bay on 24th (JRT/KWY). 20 were at the Coquet Estuary (EMY) and one-seven at four other localities.

Wigeon

900 were in Budle Bay on 24th (JRT/KWY). Up to 300 were in the Cresswell-Druridge area on 17th (ES/MBS), 84 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (BNR) and 72 at Whittle Dene on 10th (MR). Smaller numbers noted in several other areas.

Gadwall

Singles were at Cornhill on 8th, Hadston on 30th (ASJ) and Seaton Burn between 18th-31st (AJJ).

Teal

The largest gatherings were 150 at Cresswell on 10th (MHp), 118 at Caistron on 25th (MR) and 100 in Budle Bay on 11th (MSH). 20-60 were also noted at Newton Pool, Druridge Pool, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Grindon Lough.

Mallard

261 at Holywell on 4th, 375 at Seaton Burn on 9th (SJL), 242 at Whittle Dene on 18th and 168 at Caistron on 25th (MR) were the largest concentrations on ponds. However many birds resorted to the coast including 500 at Budle Bay on 11th/22nd (MSH/AGH), 350 at St. Mary's Island on 10th (JRT), and 100-300 at Seaton Sluice, Cresswell and Bondicarr.

Pintail

A single drake was at Druridge on 17th and probably the same at Cresswell Pond between 18th-26th (JRT/MGA) and on 18th flying over the sea at Snab Point (AGH). Other singles were at Seaton Burn between 1st-10th (AJJ) and in the Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM).

Shoveler

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (PRJ) and up to five at Seaton Burn up to 7th (AJJ).

Pochard

The largest gatherings were up to 40 at Cresswell, Hadston and Holywell Pond early in the month (ES/SJL). Smaller numbers were at several other waters during the cold spell. Up to ten were in Berwick Harbour.

Ferruginous Duck

A single bird was at Tyne Green, Hexham on 2nd (AJR).

Tufted Duck

Whittle Dene held the largest concentration with 204 on 10th dropping to only 50-60 on 25th and increasing again to 186 on 31st (JSB/JRT et al). 120 were at Druridge Pool on 18th (AMB) and 20-70 were noted at five other waters. A maximum of 16 was on the River Tyne at Clara Vale on 10th (STR), up to 33 in Berwick harbour (JRI), 15 on the sea off the Wansbeck Estuary on 23rd (MSH) and one-two at the Tyne Estuary on 23rd/24th (DMT).

Scaup

15 were at St. Mary's Island on 12th (SJL) and a flock of 25 flew S. at Blyth harbour on 18th (MHP). One-five were also at Seaton Sluice, Wansbeck Estuary, Boulmer and Ross with ten at Berwick harbour on 24th (JRI) and up to seven at Hauxley Pool, eight at Hadston, nine at Cresswell Pond and one in the Coquet Estuary. One was further inland at Ryton on 29th/30th (STR).

Long-tailed Duck

Numbers in the Stag Rocks-Ross Back Sands area increased to at least 150 by 31st. Five-twelve were also at Seahouses and Holy Island. On 6th ten flew N. at Tynemouth where five S. on 9th (AH).

Common Scoter

Up to 1,000 gathered in the Stag Rocks-Ross area on 2nd and 25th (AGH/RD). 30-50 were also noted at Warkworth, Druridge, and Seaton Sluice. One was on Cresswell Pond on 5th (AJB) and another in Blyth harbour on 18th/19th (JAW).

Velvet Scoter

Numbers in the Druridge/Hadston area reached a maximum of 28 on 18th (ASJ et al). One-four were in three other coastal localities.

Goldeneye

In the Berwick harbour area numbers peaked at 398 on 18th (JRI et al). On the River Tyne at Newburn numbers rose from 112 on 2nd to a maximum of 237 on 20th (STR et al), with smaller numbers upstream as far W. as Hexham. At least 60 were at Whittle Dene on 21st (RGW). One-eleven were at nine other waters. Along the coast 31 were at St. Mary's Island on 15th (SJL) and smaller groups in about six other localities.

Smew

At Hadston Lake four were present on 2nd (one drake), increasing to six (two drakes) on 17th, eight on 18th, nine on 24th and ten on 30th involving at least eleven individuals. One-four at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pool on several dates were probably from this group. A single 'redhead' was at Arcot Pond on 6th/7th (AHB).

Red-breasted Merganser

At Hadston Lake a maximum of 20 was present on 5th (AJB et al). Ten were near Beadnell on 16th (TAC/MLC) and one-nine in about 13 other localities.

Goosander

The largest counts were 53 at Berwick on 30th (JDL) and up to 40 along the River Tyne between Newburn-Wylam (STR/JSB). 29 were at Whittle Dene on 22nd (RGW), eleven at Foxton (MD/ES) and one-seven at three other localities. Along the coast singles flew S. at Boulmer and Seaton Sluice on 17th/18th (IK/KR), two N. at Druridge on 22nd (MHS), and further singles at Tynemouth on 24th and Hadston on 18th/25th (AH/JP).

Hen Harrier

A 'ringtail' was at Ross between 22nd-31st (AGH et al).

Goshawk

One flew W. over Gosforth on 3rd (KRd).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were seen in about 21 widespread localities. A female fed on a Woodpigeon 'kill' at Caistron on 4th (MR), another chased Waxwings at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th (ASJ) and one at Close House on 10th was pursued by four Jays (JSB).

Kestrel

One-three were noted in 19 widespread localities.

Merlin

One-two were seen in about ten coastal or near coastal localities and singles at two areas inland. Two at Ross Links on 25th took turns to chase a Skylark ! (PWD/KR).

Peregrine

Singles were noted at Chevington, Budle Bay, Ross and Holy Island during the month. Also noted in four inland localities.

Red Grouse

15 were at Edmundbyers on 22nd (ASJ).

Black Grouse

Two cocks were at Threestoneburn on 25th (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

Groups of four were near Horton on 1st (WAK) and near Cramlington on 3rd-24th (ES/DRS). Two were at Hallington on 10th (BNR).

Grey Partridge

A total of 43 was in three coveys within a 1/4 mile area of Seaton Burn on 14th (GB) and 89 between Hartley-St. Mary's Island on 16th (SY). Coveys of up to 20 were noted in 14 other widespread areas.

Water Rail

One was seen at Bolam on several dates (per MLC) and another was at Holywell on 19th (RGW).

Moorhen

Several reports on the River Tyne during the month with a maximum of nine at Tyne Green on 16th (RMH).

Coot

At Seaton Burn 169 on 3rd gradually dropped to only 43 by 17th and increasing to only 54 by 31st (AJJ). 111 were at Cresswell Pond on 25th (IC) when 82 at Hartburn (MLC). 50-55 were also at Arcot, Holywell and Whittle Dene. Cold weather forced birds on to the River Tyne with four at Tyne Green and two at Scotswood on 16th/17th (RMH/BG). 20 were in Berwick harbour on 24th (JSg) and one in Seahouses harbour on 31st.

WADER COUNT - 18th January, 1987

The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Seahouses-Beadnell (TAC/MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WIL), S. Alnmouth (ETN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/MRS/ISD/EC), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), Newbiggin-Cambois (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth-Seaton Sluice (NWR), St. Mary's Island (LH), Tynemouth Estuary (SY).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,045 noted during the wader count.

Ringed Plover

A total of 211 noted during the wader count. In addition 87 were at Berwick on 25th (JRI) and up to 43 at Tynemouth (AH).

Golden Plover

1,500 were at Druridge on 3rd (JRT) and 1,000 at Newton by the Sea on 5th (JMA). Numbers reported during the remainder of the month were generally low with 50-300 in five other localities.

Grey Plover

A total of 132 noted during the wader count was a big increase since December. In addition 18 were at Berwick on 25th (JRI) and 100 at Ross on 31st. Three were at Hadston lake on 10th (PRJ) and 13 at Hauxley Pool on 27th (HNRW).

Lapwing

166 at Prestwick Carr on 4th (AGH) and 357 at Cresswell on 6th (SJL) were the largest early gatherings with numbers remaining very low during the cold spell. 80 moved N. at Ordley on 2nd (BNR) when 155 S. at North Shields (AH). 200 were at West Allotment on 27th (LJM).

Knot

1,136 noted during the wader count represented a large increase. In addition up to 700 were in the Seaton Sluice/St. Mary's Island area (KR et al) and 420 in Budle Bay on 24th (JRT).

Sanderling

A total of 331 noted during the wader count. In addition 117 were at Blyth beach on 17th (MHP) and 113 at Berwick on 30th (JDL).

Curlew Sandpiper

An astonishing find was one at Alnmouth on 22nd (ETN/JRN). This will be only the second winter record in the county since 1898, the last being at Holy Island in January 1973!

Purple Sandpiper

A total of only 58 noted during the wader count although the favoured locality at Stag Rocks held a maximum of 365 on 25th (JDL).

Dunlin

The wader count revealed a massive increase with a total of 2,961 in the stretches covered presumably due to the severe weather. In addition up to 400 were at St. Mary's Island (AH), 307 at Hauxley on 20th (HRS) and 540 at Berwick Little Beach on 25th (JRI). On 11th two at Whittle Dene and one at Derwent Reservoir (BG/IK/BNR) were unusual for the time of year.

Ruff

One was at Cambois on 17th (MHP) and another at Cresswell up to 26th (JECM).

Jack Snipe

One was near Amble on 24th (KDS/TMM) and a pack of five feeding together at Tyne Green on 31st (AJR).

Snipe

One-four noted in six localities.

Woodcock

One-two were at five localities on or near the coast during the month and singles at another five inland.

Black-tailed Godwit

A single was in Budle Bay on 25th and 31st (MDW/TT).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 129 noted during the wader count. In addition up to 18 were at Hauxley (HNRW).

Curlew

A total of 184 noted during the wader count. 225 were at Black Low on 31st (JDL) when 90 were at St. Mary's Island. Inland 22 were at Caistron on 25th (MR) when five at Derwent Reservoir (BNR) and one on the River Tyne at Newburn on 15th (RGW).

Spotted Redshank

The wintering bird at Wallsend Swallow Pond was seen up to the 6th.

Redshank

A total of 529 noted during the wader count. One-four were noted on the River Tyne at Newburn during the month (STR).

Greenshank

A single seen twice on the River Breamish at Powburn-Ingram on 30th (JCD).

Turnstone

A total of 632 noted during the wader count is less than half the December total. On 13th about 20 were feeding on the roadside at Ellington ! (LJM).

Grey Phalarope

One found on the burn in Lower Holywell Dene on 17th eventually moved to the shore at Seaton Sluice where it was seen briefly on the morning of 18th (IC et al).

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult at Craster was still present throughout the month.

Laughing Gull

The Newcastle General Hospital bird was reported on 13 days providing a year-tick for many !

Black-headed Gull

The only inland roost mid-month was 25 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th where 5,000 had returned by 25th and 2,500 roosted at Scotswood on 30th. 700 roosted at Budle Bay on 3rd (BNR). 1,300 were at Blyth Beach on 10th (MHP). A Norwegian ringed bird was found dead at Druridge on 26th (PRJ).

Common Gull

2,700 roosted at Budle Bay on 3rd. Inland only 630 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 11th increasing to 11,000 on 25th. 625 roosted at Hallington on 24th (BNR). 880 were between Newbiggin-Cambois on 17th (MHP) and up to 700 in the Tyne Estuary (DMT).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Present on the River Tyne at Newburn on ten days with a maximum of four on 30th (STR). Singles also noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Seaton Burn (KR/GB).

Herring Gull

A maximum of 1,700 roosted at Blyth harbour on 13th (MHP). 2,080 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 11th declining to 400 on 25th (BNR). A 'dark' backed bird was at Newburn on 18th (BG).

Iceland Gull

An adult was at Blyth harbour between 13th-17th (MHP) with probably the same bird at Holywell on 2nd (JEF), Cambois on 18th (JCD) and North Shields Fish Quay on 4th and 27th (IF). At the last site a second winter was seen on 15th (JRT) and a third winter on 26th (MPF/AJB).

Glaucous Gull

An adult and a first-winter were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (AH et al). Single first-winters were at Blyth harbour (MHP), Ross on 18th and 24th (NJW/JRT) and Druridge Bay on 25th (DY/SY). An unusual plumaged adult at the Tyne Estuary on 4th may have been a hybrid (CB).

Great Black-backed Gull

220 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 11th declining to 39 on 25th (BNR) 600 roosted at Blyth harbour on 13th (MHP).

Kittiwake

Only 13 present at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th (DMT).

Auks (Sp)

Small numbers were moving N. at St. Mary's Island on 6th/7th and 18th (JDP).

Guillemot

One-two oiled birds noted at Tynemouth and Ross.

Razorbill

On 31st one was at Hadston and another found dead, oiled at Ross.

Little Auk

One flew N. at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS), four N. at Druridge on 6th (SJL), two N. at St. Mary's Island on 14th (JDP) when one in the Blyth estuary (MHP) and another was at Ross on 24th (JRI). In addition dead or dying birds were at seven other localities and the remains of three found in the gull roost at Blyth harbour (MHP).

Stock Dove

31 were near Berwick Hill on 24th (AHB). Two-four also noted at Slaley and Ross.

Woodpigeon

200 flew W. at Horton on 2nd, 1,000 were at Gosforth Park on 10th, flocks of 50-300 flew S. daily at Killingworth between 11th-18th and 2,000 moved E. at Cramlington on 13th (LJM/ISD/RD). 600 were at Low Newton on 24th (RKS).

Barn Owl

Singles were seen in seven widespread localities including two hunting in daylight.

Little Owl

Singles noted at Backworth and near Hexham (WAK/BNR/TAC).

Tawny Owl

Four were at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (ASJ) and one-two in a further five localities.

Long-eared Owl

Four were in a garden on Holy Island on 2nd (per IK), one at Hauxley on 3rd (IOK) and another in a garden in Blyth on 26th (per BL). Up to five roosted at Wallsend Swallow Pond (AJB et al) and three were at Arcot on 13th and one on 24th (KDS/KE). One found injured at Acklington on 24th had been ringed at Hauxley in November 1986.

Shorteared Owl

Four were at Ross on 18th (NJW/KWR) and up to three at Hadston (ES/DRS). One-two were in about 15 other coastal or near-coastal localities including two on the Town Moor at Newcastle on 18th (MW). One at St. Mary's Island on 21st caught a vole/mouse and was promptly robbed by a kestrel ! (ASJ).

Kingfisher

One-two were at Jesmond Dene all month. Two were near Clara Vale on 8th (STR) and singles at Wylam, Throckley and Castron.

Green Woodpecker

One-two were at Close House, Slaley, Wooler, Hulne Park and Felton.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two noted in ten widespread localities including some visiting bird-tables and singles on the coast at Hadston and Hauxley.

Skylark

Typically they reacted quickly to the hard weather during the month. 300 were at Seaton Burn on 7th (AJJ) and from 10th birds were moving S. continually for several days particularly in coastal areas. Large gatherings included a flock of 700 at Druridge on 11th and another of 500 at Holywell Dene on 16th with 50-400 at many other localities. Two were on open fells at Dykehead on 24th (MH).

Meadow Pipit

Small parties moved SE at Seaton Burn on 10th (BG). Three were with finches at Slaley on 7th (RMH).

Rock Pipit

One-seven noted at St. Mary's Island, Hauxley and Berwick.

Water Pipit

Singles were at Wittle Dene on 18th/22nd (MR/RGW) and Seaton Sluice on 20th (GPB).

Grey Wagtail

Singles noted at Jesmond Dene, Horton, Whittle Dene and Powburn.

Waxwing

Many reports received during the month. Four at Cramlington (Bay Horse Pub!) on 4th increased to a maximum of 32 on 9th (JM/MHo/RD) and a flock of 24 were at another site in the town on 14th (KWR). At Wallsend Swallow Pond numbers increased to 13 on 4th (AJB/MBS et al) and other flocks included up to 11 at Wideopen between 3rd-17th (GB et al) and 16 at Chapel House on 24th (IK). Smaller groups of one-seven were in about 20 other widespread localities, many in gardens.



Dipper

One-four noted in five typical localities.

Wren

One was feeding amongst seaweed at Craster on 2nd (GB).

Stonechat

One-three noted in five localities between Low Newton-Druridge Bay.

Blackbird

100 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (IF). During the cold spell numbers in gardens increased with 17-50 at Matfen, Walbottle and Seaton Delaval. An all white bird was at Newbiggin during the month (JMA).

Fieldfare

400 at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (AGH), 350 at Caistron on 4th (MR) and 300 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (IF) were the largest gatherings early in the month. As the cold spell set in numbers were much lower with some parties moving S. Several birds resorted to suburban gardens.

Redwing

150 at Berwick Hill on 3rd (BNR) and 220 in Holywell Dene on 8th (SJL) were the largest gatherings noted. Much smaller numbers in scattered localities were reported during the rest of the month.

Mistle Thrush

One-two birds noted in several areas defending berry trees during the cold spell. One at Walbottle on 31st fed on bread (KR/LR).

Blackcap

A surprising number of reports, mainly at bird-tables, with one-two in about 13 widespread localities perhaps involving as many as 19 individuals.

Chiffchaff

Singles were seen in six widespread localities between 1st-30th including a very brown bird at Gosforth.

Long-tailed Tit

Four-six were noted at Wylam, Allenbanks, and Bolam.

Marsh Tit

Two-three were noted at Hulne Park and Bolam.

Willow Tit

One-two noted at Seaton Burn, Arcot, Gosforth Park and Throckley.

Coal Tit

One-four noted in six widespread localities including some visiting garden feeding stations.

Blue Tit

Numbers still high at Matfen where 62 were 'grazing' on a lawn on 29th (RW). An ambitious pair at Wylam were prospecting at a last years House Martin nest on 31st! (per BG).

Nuthatch

Up to 11 noted in the Hexham area (KD), seven at Bolam and six at Close House and Hulne Park. One-three also noted at Eshott, Ordley, Jesmond Dene and Walbottle Dene, the last a new locality.

Jay

One-five noted in six localities.

Magpie

One was feeding on scraps in a garden at Walbottle on 8th/31st (LR/KR).

Rook

A mixed flock, with Jackdaws, of about 2,000 moved NW at Seaton Burn on 2nd (GB) and 200 flew W. at Horton on 18th (LJM).

Carrion Crow

45 roosted at Grindon Hill on 4th and 40 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (BNR). 50 were at the Tweed Estuary on 24th (JSg).

Hooded Crow

One was at Benton on 21st (FC).

Starling

About 5,000 roosted in conifers at Grindon Hill on 4th (BNR). One with an abnormally long bill was at Cramlington on 11th/12th (JM/JECM).

House Sparrow

A white bird was at Amble during the month (JMA).

Tree Sparrow

A maximum of 215 was at Seaton Burn on 9th (SJL) but only one-ten reported from another three localities.

Chaffinch

80 at Holywell Dene on 16th (MSH) and 30-40 at Cramlington and Eshott were the largest gatherings reported. Up to 14 fed in a suburban garden at Wideopen (GB).

Brambling

50 at Alwinton on 24th (BL) and 40 at Holywell Dene and Druridge Links on 16th/17th (MSH/ES) were the largest gatherings although 1-30 were noted in a further 22 widespread localities including several coming to garden feeders.

Greenfinch

150 in Holywell Dene on 16th (MSH) and 65 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th (SJL) were the largest gatherings.

Goldfinch

12-14 were at Matfen between 29th-31st (RW) and two-five at six other localities.

Siskin

Up to 50 were at Seaton Burn (AJJ), 30 at Stakeford on 18th (JCD) and 27 at Corbridge on 24th (MR). One-ten were in another seven localities including several gardens.

Linnet

Flocks of 400 in Holywell Dene and 200 on Druridge Links on 16th were the largest gatherings (MSH). 60-100 were also at Seaton Burn, Holywell Pond, Hauxley and Lynemouth.

Twite

30-40 were at Warkworth on 18th (PWW) and one-five at Hauxley, Ross, Beal and Holy Island during the month.

Redpoll

13 were at Slaley on 7th (RMH) and three-seven at three other localities.

Mealy Redpoll

Two-three were at Holy Island on 24th (JDP).

Crossbill

13 were at Kylloe on 17th (JRI).

Bullfinch

11 were at Hulne Park on 11th (RD) and one-four in a further 17 widespread localities including several gardens.

Hawfinch

Two were in Hulne Park on 2nd/3rd (JRI/DPa) and one at Hexham on 13th (KD).

Lapland Bunting

12 on Holy Island on 2nd increased to 33 on 17th and again to 60 on 18th (DPa/JDL). One-five were in the Cresswell/Druridge area between 3rd-25th (MH et al), four at Lynemouth on 18th (JCD), three at St. Mary's Island between 18th-25th (AH/TO) and one at Ross on 24th (JRI).

Snow Bunting

Numbers in Druridge Bay increased to 65 by 18th (ASJ et al), a maximum of 32 was at Ross on 3rd (ISD et al) and 27 at Holy Island on 4th (DGB). One-two were at Tynemouth, Whitley Bay and Blyth beach.

Yellowhammer

Gatherings of 20-40 noted in seven localities.

Reed Bunting

Up to 50 were in the Druridge area on 11th (AJB) and 10-20 at Lynemouth, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Blyth and Black Heddon. One-two fed in gardens at Wideopen and Cramlington.

Corn Bunting

One was at Druridge on 17th (ADMc).

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Indoor Meeting - Thursday 12th March, 1987

The next meeting will be in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. on 12th March. Our guest speaker will be Steve Petty giving a talk entitled 'Tawny Owls in upland spruce forests'.

Important - Record Cards

This bulletin was written using cards received from well over 100 contributors, probably a record in itself ! However, apart from my postman now recovering from a badly bruised shoulder received whilst delivering your cards, a couple of points have arisen recently concerning the completion of records. Could I ask that observers put their full surname (not just initials) on the cards and ensure that the correct year is included in the date of observation. These are very important when the cards are filed away at the Hancock Museum. Finally can I again ask that for species requiring supporting notes that these be submitted with the record card. (See 'Guide to submitting Ornithological Records' issued recently to all members). Thank you.

Mike Hodgson.

Rocky Island Watch-Tower

The Watch-Tower at Seaton Sluice is now in "working order" as the result of some hard efforts by a few stalwarts. The new shutters have been installed and two-thirds of the building has been painted.

Note that although the Yale lock still appears to be in place the door is in fact only held by the mortice lock. A good pull is needed to open the door, and a good push to close it. Any interior improvements and painting can now be carried out by the regular watchers.

Those members of the Club who gave up their time to help on Sunday 22nd February, 1987 are cordially thanked for their efforts. They include Mike Bell, Ian Chadwick, Ian Kerr, Alan Johnston, Mike Hodgson, Ian Fisher and Barry Mecrow. During the week Michael Frankis also spent two days painting the new shutters and the sheets of marine-ply.

John Day.

Survey Observers Register

If you are interested in survey work and have not yet returned the form contained in the December Bulletin, Please do so as soon as possible. Both new and experienced survey workers are required. In addition to the Goosander survey, there is a Lapwing breeding survey (with counts of other waders noted in the 2 Km squares being searched for Lapwings) and the European Ornithological Atlas project this year. Recruitment would be greatly aided if we knew of your interests. Observers on the register will always be asked if they want to participate in a particular survey and given the opportunity to refuse.

Field Trip - Bamburgh/Budle Bay/Ross - 31st January, 1987

Eighteen club members assembled in Seahouses Harbour on a bright, calm but very frosty morning for the now annual search for divers, grebes and sea-duck. About 70 Dunlin were flying around the harbour which also held two Goldeneye and a Coot! Five Long-tailed Ducks were off the N. pier and a Red-necked Grebe was seen swimming S. Not a bad start but only a taster for things to come. Everyone piled into cars and moved up to Stag Rocks. The sea was like a mill-pond, ideal for viewing, but looking deceptively empty of birds! They soon started to appear, a flock of about 300 Common Scoter were spied some distance off-shore from Budle Point. Through telescopes there were obviously other species mingling with the main group, divers and some grebes. Numbers of Long-tailed Ducks performed beautifully, close inshore, and a Red-breasted Merganser plonked down in a large rock pool right in front of the cars.

A decision to walk to Budle Point was well rewarded. In the surprisingly warm sunshine a dozen Red-necked and about eight Slavonian Grebes were well-viewed. Michael Frankis picked up at least three Velvet Scoters and diver numbers moved up to about 25, all those identifiable being Red-throated. Unfortunately we had to push on in order to reach Ross Back Sands at high-tide. A short stop alongside Budle Bay revealed a wealth of Mallard, Wigeon, Shelduck, waders and a party of Grey Lag Geese which dropped into the fields to the west. Driving around the corner we met up with Sandy Bankier and John Day counting 1,300 Grey Lag Geese in the fields. Sandy spotted a solitary White-front which promptly laid down and tucked its head under its wing, like many of the Grey Lags, making it difficult to pick it out. Two strange looking geese, one with a white head, the other all grey were the subject of some discussion by various members of the party. They still remain unresolved!

Onward to Ross village for a well deserved lunch break then quickly off over the links. Scanning from the top of the dunes over the flat sea it was obvious we had chanced on a good day. Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes were being found almost constantly, Red-throated divers were scattered about and Long-tailed Ducks were flighting up and down in small groups. About to move off up the beach and a Snow Bunting obligingly appeared about 20 feet in front of us allowing excellent views before flying off. A little further on and another eight flew over our heads calling. A freshly dead Little Auk soon disappeared into a Barbour jacket pocket. This bird was not oiled but two Guillemots and a Razorbill on the strand line all showed traces. Two or three stops to view from the dune tops continued to produce numbers of divers and grebes. An obviously different diver (from Red-throated) provoked discussion about identity from several people but as closer views were obtained all finally agreed that it was a splendend Black-throated. Feeling very pleased with the proceedings we back tracked towards the cars, Sandy nipping off for a kip in the dunes! Ian Fisher was bemoaning the fact that we had not seen a Hen Harrier (almost a certainty on these field trips) and so we scanned the links in a vain attempt to oblige. Virtually the whole party held a short conference back at the cars to discuss counts etc. and gradually most made a move for home. The seven remaining at dusk were having a final cup of coffee when a Hen Harrier loomed into view from the south. Sorry Ian.

A magnificent day had been enjoyed by all.

Mike Hodgson



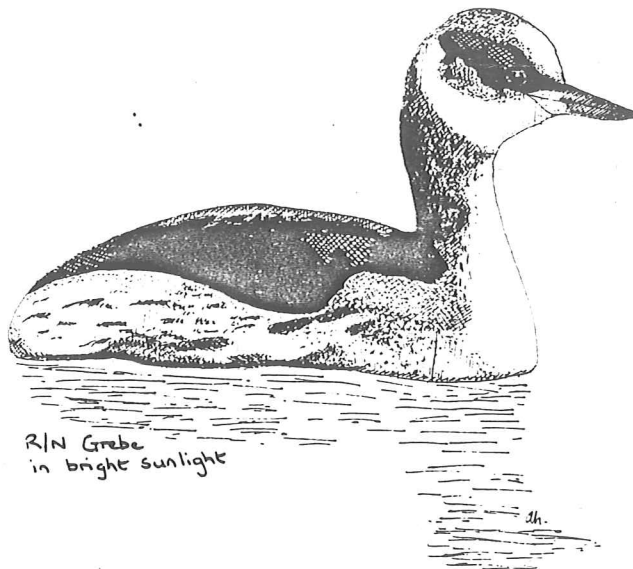
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 1987

The month began very cold but on average it was the warmest February since 1982. Snow occurred on several dates but not in extensive amounts. A relatively sunny month with a period of strong winds between 4th-10th.

Divers, Long-tailed Ducks, Red-necked and Slavonian grebes were still conspicuous between Bamburgh-Ross during the month and attracted many observers while some Great Crested Grebes moved on to breeding waters. The Brent Geese at Lindisfarne received a bonus as villagers put out grain in Holy Island harbour and attracted up to 500 birds. Perhaps as many as 14 different Smew were in the county, with eight still remaining in the Hadston-Druridge area.

Jack Snipe were reported from four localities and some waders, including Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover were quick to move into inland breeding areas. A Grey Phalarope at Seaton Sluice on 21st may have been the same bird as noted last month but the most unusual wader was an Avocet feeding at Black Law on 8th.



R/N Grebe
in bright sunlight

There were a number of Glaucous and Iceland Gulls including an adult Glaucous roosting well- inland at Derwent Reservoir.

Waxwings continued to be well-reported in widespread areas but Fieldfares and Redwings remained scarce. Several Blackcaps and a couple of Chiffchaffs appear to have survived the winter so far. A Great Grey Shrike provided a fine sight at Harwood Forest on 22nd and 28th and there were interesting inland records of Twite and Snow Bunting.

Other interesting species included Bittern, Bewick's Swan, Mediterranean and Laughing gulls, Hooded Crow, 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)

33 were between Bamburgh-Ross on 20th (ICC), up to 15 at Druridge Bay and Holy Island (JP/DPA) and 12 at Boulmer on 21st (ES). One-five noted in six other localities.

Black-throated Diver

On 8th four were between Budle Point-Ross (MB/IC). Singles also noted at Holy Island on 7th/22nd (ETN/CB), Druridge on 15th (MRS/ISD) and St. Mary's Island on 27th (LR).

Great Northern Diver

Up to four were in the Bamburgh-Ross area during the month (MW/MHS et al).

Little Grebe

Up to four were at Cresswell Pond and Tyne Green during the month (MHS/DP) and one-two at four other localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Whittle Dene, Holywell Pond and Seaton Burn from 6th, with two at the last site from 11th. A maximum of five was at Bamburgh on 21st (ICC) and one-two off Tweedmouth, Holy Island, Ross and Druridge Bay.

Red-necked Grebe

About 20 were off Ross on 4th with 18 still present off Stag Rocks on 21st (IK/ICC et al). One-two were at Holy Island all month, two at Seaton Sluice on 4th and one on 8th (JDS/KWY) and another in Druridge Bay on 1st and 15th (LJM/MRS).

Slavonian Grebe

Numbers still high in the Bamburgh/Ross area with a peak count of 53 on 20th (ASJ/MH et al). One was at Low Newton on 1st and 14th (RKS).

Fulmar

Six pairs were on Berwick road bridge on 15th (JSg). 180 were at Cullernose Bay on 22nd (RKS).

Gannet

200 flew N. at Holy Island on 22nd (CB) and 30 per hour S. there on 28th (JP). Much smaller numbers seen at another eight localities.

Cormorant

48 were at Blyth harbour on 21st and up to 32 at North Shields Fish Quay (LJM/DMT). 20 were at Corbridge on 1st where 14 roosted on 10th (DP/MR). One-four also noted at Seaton Burn, Derwent Reservoir and Whittle Dene. Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race included one at St. Mary's Island on 14th (ADM) and four at North Shields on 22nd (AJ).

Bittern

One still present at Caistron up to 22nd (MR).

Grey Heron

Three were at Whittle Dene on 15th, Budle Bay on 19th and flying SW at Chapel House on 22nd. One-two noted in 11 other localities.

Flamingo

One still present at Cresswell During the month.

Mute Swan

A maximum of 165 noted at Berwick harbour on 7th (JDL et al). One-thirteen seen at a further ten localities. A bird found dead at Alnmouth on 22nd had been shot with a high velocity rifle (JSe).

Bewick's Swan

Two were in the Cresswell/Ellington area during the month (AMB/ASJ).

Whooper Swan

The herd near Wark-on-Tweed increased to 116 (18 juveniles) by 24th (JSg/ETN). Up to 84 were in the Ellington/Warkworth Lane area (KH/JECM) and a maximum of 35 at Prestwick Carr on 21st (AGH) included the birds from Seaton Burn. 1-15 noted at seven other localities.

Pink-footed Goose

29 flew S. over Close House on 16th (STR). One-two were at Hoppen Kiln on 7th, Caistron on 8th, Derwent Reservoir on 14th and at Berwick harbour all month.

White-fronted Goose

One was at Budle Bay on 20th (ICC).

Grey Lag Goose

Up to 1,000 were in the Budle Bay area (ICC et al). 400 roosting at Caistron on 8th increased to 800 by 22nd (MR). 400 were at Grindon on 15th (ASJ), 120 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR) and up to 113 at Holywell. Up to 75 noted in about eight other localities.

Snow Goose

One was at Capheaton on 20th and Colt Crag on 28th (MJS/ADMc).

Canada Goose

Up to 66 were at Colt Crag on 14th (JCD/BNR) and 23 at Capheaton on 20th (MJS). Six were at Brenkley on 14th/27th and three at Arcot on 26th/27th (AHB/LJM).

Barnacle Goose

One briefly visited Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd (JRT).

Brent Goose

Up to 1,000 in the Lindisfarne area during the month with birds ranging out to Budle Bay and Stag Rocks and a single inland at Hoppen Kiln on 7th when 400 were feeding on winter wheat at Elwick. Up to 500 fed on grain supplied by several villagers at Holy Island. A maximum of 18 was at Boulmer on 15th (WD) when one at Amble (AGH).

Shelduck

556 were at Black Low on 28th (JDL), 150 at Budle Bay on 21st (DRS/WIL) 34 at Coquet Estuary on 23rd (EMY) and up to 17 at Cresswell (IF). Two-seven noted in six other localities.

Wigeon

750 were at Budle Bay on 8th (IC/MB), 200 at Whittle Dene on 15th (IF) and off Cresswell on 1st (LJM) and gatherings of 90-140 at Druridge, Grindon and Derwent Reservoir. Much smaller numbers were in five other localities.

Gadwall

A duck was at Seaton Burn all month (AJJ).

Teal

152 were on the sea off Cresswell on 15th (AGH) and up to 143 on Druridge Pool during the month. Inland the largest gatherings were 130 at Caistrone on 15th (MR), 118 at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ) and 50 at Grindon Lough (RKS). Up to 36 noted at ten other localities.

Mallard

Large gatherings included 310 at Seaton Burn on 3rd (AJJ), 304 at Holywell on 4th (GWS), 261 at Caistrone on 1st (MR), 201 at Budle Bay on 28th (KWY) and Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR), 141 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 17th (JRT) and 120 at Whittle Dene on 11th. Offshore 300 were at Cresswell on 1st (LJM) and 100 at Boulmer on 21st (MBS/ES).

Pintail

A drake was still in the Cresswell area, occasionally on the sea, during the month. Two were at Holy Island on 28th (DPa).

Shoveler

Four were at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJJ).

Pochard

About 150 at Cresswell on 15th (M & JH), 80 at Seaton Burn on 24th (AJJ) and 73 at Kielder (IF/MD) were the largest gatherings. Up to 47 were at Holywell and Wallsend Swallow Pond (IC/JRT) and smaller numbers at eight other localities.

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 68 at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR), 66 at Hartburn on 14th (MLC), 60 at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJJ) and 55 at Holywell on 21st (KWY). A maximum of 20 was in Berwick harbour on 7th (JRI) and 15 on the sea at Druridge Bay on 1st (AIB/GB).

Scaup

Up to eight were at Hauxley Pool during the month (AGH et al), six at Hadston Lake on 12th (MHS) and Druridge Pool on 20th (MW) and one-three at Berwick harbour, Wansbeck Estuary and St. Mary's Island.

Long-tailed Duck

Numbers in the Stag Rocks-Ross area peaked at about 200 on 20th (ASJ et al), and up to 30 were at Holy Island (CB).

Common Scoter

280 were at Ross-Budle Point on 8th (IC/MB). 30 flew N. at Cresswell on 7th (AMB).

Velvet Scoter

A maximum of 13 was in the Druridge/Hadston area on 4th and 21st (ASJ). Eight were at Stag Rocks on 28th (KWY) and one flew N. at Tynemouth on 21st (CB).

Goldeneye

A maximum of 270 was in the Berwick harbour on 1st, apparently declining slightly during the month (JRI et al). The peak count on the River Tyne at Newburn was 230 on 5th (AJ et al). The only other large gatherings on fresh water involved 50 at Holywell and 33 at Caistrone on 15th (IC/MR) although 2-17 were noted at about 12 other localities. A flock of 25 flew S. over Chapel House on 5th (MH). On the sea there were 41 at Howick on 22nd (RKS), 37 at Cambois on 1st (LJM), 32 at Seaton Sluice on 15th (L & KR), and 7-25 at Newton, Boulmer, Beadnell and Druridge Bay.

Smew

In the Hadston Lake area at least eight were present during the month, some of these visiting Druridge Pool or resting on the sea in Druridge Bay. In addition a 'redhead' was at Caistrone between 2nd-22nd (MR), a drake and two 'redheads' at

Arcot Pond on 14th (ADMc) where a single 'redhead' present on 23rd and 26th/27th, a 'redhead' on the River Blyth near Kirkley Hall on 8th (AHB) and a pair at Whittle Dene on 15th (JSB/JSt).

Red-breasted Merganser

Up to eight were on Hadston Lake. Ten at the Tyne Estuary on 18th (SY) and Druridge Bay on 22nd (KR) were the largest gatherings although two-eight were in another ten localities.

Goosander

44 were at Berwick harbour on 13th (JDL). 15 at Caistron on 8th increased to 47 (roosting) on 22nd (MR). Other roosts included 31 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th and 20 at Hallington on 8th (BNR). 24 were at Whittle Dene on 11th and up to 21 on the River Tyne at Wylam and Corbridge (MR/JSB/DP). 2-16 were also seen in a further 14 other localities.

Hen Harrier

Single 'ringtails' present at Ross Links during the month and in one inland locality on 6th.

Sparrowhawk

One-two seen in 13 widespread localities during the month.

Buzzard

One flew up the Tyne Valley at Blaydon on 15th (BL).

Kestrel

One-three noted in 21 widespread localities.

Merlin

One-two noted in six coastal localities and singles in eight inland areas during the month.

Peregrine

One-two were in the Holy Island area and singles at Berwick on 6th and Seahouses on 8th. Singles also seen in two inland areas.

Red Grouse

Two walks on Hexhamshire Common on 1st and 16th produced 40/41 birds (BNR). 20 were at Simonside on 26th (ASJ).

Black Grouse

One-two noted at Threestoneburn.

Red-legged Partridge

A bird with two broken legs was found at Swarland on 4th (per HRS).

Grey Partridge

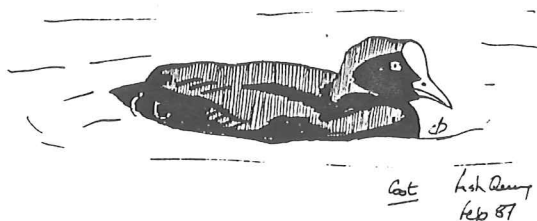
Ten at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (IF) was the largest covey. A pair were in a garden at Foxton on 28th (JMA).

Water Rail

One was at Lower Holywell Dene on 7th/8th (LR/JEF) and another at Seaton Burn on 1st (AMB).

Coot

97 were at Hartburn on 14th (TAC/MLC) and up to 60 at Seaton Burn all month (AJJ). A maximum of 44 was at Berwick harbour on 7th (JDL) and one was at North Shields Fish Quay most of the month. (CB/DMT).

CootWADER COUNT - 15th February, 1987

The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Seahouses-Beadnell (TAC/MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), S. Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (EC/MRS/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), St. Mary's Island (IDM), Tyne Estuary (SY).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,032 noted during the wader count. 900 were at Black Law on 14th (JSe) and 220 at Budle Bay on 18th (ICC). An early return to some breeding haunts indicated by one at Caistron on 8th increasing to six by 15th (MR), one at Seaton Burn on 23rd/24th (AJJ), two at Corbridge on 26th and at Grindon on 28th (JSB).

Avocet

One was feeding with pale-bellied Brent Geese near Black Law on 8th (MP). This will be the 5th winter record in the county since 1940, three of the previous sightings also being in the Lindisfarne area.

Ringed Plover

A total of 293 noted during the wader count. One had returned to Caistron by 8th (MR) and another was flight displaying at Ross Back Sands on 11th (IK/PWW).

Golden Plover

Numbers remained low during the month with 500 at St. Mary's Island on 14th (IDM) being the largest gathering. Two returned to the fell at Hexhamshire on 27th where 13 were displaying on the following day (CJ).

Grey Plover

A total of 132 again noted on the wader count. In addition 120 were at Fenham Flats on 16th (ISD) and 31 at Birling Carrs on 28th (JMA). Up to six visited Hauxley Pool and one at Cresswell Pond.

Lapwing

The largest flocks were 750 at Blucher on 27th (L & KR), 650 at Corbridge on 12th (DP) and 400 at Caistron and Whittle Dene on 8th and 11th (MR). A return to some lowland breeding areas noted from 2nd (LJM) and to higher, inland areas from 14th (BNR/CJ et al). Light W. passage was noted along the Simonsides on 28th (MH).

Knot

A total of 1,828 noted during the wader count included 900 between Cresswell-Newbiggin and 840 at St. Mary's Island. In addition 200 were at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Sanderling

A total of only 111 noted during the wader count. 90 were at Fenham Flats on 16th (ISD), 70 at Ross on 11th (IK) and 68 at Blyth beach on 15th (L & KR).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 475 noted during the wader count. In addition 120 were at Stag Rocks on 8th (MP).

Dunlin

A total of 1,615 noted during the wader count. In addition 1,920 were at Holy Island causeway on 8th, 435 at Berwick on 18th (JDL), 257 at N. Blyth on 13th (TT) and up to 250 at Cresswell Pond. Most interesting was one found (fresh) as a Sparrowhawk 'kill' at Bywell on 14th (BL/MD).

Ruff

One was still at Cresswell up to 14th.

Jack Snipe

Four-five were at Tyne Green on 15th and 16th (DP/AJR). Another four were feeding on a small stream between Amble-Warkworth on 1st (WAK) and singles were at Beadnell on 15th (TAC/MLC/AS) and Hexhamshire on 28th (CJ).



Jack Snipe at Hexham. 16-2-87

Snipe

14 were at Caistron on 1st (MR) and one-three at three other localities.

Woodcock

One-two noted at Ordley, Prestwick Carr and Holywell Dene.

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were at Budle Bay on 3rd increasing to four by 28th (IK/KWY). One was at Boulmer on 21st (TT).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of only 55 noted during the wader count. 2,510 were at Holy Island Causeway on 8th (JDL) and 370 at Budle Bay on 20th (ICC).

Curlew

A total of 298 noted during the wader count. 130 were at Holy Island on 7th (ETN) and 210 at the Long Nanny on 14th (RKS). Two returned to Brenkley by 28th (AHB).

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th (JEF) and Cresswell on 13th (J & MHS).

Redshank

A total of 650 noted during the wader count. Up to 219 were at Berwick (RMH), 223 at N. Blyth on 13th (TT) and 105 at Cresswell Pond on 7th (AMB). Small numbers also noted in three inland localities.

Greenshank

One at Ingram on 16th (JSe) was almost certainly the same as noted last month.

Turnstone

A total of 1,079 noted during the wader count showing an increase since last month. In addition 271 were at Berwick Little Beach on 16th (RMH).

Grey Phalarope

One was watched at close range at Seaton Sluice on 21st (MFi).

Mediterranean Gull

The Craster adult was last reported on 8th.

Laughing Gull

The Newcastle General Hospital bird remained throughout the month.

Black-headed Gull

Good numbers were at inland roosts with 6,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th, 6,000 at Hallington on 8th and 3,500 on 10th (BNR). 700 were at the Tyne Estuary on 3rd (DMT).

Common Gull

8,500 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 7th and 17,000 at Hallington on 8th (BNR). 700 were at the Tyne Estuary on 5th (DMT) and 350 at Seaton Burn on 17th (IF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

One-two were noted in about eight widespread localities.

Herring Gull

388 were at Newbiggin on 15th (AGH) and steady N. passage noted at Boulmer on 14th (IK). The roost at Derwent Reservoir declined again to 260 by 7th (BNR).

Iceland Gull

An adult was at Seaton Sluice on 27th (IC). A first-year was at North Shields Fish Quay on 21st (KIB/GSR).

Glaucous Gull

An adult and a first-winter were at North Shields Fish Quay on four dates (DMT/AJB). A first-winter in Druridge Bay on 1st may have been the same bird at Hadston Lake that day and at Amble on 15th (MW/SY/TPMW). Another was at Berwick harbour on 7th/28th (JRI). More unusual was an adult coming to roost at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (BNR).

Great Black-backed Gull

Only 17 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (BNR).

Kittiwake

46 were at North Shields on 23rd (DMT).

Guillemot

Five were at Embleton Bay on 1st (RKS) and two at Seaton Sluice on 4th (JDS).

Razorbill

On 4th one was at St. Mary's Island (GWS) and another, dead, at Druridge (MSH).

Little Auk

One flew N. at Seahouses on 8th (BM), and another, after preening on the beach at Hadston on 14th, flew out to sea (PWW). Single, dead, birds were found at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and Howick on 22nd (RKS).

Stock Dove

50 were feeding at sheep troughs at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR/CJ). Three-five also noted at Wylam and Hexham.

Woodpigeon

Flocks of 1,000 were at Prestwick Carr on 5th/25th (AIB), near Cornhill on 14th (JSg) and W. Heddon on 18th (IK). 200-500 also seen at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Colwell.

Collared Dove

Up to 30 were at the North Shields roost (RMA) and 20 at Dunstan Stead on 1st (RKS).

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Woodside and near Warkworth (NWR/JSn).

Little Owl

One was near Whittle Dene on 15th (IF).

Tawny Owl

One at Swinhoe Lake was the only record (ISD).

Long-eared Owl

Up to seven roosted at Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month. Singles were at Warkworth on 13th (JMA) and Flotterton on 16th (JSe). Road casualties involved singles at Alnwick on 7th and 14th and Longhorsley on 23rd (JSe).

Short-eared Owl

One-two noted in 11 coastal or near-coastal localities including a roadside casualty at Radcliffe on 19th. A pair were displaying at an inland locality on 23rd.

Kingfisher

Two were in Jesmond Dene throughout the month. At least one seen in the Close House/Heddon area (STR/JSB).

Green Woodpecker

Singles were noted at Bothal, Whittle, Tyne Green and Peth Foot.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were seen in 12 widespread localities.

Skylark

100 were at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR), 100 N. at Seaton Burn on 17th, 89 at Black Low on 28th (JDL) when a steady W. movement noted at the Simonside during the morning (MH). Singing birds were noted from 14th.

Meadow Pipit

One-three were on moors at Derwent Reservoir on 14th and Ladycross on 19th (BNR/CJ).

Rock Pipit

15 were at Low Newton on 14th (RKS).

Grey Wagtail

One-three were present at Jesmond Dene all month (MPF).

Waxwing

Up to 30 were at Morpeth during the month (per BL), a maximum of 21 at Brunswick/Wideopen on 24th (AIB/GB), 17 near Bedlington on 28th (WAK), and eight at Kenton on 10th (MRS). One-four were also noted at Forest Hall, Chapel House, Scotswood, Blyth, Cramlington and Hauxley.

Dipper

Pairs and singles noted in nine widespread areas. Two were seen flying 200 feet above Juniper Village, singing, on 23rd ! (CJ).

Wren

Singing birds noted in several localities from 12th.

Blackbird

22 fed on apples in a garden at Walbottle on 1st (L & KR) and 20-25 in another garden at S. Gosforth from 9th (AMB). A total of four were released from lobster pots (not in the water!) at Hauxley on 8th and 28th (IOK).

Fieldfare

150 at Castron on 1st (MR) and Ingram on 7th (AMB), and 100-120 at Calder, Derwent Reservoir and Middleton Hall were the largest flocks reported.

Redwing

Up to 12 at Prior's park and Hauxley were the only reports received.

Mistle Thrush

11 were at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR) and six at Brandon and Arcot.

Blackcap

One-three were seen in seven widespread localities, nearly all in gardens, involving at least ten individuals.

Chiffchaff

One still present at Gosforth on 14th and another in a garden at High Heaton on 25th (per MPF).

Goldcrest

Small numbers noted in six areas including birds in song at Harwood on 8th and Kielder on 15th.

Long-tailed Tit

13 were at Corbridge on 10th (MR). Two-three also noted at Riding Mill, Close House and Happy Valley.

Marsh Tit

Noted at Wallington, Dipton, Linnels and Howick Haven.

Willow Tit

One-three were at Seaton Burn during the month.

Coal Tit

30 were in a small area at Kielder on 15th (IF), and 12 at Rothley Lake on 21st (SJL). Smaller numbers noted in five other localities. Good numbers were in song at Harwood on 8th.

Great Tit

A bird trapped at Wallington on 25th had been ringed at Hauxley in October 1983 (AJJ/MSH).

Nuthatch

Eight were at Close House on 7th and ten-twelve at Wallington on 14th (JCD/MSH). One-four were also seen at Jesmond Dene, Bolam, Eshott, Morpeth, Mitford, Riding Mill, Peth Foot and near Corbridge, including singing and displaying birds from 3rd.

Treecreeper

Singles were noted at Heaton Park and Healey.

Great Grey Shrike

One was at a clear fell area at Harwood on 22nd and 28th (MH).

Jay

About 20 were at Gosforth Park on 13th (ES).

Jackdaw

300 were at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR).

Carrion Crow

44 were at the Tweed Estuary on 15th (JSg). On 5th one hung upside down from a branch for about a minute at Morpeth (ADMc). A bird at Birling Carrs on 28th showed a white band on each wing (JMA).

Hooded Crow

One was at Berwick harbour on 7th (DPa).

Starling

500 roosted near Colt Crag on 14th (BNR). One was carrying string to a nest hole at Hauxley on 4th (IOK). The bird with the deformed bill was still present at Cramlington (JECM).

Tree Sparrow

70 were at Seaton Burn on 7th (AJJ). 20-30 also noted at Holywell Dene, Amble, Radcliffe and Close House.

Chaffinch

The largest gatherings were 200 at Reaveley Greens on 15th (AMB), 170 at Smallburn on 23rd (MLC), 126 at Castron on 22nd (MR) and 120 at Brenkley on 27th (LJM). 20-80 were at eight other localities, including 19 in a garden at Wideopen (GB).

Brambling

70 were near Cambo on 28th (MH), 40 at Smallburn on 23rd (MLC), 17 trapped at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ), and 15 near Bolam on 25th (JSt). One-seven noted in another six localities including some visiting gardens.

Greenfinch

95 were in Leazes Park on 16th (LR).

Goldfinch

Nine were at Prestwick Carr on 8th including one singing. 13-14 were in deep forest at Harwood on 28th (MH).

Siskin

40 were at Seaton Burn on 3rd (ES) and 11 at Caistron on 22nd (MR). One-three noted at five other localities including some coming to garden feeders.

Linnet

70 at Seaton Burn on 21st (AIB), 40-60 at Manors Metro Station (AJB), and 50 at Holywell were the largest flocks.

Twite

10-12 were at Druridge on 15th (J & MH), five at Warkworth on 21st (MBS/ES) when one at Holy Island (RKS). More unusual was two on the Simonsides on 22nd (MH).

Redpoll

120 were at Harwood on 28th (MH) and 35 at Colt Crag on 14th (JCD). Up to 20 were at Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Mealy Redpoll

One was at Colt Crag on 7th (KR).

Crossbill

Two-eight were at Ladycross, Kielder, Harwood and the Otterburn Ranges including some in full song.

Bullfinch

One-four noted in ten widespread localities.

Hawfinch

A maximum of six was at Hexham on 12th (KD).

Lapland Bunting

A maximum of seven was at Holy Island on 7th (DPa). One was at Ross on 20th (ICC).

Snow Bunting

A maximum of 45 was at Ross on 28th (JP), when 30 were at Stag Rocks (JECM/KH). Up to 11 were at Holy Island and six at Hauxley. Inland two were at Windy Gyle on 23rd (JSe).

Yellowhammer

30 at Dunstan Stead on 1st was the largest gathering (RKS).

Reed Bunting

Singles visited gardens at Ponteland, Wideopen and W. Cramlington.

Corn Bunting

Eight were at Foxton on 15th (WD) and one-four at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Warkworth Lane and Bothal.

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

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Indoor Meeting - Thursday 9th April, 1987

Our next and last meeting in the current session will be held in the Physics Lecture Theatre, Newcastle University at 7.00 p.m. This will be members night and we will be treated to three short talks and a full viewing of all the slides in the Photographic Competition. Members night is usually one of the best club meetings of the year, so come along and enjoy our own 'home-grown' talent.

Committee Changes

Many members will already know that Ken Shaw left the area on 16th March, 1987 to take up his new post with the R.S.P.B. at Aberdeen. Ken has been on Tyneside for six years and has been an active club member throughout, spending the last year and a half as our Assistant Secretary. The Committee would like, on behalf of the club, to thank him sincerely for all of his efforts and work for the Club. We wish him all the very best in his new job and home.

Ken's departure has, of course, left a vacant place on the committee. The committee have, therefore, co-opted Mike Henry for the remainder of the club's year. A lot of members will already know Mike but we are sure that he would be pleased to meet and chat with you at club meetings.

Field Trips

Saturday 25th April, 1987

Threestoneburn with Sandy Bankier.
Meet at 9.00 a.m at the car park, Plough Inn
Powburn.

Saturday 9th May, 1987

Bird song at Allenbanks
Bryan Galloway is leading a joint trip with
members of his night class. Please note that
numbers from the club are limited to 10.
Meet at 8.30 a.m. at the National Trust north
car park of Ridley Hall.

Saturday 16th May, 1987

Holy Island with Ian Kerr.
The tide should allow us to meet just after 9.00
a.m. in the car park on Holy Island.

Please contact Colin Bradshaw (Tel: Tyneside 2572389) if you wish to go on any of the above trips. Where possible, Colin will try and arrange transport for members without cars.

Lapwing and Other Waders - BTO & NTBC Breeding Survey 1987

This survey involves a search for breeding waders in a 2 x 2 sq. Km. area (a tetrad) within each 10-km square in Northumberland. The tetrads to be searched have already been selected at random by the BTO computer and will be clearly marked on a map which will be supplied with the recording form. The survey involves one visit only which should be made in April in lowland areas and in May in upland areas. Information required is:

- 1) Numbers of breeding Lapwings, their distribution on the map provided, some habitat details.
- 2) Numbers of other breeding waders (excluding Woodcock, Common Sandpiper, Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover).

This is an important survey, it will provide information on the habitat that Lapwings need in order to be able to survive as a widespread breeding species in an increasing intensive agricultural environment. It will also give for the first time, an indication of the numbers of breeding waders in Northumberland as this will be the first time that all types of habitat will have been included in a survey.

Recruitment has already commenced for this survey using the Survey Observer Register but help is still needed in some areas so if you would like to help please contact Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1 SX (Tel: Slaley 509) as soon as possible.

European Breeding Atlas

In addition to the Sawbill and Lapwing surveys, the BTO is also organising the European Breeding Atlas this year. This will map species on a 50 km square basis, noting the extent to which breeding was proven in each area. We are directly concerned with the organisation of three of these large squares. One in NE Northumberland covering 10 km squares commencing NU and called NU (SW), one in SE Northumberland (and NE Durham) covering NZ05-09, 15-19, 25-29, 35-39, 45-46 and called NZ (NW), and the other in SW Northumberland (and NW Durham and NE Cumbria) covering NY55-59, 65-69, 75-79, 85-89, 95-99 and called NY (NE). A further 50 km square in NW Northumberland and SE Borders covering NT50-54, 60-64, 70-74, 80-84, 90-94 and called NT (SE) is officially being organised from the Borders but we have

arranged with them to act as a local postbox for observers working on the Northumberland side.

All members of the BTO have been sent one card for this survey, please endeavour to complete it for one of the 50 km squares listed above. This will normally be for the one in which you do most of your birdwatching. If you find interesting breeding records in another 50 km square you can obtain another form for that square. However this will not be necessary if you are submitting your interesting records (as you should) to the club recorder. This is because in compiling the atlas, the local organisers can add records published in bird reports to those obtained on the forms.

Members of the Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club who would like to help can obtain cards from the local organisers who are: NZ (NW) Tom and Muriel Cadwallender, 32 Manners Gardens, Seaton Delaval NE25 0DW (Tel. 091 237 1145); NY (NE) & NU (SW) Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX (Tel. Slaley 509). NT (SE) cards can be supplied by or sent to either of the local organisers.

Daytime Flying Bat Survey

Dr. John Speakman, Department of Zoology, Aberdeen University, has appealed to club members for help in a national survey he is undertaking of bats flying during daylight, i.e. more than one hour before sunset or after sunrise.

Anyone who encounters day-flying bats while out birding is invited to submit records to him which will all be acknowledged. Dr Speakman is interested in several kinds of records:-

1. First hand observations throughout 1987.
2. First hand observations from previous years.
3. Records in old natural history journals etc. Please send him names and reference.
4. Second hand records from reliable sources, e.g. people who own houses with bats in them.

Dr Speakman asks that ideally observers should try to let him have the date and sighting, map reference, habitat, details of weather and some indication of size and colour of bat if it cannot be identified. But partial records are still welcomed of the "one day in the first week of August" variety. Anyone with records can contact him at the Department of Zoology, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen, AB9 2TN.

Northumberland Nuthatch Study Group

The Northumberland Nuthatch Study Group was formed in November 1986 to find out more about the status and movements of the species in the county. Fieldwork is initially envisaged for a three year period and aims to investigate populations, breeding, habitats and range expansion.

The group is particularly keen to learn of any confirmed breeding records and sightings of birds in 'new' areas. If during the coming breeding season you find any obviously occupied nests or family parties we would be grateful if details could be submitted on club record cards. Nuthatches have a distinctive ringing call which makes them relatively easy to locate but they tend to become more silent as the season progresses, so the next few weeks are important to locate potential breeders. Counts of singing birds in any particular locality would also be of great help!

Thank you.

Mike Hodgson.



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - MARCH 1987

It was a cold and wet month although the amount of sunshine was only a little below normal. Snow fell in significant amounts on several days, generally more than average for the time of year. There were three periods of strong winds on 2nd, 17th/18th and 26th-28th and all from the westerley sector.

Records of grebes were still plentiful during the month with a Black-necked at Alnmouth on 1st, good numbers of Great Crested returning to their breeding waters and up to 13 Red-necked in the Ross Back Sands area. At least 80 Slavonian Grebes and 400 Long-tailed Ducks were at this locality on 27th, the high numbers of these species experienced here since January no doubt reflecting the harsh conditions in areas such as the Baltic.

Although wilfowl numbers declined as usual there was an interesting gathering of 26 Red-breasted Mergansers at Hadston Lake. A pair of Garganey at Alnmouth on 22nd provided a nice taste of Spring! Inland Oystercatchers and Curlew were conspicuous in several areas and a Green Sandpiper seen in Coquetdale had probably wintered. A Great Skua made a brief appearance off Seaton Sluice on 8th and three Mediterranean Gulls were noted.

Water Pipits were seen in three localities and a Scandinavian race Rock Pipit was at Low Newton. Waxwings were still present in a few localities in good numbers. The first Wheatear made a welcome appearance at Hauxley on 25th with two well inland at Langley the following day but no other summer visitors could be found. However, many of our 'residents' moved into breeding territories so summer cannot be far away. The wintering Great Grey Shrike at Harwood remained until at least 22nd.



Other interesting species included Bittern, Bewick's Swan, Snew, Laughing Gull, Hooded Crow 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 40 was between Bamburgh-Ross on 12th (MHp/TMM). One-seven were in another three localities. Single, oiled, birds were at Hauxley Pool on 17th (HRS) and Hadston Lake on 21st/24th (MJS). Another on Druridge Pool on 31st eventually flew out to sea (KH).

Black-throated Diver

Up to three (including one in summer plumage) were in the Bamburgh-Holy Island area between 15th-27th. Another was in Druridge Bay on 22nd and 31st.

Great Northern Diver

One still present in the Blyth Estuary up to at least 15th. Another was at Ross Back Sands on 12th (MHp).

Little Grebe

One-five were noted on six ponds and five rivers during the month. 'Trilling' birds were noted from 8th.

Great Crested Grebe

The maximum counts were eight at Arcot and six at Hallington on 14th (LJM/RW) seven at Holywell Pond on 17th (SJL) and five at Seaton Burn on 18th/22nd (PM/AJJ). One-three were on another nine waters. Along the coast two were in Blyth Bay on 29th (MHp) and another, slightly oiled, bird at Druridge Bay on 14th (JRT/EC).

Red-necked Grebe

Up to 13 were in the Bamburgh-Holy Island area during the month including several in summer plumage.

Slavonian Grebe

Numbers remained very high in the Bamburgh-Ross area during the month with a peak count of at least 80 on 27th (AGH et al) including groups of 20 and 15. One flew N. at Cresswell on 2nd (AJ).

Black-necked Grebe

One was on the River Aln at Alnmouth on 1st (BSB/JMB).

Fulmar

150 were at Cullernose Point on 15th, 70 at Dunstanburgh on 1st and up to 72 at Holy Island (RKS) where displaying birds were on the ground at the Harbour pool on 15th (IK/BG).

Gannet

120 N. in 20 minutes at Seahouses on 15th (BG) and up to 100 N. per hour at Holy Island on 27th (AGH) were the heaviest movements although smaller numbers noted at five other localities during the month.

Cormorant

The largest gatherings were 80 at Blyth harbour on 15th (MHp), 56 at North Shields on 7th (ES), 32 between Horncliffe-Berwick on 29th (JSg) and 31 at Warkworth on 30th (KWY). 27 were at the Corbridge roost site on 7th (MR) and one-eighteen were in a further five inland localities. Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race included five at North Shields on 21st (BG), three at Warkworth on 30th (JRT) and one at Cresswell Pond.

Shag

70 were at Stag Rocks on 15th (IC).

Bittern

The bird at Castron was still present on 22nd (MR).

Grey Heron

Six at West Newton on 15th was the largest gathering (AMB). One-five were noted in another 19 widespread localities.

Flamingo

One was still present at Cresswell Pond up to 22nd.

Mute Swan

101 were at Berwick harbour on 29th (JSg). 12 at Blyth on 13th (SJL) was the next largest gathering with one-ten in a further 14 localities.

Bewick's Swan

Two adults were still at Ellington on 8th (BG/IK).

Whooper Swan

A maximum of 72 (13 juveniles) were at Ellington on 8th declining to 40 by 31st (BG/IK et al). 24 at Prestwick Carr on 3rd declined to 16 by 29th (WAK/MRS et al). 15 were at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (RKS), 14 at Capheaton on 14th (JCD) and two-six at Hauxley, Gosforth and the Tweed Estuary.

Pink-footed Goose

Three flew NE at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (BNR), five NW at Beal Sands on 22nd (JDL) and two were at Castron on 22nd/29th (MR).

Grey Lag Goose

1,000 were at Budle Bay on 22nd (MT/KG), 800 at Castron on 1st/8th declined to 450 by 29th (MR), 388 were at Grindon Lough on 11th (SJH), 311 at Carham on 8th (JDL) and 45-150 at Hallington, Derwent Reservoir, Whittle Dene, Prestwick Carr and Holywell Pond.

Snow Goose

One was at Capheaton on 14th/15th (JCD/MJS). Another at Colt Crag on 14th appeared to be paired with a Canada Goose (RW). One was also with Grey Lags at Budle Bay on 21st (AJJ).

Canada Goose

36 were at Colt Crag on 14th (RW) and 27 at Capheaton on 15th (MJS). Up to seven were in the Brenkley/Seaton Burn area and three at Arcot Pond.

Brent Goose

Up to 500 were in the Lindisfarne area during the month, 30 flew N. at Stag Rocks on 15th, 19 were at Alnmouth on 1st (BSB), 19 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 14th (KWY) and one-five were seen at the Coquet Estuary, Boulmer, Hauxley, Druridge Pool and St. Mary's Island.

Shelduck

90 were at Budle Bay on 8th (RKS) and 26 were at Coquet Estuary on 23rd (EMY). 16 were at the Blyth Estuary on 15th (LJM) and seven pairs were at Boulmer on 14th (IK). Two-eleven were in another seven coastal localities.

Wigeon

The largest gatherings were 300 at Druridge Pool on 7th (ES/WIL), 194 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR) and 138 at Grindon Lough on 1st (SJH). 2-16 noted at five other localities.

Gadwall

A duck still present at Seaton Burn all month (AJJ).

Teal

101 were at Druridge Pool on 7th (JRT/KWY), 50 at Seaton Burn on 11th and Grindon on 21st (AJJ/RKS) and 46 at Arcot on 20th (LJM). 10-40 noted in nine other localities. Six pairs were back on breeding territories in Upper Coquetdale by 1st (BG/IK).

Mallard

206 at Seaton Burn on 12th (AJJ), 111 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (JRT) and 77 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR) were the largest gatherings.

Pintail

Two pairs were at Druridge Pool on 8th (BG) and Bothal Pond on 17th (JRT). Pairs were also at Seaton Burn and Holy Island and singles at Boulmer and Hauxley.

Garganey

A pair were at the Aln estuary on 22nd (AC).

Shoveler

Ten were at Grindon Lough on 21st (RKS) and seven at Seaton Burn on 11th (AJJ). One-five were at Warkworth Lane, Arcot, Shankhouse, and Druridge Pool where three were offshore on 22nd (ADMc).

Pochard

62 were at Seaton Burn on 12th (AJJ), 40 at Capheaton on 14th (JCD) and 32 at Castron on 15th (MR). 5-26 were at seven other waters.

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 75 at Killingworth on 10th (FC), 47 at Seaton Burn on 11th (AJJ), 45 at Bolam on 21st (RKS) and 30-40 at Holywell, Hartburn, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Castron and Capheaton.

Scaup

Birds were present on Hauxley Pool during most of the month with a maximum of 13 on 4th (HNRW). Up to eight visited nearby Hadston Lake (MHP et al) and two were on the Rive Tyne at Wylam on 17th (STR).

Eider

1,250 were between Newbiggin-Cambois on 14th (MHP) and up to 250 off Hauxley.

Long-tailed Duck

Numbers in the Ross-Bamburgh area remained high with a maximum count of 400 present on 27th (AGH et al). One flew N. at Druridge Bay on 14th (KWY).

Common Scoter

11 were off Hauxley on 27th where 17 N. on 29th (HRS).

Velvet Scoter

Eight were in Druridge Bay on 14th (KWY) and five-six off Ross on 12th/24th (MHP/AGH).

Goldeneye

The largest gatherings were 302 at the Tweed Estuary on 15th (JSg) when 162 between Newburn-Wylam (STR et al), 145 at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR) when 30 at Capheaton (JCD) and 20 at Grindon Lough (SJH). In addition 2-15 were noted in another 17 widespread localities.

Smew

Single 'redheads' were still at Hadston Lake and Castron between 1st-15th and Arcot Pond on 3rd. Another was at Sweethope Lough on 14th (JCD).

Red-breasted Merganser

Birds were present on many dates at Hadston Lake with a maximum of 26 on 28th (MHP et al). In addition 11 were at Holy Island on 22nd (RKS), eight in Duridge Bay on 30th (KWY) and one-four at Newton, Howick, Budle Bay and Almouth.

Goosander

The largest gatherings were 51 at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR), 41 at Pawston Lake on 15th (JSg), 35 at Berwick on 10th (JDL), 30 on the River Tyne at Wylam on 8th (STR) and 27 at Caistron on 1st (MR). One-sixteen were in a further 14 widespread localities.

Hen Harrier

Two were at Ross on 12th and one on 27th/28th (MHP/AGH).

Sparrowhawk

Up to three were in Jesmond Dene (MPF) and one-two in another 17 widespread localities.

Kestrel

A pair was displaying near the usual nest-box at Threestoneburn on 14th (AMB) and pairs were in territory at three sites in Upper Coquetdale on 22nd (BG). Pairs and singles also seen in another 18 localities. A melanistic bird was at Slaley on 12th (CJ).

Merlin

Singles were noted four coastal and four inland localities during the month.

Peregrine

Singles were at Druridge on 22nd (CH), Holy Island on 25th (AGH) and Hauxley on 31st (HRS). Singles also seen in two inland localities.

Black Grouse

A pair was present all month at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

Four were at Calder on 14th (TAC/MLC) and two at Roddam on 29th (ADM/MGA).

Water Rail

One was on the River Pont near Medburn on 1st (EC) and two were calling at Gosforth Park on 12th (ISD). Another was killed by a car at Budle Bay on 29th (RKS).

Coot

50 were at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ) and Hartburn on 21st (TAC). 12 were in the Tweed Estuary on 15th (JSg) and one remained at North Shields Fish Quay until 22nd (DMT).

Wader Count - 15th March, 1987

The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle-Seahouses (APM), Seahouses-Beadnell (TAC/MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), S. Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington (TPMW), Chevington-Cresswell (BDG/EC), Newbiggin-Cambois (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 803 was noted on the wader count. Inland 210 at Caistron on 1st increased to 370 by 15th, this being the largest ever gathering at this site (MR). 33 were at Tarsset on 21st (JR), when 15 at Derwent Reservoir (BNR), 11 at Seaton Burn on 18th (AJJ) and two-ten at six other inland localities.

Ringed Plover

A total of 212 was noted during the wader count. Inland three were at Caistrone on 1st (MR), two pairs and a single at Holystone on 22nd (BG) and one at Brenkley on 25th (MRS).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 364 at St. Mary's Island on 28th (IDM) and 130 at Caistrone on 8th (MR).

Grey Plover

A total of 59 was noted during the wader count. 614 were at Holy Island causeway on 22nd (JDL) and 250 at Ross Back Sands on 29th (MHP).

Lapwing

400 at Druridge Pool on 8th (BG) and 200 at Arcot on 11th were the largest gatherings. Smaller numbers were noted in many breeding areas during the month.

Knot

Only 128 noted during the wader count. In addition 350 were at Hauxley on 8th (HRS), 120 at Holy Island (RKS), 40 at Budle Bay on 21st and 80 at Seaton Sluice on 7th (ES/DRS).

Sanderling

A total of 82 noted during the wader count. 30-37 were also noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth.

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 326 was noted during the wader count. In addition 250 roosted at Blyth S. Pier on 4th (MHP) and 120 were at Seaton Sluice on 29th/30th (MB/DHH).

Dunlin

A total of 1,089 was noted during the wader count. 550 were at Holy Island on 8th (JDL) when 210 were at Budle Bay (RKS) and 150 at Cresswell Pond on 7th (ES/MBS). One was inland at Caistrone on 8th (MR).

Ruff

One was in the Cresswell/Druridge area all month with two present on 30th.

Snipe

21 were at Caistrone on 8th (MR) and 20 at Arcot Pond on 20th (LJM). One was 'drumming' at Allendale on 29th (MSH).

Woodcock

Three pairs were at the East Allen on 29th and one 'roding' at Linnels on 31st (BNR). One-two were noted in another nine widespread localities.

Black-tailed Godwit

Four were in Budle Bay on 14th (AGH/MH) and singles at Holy Island between 7th-21st (AJH et al) and Boulmer (IK).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 44 noted during the wader count. 870 were at Holy Island on 8th (JDL) and 33 at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Curlew

A total of 276 noted during the wader count. 277 were at Holy Island on 8th (JDL) and 42 at St. Mary's Island on 5th (L&KR). Inland 60 were at Holystone on 1st (BG/IK), 47 at Coatenhill on 28th (BNR) and 46 at Hexhamshire (CJ) and smaller numbers at another 11 localities.

Spotted Redshank

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st and two on 22nd (JRT/LR).

Redshank

A total of 736 was noted during the wader count. Small numbers noted in several breeding areas during the month.

Greenshank

One was still near Powburn on 8th (AMB).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Holystone on 1st (BG/IK).

Turnstone

A total of 990 noted during the wader count. 216 were at Berwick Little Beach on 20th (JDL).

Great Skua

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 8th (MB/BM).

Mediterranean Gull

The adult was still present at Craster up to 18th. An adult was at Seaton Burn on 7th (AJJ/ADMc) where a first-winter was present on 31st (AIB/GB).

Laughing Gull

The 'resident' remained at Newcastle General Hospital until at least 24th. On the 31st it was at Seaton Burn (AJJ).

Black-headed Gull

7,500 roosting at Scotswood declined to 1,600 by 25th. Between 21st-29th roost counts included 2,700 at Derwent Reservoir, 3,100 at Hallington, 1,100 at Colt Crag, 880 at Broomlee and 2,100 at Grindon (BNR) whilst up to 3,000 roosted at Caistron during the month (MR). 5,000 gathered at the Tyne Estuary on 15th (CB) and 1,000 roosted at Blyth Bay on 19th (MHP). 1,800 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Common Gull

4,500 roosted at Colt Crag on 1st, 2,100 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th increasing to 6,800 by 21st, 8,600 at Hallington on 8th increasing to 15,000 by 22nd and 900 at Broomlee on 29th (BNR). 600 were at Tynemouth on 15th (CB) and 500 at Druridge Pool on 7th (ES). Steady NW passage noted at four inland localities on 29th (BG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Reports increased during the month with returning birds. 20 N. at Hauxley on 28th was the largest number. 18 roosted at Broomlee on 29th (BNR). Of 25 sightings of adults in S.E. of the county during the month five showed the characteristics of the Scandinavian race and another was at North Shields on 27th (BNR/KWY).

Herring Gull

300 were at Blyth harbour on 4th declining to 100 by 31st (MHP). 1,000 were on the Tyne Estuary on 15th (CB) and 300 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 28th (HRS). An all white bird was at North Shields on 28th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

A second winter was at North Shields Fish Quay on 3rd and a first winter between 28th-31st (DMT/KH). An adult and a first winter were at Seaton Sluice on 8th/14th (MB/GS) and an adult flew S. at Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Glaucous Gull

An adult was at North Shields on 2nd and 6th and Seaton Sluice on 30th (DMT/AIB) and a first winter moved N. at Hauxley on 8th (HRS). Another was at North Shields on 30th (WAK).

Great Black-backed Gull

50 roosted at Blyth harbour on 4th (MHP).

Kittiwake

240 were at Dunstanburgh cliffs on 1st (RKS). 200 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Guillemot

One-two noted in five localities.

Little Auk

An oiled bird was found at Hauxley on 10th but it subsequently died. A fresh corpse was found at Cambois on 14th (MHP).

Puffin

About 3,000 were around Coquet Island by 31st (HRS). An oiled bird was at Seaton Sluice on 14th (JDS).

Stock Dove

Nine were at East Allen on 22nd (BNR) and eight at Hedley-on-the-Hill on 11th (SW).

Barn Owl

One was at Plessey Checks on 10th (JR). A road casualty was found at Felton on 13th (per GB).

Little Owl

One was near Medburn on 1st (EC).

Tawny Owl

Pairs and singles noted in five widespread localities.

Long-eared Owl

Up to five were at Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month. One was at Seaton Burn on 21st (AJJ).

Short-eared Owl

One-three were seen in nine coastal or near coastal localities.

Kingfisher

Up to three were in Jesmond Dene and on the River Tyne in the Wylam/Heddon area during the month.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were noted at Peth Foot, Hartburn and Alwinton.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three seen in 17 widespread localities including 'drumming' birds towards the end of the month.

Skylark

Flocks of 150 were at Castron on 8th (MR) and Alwinton on 22nd (BG) with 30-70 at Newbiggin, Whitley Chapel, Hauxley and Pawston between 4th-15th. Singing birds noted in many areas throughout the month.

Meadow Pipit

30 were at Hauxley on 26th(HRS). By 29th many were back on high ground in the S. Cheviots (MH/IK).

Rock Pipit

25 were at St. Mary's Island on 8th (LJM) and four-five noted at Hauxley and Berwick. A bird at Low Newton on 15th showed the characteristics of the Scandinavian race (PM).

Water Pipit

Singles were at Whittle Dene on 14th and Caistron on 15th and 22nd (MR). Another was at St. Mary's Island on 14th (JDS/GS).

Grey Wagtail

Three pairs were at Allenbanks on 14th (RKS) and two pairs in Jesmond Dene by the end of the month (MPF). Pairs and singles were noted in another ten localities including singing birds from 22nd. One visited a garden in Wylam on 4th and fed on cheese! (per BG).

Pied Wagtail

23 were at Whittle Dene on 26th (SJL) and 40 at Caistron on 29th (MR).

Waxwing

18 were near Bedlington Station on 1st (NF/MGA). 21 at Wideopen declined to one by 13th (AIB), 21 were at High Heaton on 11th (per MPF), six at Benton on 14th (FC), 12 at Kenton on 21st falling to three by 28th, 20 in central Newcastle on 27th (MRS) and eight at Morpeth between 23rd-27th (HA).

Robin

A pair took up residence in an open-fronted nest-box at Matfen erected on 18th, the nest was started on 21st and completed by 31st (RW).

Wheatear

The first was one at Hauxley on 25th (HNRW) followed by two, well inland, at Langley on 26th (SJH). One-two were at Hauxley, Druridge, Cramlington, Shilbottle and Bamburgh between 27th-29th.

Blackbird

20 in one hedge at Ordley on 23rd was indicative of a general increase in the area (BNR). Nest building was noted at Blyth from 21st (RHA).

Fieldfare

The largest flocks were 360 at Slaley on 6th (CJ) when 200 at Whittle (JMA), 150 near Grasslees on 1st (BG), 140 at Allenbanks on 14th (RKS) and 130 flying E. at Juniper on 28th.

Song Thrush

15 were feeding together at Ordley on 7th (BNR). Two-eight noted at Tynemouth, Hauxley and Holy Island during the month.

Redwing

120 were grounded at Jesmond Dene after snow on 21st (MPF). The next largest gathering was only 30 at Seaton Burn on 28th (GB) and much smaller numbers were noted in seven other localities.

Mistle Thrush

Nest-building commenced at Hauxley on 18th (HRS).

Blackcap

All were noted in gardens with two at Jesmond, and singles at Wylam, Corbridge, Hexham, Morpeth and Wideopen.

Chiffchaff

A very brown bird was in a yard in Newcastle City Centre on 2nd (MIT).

Goldcrest

20 were at Thrunton on 16th (ADMc).

Long-tailed Tit

Two-four were noted in ten widespread localities.

Marsh Tit

Three pairs were at Allenbanks on 14th (RKS). One-two were also seen at Cheeseburn, Bolam, Felton and near Swarland.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Holywell Dene, Gosforth Park and Seaton Burn.

Coal Tit

About 20 were at Bolam on 7th (ES/WTL). One was on the coast at Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Nuthatch

Up to seven were at Wallington and five at Bolam and Allenbanks. One-two were also at Corbridge, Riding Mill, Horsley Wood, Matfen, Cheeseburn, Nunnykirk, Ordley, Heddon and Wylam. Two pairs were in territory in Jesmond Dene where a nest site located on 26th.

Treecreeper

One-two seen in about five widespread areas including one singing at Nunnykirk on 29th (RW).

Great Grey Shrike

The bird reported at Harwood last month was still present on 22nd (MH).

Jackdaw

80-120 were noted at Ninebanks, Colt Crag and Holywell.

Rook

17 nests were occupied near the Civic Centre, Newcastle by 15th (GWS). A bird was incubating at a new site in Whitley Bay from 23rd (MSH).

Carrion Crow

A maximum of 60 was at the Tweed Estuary on 29th (JSg).

Hooded Crow

One flew NW over Newcastle on 25th (RGW).

Starling

A bird with an abnormally long bill was at Cochrane Park during the month (KIB).

Tree Sparrow

50 were at Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ/GB), 35 at Holywell Dene on 3rd (SJL) and at Beal Road Ends on 22nd (JDL).

Chaffinch

The largest gatherings were 400 at Bellingham on 14th (JCD), 150 at Reaveley Greens on 8th (AMB) when 100 at Caiston (MR). A male at Acklington opened milk bottle tops on 30th/31st ! (LJM).

Brambling

20 were at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ) and one-six at West Newton, Reaveley Greens and Bellingham. One-two also visited garden feeders at Wideopen, Ponteland, Walbottle and Hepscott.

Greenfinch

40 roosted at Newcastle City Centre on 19th (BNR). 38 were at Holywell Pond on 3rd (SJL).

Goldfinch

Singles noted only at Hauxley and Newburn.

Siskin

20 were at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ). One-five visited gardens in eight widespread localities during the month.

Linnet

94 were at Holywell Pond on 3rd (SJL) and 70, including a partial white bird, at Radcliffe on 1st (AMB).

Twite

Ten were at Warkworth Gut on 8th (JECM/KH), five at Boulmer on 14th (MBS), and one singing in Holy Island harbour on 15th and 22nd (BG/RKS).

Mealy Redpoll

One was at Druridge Bay on 14th (BDG/EC).

Crossbill

A family party of five was at Ordley on 30th (BNR).

Bullfinch

Seven were at Arcot on 8th (MJS).

Hawfinch

One was singing at Hexham by 17th and a pair present from 26th (KD). Two returned to Jesmond Dene on 26th and a flock of about 15 was noted on 29th (MPF/CB).

Lapland Bunting

Two were at St. Mary's Island on 8th (LJM/SEB). A single was at Holy Island on 7th and 21st (CB/DPa).

Snow Bunting

14 were at Druridge Links on 8th (JP), seven at Ross on 12th (MHP), six at Beadnell on 15th (IK) and one-two at Meggies Burn, Newbiggin and Blyth up to 30th.

Yellowhammer

50-60 were at Harbottle on 22nd (BG). Flocks of 14-25 were also at Corbridge, Whitley Chapel, Hedley-on-the Hill, and Cresswell. 21 were in a garden at Lesbury on 8th (WD).

Reed Bunting

Three visited a garden at Wideopen on 4th (AIB) and one at Cramlington on 29th (JECM).

Corn Bunting

Singles were at Hauxley, Cresswell 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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M. Henry	D. Patterson (DPa)	Hauxley Nature Reserve
		Wardens

Indoor Meetings

Members are reminded that there will be no further indoor meetings until Thursday 10th September, 1987.

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 September 1987

The successful entrants for the 1986 awards were B.N. Rossiter of Ordley, near Hexham and I. Fisher of Newcastle.

Important - Caistron Reserve

Members are reminded that the reserve at Caistron and the surrounding land are private property and there is no right of public access. Club members can, however, make arrangements to visit the reserve by simply telephoning Neil Telfer (0669-40284) and discussing a suitable time with him. Please remember that the reserve is still a working gravel pit and at certain times a visit may not be convenient. You are asked to strictly adhere to these arrangements to enable the club to continue it's amicable relations with all concerned at Caistron.

Save Your Stamps

One of our members, Steve Lowe, has asked if club members could save any used stamps, British or Foreign, they may receive. He is doing this to raise funds for the Northumberland Wildlife Trust and you can pass your stamps on to Steve at the September club meeting.

Bino's For Sale

Swift Trylite 10 x 40 roof prism binoculars. Price £80 o.n.o. If you are interested please contact Alan Janes (Tel: 264 4846).

Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve

Many members will have been delighted to learn that bait-digging is to be banned in Budle Bay on 1st June, something for which the club has been pressing in response to complaints about the disturbance being created to wildfowl and waders. The ban is being imposed by the Nature Conservancy Council after lengthy discussions with angling organisations because of what it officially describes as an "unacceptable level" of disturbance, something many birders who have visited Budle Bay recently will endorse.

Under new arrangements digging will be allowed on the reserve to the North and South of Holy Island causeway in areas which will be clearly marked by posts and notices. The following conditions are being laid down: No digging within 75 metres of the roadway, no use of lights for night activities, all excavations to be back-filled, no dogs to be taken onto the reserve and no digging to take place for commercial sale.

It is worth remembering, however, that similar strict conditions were announced for digging in Budle Bay and were ignored by the anglers. The NCC now says that these conditions and the bye-laws covering the reserve will be rigorously enforced.

One of the main arguments of the fishermen was that they should not be excluded from Budle Bay while shooting was allowed, causing even greater disturbance, on other areas, a view with which many bird-watchers will sympathise.

Members of your committee who have been in discussion with the NCC about bait-digging, have also raised this point. The official reply was that the shooting agreement was laid down when the reserve was created and there is little that can be done about the situation.

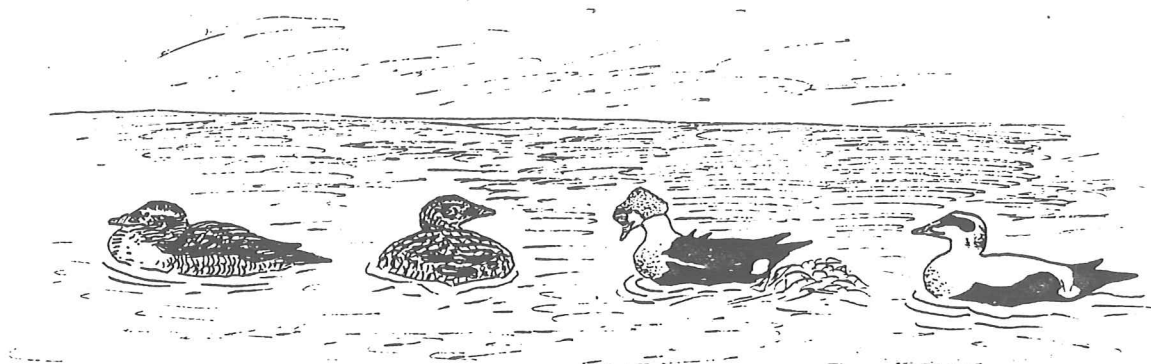
We did, however, raise the issue of growing concern about the increased numbers of punt-guns operating on the reserve, most of them by people from other parts of the country. The NCC is aware of our concern about this problem and has promised to keep us informed of developments. These will be passed on via our bulletin.

It is worth noting on one occasion during the past winter that one of the NCC's regular wader and wildfowl counts on the reserve had to be abandoned because of visiting puntsman remaining afloat throughout the low water period, causing excessive disturbance. This is clearly an unacceptable situation with birds not being allowed to settle to rest and feed because of the activities of a selfish visitor.

Ian Kerr

Loch Fleet - 21st - 22nd March

Following an uneventful journey, uneventful at least for those who avoided the chip shop in Perth, Saturday dawned crisp and sunny. The 'early birds' started the list with rafts of Eider and small groups of Long-tailed Duck and the pre-breakfast period also produced Red Breasted Merganser, Shelduck and several common waders from the cottage garden. A single Snow Bunting in the dunes brought us to the entrance of the loch where Black-throated and Great Northern Diver prompted much discussion but the large Eider flock held no surprises. A swift run to Golspie pier quickly added Bar-tailed Godwit and Turnstone to the list of waders and produced tantalizingly distant views of Black and Red-necked Grebe but few scoter.



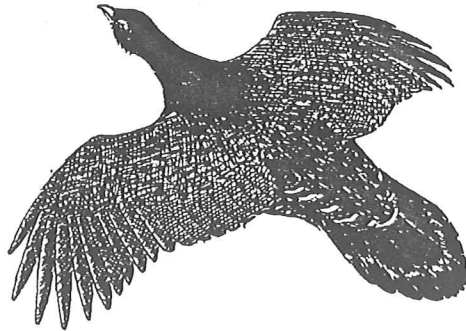
♂ King Eider with Eider. Embo. Mar. '87

A-118

The surrounding hills form a spectacular back drop to the shoreline and the sharp-eyed quickly picked out tumbling Raven, Peregrine and a herd of Red Deer. With some of the party now getting decidedly 'twitchy' it was time for Embo. Whooper Swan and Greylag were seen from the bus before a short stop on 'The Mound' provided everyone with excellent views of displaying Goldeneye, Teal and Wigeon. The south side of the Fleet gave us a single Pintail and a mixed flock of thrushes alarmed by a Buzzard. Seals basked safely on a mud bank. Embo produced a 'text-book' young Great Northern as well as Slavonian and Great Crested Grebe, Gannet and 3 Snow Bunting. Long-tailed Duck and Eider were much in evidence but again scoter were few and far between.

However, it was not until we had returned from a Greylag flock on the Dornoch Firth that the drake King Eider was spotted. The rising tide brought it just within telescope range but I bet it heard the sighs of relief.

Sunday began with the soft 'au-au-li' of Long-tails and shortly after we arrived at Embo a flock of thirtynine Pink-feet flew S.W. The King Eider failed to re-appear but a return to the Greylag flock at Newton Point produced excellent views of a Snow Goose, before we began the long drive to Speyside. A Tawny Owl was a roadside casualty. The forest around Grantown gave everyone the opportunity to see the Caledonian specialities. Almost immediately 3-4 Crested Tits and a couple of Scottish Crossbills noisily betrayed their presence. The first producing their distinctive trill from rank heather and the latter's 'chup-chup' from atop a



♂ Capercaillie

Speyside

Mar. '87

A-1B

conifer, where their heavy-headed appearance was easily seen. Siskin, Goldcrest and Treecreeper were all seen well before the first of half a dozen Capercaillie crashed through the trees. With the weather steadily worsening a search for Ptarmigan was out of the question so a halt at Loch Inch produced Buzzard, Goosander, Tufted Duck and a herd of Whooper Swans. Although several of the foodstops are not Egon Rounay or even Albert Steptoe recommended, at £15 and 91 species I can heartily commend Birding with Bradshaw.

Brian Bates

A Guide to Birdwatching Sites in Northumbria

The club has recently published this new 'Access Guide' to bird-watching in the county. Written by Tom Cadwallender it provides details of some of the best sites in our area with O.S. Sheet Nos. and Grid References for ease of location.

Copies are available at £1.80 (incl. p & p) from our Sales Officer, Muriel Cadwallender, 32 Manners Gardens, Seaton Delaval.

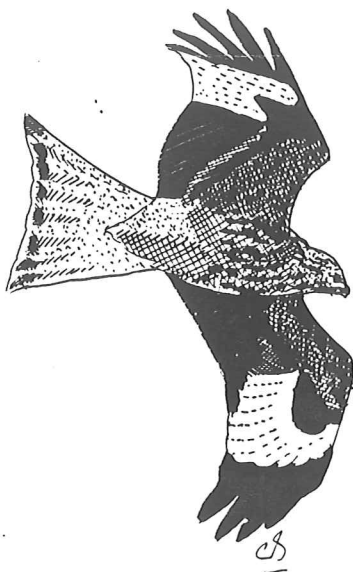


Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - APRIL 1987

The temperatures during the first third of the month were well below average but thereafter both temperatures and the amount of sunshine increased significantly and gave beautiful spring conditions. Rainfall was about 50% above average over the month but most occurred during the first ten days. It was not a windy month and coastal areas were kept cooler with onshore breezes.

The overcast, wet and easterly conditons from 3rd produced an interesting 'fall' along the coast involving Robins, Wheatears, Black Redstarts, Goldcrests and the first Ring Ousel and Willow Warbler. More unusual species were a Firecrest at Tynemouth on 5th, a Hoopoe (which unfortunately died) at Hauxley on 6th and a migrant Hawfinch on Holy Island. A drake Ring-necked Duck was found at North Seaton on 11th and then proceeded to visit several ponds in S.E. Northumberland. Another interesting record was a drake Ruddy Duck at Capheaton from 19th. A Great Grey Shrike graced Holy Island on 12th. Exciting raptors involved two Red Kites, one in the N. Cheviots on 8th and another over Holy Island on 23rd, at least two Marsh Harriers, two Ospreys and several Buzzards.



Red kite
April 87

By mid-month, and in the splendid conditons, summer migrants were reported almost daily, some about a week earlier than last year. Sandwich and Common Terns arrived and on 19th a Black Tern was inland at Castron when an early Swift was at Holy Island. A gathering of 35 Red-necked Grebes at Bamburgh on 18th was perhaps a reminder of winter but a heavy passage of Sand Martins (reported in good numbers during the month) was taking place over their heads! Passage waders were also on the move during the month with good numbers of Ruff, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwits, Common, Green and Wood Sandpipers.

Other interesting species included Bittern, Garganey, Iceland and Mediterranean Gulls, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and inland records of Black Redstarts and more surprising, Wryneck.

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 were at Cresswell on 11th (ES). One-two were also at Holy Island, Boulmer and Hauxley. Inland one was on Killingworth Lake between 3rd-13th (GPB/LH).

Black-throated Diver

One, in summer plumage, was at Bamburgh on 18th (BG).

Great Northern Diver

A single was at Holy Island on 16th and 23rd (DPa/IK).

Little Grebe

A maximum of eight was at Arcot Pond on 16th and five at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st (AJB/IF). Pairs and gatherings of up to four were present on another ten waters.

Great Crested Grebe

A maximum of eight was at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJJ). One-four were also on 11 other waters including a pair with at least a partial clutch at Whittle Dene by 27th (RGW). A pair was displaying on the sea at Cresswell on 18th (ES).

Red-necked Grebe

One was at Holy Island on 5th(RD). 35 were gathered off Bamburgh on 18th (BG).

Slavonian Grebe

Three were off Stag Rocks on 12th (RD) where 15 were present on 18th (BG).

Black-necked Grebe

Three had returned to the regular breeding site by 9th increasing to 24 by 23rd. One was at Hallington on 4th (BNR), two at Arcot Pond on 15th (AIB/GB) and singles at Seaton Burn on 21st and Holywell Pond on 23rd (JRT/KWY).

Fulmar

72 flew N. at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS). Inland sightings involved one up the River Tyne at Ryton on 7th (STR) and another at Thrunton on 18th (JRT).

Manx Shearwater

One flew N. at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Gannet

N. passage noted on several dates up to 23rd with a maximum of 123 at Hauxley on 3rd and 152 at Craster on 12th (HRS/RKS).

Cormorant

33 were at Blyth harbour on 6th (MHP), 32 at the Tweed Estuary on 12th (JSg), 24 at North Shields on 1st (DMT) and 22 at the Coquet Estuary on 12th (EMY), 11 were at Corbridge on 8th (MR). Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race included four at Coquet Estuary, two at Boulmer and Whittle Dene, and singles at Newburn and Berwick between 2nd-19th.

Bittern

One still present at Caistron on 7th (MR).

Grey Heron

Three nests in the regular colony in S. Northumberland held nine large young by 28th (IK/BG). One-five were noted in 14 widespread localities.

Mute Swan

134 were at Berwick on 11th (RMH). Breeding pairs were noted at Hauxley, Foxton, Warkworth, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Gosforth Pond, Holywell Pond and Seaton Burn.

Whooper Swan

Between 1st-18th one-fifteen were in nine localities although 21 flew N. at Amble Braid on 12th (EMY). One was still at Druridge on 23rd (IF).

Pink-footed Goose

Three were at Holywell Pond on 2nd (IC/RD). 18 were at Prestwick Carr on 8th(MH).

Grey Lag Goose

256 were at Grindon on 12th (JSB) when 176 near Wark, 200 near Wooler on 13th (JSg) and 108 at Holywell Pond on 2nd (IC). 85 flew NW over Westerhope on 16th (BG). A pair at Holywell built a nest within 6-8 feet of the Mute Swan's nest ! (ISD).

Canada Goose

11 flew over Seaton Burn on 9th (AIB). One-four were at Sweethope, Caistron, Bolam, Arcot and Brenkley with a nest located at the last site on 27th.

Barnacle Goose

Three were at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJJ/GB) and almost certainly the same three at Prestwick Carr on 14th (AGH).

Brent Goose

Two were at Beal on 11th (JDL). A pale-bellied bird was at Hauxley between 2nd-29th (HRS) where four (three dark-bellied) flew N. on 11th (HRS). A dark-bellied was also in the Druridge - Amble area between 9th-12th (ASn/PWW).

Shelduck

60 were at Black Low on 11th (JDL), 48 at Budle Bay on 18th, 25 at Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM), 24 at the Coquet Estuary on 4th (EMY) and up to 20 at Hauxley. Two-eleven were also in another eight coastal localities. Inland five were at Seaton Burn between 8th-10th (AJJ/KIB), two near Wooler on 14th (JSg), one at Caistron on 7th/12th (MR) and an apparently oiled bird at Holywell Pond on 10th (RGW).

Wigeon

50-70 at Druridge on 11th was the largest gathering (ES/MBS). Two-eleven were at five other localities. Three had returned to the regular breeding site by 26th.

Gadwall

A pair was present all month in Druridge/Cresswell area with two pairs at Cresswell on 17th. Three were at Seaton Burn on 24th where one present all month (AJJ/MPF) and a pair at Holywell Pond on 14th (ISD/MHp).

Teal

60 at Druridge Pool on 8th was the largest gathering (AMB) with up to 21 on seven other waters. Eight were on the sea off Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and ten off Berwick on 11th (RMH). Pairs were noted in several moorland breeding areas.

Mallard

40 at Seaton Burn on 4th was the largest gathering (AJJ). A brood of seven was at Jesmond Dene from 18th but all were killed by a dog (MPF).

Pintail

Seven flew N. at Amble on 12th (TPMW), two at Holywell Pond on 12th (PWD) and singles at Hauxley on 2nd/4th and Seaton Burn on 15th.

Garganey

A drake was at Holywell Pond on 10th (RGW).

Shoveler

As usual, a noticeable increase in records during the month with one-eight reported from 22 widespread localities.

Pochard

The largest gatherings were only 12 at Killingworth Lake on 7th (L & KR) and Holywell Pond between 21st-28th. Two-nine in eight other localities.

Ring-necked Duck

For the third consecutive spring a drake appeared in the S.E. of the county. On 11th it was found on a roadside 'flash' pond near North Seaton (MPC/AH) but moved later in the day to Holywell Pond where it was seen on three dates up to 30th. On 15th and 28th it visited Arcot Pond and on 17th/18th appeared at Bothal Pond.

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 60 at Capheaton on 9th (RW) and 43 at Holywell Pond on 28th (IC). Up to 23 were in several other localities. Three were on the sea at Bamburgh on 18th (BG).

Scaup

Seven were at Hauxley between 1st-9th, one remaining until 19th (HRS). One flew N. at Tynemouth on 11th (CB) and another was at Cresswell Pond on 11th/12th (WTL/DRS).

Eider

200 were in Coquet Sound on 10th (HRS) and 134 at Berwick on 11th (RMH).

Long-tailed Duck

One was at North Shields Fish Quay on 6th (AJB/IF), two at Holy Island on 12th (JDL) and Stag Rocks on 19th (LH).

Common Scoter

A maximum of 50 was at Hauxley on 20th (HRS) and 18 flew N. at Holy Island on 12th (DPa). More unusual was three on Crag lough on 16th (ASJ), perhaps indicating overland passage.

Velvet Scoter

Three were at Holy Island on 12th (DPa).

Goldeneye

The largest gatherings were 155 at Berwick on 11th (RMH), 56 at Newburn on 6th (STR), 44 at Capheaton on 9th (RW), 35 near Wark on 13th (JSg) and 20 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (BNR). 2-16 were in a further nine localities.

Red-breasted Merganser

21 were at Hadston Lake on 4th (DRS) and 17 at Alnmouth on 15th (MPF). Two-five noted in four other localities.

Goosander

Many records received during the month, no doubt due to the B.T.O. survey! 22 were at Berwick on 11th (RMH) and smaller flocks of up to 12 and paired birds noted in about 21 other widespread localities.

Ruddy Duck

A drake was at Capheaton between 19th-26th (RD/RW et al).

Red Kite

One was in the N. Cheviots on 8th (JSe). Another moved steadily SW over Holy Island on 23rd (IK). These are the first records in the county since 1979.

Marsh Harrier

An adult female was on Holy Island on 25th (NJW/KWR). A female/immature arrived from the E. at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th (IF), it or another, was at Holywell Pond on 29th/30th (MHP/IC).

Sparrowhawk

Pairs and single birds were noted in 23 widespread localities.

Buzzard

One moved W. over the Simonsides on 20th (MH), and others NW at Belsay on 24th (JSt) and over Harthope on 25th when one found long dead at Brough Law (AMB). A pair were in the SW of the county late in the month.

Osprey

On 29th singles flew NW over Prior's Park and SW over Druridge Pool (AH/MGA).

Kestrel

Pairs and single bird noted in 18 widespread localities including the pair occupying the nest-box at Threestoneburn by 19th.

Merlin

Singles were noted in five coastal localities up to 20th including one killing a Song Thrush in a garden in Whitley Bay (MSH).

Peregrine

Singles were at Budle Bay on 19th (LH), Holy Island on 14th/18th (DPa/PWD) and two inland localities.

Red Grouse

Noted as numerous at Blanchland, Allenheads and Harwood Shield (TLC/MPF).

Black Grouse

One-three noted at Threestoneburn, Allendale, Otterburn Ranges and, more surprising, at Ordley during the month.

Red-legged Partridge

One-two noted at Laverock Hall, Holystone, Sharperton, Netherwitton, Longwitton, Calder and Harthope.

Water Rail

One was calling at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (AIB) and two in Gosforth Park during the month (ISD).

Coot

40 were at Seaton Burn on 1st where some birds on nests by the end of the month (AJJ). A nest was completed at Laverock Hall, a new site, by 25th (LJM).

Wader Count - 12th April, 1987

The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle Point-Seahouses (APM), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC/AS), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/MBS/DRS), S. Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), Blyth Estuary (LJM), St. Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 341 noted during the wader count. 81 were at Cresswell on 11th (AMB). Inland 220 at Caistron on 12th decreased to 40 by 26th (MR). Two-19 were noted in about 14 other inland areas. An almost all black bird was at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (BNR).

Ringed Plover

A total of only 38 was noted during the wader count. Small numbers were noted in four inland localities. Three pairs were nesting in winter wheat at Holy Island (IK) and a nest at Backworth contained four eggs by 25th, but failed when one adult was killed by a stoat/weasel (MSH).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 140 at Longhoughton Steel on 20th (RKS), 139 at Hauxley on 24th (HRS) and 100 near Widdrington on 11th (ASn). Small numbers also noted in four breeding areas. 'Northern' race birds included 15 on Hexhamshire Common on 26th and three at Backworth on 17th (BNR/MSH).

Grey Plover

Only 13 noted during the wader count. Five were at Holy Island on 5th (JDL).

Lapwing

Noted in several breeding areas during the month. 15 pairs laid eggs in one field at Backworth but over half of these were washed-out by heavy rain (MSH). Six pairs were nesting in a pasture near Druridge (JSn) and a brood had hatched at Druridge Pool by 18th (GB).

Knot

Only 22 noted during the wader count. In addition 120 were at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS) and 45 at St. Mary's Island on 14th (SF).

Sanderling

79 noted during the wader count were all at St. Mary's Island. Seven were at Bewick Little Beach on 11th (RMH).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 774 noted during the wader count represented over 100% increase since last month. 50 were at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Dunlin

A total of only 82 during the wader count indicated a massive decrease since last month. Singles were in possible breeding territories in two inland areas on 26th and two were at Caistrone on 19th. A party of 40 arrived from the SE at Holy Island on 23rd (IK).

Ruff

Passage birds began to appear from mid-month. Numbers at Druridge Pool built up to a maximum of 14 by 30th (PRW et al). Four were at Hauxley on 15th. Six were at Prestwick Carr on 16th (AGH), five at Backworth on 17th/18th increasing to seven by 24th (AIB/JRT), 12 at Bradford on 18th (BRS), and one-two at Holy Island between 18th-26th (IK/PWD). Inland one was at Caistrone on 18th/19th and two on 26th (MR).

Snipe

17 were at Holywell Pond on 9th (IC). 'Drumming' birds were heard in eight widespread localities.

Woodcock

Between 3rd-11th one-two were along the coast at Holy Island, Hauxley, Holywell and Tynemouth. One was flying around roof-tops at Westerhope in low cloud on 3rd (BG). 'Roding' birds were seen in four localities.

Black-tailed Godwit

Four were at Holy island on 4th/5th (NJW/JDL), two at Hauxley on 7th where four on 29th (HNRW), one at Caistrone on 19th (MR) and six at Hoppen Kiln on 25th (MJS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Only three were noted on the wader count. 160 were at Black Low on 11th (JDL).

Whimbrel

Passage commenced on 9th when five were at Holywell Pond (CTS). Seven were at Cresswell Pond on 21st (DY/SY) and one-four were at Berwick, Holy Island, Hauxley, Druridge and Tynemouth between 11th-30th.

Curlew

A total of only 24 noted during the wader count. In addition 150 were at Beadnell on 12th (RKS), when 60 at Boulmer (AJ), 75 at Hauxley on 8th (HRS), and 37 at Cresswell on 27th (MLC). Inland flocks of 50 and 20 were in the E. Allen Valley on 2nd (KD) and one-six in another six breeding localities.

Spotted Redshank

One was at Backworth throughout the month.

Redshank

A total of 656 noted during the wader count. In addition 147 were at Black Low on 11th (JDL) and 80 at Budle Bay on 17th (BRS). 50 were at Backworth on 9th (JRT). Noted in several inland breeding localities with, for example, ten pairs along the R. Coquet between Thropton-Caistron (MR) and five pairs between Gilsland and Wiley Syke along the R. Irthing (BNR).

Greenshank

Singles were at Prestwick Carr on 13th (AGH) and Holy Island on 23rd (TMM).

Green Sandpiper

Singles were at Arcot and near Wooler on 14th (AHB/JSg), Backworth on 25th (JM) and two at Hadston on 26th (MJS).

Wood Sandpiper

Singles were at Backworth on 29th (MSH) and Druridge Pool on 30th (IF/ADMc).

Common Sandpiper

The first was one near Warkworth on 15th (IF). One was at Wylam on 16th (AJ) and another at Acomb on 17th (RHA). From 18th onwards reports increased with one-twelve noted in about 27 widespread localities up to the end of the month.

Turnstone

A total of 1,294 noted during the wader count.

Mediterranean Gull

The first-winter at Seaton Burn was present between 1st-7th and again on 16th (AJJ). Presumably the same bird visited Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th (MPF).

Black-headed Gull

2,900 roosted at Hallington on 4th and 1,700 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (BNR). N. passage at Hauxley involved 1,000 per hour on 3rd and 1,500 per hour on 11th (HRS).

Common Gull

27,000 roosted at Hallington on 4th declining to 1,850 by 20th, 13,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th declining to 640 by 21st, and 1,600 at Colt Crag on 7th (BNR). Between 9th-14th NE passage noted at Slaley, Hexham, Hallington and Ordley (BNR) and 800 at Belsay (BG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

21 were at Reaveley on 24th (AMB). One-eight were in another nine localities. A bird showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 25th (ES).

Herring Gull

250 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (BNR). 300 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd (DMT).

Iceland Gull

An adult was at Blyth harbour on 6th (MHp), probably the same bird at St. Mary's Island on 12th (IDM). Between 3rd-24th three (two first winter, second winter) were in the North Shields/Tynemouth area (DMT/ES). Another first winter was at Hauxley on 3rd and 14th and an adult S. on 4th (HRS).

Glaucous Gull

Two were in North Shields-St. Mary's Island area between 1st-20th (DMT et al). One was at Hauxley on 3rd and 12th (HRS).

Kittiwake

Light N. movement noted at Holy Island between 18th-24th (IK). 18 returned to the Port of Tyne Authority colony at North Shields (DMT).

Sandwich Tern

One N. at Hauxley on 3rd was the first (HRS). From 6th reports increased and by 12th 450 were on Coquet Island. N. passage was noted on several days thereafter and large gatherings involved 160 at Low Newton on 25th when 75 in Annstead Bay (RKS/AIB).

'Commic' Tern

Two flew N. at Druridge on 18th (GB).

Common Tern

The first were two at the Coquet Estuary on 23rd (EMY). One was at Hauxley Pool on 26th (MSH/IC) and almost 100 at Coquet Island on 30th (HRS) when one, inland at Wallsend Swallow Pond (KH/AJB).

Black Tern

One was at Caiströn on 19th (MR).

Guillemot

40 flew S. at Holy Island on 22nd (IK).

Puffin

Many were at Coquet Island on 16th (HRS).

Stock Dove

Two-four noted in five localities.

Woodpigeon

235 were at Holywell Pond on 3rd (SJL).

Cuckoo

The first was one at Lesbury on 22nd (JMA). On 26th singles were at Hauxley and inland at Calton (HRS/MB). Between 27th-30th one-three were in another seven widespread localities.

Little Owl

Singles were at Hexhamshire, Matfen, Corbridge, Backworth and Druridge.

Tawny Owl

A nest at Angerton held two eggs by 14th (TAC) and another at Gosforth Park with two young by 27th (ES). One-two were seen or heard in a further four other localities.

Long-eared Owl

Three were still at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (SJL). On the coast singles were at Blyth Cemetery on 4th (MHP), and Prior's Park on 12th where another arrived from E. on 18th (CB/AH).

Short-eared Owl

Three were on Holy Island on 11th (RMH) and singles in another five coastal localities. Pairs were in two inland localities from mid-month.

Swift

The first was one at Holy Island on 19th (IK). Two were at Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ) and one over Ladycross on 29th (CJ). On 30th one-four were at Hexham, Corbridge, Hauxley, Holywell and Wallsend.

Kingfisher

Pairs were noted at Jesmond Dene and the lower River Tyne. One-two also seen at Morpeth, Mitford and Plessey Woods.

Hoopoe

One was at Hauxley on 6th. On 7th it was taken into care and unfortunately died (HRS).

Wryneck

One was at Ladycross on 23rd (CJ).

Green Woodpecker

One-four seen or heard in ten widespread localities.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three seen or heard 'drumming' in about 22 widespread localities. One fed on bread in a garden at Walbottle on 9th (L & KR).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was at Stocksfield on 26th (DP).

Skylark

A flock of 30 was at Allendale on 2nd (KD). Between 3rd-10th small numbers noted in several coastal areas including 75 at Holy Island on 8th (MHP).

Sand Martin

The first were eight at Castron on 7th where numbers built up to 50 by 18th (MR). On 8th three-five were at Heddon, Gosforth Park, Tynemouth and Seaton Burn, numbers at the last site increasing to 70 by 20th (RGW/AJJ/AH). From 9th reports became frequent and birds had returned to a number of colonies by the end of the month. The largest gatherings involved 50 at Cornhill on 19th (MSH), and Prudhoe on 29th (TAC), and 30-35 at Hexham, Corbridge and Ovingham. On 18th 60-80 per hour moved N. over the sea at Bamburgh (BG).

Swallow

The first arrived on 8th with three near Warkworth and Prior's Park (JMA/MPC), and two near Heddon (STR). On 9th singles were at Hexhamshire, Casitron and Alnmouth. From 10th reports increased as birds moved into many widespread localities by the end of the month. Numbers, however, were not particularly high with the largest gatherings being 25 at Corbridge on 27th (L & KR), 20 at Acomb on 19th/20th (RHA) and 15 at Castron on 19th (MR). A pair was nest-building at Alwinton by 24th (RKS).

House Martin

The first were two at Prior's Park on 8th (MPC/AH). Two were at Seaton Burn on 10th (AJJ) but no more reported until 17th when three at Throckley (AJ). From 18th-30th they were noted in a further 18 widespread localities but the largest gathering was 20 at Seaton Burn on 22nd.

Tree Pipit

The first were two at Harwood and one at Prior's Park on 9th (WAK/LH). Two were at Berwick on 11th (RMH) when one at Cresswell (ES/WTL). On 12th/13th four were at Caistron and one at Colt Crag (MR/BNR) and from 17th reports increased with one-five in nine inland and two coastal localities.

Meadow Pipit

Passage on the coast between 3rd-12th involved 300 at Holy Island (MHp), 100-200 at Prior's Park (LH/AH) and 50 just inland at Brenkley and Seaton Burn (LJM/AJJ). Inland flocks of 50 were at Caistron on 12th (MR) and the Harthope Valley on 19th (RKS). Passage noted in the N. Cheviots on two other days.

Yellow Wagtail

The first was one at Hauxley on 16th (RD). On 17th one was at Backworth (AIB) and on 18th three inland at Caistron (MR) and one near Wark (JSg). From 19th reports became more frequent with one-nine being seen in about 15 other localities and larger gatherings of ten at Holy Island on 23rd (TMM), 11 at Cresswell on 24th (ASJ) and 12 at Hauxley on 25th (JMA).

Blue-headed Wagtail

Singles were at Backworth between 20th-26th (JEF/MSH) and Cresswell on 24th (ASJ).

Grey Wagtail

Three pairs were on the R. Font between Mitford-Netherwitton (ES/MBS) and two pairs at Warden (RMH). Pairs and singles were noted in a further 12 other riverine localities.

Pied Wagtail

Many pairs were back on breeding areas in Upper Coquetdale by 12th (IK/BG). 12 were in the Harthope Valley on 25th (SJL).

White Wagtail

One was at Druridge on 9th (WAK) and four at Hauxley and two at Holywell and two at Holywell on 11th (HRS/RD). Between 12th-24th one-six were in nine coastal localities although ten were on Holy Island on 20th. Seven were at Seaton Burn on 20th (AIB) and further inland singles at Ingram on 12th (RD) and Caistron on 19th (MR).

Dipper

At least two pairs had completed nests at Threestoneburn by 3rd (AMB). Eight-ten territories were located between Mitford-Netherwitton on 18th (ES/DRS). Pairs and singles were noted in another nine localities.

Wren

At least 25 singing males located between Mitford-Netherwitton on 18th (ES/MBS). Nest building was noted at Corbridge by 8th (MR) and a pair apparently feeding young at Lesbury by 30th (WD).

Dunnock

30 were at Prior's Park on 2nd where 25 present on 5th (MPC/LH). Inland an influx noted at Threestoneburn where 25 present on 12th (AMB).

Robin

On 4th/5th 40 were at Holy Island (Mhp), 30-40 at Prior's Park (MPC) and 12 at Hauxley (HRS). Another influx noted at Holy Island on 12th. A very dilute plumaged bird, nearly all off-white, was at Morpeth Golf Course on 11th (ADMc).

Bluethroat

A female was on Holy Island on 5th (JDL).

Black Redstart

Three were at Prior's Park on 3rd where birds present daily up to 9th with perhaps 13 different individuals involved (Mpc). On 4th three were at Druridge (DRS), two at Holy Island (TMM) and one at Old Hartley (AH). Between 5th-12th one-four were at Holy Island, Hauxley, Boulmer, Druridge, Whitley Bay Cemetery and Holywell. More unusual were singles, well inland, at Ingram on 9th (ASJ), Acomb (trapped) on 11th/12th (CPFR) and Ordley on 23rd (BNR).

Redstart

The first arrival was one at Alnwick on 8th (WD). One was at Prior's Park on 9th (MPC) and others at Belsay on 15th (JSt) and Jesmond Dene on 16th (TMM). Two were on breeding territory at Billsmoor Park on 17th (BG) and between 18th-26th one-five were seen in a further eight inland and five coastal localities.

Whinchat

The first was one at Druridge Links on 23rd (MGA) followed by four on Holy Island on 24th (IK). On 25th two were inland at Brough Law and one at Threestoneburn (AMB) with two-three at Hauxley, Tynemouth and Seaton Burn. Between 26th-30th one-four were seen in seven localities.

Wheatear

Many records received during the month. Breeding areas were quickly occupied where they were conspicuous and steady passage was noted along the coast. The largest gatherings involved 22 at Prior's Park on 8th (PPRS), 20 at Boulmer on 11th (IK), 25 at Howick-Craster on 12th, 34 on Holy Island on 18th (RKS) where 50 present on 23rd.

Ring Ousel

The first was one on Holy Island on 4th (TMM). Other singles on the coast included birds at Prior's Park between 5th-8th, and 22/29th (CB/MPC), Whitley Bay Cemetery on 10th (SJL) and Holy Island on 23rd/25th (IK/MJS). Inland birds appeared from 17th when they were in five localities including seven at the W. Simonsides (BG et al). Between 18th-22nd one-five were in another five inland areas.

Blackbird

80-100 were at Prior's Park between 3rd-5th where a German ringed bird was trapped on 30th (PPRS). 40 were at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 6th (IF), 45 on Holy Island on 8th where 75 present on 11th (Mhp/RMH).

Fieldfare

Numbers increased during the month with pre-emigration flocks. About 1,000 were at Ingoe Moor on 14th (ASJ) when 308 flew N. at Ordley and a total of 1,800 moved NE over Belsay on 16th (JSt). Flocks of 100-150 were at Calder, Kimmer Lough and Allendale and smaller numbers noted in many other widespread areas.

Song Thrush

50 were at Prior's Park on 5th (PPRS), 45 at Holy Island on 8th (Mhp) where a further light influx was apparent on 22nd (IK).

Redwing

20 were on Holy Island on 12th (DPa) and on 14th about 800 were at Ingoe Moor (ASJ) and 53 flew NE over Ordley (BNR). One-eighteen were noted in another seven localities with the last this month at Hauxley on 26th.

Mistle Thrush

Ten were on Holy Island on 8th (MHP), A pair were nesting at Blyth Power Station (HG) and a full clutch had been laid at Hauxley by 8th (HRS).

Grasshopper Warbler

One at Hadston on 17th was the first arrival (MJS). Others were at Dudley on 19th (NJW) and Seaton Burn on 21st (AIB). From 22nd-28th one-three were seen or heard at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Hauxley, New Hartley, Seahouses, Arcot, Seaton Burn, Gosforth Park, Brunswick, Cramlington, Heddon and Harbottle.

Sedge Warbler

One at Seaton Burn on 17th was the first and five were present on 25th (AJJ). One was at Holywell on 22nd (ES/MHP) and between 26th-30th they were noted in a further seven widespread localities.

Lesser Whitethroat

The first arrivals were singles at Holy Island on 25th (KWR/NJW), and Arcot and the Tyne Riverside Country Park on 26th (TMM/STR). Two were at Prior's Park on 28th (CB) and one at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th/30th (IF).

Whitethroat

The first arrivals were singles at Holy Island on 23rd (TMM), Backworth on 25th (IC) and Bamburgh on 26th (BRS). Between 27th-30th one-three were in a further nine localities.

Garden Warbler

The first were singles at Mitford on 28th and Dipton and Bywell on 30th (MPF).

Blackcap

Singles were still visiting gardens in three localities early in the month. Migrants began to appear from mid-month, the largest numbers on the coast being three on Holy Island on 23rd (TMM) and eight at Prior's Park on 30th (PPRS). By the end of the month about 12 were singing in Jesmond Dene and smaller numbers had been noted in another 15 localities.

Wood Warbler

The first were two singing at Beacon Hill on 24th (ASJ). On 27th singles were at Holywell Dene and Dipton (AJB/IF). One was at Hauxley on 29th (HRS) and another in Jesmond Dene on 30th (MPF).

Chiffchaff

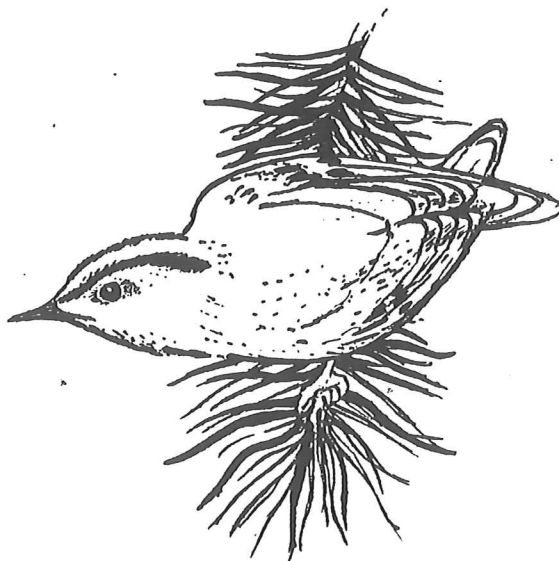
One at Whitley Bay on 3rd was the first arrival (MSH). Between 4th-7th two-four were at Prior's Park, St. Mary's Island, Ross Links and Holy Island. From 9th numbers increased and they had been reported in 24 widespread localities by the end of the month.

Willow Warbler

The first was one on Holy Island on 5th (MHP/NJW). Another was at Hauxley on 8th (HRS) and on 11th/12th one-three were at Berwick, Morpeth and Seaton Burn. From 14th reports became almost daily and they were soon occupying many widespread localities. Interesting counts of singing birds included 45 in ten miles between Beacon Hill - Garleigh Moor on 19th (ASJ) and 58 between Hexham - Warden on 21st (RMH). The largest numbers on the coast were 40 on Holy Island on 19th and 50 on 23rd (IK) when 25 were at Prior's Park (PPRS).

Goldcrest

An influx on the coast between 4th-7th brought 60 to Holy Island (NJW), 21 between Cullernose - Newton (RKS), 12 at Prior's Park and five-six in two other localities.

Firecrest

One was seen briefly in Prior's Park on 5th (LH/MPC).

Pied Flycatcher

One near Hexham on 19th was the first arrival (HWR). Three were at Dipton on 22nd (MPF) and between 23rd-30th one-five were seen in another six localities although one at Hauxley on 29th was the only coastal record.

Long-tailed Tit

Two-three were noted in three localities.

Marsh Tit

Three pairs were found between Mitford-Netherwitton on 18th (ES/DRS). One was at Gilsland on 12th.

Willow Tit

Two pairs were at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ). Pairs and singles were noted in six other localities.

Coal Tit

25 singing males located between Mitford-Netherwitton on 18th (ES/MBS). One was still at Hauxley between 1st-3rd.

Blue Tit

The leucistic bird first noted at Bamburgh in August 1986 was seen again on 26th (BRS).

Nuthatch

Five were singing between Riding Mill-Dipton on 18th (MPF). Two pairs were at Matfen and Jesmond Dene (RW) and one-three at Allenbanks, Morpeth and Close House. Two at Warkworth on 14th (JMA) and several at Beacon Hill Wood (JEF) were both new sites.

Treecreeper

One-five noted in seven widespread localities.

Great Grey Shrike

One was at Holy Island on 12th (MJS).

Magpie

One on Holy Island on 18th/19th was a very unusual record (IK).

Rook

Colony counts included a total of 340 nests at Kirkley Hall (IK), 74 at Cramlington Hall (LJM) and seven in central Wallsend (FC).

Carrion Crow

40 were at the Tweed Estuary on 12th (JSg).

Hooded Crow

One flew E. at Holy Island on 12th (MJS) where one present on 18th/19th and another two arrived from NE on 19th (IK). Two flew in off the sea at Tynemouth on 21st (AH) when one was at St. Mary's Island (TLC).

Raven

Two were noted in the S. Cheviots.

Tree Sparrow

30 were at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ) and Close House on 4th (JSB).

Chaffinch

45 were at Holy Island on 4th (MHp) and one-eight at Tynemouth and Hauxley up to 24th. Flocks inland involved 100 at Caistron on 8th (MR) and 70 on the Otterburn Ranges on 21st (MH). A partial albino was at Whittle Dene on 9th (RGW) and a leucistic bird at Heaton on 29th (AJB).

Brambling

One-nine were in seven localities up to 24th. 10-15 at Seaton Burn declined to two by 26th (AJJ).

Greenfinch

40 were at Holywell Dene on 14th (KIB). Passage indicated at Prior's Park with 23 trapped during the month (MPC).

Goldfinch

Small numbers noted at Prior's Park and Hauxley during the month. One-four noted in five other localities.

Siskin

Birds were still visiting feeding stations in gardens in at least seven localities during the month. 20 were at Matfen (RW). Also noted in several typical breeding areas. On the coast three were at Hauxley on 10th and one at Prior's Park on 30th (HRS/CB).

Linnet

170 were at Craster on 25th (RKS), 60 at Holywell Dene on 10th/14th (SJL/KIB) and 30-50 in three other areas.

Redpoll

50 were near Chatton on 13th (TAC) and 24 at Dipton on 14th (BNR). They were reported from about eight other localities including about 50 pairs at Harwood on 19th (RD). On the coast one-two were at Tynemouth and Hauxley on 23rd/30th.

Crossbill

One-two were at Langleeford, Dipton, Hexham and Colt Crag.

Bullfinch

Pairs noted in five localities during the month.

Hawfinch

At least three pairs were at Jesmond Dene (MPF). One-two were also at Hexham, Eals and Hulne Park. More unusual was a migrant on Holy Island on 5th and 8th (DPa/TMM).

Snow Bunting

15 were at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and one at St. Mary's Island on 6th (ASJ).

Yellowhammer

28 were at Earsdon on 9th (JP) and ten-eleven singing males in three miles between Dinnington-Prestwick on 26th (PM). One at Prior's Park on 16th was an unusual record (CB).

Reed Bunting

Three at Prior's Park on 4th were probably migrants (AH). 25 males and only one female noted between Hadston-Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Corn Bunting

One-two were at Hauxley, Cresswell and Horton.

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

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PLEA FOR HELP FROM SEA-WATCHERS

An appeal for help for a survey with a difference has been received by the club and should be of particular interest to our many keen sea-watchers.

The Cetacean Group of the Mammal Society has teamed up with the Greenpeace Environmental Trust to launch "Dolphin Lookout" - an attempt to raise public awareness about the many different types of dolphins and whales around Britain's shores.

The group is asking for information about sightings and movements of all cetaceans and says that sea-watching birders are in a unique position to help. A total of 24 species of dolphins and whales have been found in British waters and 12 of them are regularly noted close in-shore.

Many species are, however, facing a threat from over-fishing and pollution and the group wants to gather as much information as possible to help with their long-term protection. All information please to Dr. P.G.H. Evans, Cetacean Group, Zoology Department, Oxford University, South Parks Road, Oxford. OX1 3 PS.

PROPOSED HOLIDAY DEVELOPMENT AT BUDLE BAY

The Department of the Environment has rejected the proposals to convert the old Waren Mill on the edge of Budle Bay into holiday flats and cottages.

A public inquiry into the plan was held at Berwick last year and objections were lodged by the club, the Nature Conservancy Council, RSPB, other conservation groups and local authorities.

The inquiry inspector has now come down against the proposals and this has been endorsed by the Secretary of State, Mr Nicholas Ridley. The club sent the inspector copies of our publication "Lindisfarne' Birds" to help emphasise the importance of Budle Bay. The others objected on the grounds that the development would cause disturbance with other problems from boating activities and sewerage disposal.

In rejecting the plans the inquiry inspector has come up with a suggestion of his own - that the NCC and RSPB should negotiate with the mill owners to provide a small bird-watching facility in part of the mill complex. We will await developments on this proposal with interest.

Ian Kerr





Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - MAY 1987

After the warm, latter part of April the weather during May was disappointing with temperatures everywhere in N.E. England below normal, again kept lower on the coast by onshore winds. Rainfall totals, however, were below the normal average and the amount of sunshine experienced was very close to average for May. There were several periods of winds from an easterly direction and a very strong north-easterly on 3rd.

Summer visitors continued to arrive throughout the month, many quickly settling in breeding areas. There were some pleasing reports of large gatherings of Sand Martins and species such as Pied Flycatchers seem well-represented this year. Interesting breeding records included Wigeons at two sites, Common Gull for the third year, and a pair of Little Ringed Plovers, always a rare breeder in Northumberland, in a suitable location.

Migrant raptors continued to be exciting with the first Montagu's Harrier in the county since 1968, at least five Marsh Harriers, an Osprey and two Hobbies. Wader records showed a good passage of Whimbrel, two Temminck's Stints, a Curlew Sandpiper, and several Greenshanks and Wood Sandpipers. Ruffs at Druridge Pool included a few males in splendid breeding plumage.

Offshore Manx Shearwaters were noted on several days along with N. passage of Gannets, Kittiwakes and Fulmars. Several Arctic Skuas were seen and single Great and Long-tailed Skuas.

May can usually produce a number of rarities and this year was no exception. A male Subalpine Warbler was photographed near Holywell Pond on 9th and two Red-throated Pipits were found on 10th at Holy Island and Druridge Pool. An influx of Bluethroats from 23rd involved at least 17 birds although there are unconfirmed reports that over 30 were present on the Farne Islands at this time. Associated with the Bluethroats were a Thrush Nightingale on Coquet Island on 24th/25th and a male Grey-headed Wagtail on Holy Island on 27th/29th.

Other interesting species during the month included Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks, Dotterel, Mediterranean Gulls, Black Terns, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and five Reed Warblers.



Rossmore + other Terns
Hawley May '87 AJS

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

15 were in Druridge Bay on 4th, up to seven still present on 24th (ES/MBS et al). 12 flew N. at Annstead on 25th (BRS). Singles also noted at Beadnell Bay and Holy Island.

Black-throated Diver

One was at Howick Haven on 5th (RKS) and another flew N. at Annstead on 24th (BRS). Two-three were in Beadnell Bay on 25th/26th and one on 28th (JDS/AIB).

Great Northern Diver

One was in Beadnell Bay between 10th-25th (JDS/AIB) and others at Hadston on 14th/15th (MJS) and Stag Rocks on 16th (AGH/EC).

Little Grebe

Two pairs bred at Arcot Pond where the first young were seen on 16th (LJM). A pair were feeding two young on Holy Island Lough on 31st (RKS) and two breeding pairs were noted at Corbridge (MR). One-three noted on seven other waters.

Great Crested Grebe

Four pairs were at Hallington on 1st (BNR). Five were at Seaton Burn on 9th (AJJ) and one-four at Holywell Pond, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Arcot, Bothal, Derwent Reservoir, Caistron and Corbridge. At Druridge Bay two were present on 10th and singles on 24th and 31st (AJB/AGH).

Red-necked Grebe

One was at Beadnell Bay on 6th (AIB/JDS).

Black-necked Grebe

Up to 20 were at the regular breeding site. Two were at Arcot Pond on 7th (LJM/AHB) and one at Druridge Pool between 8th-10th (MGA et al).

Fulmar

300 per hour moved N. at Annstead on 3rd (BRS). One flew over Holywell Pond on 14th (JRT) and one-two moved up the River Tyne as far W. as Ryton.

Manx Shearwater

N. passage included three at Druridge on 3rd and five on 4th (ADM/ES), 96 at Beadnell on 10th (AIB/JDS), 11 at Annstead on 25th (BRS) and 10 at Holy Island on 31st (AJB).

Gannet

N. passage involved 500 per hour at Annstead on 3rd where 180 per hour on 24th (BRS), 260 in one hour at Holy Island on 4th (RKS) and 67 at Newbiggin on 23rd (KWY).

Cormorant

One was at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd and five at Newburn on 24th (RKS/STR).

Grey Heron

At the colony mentioned last month five pairs reared 13 young, two nests containing only single nestlings (IK/BG). Six were at Black Low on 30th (JDL). Singles were in eight other localities.

Flamingo

The bird at Cresswell was found dead on 29th (MLC/TAC).

Mute Swan

Successful breeding was noted at Seaton Burn, Holywell Pond, Bolam Lake, Matfen and Norham. A pair at the Long Nanny had their nest washed out by high tides on 16th! (AIB/JDS). On 17th 68 were at Berwick and 45 near Wark (JSg). One-eight reported in a further six localities.

Pink-footed Goose

One was at the Long Nanny on 26th (AIB/JDS).

Grey Lag Goose

A brood of five were at Caistrone by 16th (MR). Up to 16 were at Holywell Pond (IC). and one-two at Arcot and Cresswell.

Snow Goose

One was at Newton Pool on 2nd (MF/LC) and almost certainly the same bird at the Long Nanny on 11th (JDS/AIB).

Canada Goose

A pair had hatched four young at Arcot by 16th (LJM). Birds were moving through the county during the month. Three were at Hadston on 3rd, four at Holywell on 7th (MHP), two at Cresswell from 16th being joined by a further 18 on 29th, the whole group departing N. on 30th. What may have been the same flew N. at the Long Nanny and Holy Island on 31st (AIB/AJB). 42 were at Black Low on 30th (JDL).

Barnacle Goose

Two were at Seaton Burn on 26th (AJJ) and perhaps the same two at Cresswell on 31st (AJB).

Brent Goose

A pale-bellied bird remained at Hauxley up to 13th (KWY/DY).

Shelduck

On 29th single broods were at the Coquet Estuary and Cresswell (EMY/TAC). 25 were at Budle Bay on 31st (RKS).

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site five drakes and a pair were present on 17th. At a second site a recently hatched brood was seen on 26th. One-seven were in nine localities during the month.

Gadwall

One-two were at Druridge Pool, Warkworth Lane, Holywell, Seaton Burn and Grindon during the month.

Teal

Broods were noted at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR) and Newton Pool on 31st (AW). A nest with six eggs was found on moorland on 27th and they were noted in three other moorland sites.

Mallard

Ten broods were at Caistrone on 31st when 120 drakes were present (MR). Other brood counts included eight (45 young) at Seaton Burn, four (30 young) at Holywell (ISD) and one-three at Gosforth Park, Arcot, Shankhouse, Wallington, Hallington, Derwent Reservoir, Blanchland, Redesdale and Backworth.

Pintail

Pairs were at Hadston on 8th (MPF) and the Long Nanny on 17th (JDS/AIB), when a drake was at Berwick (JSg).

Garganey

A drake was at Newton Pool on 2nd (MF/PWD) when another was at Druridge Pool, this locality holding up to four birds during the month. One-two at Cresswell and Warkworth Lane may have been from the Druridge area.

Shoveler

A brood of ten was at Newton Pool on 26th (AW). One-five were at nine other waters. A pair were with Eiders on the shore at Holy Island on 10th (ETN/JRN) and a drake offshore at Beadnell Bay on 31st (AIB).

Pochard

An early brood of nine was at Arcot Pond on 31st (LJM).

Ring-necked Duck

The drake at Holywell Pond remained until at least 29th.

Tufted Duck

43 were at Holywell on 5th (ISD) and 23 at Bothal on 2nd (LJM). 11 were on the River Tweed near Wark on 17th (JSg), and one on the sea at Beadnell Bay on 18th (JDS). 15 pairs were at Caistron and six pairs at Hallington (MR/BNR).

Scaup

On 15th two flew N. at Seaton Sluice (MSH) and a drake was well inland at Derwent Reservoir (AGH). Pairs were at Hadston Lake on 23rd/25th (MGA) and Holy Island on 31st (AJB).

Eider

The first brood was noted at the Coquet Estuary on 21st (EMY) and others at Annstead and Dunstanburgh on 26th and 28th (MSH/RKS).

Long-tailed Duck

Two were off Hadston on 15th (MJS).

Common Scoter

80 were at North Blyth on 1st (LJM) and 30-40 off Hadston on 16th (AGH).

Velvet Scoter

A maximum of ten was off Hadston on 16th (AGH). One flew N. at Annstead on 24th (BRS) and four N. at Beadnell on 28th (AIB).

Goldeneye

Five were at Hallington on 1st (BNR). One-two were at five other localities up to 26th

Red-breasted Merganser

Five were in Beadnell Bay on 6th and four on 24th (AIB/JDS). On the last date another four were at Newbiggin and off Hadston (AGH).

Goosander

Gatherings of drakes included 18 at Wylam on 5th (BNR) and 17 near Wark on 17th (JSg). Four flew N. at Beadnell Bay on 24th (JDS/AIB).

Ruddy Duck

A drake was at Capheaton up to 27th.

Marsh Harrier

Single female/immature birds were at Holywell Pond on 1st (RD), moving S. at Budle Bay and Hadston on 2nd (PWD/KR/KWY), Newton Pool on 3rd (MF/LC), and moving N. at Druridge Pool, the Long Nanny and Holy Island on 9th (ADMc/AIB/JECM). A male was at Newton Pool on 24th and flying S. at Newton Point on 26th (AW/JDS/AIB).

Montagu's Harrier

An immature/female bird was seen moving N.E. over the Long Nanny on 7th (JDS). This will be the first record in the county since August 1968.

Hen Harrier

A female was in an inland locality on 4th.

Sparrow Hawk

One-two were noted in 11 widespread localities.

Osprey

One flew N. over Embleton and the Long Nanny on 26th (AIB/JDS).

Merlin

One was at Seaton Burn on 10th (CH).

Hobby

Singles were at Seaton Burn on 26th (AJJ) and Cresswell Pond on 31st (ADMc/RD).

Peregrine

One flew N. at the Long Nanny on 7th (JDS/AIB).

Black Grouse

One-two at Uswayford, Harwood and the Otterburn Moors.

Red-legged Partridge

One-two were seen at the Harthope Valley, Holystone, Hepple, Netherwitton and Shankhouse during the month.

Water Rail

One was calling at Seaton Burn on 31st (MGC).

Coot

There were seven breeding pairs at Corbridge (MR). The first brood was seen at Shankhouse on 25th (LJM) and three broods were at Seaton Burn by 31st (AJJ).

Oystercatcher

74 were at Cresswell Pond on 25th (GB). Small numbers were noted in four inland localities.

Little Ringed Plover

One was at Druridge Pool on 9th (JRT/KWY). A pair was present in a suitable breeding locality during the month.

Ringed Plover

Large gatherings of passage birds included 400 at Holy Island causeway on 18th/23rd (JRT/MSH), 120 at Budle Bay on 9th (WG), 100 at Berwick Little Beach on 15th (JDL) and 40-50 at the Coquet Estuary (PWW/EMY). 13 pairs were located along the River Coquet between Hepple-Thropton (MR).

Dotterel

One was in the Cheviots on 10th (RKS).

Golden Plover

28 were at Shankhouse between 1st-3rd (LJM). Four pairs were located in one sq. Km on the Otterburn Ranges on 10th (MH). Also noted on breeding territory at Allendale Common (WAK).

Grey Plover

526 were at Holy Island on 3rd, 380 on 18th and only one on 30th (JDL).

Lapwing

Successful breeding was noted in several lowland areas during the month.

Knot

60-70 flew N. at Craster and the Long Nanny on 13th (JDS/AIB).

Sanderling

A maximum of 110 was at Holy Island on 10th (ETN/JRN). 2-21 were also seen in six other coastal localities.

Little Stint

Singles were at Hadston Lake on 13th (MJS) and Berwick Little Beach on 15th (JDL).

Temminck's Stint

Singles were present at Druridge Pool between 9th-11th (TMM/MHp/ADMc) and Holy Island on 17th (DPa).

Curlew Sandpiper

One was at Holy Island causeway on 9th (JEF).

Purple Sandpiper

50 were at Amble on 4th (ES), 46 at St. Mary's Island on 7th (L&KR), and 20-21 at Holy Island and Beadnell on 10th/22nd (ETN/MLC)

Dunlin

120 were at Holy Island causeway on 3rd (JDL) and 62 between Boulmer-Howick on 9th (IK). A nest with four eggs was found on the Northumberland/Durham border on 10th and a pair were at another moorland site on 12th. One was at Caistron on 3rd (MR).

Ruff

A maximum of 11 was at Druridge Pool on 4th dropping to one by 11th (GB). One-two were at Backworth on 2nd/9th (KWY).

Snipe

Two pairs were 'drumming' at Arcot and Shankhouse during the month (LJM).

Woodcock

One was at Redesdale on 26th (MLC) and four at Ratten Row, Alnwick on 27th (JMA).

Black-tailed Godwit

Singles were at Hauxley on 10th and Cresswell Pond on 25th (MGA/ADMc).

Bar-tailed Godwit

One was at Backworth on 8th/12th (TMM/MPF/JM). Four were at the Long Nanny on 24th (AIB)

Whimbrel

Passage was noted throughout the month. Large gatherings involved about 60 arriving at Cresswell on 2nd, resting briefly, then moving N. and 24 there on 7th (ADMc/MGA et al) and 17 at the Long Nanny on 20th (JDS/AIB). One-six were also seen at a further eight coastal localities.

Curlew

18 were at Black Low on 18th (JDL).

Spotted Redshank

One was at Hoppen Kiln on 2nd (MJS).

Redshank

Noted in four lowland breeding areas.

Greenshank

Three were at Holy Island on 11th (DPa) and one-two in a further five coastal areas up to 18th. Further inland singles were near Wark on 2nd (JSg) and Caistron on 9th/16th (MR).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Holywell Pond on 4th (RD).

Wood Sandpiper

One-two were at Druridge Pool between 2nd-14th (MJS et al). At Backworth five were present on 8th increasing to seven on 9th/10th, two remaining until 15th (RD/PWD). Singles were also at Seaton Burn on 16th (GB/MPF), Cresswell on 21st (MJS), Caistron on 23rd (MR) and Hoppen Kiln on 30th (BRS).

Common Sandpiper

One-three were seen in about nine coastal localities during the month. Also noted in nine typical breeding areas.

Turnstone

112 were between Boulmer-Howick on 9th (IK). 40-70 were also noted at Berwick, Blyth, Druridge and St. Mary's Island.

Arctic Skua

Singles flew N. at Cresswell on 12th (KWY) and the Long Nanny on 10th where others noted on 25th/28th (AIB/JDS). Others were at Druridge on 16th (EC/AGH) and moving N. at Annstead on 24th/25th (BRS).

Long-tailed Skua

An adult flew N. at Hauxley on 10th (IF/MD/IOK).

Great Skua

One was off Beadnell on 28th (per AIB).

Mediterranean Gull

Two first summer birds were at the Long Nanny on 20th (JDS/AIB).

Little Gull

Between 16th-31st one-three were regularly noted at Druridge Pool and Cresswell Pond (ADM et al). One was at the Long Nanny on 25th and four on 28th (JDS/AIB). All were immatures.

Black-headed Gull

Colony counts included 1,200 pairs at Caistron (MR) and 1,100 birds at a moorland site in the S.W.

Common Gull

65 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (BNR). Three pairs were present at the now regular breeding locality where a nest with eggs was found on 23rd.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

14 pairs were at the moorland colony by 17th. Birds at Seaton Burn started to predate Mallard broods by 31st (AJJ).

Herring Gull

A pair were at the Lesser Black-backed Gull moorland colony on 17th. 250 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 11th where a yellow-legged adult was present on 26th.

Glaucous Gull

A second summer bird was at Lynemouth on 20th (TMM).

Kittiwake

N. passage was conspicuous on several dates and included 3,000 per hour at Annstead on 3rd (BRS), 4,000 per hour at Berwick on 14th (JDL), 500 per hour at Tynemouth on 13th, 15th and 22nd and Newbiggin on 23rd (CB/KWY), and 1,000 in three hours off Beadnell on 22nd (MLC/AS). 22 occupied nests were noted at the Tyne Commission Quay on 26th, two nests at the P.T.A. building at North Shields (DMT) and about 36 birds on ledges near Seahouses (MLC).

Sandwich Tern

195 were at the Long Nanny on 11th (AIB/JDS). One arrived at Seaton Burn with Common Terns on 11th (AJJ).

Roseate Tern

The first were three at the Coquet Estuary on 15th (EMY). One-two were at Hauxley and Holy Island between 29th-31st (RD/AJB). More unusual was one arriving with Common Terns at Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ).

Common Tern

Along the River Tyne near Ryton there were three on 14th and four on 23rd (STR). On 28th, during heavy rain, a party of 22 arrived at Seaton Burn with single Sandwich and Roseate Tern. After ten minutes the whole group departed to the N. (AJJ).

Arctic Tern

One N. at Annstead on 3rd was the first (BRS). 30 flew N. at Cresswell on 12th (AJ).

Little Tern

The first were five at a regular breeding site on 5th where an evening roost held 56 on 26th. Seven were at Budle Bay on 10th and 13 on 28th (NJW/BRS). One-three were also noted at Holy Island, Stag Rocks, Annstead and Low Newton.

Black Tern

Two were at Capheaton on 25th (NF) and one at Seaton Burn on 29th/30th (CH/AJJ).

Auks (Sp)

N. passage involved 500 per hour at Annstead on 3rd and 1,400 per hour there on 24th (BRS) and 300 per hour at Newbiggin on 23rd (KWY).

Guillemot

200 moved N. in 30 minutes at Druridge on 23rd (ES/WTL). Ten were at Dunstanburgh on 28th (RKS).

Razorbill

Five were at Dunstanburgh on 28th (RKS) and one-five in Beadnell Bay all month (JDS).

Turtle Dove

Singles were at Holy Island on 24th (KWR/NJW), Seaton Burn on 27th (AJJ/GB) and Cresswell and near Bamburgh on 30th (ES/BRS).

Cuckoo

One-three were seen or heard in about 27 widespread localities.

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Once Brewed, Slaley, Druridge and Backworth.

Tawny Owl

Eggs or young were in nest-boxes in three areas in S. Northumberland where no breeding recorded during 1986 (BG/IK). Two young were also in a nest-box at Riding Mill (MPc). Singles also noted in eight other widespread localities including a 'grey phase' bird at Sharperton on 14th (TMM).

Short-eared Owl

One was hunting in suitable breeding habitat in the S.W. of the county on 17th and a nest with five small young and two eggs found at another site on 20th.

Swift

Numbers increased during the month particularly after 9th. The largest gatherings involved 200 at Wylam on 14th (BNR), Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ) and Prudhoe at the end of the month (TAC), and 130 at Corbridge on 24th (MR). Steady N. passage of 50 per hour was noted at Bamburgh on 10th (BRS).

Kingfisher

Singles were at Prudhoe and Plessey Woods and a pair at Mitford (TAC/MPF).

Green Woodpecker

Singles were at Linnels and near Stocksfield (KIB/JSB).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

A pair was at a nest hole at Arcot on 27th (CH) and another pair feeding young at a nest at Morpeth by 31st (MGA). One-two noted in seven other localities.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

A single was at Hexhamshire on 15th (BNR/CJ).

Sand Martin

Some large gatherings were noted during the month with 400 on the River Tweed at Wark on 2nd (JSg), when 200 at Seaton Burn (AJJ), 200 at Castron on 3rd (MR) and 20-50 at three other localities. Colonies were re-occupied with 300 pairs at Corbridge by 25th (MR), 50 nest holes at Prudhoe (TAC) and much smaller numbers at Foxton and Bellasis, although a regular colony near Bellingham so far only holds three birds! (HWR). A light N. movement was noted over Bamburgh on 10th (BRS).

Swallow

100 at Seaton Burn on 26th was the largest gathering (AJJ). Light N. passage was noted at Bamburgh on 10th and 23rd (BRS) and the Long Nanny on 25th (AIB/JDS).

House Martin

150 at Seaton Burn on 26th and 80-100 at Holywell Pond on 14th were the largest gatherings (AJJ/IC) with 30-50 in six other localities. Five pairs had returned to the cliff colony at Cullernose Point by 13th (JMA).

Tree Pipit

Birds were reported in 11 widespread breeding areas during the month with a nest being found at Redesdale by 20th (TAC). Singles at Bamburgh on 27th and 28th were the only coastal records (BRS).

Red-throated Pipit

Singles were found on Holy Island (KWR/NJW) and at Druridge Pool (MGA/MHp/MSH) on 10th, the latter remaining until 11th. These will be the 10th and 11th records for the county.

Yellow Wagtail

Small numbers were noted in 11 widespread localities.

Blue-headed Wagtail

Singles were at Backworth on 2nd and 31st (KWY/MGC), Annstead on 3rd (BRS), Embleton on 6th (AW), Cresswell on 7th and 27th (MGA/WAK), Holywell on 12th (IC) and Old Hartley on 17th (RD).

Grey-headed Wagtail

A male was on Holy Island on 27th and 29th (MGC/DJB).

Grey Wagtail

Pairs with young were noted at Devil's Water, Morpeth, Mitford and Jesmond Dene. One-two were also seen at Felton and Bothal.

White Wagtail

Between 4th-13th singles were at Cullernose, Howick, Hadston, Cresswell and Holy Island with three at the last locality on 17th (DPa).

Dipper

Broods were noted at Mitford, Hulne Park and the Harthope Valley.

Thrush Nightingale

One was on Coquet Island on 24th/25th (JDH/CT). This will be the 6th record for the county, the last being noted on 22nd May 1983.

Bluethroat

An influx occurred during the last week of the month. On 23rd five were at Tynemouth (MPC/CB/AH) and at least eight on Holy Island (MJS et al), one of these remaining until 26th (NJW). Two were on Coquet Island on 24th (JDH/CT) and one at Druridge on 24th/25th (RD/NF). Another was at Low Newton on 26th (AIB/AW/JDS). Some of the cock birds seen on Holy Island were in song and one displayed to a female!

Black Redstart

Singles were at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ) and Lynemouth and Holy Island on 17th/18th (IC/DPa).

Redstart

They were seen in about 12 widespread, inland localities, some observers commenting on good numbers this year. Coastal migrants involved singles at Prior's Park on 8th/9th and 18th (PPRS) and Holy Island on 28th (MGC).

Whinchat

They were reported from 15 typical localities, being noted as common and widespread in the Harthope Valley by 25th.

Wheatear

Noted in six localities with six on Holy Island on 4th being the largest number. Birds were feeding young in the nest at W.Woodburn by 31st (J&MH).

Ring Ousel

One -three were seen in nine typical, inland localities. On the coast singles were at Bamburgh on 9th (BRS) and Holy Island on 11th and 13th (MJS).

Blackbird

A partial albino was at Newcastle on 20th (GS)

Fieldfare

Two were on Holy Island on 9th (JECM) and one on 23rd (MJS). The last was one at Bradford on 30th (BRS).

Redwing

One was on the Farne Islands on 8th (MGA) and another at Prior's Park between 1st-17th (PPRS)

Mistle Thrush

Annest was found under the roof of North Shields Fish Quay (DMT).

Grasshopper Warbler

'Reeling' birds included five in the Medburn-Ponteland area between 1st-17th (EC) and three-four at Caistron and Seaton Burn (MR/AJJ). One-two were also heard at Bamburgh, Felton, Hadston and Corbridge.

Sedge Warbler

18 were singing at Caistron by 16th (MR) and they were also seen in 13 other widespread localities during the month. Coastal passage included a maximum of 22 at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).

Reed Warbler

Three were singing at Gosforth Park on 9th/16th (MPF) and singles at Seaton Burn on 23rd (AJJ) and Corbridge on 27th (L&KR).

Subalpine Warbler

A male was seen and photographed near Holywell Pond on 9th (JS1). This will be the 8th record for the county, the last being two seen in November 1984.

Lesser Whitethroat

One-two were seen in ten inland localities from 4th with some birds in song. On the coast one-two were at Holy Island and Tynemouth on 24th/25th.

Whitethroat

One-ten were in at least 15 widespread localities with some observers commenting that numbers seem higher than last year.

Garden Warbler

At least five were holding territory near Ponteland where normally only two pairs are present (EC). One-two were also seen in another seven areas. On the coast a maximum of six was at Prior's Park on 8th (PPRS).

Blackcap

One-six were noted in eight widespread breeding areas during the month. On the coast six were at Prior's Park on 1st (PPRS).

Wood Warbler

Coastal migrants involved two at Prior's Park on 1st, one on 8th and two on 9th (PPRS), and one at Holywell Dene on 25th (LR). Inland one-six were noted in 12 localities.

Chiffchaff

One-six were seen or heard in 11 inland localities including one on the Otterburn Ranges on 4th/9th (MH) and two at Nunnykirk where none have been reported since 1982 (RW). On the coast one was at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).

Willow Warbler

Light coastal passage was noted throughout the month at Tynemouth and Bamburgh.

Goldcrest

Three were at Prior's Park on 6th (MPC).

Spotted Flycatcher

The first was one at Williamston on 2nd (ES/DRS) followed by further singles at Belsay on 9th (JS) and Wallington on 10th (MGC). From 14th they were reported more frequently and by the end of the month had been seen in 18 widespread localities. About 15 were on Holy Island on 25th (NJW).

Pied Flycatcher

19 pairs had laid eggs in nest-boxes at Nunnykirk by 31st. The normal population is four-six pairs (RW). Three pairs also occupied boxes at Riding Mill (MPC) but only one pair did so at Angerton (TAC). They were also noted in four other areas.

Long-tailed Tit

A family party was at Dipton by 25th (JP).

Marsh Tit

One was on the Otterburn Ranges on 9th, a new locality (MH). Two were at Howick on 26th (AIB).

Willow Tit

A breeding pair was noted at Seaton Burn (AJJ). One was at Hulne Park on 9th (KIK).

Coal Tit

A pair reared 11 young in a nest-box at Wandylaw (MSH).

Nuthatch

Breeding records included two pairs feeding young in Jesmond Dene (MPF) and single pairs at Morpeth and Brinkburn Priory (MGA/LJM). A pair reared six young in a nest-box at Nunnykirk (RW). One-two were also seen at Bolam, Allerwash, near Stocksfield and Bothal.

Treecreeper

Nests were found at the Harthope Valley, Holywell Dene and Gosforth Park, although at the last site another nest was destroyed by strong winds (ISD).

Rook

A bird at Killingworth on 15th showed white wing bars (RD).

Carrion Crow

A partial albino at Corbridge on 4th was reminiscent of a huge Pied Flycatcher! (PWD)

Hooded Crow

One flew S. at the Long Nanny on 8th (JDS) and two were on Holy Island on 11th (MJS)

Starling

The bird with the abnormally long bill re-appeared at Cramlington on 14th (JM).

Tree Sparrow

Noted only at Capheaton.

Goldfinch

Six-seven pairs were in territory at Matfen (RW). One-six were seen in another 16 widespread localities.

Siskin

20 were at Tarsset on 31st (MLC). Two-five were also at Hethpool, Harwood, and Redesdale.

Linnet

Flocks of 40 were at Prudhoe on 14th (BNR) and 25 at Amble Braid on 23rd (EMY).

Crossbill

Eight, including one juvenile, were at the Otterburn Ranges on 3rd (MH). Pairs were at Riding Mill and the Wark Forest (WAK/BNR).

Bullfinch

Pairs were noted at five typical localities.

Hawfinch

One-two were seen at Jesmond Dene, Plessey Woods, Allerwash and Wallington Hall.

Yellowhammer

30 were at Seghill on 18th (MLC).

Corn Bunting

One-four were at Druridge, Cresswell, Lynemouth, Guide Post and Laverock Hall.

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

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Disturbance at Nest Sites in Northumberland

The committee is concerned with recent reports that bird watchers, some members of this club, have been visiting nest sites, of species on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with the serious risk of disturbing birds which could lead to breeding failure.

It must be pointed out that the law is very clear on this issue. It is an offence to disturb a nest site of any Schedule 1 species and anyone visiting them must have a current permit from the Nature Conservancy Council. These are only issued to those taking part in approved ringing and research programmes.

The Club's Constitution makes it plain that we take a very serious view of misconduct and would ask all members to co-operate over this matter.

It would be a very sad reflection on the club if a member was to be found, challenged and prosecuted for a disturbance offence.

Reduced Subscription for 'British Birds'

Once again the NTBC has been invited to take part in the reduced subscription scheme run by 'British Birds', compulsory reading for so many of our members.

We are told that the special leaflets which have to be filled in to qualify will be ready in July and they will be sent out with the subsequent bulletin.

From August the personal annual subscription rate for the magazine will be £25 but by taking part in the special scheme members of NTBC and other bird and natural history clubs will get the reduced price of £18.75.

We know that 'BB' with its wide-ranging coverage of all topics ornithological needs no recommendation for most of our members. But there may be newcomers who would now like to join its mailing list and take advantage of the reduced rate.

Ian Kerr

Birdwatching Sites in Northumbria

A reminder that this new access guide is now available price £1.80 from Muriel Cadwallender, 32 Manners Gardens, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland. NE25 0DW. This price includes postage.

European Breeding Survey

Will everyone taking part in this survey please try to check as many species as possible including such species as Tree Sparrow, Stock Dove, Corn Bunting, Treecreeper and Goldcrest.

No disturbance at the nest should be necessary, if in doubt put the bird first and leave well alone.

If there are any problems or queries please contact Tom & Muriel Cadwallender on 091 237 1145 or Nick Rossiter on 043 473 509.

Wader Counts - August 1987 - April 1988

I now have details of the dates for the next season of wader counts. Would existing Wader Counters please contact me as soon as possible to confirm that they will be continuing coverage of "their" stretch for next season. I am always happy to hear from anyone else who would like to be involved in this important series of counts and 'new' counters are always welcome. Please ring me if you are interested (Tel. 252 0511)

Mike S. Hodgson

Important Field Trips

The committee have recently been concerned about some aspects of Club Field Trips. Some have been well supported and others have received little attention. On one occasion only one member turned up for a field trip and the leader, quite rightly, thought that the trip was not feasible (after he and the one member had each driven over 50 miles!).

In future, therefore, the following procedure for participation in field trips will be strictly adhered to:

1. All members wishing to go on any field trip must inform the Field Secretary Colin Bradshaw (Tel: 257 2389).
2. A booking fee of 50 pence per person will be charged to cover any admin. costs (telephone calls, etc) and should be paid to the Field Secretary in advance of the trip.
3. The Field Secretary will decide if the trip is feasible and, if not, he will inform any members booked on the trip.

N and T.B.C. and B.T.O. go into Partnership

Last Autumn the committee responded to a questionnaire from the B.T.O. concerning a proposed partnership between bird clubs and the B.T.O. The details of the partnership proposed were far ranging and obviously could benefit both organisations. We have now decided to formally enter into partnership with the B.T.O. from 1st September, 1987.

Benefits for the club and members include:

- Pre-publication offers on certain books
- A percentage of any B.T.O. catalogue sales made by the club.
- Free advertising of Birds in Northumbria
- Advice on fund raising
- Opportunities to attend conferences, workshops and training courses.

We see this partnership as an important and exciting venture for the club particularly in relation to the B.T.O.'s intention to create a National Centre for Ornithology at their proposed new headquarters.

Further developments will be reported in the bulletin.

Northumbria Bird Race 1987

I have received recently details of a Northumbria Bird Race from two teams of club members who took part on 16th May. A team comprising of Ian Fisher, Andy Booth and Martin Davison started at 0320 hrs at Jesmond Dene and covered a total of 318 miles birdwatching in the county, finishing at 2040 hrs at St. Mary's Island. They recorded a total of 121 species despite a last ditch effort to find Rock Pipit!

The rival team of Michael Frankis, John Sweeney, Graham Bowman and Graham Scott also started at Jesmond Dene but had a 'lie-in' until 0345 hrs and finished at 1944 hrs at Budle Bay. Although their total of species seen reached 119 they too had bad luck and failed to see 'certainties' such as Grey Lag Goose (there're at Holywell!), Siskin and Willow Tit. They also supplied such useful information, for future 'racers', that there are no petrol stations open on the A1 north of Stannington after 9.00 p.m.!

If any other teams, for this race, or in the future, care to send me details of their efforts then I will keep members updated through the bulletin.

The first team have now claimed their total of 121 species as the new county record. Is that a challenge?

Mike S. Hodgson

N.B.

Due to typing problems this month the following species was accidentally omitted from the Classified List.

Long-eared Owl

Singles were at Seaton Burn on 2nd (AJJ) and near Alnwick on 4th (JMA). A pair hatched five young at the Merlin site, in the S. Cheviots, used last year but two had vanished by the end of the month (IK/BG).



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

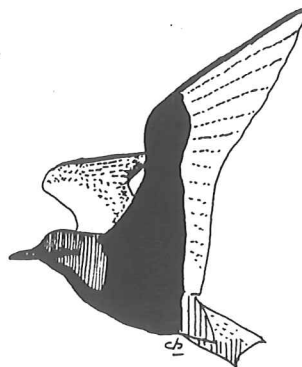
MONTHLY SUMMARY - JUNE 1987

June was, without doubt, one of the coldest experienced with temperatures 2 - 3°C below the seasonal average. Rainfall was well spread about North-East England with, for example, about average at Boulmer but 243% of average at Redesdale! Only three 'dry' days were recorded at Newcastle. Sunshine was also lacking and well below average. Winds showed a distinct SE to NE bias although temperatures increased in the last few days with S to SW airflow.

This month saw the usual flurry of breeding records, some species showing good success and others having rather poorer luck. Pied Flycatchers, for example, have been conspicuous in nest-box studies but in some areas were reduced or absent.

Sea-watching produced numbers of Manx Shearwaters, several Arctic Skuas and some strong summer movements of Auks. Canada Geese were still moving through the country on moult migration. A few migrants continued to arrive including on 6th a Red-backed Shrike at Hadston, a Marsh Harrier at Boulmer and perhaps, more surprising a male Hen Harrier at Buston Links. Two Hobbies were also noted during the month.

A Night Heron was found at Hoppen Kiln on 17th/18th, apparently one of several found in Britain about this time. A Black Tern was at Longstone on 16th but more exciting was a White-winged Black Tern seen, flying S, from a cottage window at Beadnell on 20th. A Quail was heard at Ingoe on 26th.



June 87

W.W. Black Tern

Beadnell

A Temmick's Stint was at Hanxley on 13th and other waders were reported along coastal areas throughout the month but during the last few days return passage was already underway.

Other interesting species included Black-throated Diver, Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks, Corncrake, Mediterranean Gull and Reed Warbler.

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 sick bird, in breeding plumage, came ashore at the Long Nanny on 19th but died next day (JDS/AIB).

Black-throated Diver

A bird in non-breeding plumage was in Beadnell Bay on 16th (JDS/AIB).

Little Grebe

The two pairs at Corbridge reared six young (MR). One-three also seen or heard at Arcot, Bothal, Warkworth Lane, Newton Pool, Holy Island Lough and Langley Dam.

Great Crested Grebe

Broods were noted at Holywell Pond (three young), Seaton Burn (two young), Corbridge (two young) and Castron (one young) (IC/AJJ/MR), although at the last site there was no sign of the youngster by 28th. Four pairs were at Colt Crag where one was incubating on 25th (BNR) and nest-building was noted at Arcot, Bothal and Cresswell. Five were at Whittle Dene on 7th (MLC) and pairs and singles at South Linton, Derwent Reservoir and on the R.Tyne at Close House.

Black-necked Grebe

No young were seen at the regular breeding site up to 2nd July. A single was at Arcot Pond between 5th-18th and 26th-28th (LJM) with perhaps the same bird at Holywell Pond on 6th and 25th (ES/RD).

Fulmar

Counts of occupied sites in breeding areas included 140 in the Cullernose Point area, 41 at Dunstanburgh, five at Howick Haven and 18 at Longhoughton Quarry (JMA/AW). Eight were on the road bridge at Berwick on 14th and one at Holborn Moss on 16th (JSg/BNR). Two flew W. along the Simonsides on 25th (MH). Perhaps more unusual were two dark phase birds around the Farne Islands on 16th (KB).

Manx Shearwater

11 flew N at St. Mary's Island on 8th (JDP) 60 moved N at Beadnell Bay on 9th and 53 on 10th (AIB/JDS) with one-five noted there and the Farne Islands on 21st/28th (WGJ/RD).

Gannet

N passage included 360 per hour at Beadnell on 8th (WGJ), 77 at Craster on 9th (RKS) and on 26th 148 flew S at Berwick (JDL). On 7th birds were noted up to 40 miles E of Tynemouth (BNR).

Cormorant

One-three were inland at Holywell, Seaton Burn, Wylam, Whittle Dene and Felton.

Shag

Seven nests were noted at Dunstanburgh on 26th (AW).

Night Heron

One was seen twice at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 17th and again the following morning (AIB/JDS et al). This will be the ninth record for the county, the last being seen during the winter of 1977/78.

Grey Heron

At a further two colonies 11 young were reared from four nests and nine young from three nests (JR). Juveniles were noted at Corbridge on 12th (MR) and Druridge Pool on 22nd (MT). Ten were at Black Low on 13th (JDL) and eight at Hauxley on 20th (HRS) and between Berwick-Horncliffe on 27th (JSg). One-six were seen in a further 16 widespread localities.

Mute Swan

Further successful breeding was noted at Warkworth, Hauxley, Cresswell, Rothley Lake, Rayburn Lake, Caistron, Carham and near Berwick. 366 were at Berwick Harbour on 26th (JDL).

Grey Lag Goose

15 were at Seaton Burn on 6th (ES/WTL) 30 flying N at Cresswell on 10th (ADM) were probably the same 30 at Newton Pool on 11th (MF/AW). One-six were also at Wark, Berwick Harbour and W. Woodburn (JSg/KIB).

Canada Goose

Passage continued during the month. Seven were at Seaton Burn on 1st where 13 present on 5th, these birds were later seen flying N at Stannington (AJJ/AIB). On 6th 20 were at Cresswell (ES/MBS, 37 on Hadston Lake where just offshore a further 17 flew N, this group being noted passing Dunstanburgh later in the day (MJS/RKS). 11 were at Rayburn Lake on 16th when two flew N at Budle Point (BNR). 18 were at Foxton on 21st (MSH) and probably the regular flock of 32 at Colt Crag on 25th (BNR).

Barnacle Goose

Two were still at Cresswell on 1st (MLC).

Shelduck

Successful breeding included five broods (32 young) at Hauxley (HRS), two broods (20 young) at Druridge Pool (KG/MT) and single broods at the Long Nanny (six young), Boulmer (only one young) and Hadston Lake (nine young). The brood of ten at the Coquet Estuary had been reduced to six by 25th (EMY). Two pairs were at Holburn Moss on 16th (BNR).

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site there were two broods (three and two young) on 28th and at the second site another brood was located on 30th. One-six remained at eight other waters during the month.

Teal

A brood of seven was at Caistron on 14th (MR). Two-ten were in three other localities.

Mallard

A total of 23 broods (151 young) was located along the River Tweed between Carham-Berwick (JSg). A further seven broods were found at Seaton Burn bringing the total of young hatched there to 92 (AJJ). One-four broods were seen at Arcot, Whittle Dene, Hauxley, Newton Pool, Holburn Moss, Angerton, Rothley, South Linton and Ovingham.

Pintail

A drake was at Caistron on 7th (MR).

Garganey

Three were still at Druridge Pool on 3rd and one on 7th (MGA/ADM).

Shoveler

A brood of 11 was at Seaton Burn on 4th but this was gradually reduced to only one by 13th. A 15 lb Pike, caught during the month, may have been responsible for the predation (AJJ). A brood of eight was at Shankhouse on 14th (LJM). 12 were at Newton Pool on 22nd (AW) and one-six at five other waters.

Pochard

Another brood was at Arcot Pond on 14th (LJM).

Ring-necked Duck

The drake was seen again at Holywell Pond on 6th.

Tufted Duck

14 broods were located at Caistron during the month (MR). Single broods of eight young were at Norham on 27th (JSg) and Arcot on 28th (LJM).

Eider

Counts of ducklings included 100 at the Coquet Estuary on 7th (EMY), and between Boulmer-Howick on 13th when 135 between Bamburgh-Waren Mill (RKS). 225 were at Holy Island on 13th (JDL) and 179 at Beadnell Bay on 21st (AIB).

Common Scoter

15 were on the sea ten miles E. of Tynemouth on 7th (BNR). 35 were at Birling Carrs on 16th (JMA). 14 flew N. at Beadnell Bay on 10th and a further 90 on 20th/25th (JDS/AIB).

Goldeneye

A female was at Whittle Dene on 7th (MLC/TAC) and two near Horncliffe on 27th (JSg).

Red-breasted Merganser

Four were 14 miles E. of Tynemouth on 7th (BNR). At the Long Nanny three flew N. on 9th, five on 21st, three on 25th and five were offshore on 26th (AIB/JDS).

Goosander

Broods were noted at Catleugh Reservoir, Carham Hall, Cornhill Wark, Horncliffe, near Northam and at Mitford (WAK/JSg/ADM). Four flew in off the sea at Hadston on 7th (RD).

Ruddy Duck

A drake was still at Capheaton on 12th (RW).

Marsh Harrier

A female was at Boulmer on 6th (ES/MBS/WTL).

Hen Harrier

A male was at Buston Links on 6th (ADM).

Sparrowhawk

A pair hatched four young at a suburban site in Newcastle. Singles were seen in eight other localities.

Kestrel

The hill breeding birds in Coquetdale had an early season with flying young by the end of the month (IK/BG). Five young hatched in the nest-box at Threestoneburn by 7th (AMB) and a brood was located in a old Carrion Crow nest at Horton on 19th (LJM).

Hobby

One at Seaton Burn on 1st may have been the bird noted last month (GB). Another flew N. over Whitley Bay on 10th (MSH).

Black Grouse

Three cocks and a greyhen were at a Lek on the Otterburn Ranges (MH). Up to four were near Haltwhistle (WGJ).

Red-legged Partridge

One was at Felton on 13th (ETN/JRN) and two at Flotterton on 20th (JR). One with young at Calder persistently attacked a Land Rover! (AMB).

Quail

One was calling near Ingoe on 26th (KD).

Corncrake

One was reported near Felton on 9th (per ETN).

Coot

Six pairs reared 26 young at Corbridge (MR). A further seven broods were hatched at Seaton Burn but this brought the total of young to only 28 this year (AJJ). Predation of young noted by Lesser Black-backed Gulls and adult Coots. Other brood counts included six at Holy Island (12 young) and Arcot Pond, three at Newton Pool and two at Holywell Pond and Killingworth Lake.

Oystercatcher

100 were at Hauxley on 22nd/26th (HRS), up to 60 at Cresswell Pond (TAC/GB) and 46 at Newton on 14th (JDL).

Little Ringed Plover

At least one adult was in an inland locality up to 21st.

Ringed Plover

45 at the Coquet Estuary on 1st declined too six by 10th (EMY).

Golden Plover

Up to seven were in three coastal localities after 17th.

Grey Plover

One was at the Long Nanny between 7th-12th and up to 12 at Fenham Flats on 23rd (AIB/JDS).

Lapwing

Some post-breeding flocks formed with 45 at Rayburn Lake on 16th, 80 at Catton on 21st (BNR), 120 at Castron on 28th (MR) and up to 150 at Hauxley.

Knot

About 100 were at Fenham Flats on 23rd (AIB/JDS).

Sanderling

Five-six were at Hadston and the Long Nanny during the month (JM/JDS).

Temminck's Stint

One was at Hauxley on 13th (AJ/GPB).

Dunlin

A total of three occupied breeding sites were found on moorland in the S.W. Four were at Hauxley on 21st (MSH) and ten at Black Low on 27th (JDL).

Snipe

On 21st there were ten pairs at Sinderhope and four pairs at Dargue's Hope (BNR/MLC). One-two were also 'drumming' at Arcot, Shankhouse, Druridge and Warkworth Lane.

Woodcock

Two were 'roding' at Derwent Reservoir on 11th and one at Eals on 28th (BNR).

Black-tailed Godwit

One was at Holy Island on 6th and three on 27th (JDL/DPa). Another was at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

31 were at Black Low on 27th (JDL) and three at the Long Nanny and Hauxley on 30th (AIB/HRS).

Whimbrel

At the Long Nanny there were four on 4th, ten flying E. on 9th and two S. on 10th. No more were seen until 21st when two were present with one-two on 24th/26th (AIB/JDS). 15 flew W. At Horton on 25th (LJM) and one-two were at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Curlew

246 were at Black Low on 13th and 105 on 27th (JDL). 5 pairs were in territory in a 2 x 1 Km area of the Simonsides (MH). Birds also seen on four other typical breeding areas.

Spotted Redshank

One was at Druridge Pool on 24th/28th (MGA/RD).

Redshank

Four pairs were at Sinderhope (BNR) and one-two pairs at Druridge, Whittle Dene and Shankhouse with two broods seen at the last site (TAC/LJM). 140 were at Black Low on 27th (JDL) and up to 23 at Hauxley after 21st.

Greenshank

One was at Druridge Pool on 4th (ADM). Up to three were at Black Low on 13th/27th (JDL) and singles at the Long Nanny on 15th, 16th and 28th and Hoppen Kiln on 17th (AIB).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 23rd (JDS/AIB).

Common Sandpiper

In the Upper Coquet valley above Alwinton 21 pairs bred or attempted to breed and a further 12 pairs in the Alwin Valley. Sightings of colour-ringed birds in this study area included three adults from 1985 and single adult and pullus from 1983. (JR). Five pairs were located in three miles of Prodhoe Country Park but probably all failed due to high water levels (TAC). Along the River Tweed there were 11 birds in the Wark area on 6th and five pairs between Norham-Cornhill (JSg). One was at Tynemouth Haven by 15th (AH) and four at Seaton Burn and two at the Long Nanny on 29th (GB/JDS).

Turnstone

12 were at Druridge Pool on 6th (JLM). Up to 40 were at Hauxley from 18th (HRS).

Arctic Skua

At the Long Nanny one-two were seen on six dates (JDS/AIB) and singles were at the Farne Islands on 21st (RD) and Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Mediterranean Gull

A first summer bird was at the Long Nanny on 1st and 22nd/24th (AIB/JDS).

Little Gull

One-three were at Druridge Pool during the month with occasional sightings at Cresswell, Hadston and Hauxley. One was at the Long Nanny on 20th.

Black-headed Gull

About 300 pairs were at Holy Island lough and two moorland colonies held 200 and 700 pairs respectively, the first being a new site (BNR). Seven clutches counted at a small colony on Dryburn Moor on 14th (MSH).

Common Gull

590 first summer birds roosted at Budle Bay on 16th and 30 at Hallington on 25th (BNR). Birds were present at Long Nanny throughout the month with a peak of 52 (all first summer) on 9th (AIB/JDS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Single pairs were found breeding at three new moorland sites in the S. of the country. 42 were at Caistron on 7th (MR). Birds at Seaton Burn were frequently seen predating broods of Coot and Mallard (AJJ).

Herring Gull

A pair were found breeding at a second moorland site. 11 pairs were in territory at Holburn Moss on 16th (BNR). 630 were at Seahouses on 16th and 270 at North Shields on 28th (DMT/BNR).

Glaucous Gull

At least three individuals (two first summer, one second summer) visited the Long Nanny on five dates (JDS/AIB). A first summer was at Hauxley on 17th (HRS).

Great Black-backed Gull

208 were at the Long Nanny on 18th (JDS), 84 at Seahouses on 16th (BNR) and 45 at the Tyne Estuary on 27th (DMT).

Kittiwake

Colony counts included 590 pairs at Dunstanburgh and 207 nests at Cullernose Point (AW/MT). Up to 2,000 gathered on the beach at the Long Nanny on several dates, (AIB/JDS), 680 were at Budle Bay on 16th (BNR) and 460 at North Shields on 7th (DMT). Heavy N. passage noted between Craster-Howick on 9th when 200-300 per hour counted and a large flock involved between 2,000-3,000 birds (RKS).

Sandwich Tern

Up to 100 visited Hauxley Pool on 22nd (HRS).

Roseate Tern

Two flew N. at Football Hole on 9th (RKS) and one-two visited Hauxley Pool.

"Commic" Tern

Up to 150 visited Hauxley Pool. There were a number of reports of 'portlandica' types including up to eight at the Long Nanny and Guile Point, four at Hauxley and perhaps 20 on the Farne Islands (AIB/JDS/HRS).

Common Tern

57 were at Hauxley Pool on 26th (HRS). Three were at Holywell Pond on 14th (IC) and singles at Seaton Burn and Arcot Pond on 28th/29th (GB/LJM).

Arctic Tern

30 were at Hauxley Pool on 26th (HRS).

Little Tern

There was a maximum of 65 at one regular breeding site on 4th. Eight were at Holy Island causeway on 27th (JDL) and one-five in seven other localities between Budle Bay-Howick.

Black Tern

One was at the Farne Islands on 16th (KB).

White-winged Black Tern

One flew S. over the rocks at Beadnell on 20th but was not seen subsequently (WGJ).

Auks (Sp)

N. passage included 1,750 per hour at Beadnell on 8th when 380 per hour at St. Mary's Island and 1,000 per hour at Bondicarr on 19th (WGJ/JDP).

Guillemot

105 were on the sea at Dunstanburgh on 6th (RKS). Small groups were noted up to 50 miles E. of Tynemouth on 7th (BNR).

Razorbill

Five were off Dunstanburgh on 6th (RKS) and seven at Druridge Bay on 22nd (KG/MT).

Turtle Dove

Singles were at Longhirst on 9th/10th, Corbridge on 12th and Linton on 25th (ADM/MR).

Cuckoo

Single birds were seen or heard in ten widespread localities.

Little Owl

Singles were seen at Laverock Hall, Earsdon, Widdrington, Ogle and Corbridge.

Tawny Owl

Two were at Morpeth on 1st (ADM).

Long-eared Owl

One was at Rayburn Lake on 30th (ADM).

Short-eared Owl

A pair and a single were in two inland localities.

Nightjar

A single was at a locality in the N. of the country on 14th.

Swift

300 were at Seaton Burn on 7th (AJJ) and 100 at Whittle Dene on 7th (MLC). 30-70 were noted in a further six widespread localities. A pair were prospecting a nest-box at Rothbury early in the month and breeding records included two pairs at Brinkburn Priory, ten pairs in Rothbury Bridge and two pairs in a lime kiln at Alwinton (JSe).

Kingfisher

Successful breeding was noted at Morpeth (ADM) and one-two were noted at Mitford and Prudhoe.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were seen or heard at Morpeth, Shaftoe, Capheaton and Craggside.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Successful breeding was reported at Morpeth, Mitford, Belsay and Allenbanks. Singles were seen in a further nine other localities including one visiting a garden at Walbottle. One bird was found as a Peregrine "kill".

Sand Martin

200+ were at Prudhoe on 15th, some with large young in the nest (MLC/TAC). There were 40 nest holes at Seaton Point on 23rd (JMA).. In Upper Coquetdale birds were noted in areas where they have been absent in recent years (IK), and up to 30 were at Hoppen Kiln and Reaveley Greens.

House Martin

120 were at Arcot on 3rd (LJM) and 150 at Wylam on 7th (L&KR). By 9th there were 25 complete or semi-complete nests at Cullernose Point (JMA). About 12 pairs were nesting at Workworth bridge (KIB) and five pairs at Harwood (MLC).

Meadow Pipit

25-30 were at Hauxley on 18th (HRS).

Rock-Pipit

A pair reared four young at Amble (HRS).

Yellow Wagtail

About four pairs were at Wark on Tweed (JSg), and other noted in 12 other localities with the first young being seen by 12th.

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male was at Backworth on 2nd (RD).

Grey Wagtail

Successful breeding was noted at Bothal, Pigdon, Felton, Prudhoe, Allenbanks and Blanchland.

Pied Wagtail

A nest at High Bleakhope contained ten young (perhaps two females laying in the same nest?) and all fledged successfully (JSe). Broods and family parties also noted in seven other localities.

White Wagtail

One was at Close House on 4th (L&KR).

Dipper

A nest with young was at Nunnykirk (RW) and juveniles were seen at Wylam, Jesmond Dene, and Allenbanks.

Redstart

Apparently a very good season for this species in Upper Coquetdale (IK/BG). Three pairs bred in nest-boxes at Nunnykirk and one at Mitford (RW/MLC). Five pairs were in natural breeding sites at Hexham (RMH/CJ) and three pairs in Ingram village. A nest at Linhope Spout was in overhanging heather on a crag (JSe).

Whinchat

Pairs and singles were reported in four areas.

Stonechat

Two males were at Chevington on 18th (JDP).

Wheatear

Many fledged young were in Upper Coquetdale during the month.

Fieldfare

Two were at Marden Quarry on 3rd, one apparently injured (AH).

Grasshopper Warbler

A pair fledged young at Hadston (ADM). Two were at Seaton Burn on 4th (PM) and singles at Budle Point on 16th (BNR) and Hauxley on 17th/25th (HRS).

Sedge Warbler

Singing birds were noted in ten widespread areas including 28 between Horcliffe-Cornhill on R.Tweed (JSg). The first fledged young were seen at Newton Pool on 14th (MF/MSH).

Reed Warbler

One was at Seaton Burn on 27th/28th (AJJ).

Lesser Whitethroat

Pairs were at Wylam and near Netherwitton and a single at Hartburn Lake (WAK/MA).

Whitethroat

One-five were noted in seven localities including a pair feeding fledged young at Arcot by 14th (LJM).

Garden Warbler

One-two were seen in seven widespread localities.

Blackcap

Nine were singing at Fallodon on 17th when one juvenile was seen (AIB/JDS). One-two were in seven other localities.

Wood Warbler

One-four were singing in eight typical localities. A pair with two young were found at Broomley Wood on 24th (AH).

Chiffchaff

A family party was at Craggside on 22nd (MPF) and singing birds in a further five areas.

Willow Warbler

They were noted in nine areas including a pair with fledged young at Craster on 20th (RKS).

Spotted Flycatcher

Nine young were reared in two nest-boxes at Matfen (RW). Reported as more plentiful than unusual in Upper Coquetdale (IK/BG) and they were seen in another 11 widespread localities.

Pied Flycatcher

Some nest-boxes study areas were very well occupied. In one area in the S.W. a total of 29 pairs laid 193 eggs and fledged 164 young (JPL). 21 pairs reared 126 young at Hexhamshire (CJ/RMH) and 23 pairs bred at Nunnykirk (RW). However, other areas did not fare so well. The pair at Angerton reared seven young, none bred in boxes at Mitford (TAC) and only four pairs did so at Brinkburn, rearing 24 young (WGT). Breeding pairs were also noted at Allenbanks, Boleyn and Belsay.

Long-tailed Tit

Family parties were noted at Redesdale and Hulne Park.

Marsh Tit

One was at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Willow Tit

A family party was at Nunnykirk on 13th (TAC/AS).

Blue Tit

Details of nest-box studies included 13 pairs fledging 105 young at Hexham (RMH/CJ), ten pairs laying 98 eggs and fledging 96 young at Eshott (WGS), five pairs laying 52 eggs and fledging 48 young at Spindleston and three pairs laying 31 eggs and fledging 30 young at Wandylaw (MSH). Two pairs reared 17 young at Kirkley Hall (IK) and single pairs reared eight and seven young at Walbottle and Cramlington (L&KR/JECM).

Great Tit

Nest-box studies included four pairs laying 39 eggs and fledging 39 young at Eshott (WGS), four pairs laying 41 eggs and fledging 38 young at Spindleston (MSH), three pairs fledging 16 young at Hexham (CJ/RMH) and five pairs fledging 37 young at Kirkley Hall (IK). A pair reared a brood of 11 at Wandylaw.

Nuthatch

Probably four family parties noted at Wallington (WGS/JCD). Two pairs bred at Allenbanks (RKS) and family parties also seen at Craggside (MPF), Little Harle (TAC/MLC), Hexham (RMH) and near Haughton Castle (KD).

Red-backed Shrike

A female was at Hadston between 6th-8th (MJS/KWY et al).

Jay

One in North Shields on 2nd was an unusual record (IDM).

Magpie

20 were counted between Newburn-Wylam on 4th (L&KR).

Carion Crow

55 were between Newburn-Wylam on 4th (L&KR).

Hooded Crow

Singles flew N. at Cresswell on 14th and Long Nanny on 15th (MGA/AIB) and perhaps the same bird was on Holy Island on 27th (DPa).

Starling

Post-breeding flocks were in several areas during the month.

Tree Sparrow

A recently fledged juvenile was at Horton by 16th (LJM).

Greenfinch

35 were at Marden Quarry on 18th (AH) and 20 at Morpeth on 19th (MLC).

Goldfinch

They were noted in about 16 widespread localities with family parties being reported from 6th.

Siskin

A family party was at Byrness on 21st (WAK) and pairs and singles were seen at the Harwood Forest.

Redpoll

They were well represented at Harwood with many family parties on 25th (MH). Smaller numbers were noted in several other areas.

Crossbill

Two were at Threestoneburn on 4th (AMB).

Bullfinch

Pairs and singles were seen in about six widespread localities.

Corn Bunting

One-four were seen or heard at Newton, Druridge, Cresswell, Warkworth Lane, Guide Post, Horton and St. Mary's Island.

Please send all July records, in Voous order, to Mike S Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay NE25 8QX by 8th August.

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IMPORTANT - New Venue for Indoor Meetings

The committee has been concerned for some time at the high cost of the Physics Lecture Theatre, our recent venue for indoor meetings. We wish to retain high standards and the University has now offered reasonable accommodation at a lower rate which we have booked for the next season starting on Thursday, September 10th.

The new venue is lecture theatre 120 on the first floor of Claremont Tower, Newcastle University. This building is on the opposite side of Claremont Road to the Hancock Museum where the Claremont Bridge stretches across the road.

Car parking is available as before for 50p within the University.

A complete programme for the next season is given below. All meetings are on the second Thursday of the month and start at 7pm. Stewards will be available in the Foyer of Claremont Tower for the first meeting there and we look forward to meeting you in our new venue.

Nick Rossiter
(Indoor Meetings Secretary)

Indoor Meetings Programme for 1987/88

- 1987
- September 10th: Geoff Horne "Upland Birds in Lakeland".
Geoff is regional representative of the BTO in Cumbria and is an experienced fieldworker in the Lake District.
- October 8th: AGM followed by Lindsay McDougall "Kenya".
Lindsay is a well-known club member who has made several visits to East Africa.

November 12th: Mike Freeman "The Eastern Edge - What does our coastline have to offer wildlife?".
Mike is warden at Newton Pool and will be using his experience to talk about our attractive coastline.

December 10th: John Steele "Conservation in the Cheviots".
John has an intimate knowledge of the Cheviots through his position as warden in the Northumberland National Park.

1988

January 14th: Denis Summers-Smith "The Evolution of the House Sparrow".
Denis is a leading authority on sparrows of the world and is author of a forthcoming Poyser book on the subject.

February 11th: Ron Summers "The Migrations of the Purple Sandpiper".
Another speaker of international reputation, Ron has extensively studied waders for many years and is a key member of the Wader Study Group.

March 10th: Tim Cleeves "Birding on the West Coast".
Tim has recently joined the RSPB staff in Newcastle and will be talking about areas on the other side of the country where he has previously worked.

April 14th: Member Night. The chance for several of our members to talk about a trip or a study that they have made, plus the results of the photographic competition.

FIELD TRIPS

The following field trips have been arranged for August.

Sat. 8th August - A pelagic trip (by boat!) out of North Shields. For the adventurous and the sea-bird enthusiast. Distance travelled off-shore will depend entirely on weather conditions during the day.
Cost £7.50

Sat. 22nd August - Teesmouth, visiting the pools and marshes for passage waders. Transport by car.

If you are interested in either of these field trips please contact Colin Bradshaw (Tel: 2572389).

FOR SALE

CARL ZEISS Jenoptem 8 x 30 multicoated binoculars.

New, with case, straps, box and lifetime guarantee £35

SWIFT BELMONT de luxe 8 x 40 binoculars.

As new with case, straps and box £33

Telephone: 2574643 D.M. Turner.

SITUATION VACANT

Hauxley Nature Reserve requires a WARDEN responsible for: Recording birds, animals, moths, plants and practical nature reserve work including organising volunteers, tree-planting, etc.

Experience of practical nature reserve work preferred and an ability to communicate and work with people. Interest and detailed knowledge of Natural History, particularly ornithology, is required/ Some unsocial hours.

Wage £93.75 Hours 37 1/2 Age 20+

M.S.C./C.P. eligibility applies.

Contact: Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle
NE2 4PT (Tel: 2320038).

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 1987/88

As usual, our Annual General Meeting takes place in October. Members are reminded that under the terms of the club constitution all nominations for the committee must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting on October 8th. All persons nominated must indicate their willingness to serve on the committee and must be proposed and seconded by club members.

Nominations please to: Ian Kerr, 27 Eddrington Grove, Chapel House, Newcastle NE5 1JG.

THE CHEVIOTS - FIELD TRIP

Thick fog early on Saturday morning greeted the travellers for the Cheviot outing on April 25th, but past Longframlington the fog thinned and lifted to reveal a beautiful spring morning, and we enjoyed cloudless skies and warm sun the rest of the day. First visit was to the Hartburn valley, and a common sandpiper appeared to order at the first stop near Carey Burn bridge. Further on a kestrel and tree pipits were the main attraction, then a soaring buzzard was glimpsed on the high tops. A walk along the valley from Langleeford produced a male crossbill in the top of a conifer, and fine views of parachuting tree pipits and redstarts in the woods. A dipper flew by along the stream, wheatears were everywhere and sparrowhawks soared on the thermals. A low-flying cock merlin was a fine sight.

On to Threestoneburn for lunch on the cottage lawn, surrounded by bird song and moorland, with no one else for miles around. The black grouse in the area unfortunately stayed out of sight, but two adders basking in the sunshine were an interesting diversion.

The Ingram Valley was the next stop, for ring ouzel and anything else about. Siskin, and green and great spotted woodpeckers were found together with nesting goosander, the female sitting tight on it's tree-hole nest, and another adder was enjoying the sun. However despite careful searching of the rocky screes and outcrops in the valley no ring ouzels appeared. So it was back to the Carey Burn in the early evening sun, where ring ouzels were eventually heard but not seen. For a finale there were excellent close views of a pair of dipper, with grey wagtail and whinchat close by.

Not a birding classic, but a superb day out in glorious countryside, and our thanks to Sandy for his organisation and leadership, and use of his lawn!

Keith Brooks



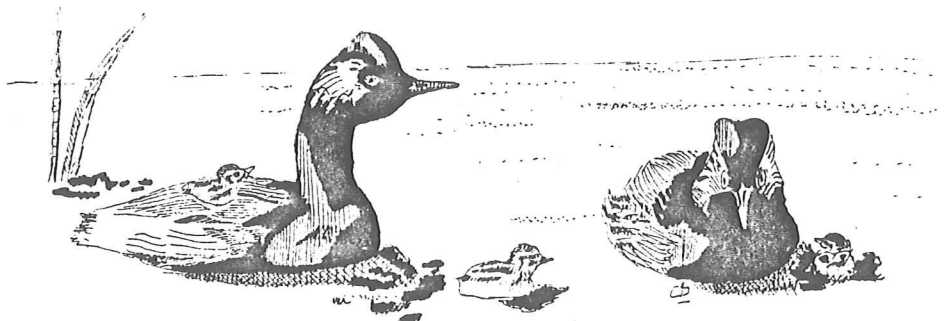
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY JULY 1987

Although temperatures were very close to the long term July average it was a very wet month throughout the North-East, some localities having $1\frac{1}{2}$ times their normal rainfall. Hartburn Grange had it's wettest July since 1961, Newcastle it's wettest since 1968 and at Tynemouth 31mm fell on 10th! Not surprising sunshine totals were a little below normal, most being recorded during the first nine days. Winds were mainly light and often from the northerly sector.

It is nice to see reports of the breeding success of some of our scarcer species including Black-necked Grebes, Wigeon and Common Gulls. Sadly an attempt by a pair of Buzzards failed and a thriving Little Tern colony was virtually wiped out by a rogue dog. Kittiwakes at the North Shields warehouse colony also suffered when a number were shot on their nests.

Sea-watching was productive on several days with steady movements of Manx Shearwaters, the first Sooty Shearwaters from 12th and the first Pomarine Skuas from 19th. The origins of three Ruddy Shelducks at Newton on 14th may well remain a puzzle. A Long-tailed Duck at Hauxley on 5th was a surprising find. Two more Hobbies were noted, one of these well inland.



Black Necked
Grebes
Northumberland July 87

Return wader passage moved up a gear towards the end of the month. Two Little Ringed Plovers were noted and the first Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. There was a distinct influx, particularly on 19th, of Green and Wood Sandpipers, as many as 17 of the latter at the harbour pool on Holy Island. Common Sandpipers too, were well represented at coastal ponds.

Roseate Terns were present in their favoured area at Tynemouth Haven reaching a peak of 12. A Kittiwake was found inland at Hallington on 25th. Never an easy species to see, Nightjars were at two localities. Some summer visitors were moving towards the end of the month with typical records of species such as Sedge and Willow Warblers. Finally the brood of goslings at Arcot Pond have been doing funny things!

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

At Seaton Sluice six flew N. and one S. between 14th-27th. Singles were also at Druridge, Hauxley and Beadnell Bay after 24th.

Great Northern Diver

One flew N. at the Long Nanny on 22nd (AIB/JDS).

Little Grebe

Four broods (eight young) were located at Arcot Pond (LJM), probably three broods at Holy Island lough (AIB), and others at Seaton Burn and Holywell Pond.

Great Crested Grebe

Further broods were reported at Whittle Dene, Derwent Reservoir, and Holywell Pond. The brood at Seaton Burn disappeared during the month and an adult was found dead, possibly killed by another grebe, there on 1st (AJJ). Birds were also noted at Arcot, Cresswell, Druridge Pool, and Hadston Lake. Up to four were in Beadnell Bay during the month (AIB/JDS) and one off Annstead on 26th (MJS).

Black-necked Grebe

A total of 11 pairs hatched 25-26 young at the regular breeding site. The first two broods appeared on 28th June.

Fulmar

Seven chicks were on ledges at Brada Quarry on 27th (BRS).

Sooty Shearwater

The first of the autumn flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 12th where a further 15 N. between 24th-27th (SSWT). Two flew N. at Cresswell on 19th (RD), and Cullercoats and Annstead on 27th (KW/BRS).

Manx Shearwater

A total of 1,137 flew N. and 41 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of 564 N. and 10 S. on 12th/13th (SSWT). 130 flew N. at the Long Nanny in one hour on 9th (JDS/AIB) and 40 per hour at Boulmer on 22nd (IK). Up to 20 were seen at a further seven localities on several dates.

Gannet

Passage and feeding parties were noted on several dates. 1,100 flew S. at Tynemouth on 12th (AH) and between 21st-30th 300-450 per hour N. were noted off Seaton Sluice, Beadnell and Annstead.

Cormorant

123 were at Fenham Flats on 28th (L&KR). Six were at Holywell Pond on 30th (RD).

Grey Heron

Eight at Black Low on 5th (JDL) was the largest gathering. One-six were in another 13 widespread localities.

Mute Swan

Numbers at Berwick Harbour increased to 440 by 27th (JDL). 11 were at Druridge Pool on 6th (MLC).

Grey Lag Goose

An adult escorted five young at Colt Crag on 27th (BNR).

Canada Goose

13 were at Hallington on 16th and 49 at Colt Crag on 27th (BNR). The brood reported at Arcot Pond during May was reduced to three but as their plumage developed it became obvious that two of the goslings were Grey Lags! A case of nest-sharing between the two species? (LJM).

Ruddy Shelduck

Three appeared at Newton Pool on 14th and moved to the Long Nanny in the evening (AW/JDS/AIB). This species has only been recorded in the county twice, in May 1945 and 'sometime prior to 1875'!

Shelduck

About 23 young were at Hadston Lake on 7th (AIB). Another brood of four was noted at Hauxley on 24th (HRS) and the Coquet Estuary brood was further reduced to four by 10th (EMY). 43 flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 18th (SSWT). One was inland at Seaton Burn between 25th-29th (AJJ).

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site a further brood of two was seen on 26th. Two other pairs here failed early in the season. At the second site a total of 12 young (three broods) were fledged.

Gadwall

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (LR) and three at Seaton Burn on 18th (ES/MBS).

Teal

A brood of five was at Seaton Burn on 29th (AJJ) and a total of four broods located at two moorland sites in the S. One-ten were in six coastal localities.

Mallard

Two more broods were at Hallington on 16th and 25th (BNR) and others at the Long Nanny (AIB) and the River Breamish at Brandon (AMB). 157 were at Seaton Burn on 13th (GB) and 300 at Caistron on 26th (MR).

Pintail

One was at Seaton Burn on 1st (GB).

Garganey

One was at Newton Pool on 16th (JDS/AIB).

Shoveler

22 were at Holywell Pond on 23rd (CD/SW) and one-seven at five other waters.

Pochard

23 were at Seaton Burn on 16th (GB) and Holywell Pond on 23rd (SW/CD). Two flew S. off Tynemouth on 17th (AH).

Tufted Duck

Another brood was noted at Arcot Pond (LJM) and others at Seaton Burn, Holywell, Corbridge, Hallington, Colt Crag, and Newton Pool although the last was reduced from nine young to only one. 54 at Whittle Dene on 4th increased to 118 by 25th (JSB).

Scaup

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 8th/13th (AC). The pools at Hauxley, Hadston, Druridge and Cresswell attracted up to three drakes and a duck during the month. Three flew S. at Tynemouth on 25th (AH) and two N. at Seaton Sluice on 29th (MHP).

Eider

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

Long-tailed Duck

A drake was at Hauxley Pool on 5th (MJS).

Common Scoter

A total of 154 flew N. and 40 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Up to 40 were noted at five other coastal points. One was on Druridge Pool on 18th (ADM).

Velvet Scoter

One was off Hadston on 12th (JRT). Five flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th/26th (SSWT).

Goldeneye

Two at Druridge Pool on 4th increased to five by 11th with two still present on 26th (ES et al). Six were at Hadston on 30th (SW). Singles were at Whittle Dene on 4th, Seaton Burn on 26th and Arcot on 29th/30th.

Red-breasted Merganser

33 were at Holy Island on 5th (JDL). A total of 23 flew N. at the Long Nanny between 8th-13th (AIB/JDS). One-five were seen in four other localities.

Goosander

Broods were noted at Hartside (R.Breamish), Hartburn, Prudhoe, Barrasford, Newburn and Hepple. Three flew N. at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) and two were at Warkworth on 23rd (CD/SW).

Sparrowhawk

Four young fledged from the suburban site in Newcastle. At one site in the S. Central study area, larger prey items included a Jackdaw and a Great Spotted Woodpecker (IK/BG).

Buzzard

A pair attempted to breed in the county but failed, probably at the egg stage. Two were circling high over Hexham on 25th (JPB).

Kestrel

One-three were in nine localities.

Hobby

Singles were at Hauxley on 11th (DRS/MBS/ES) and Alwinton on 12th (BG/IK).

Red-legged Partridge

One-two were at Horton and Netherwitton (LJM/RKS).

Coot

Another two broods were at Arcot Pond during the month (LJM). 112 were at Capheaton on 10th (RW) and 190 at Seaton Burn on 31st where the total of young hatched this year reached only 34 (AJJ).

Oystercatcher

A pair bred successfully at Football Hole (AIB/JDS). 82 were at Castron on 26th (MR) and smaller post-breeding flocks were noted in several inland areas. On 22nd 120 were at Longhoughton Steel (PWW/IK) and 100 at Hauxley (HRS).

Little Ringed Plover

Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 26th (AIB/GB) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th (JEF).

Ringed Plover

A disastrous breeding season on the River Coquet where many nests washed out by flooding. Only three juveniles were located by 26th (MR). A second brood hatched at Hauxley by 15th (HRS). 39 were at Berwick Little Beach on 27th (JDL).

Golden Plover

A post-breeding flock of 30 was at Blanchland on 15th (BNR). On the coast 900-1,000 were at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS) and 200-350 at the Long Nanny and Holy Island.

Grey Plover

Ten were at Budle Bay on 29th (JDL).

Lapwing

Larger gatherings included 1,000 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS), 600 at Castron on 18th (MR), 500 at the Coquet Estuary on 28th (EMY) and 120-210 at three other localities.

Knot

Small parties of up to 15 were seen in seven localities during the month.

Sanderling

Small numbers were present at the Long Nanny on 17 days between 3rd-30th (AIB). 46 were at Holy Island on 26th (JDL).

Little Stint

Singles were at the Long Nanny on 23rd (AIB/JDS) and Laverock Hall on 26th/27th (LJM).

Curlew Sandpiper

Singles were at Hauxley and the Long Nanny on 19th with two at the latter locality on 20th (MJS/JDS/AIB). At Cresswell Pond there was one on 26th and two on 29th (ADM/JECM).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 57 flew S. at Tynemouth on 12th/13th (AH). From 15th onwards four-five were noted at St. Mary's Island, Cresswell and the Farne Islands.

Dunlin

Small numbers were in several coastal localities during the month although 50-60 were at Hauxley on 18th (ES/MBS). Inland four were at Arcot on 22nd and singles at Castron and Seaton Burn on 26th/29th.

Ruff

One-four were noted in six coastal localities during the month.

Snipe

18 were at Castron on 18th (MR).

Woodcock

Four were 'roding' at Dipton Wood on 19th (BNR).

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were at Hauxley on 9th (AC). Four were at the Long Nanny on 10th and one on 11th (AIB).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Numbers at Holy Island built up to 600 by the end of the month (JDL/WGJ). One-ten were noted at the Long Nanny on 14 days (JDS/AIB) and one-two at Hauxley and Druridge.

Whimbrel

Birds were noted in a number of coastal localities during the month with the largest groups being 20 at Black Low on 19th/29th (JDL/MSH). 18 S. at Budle Bay on 29th and 13 at Newton Pool on 23rd (SW/CD). Further inland singles were at Hallington on 25th and Castron on 26th (BNR/MR).

Curlew

The largest gatherings were 270 at Black Low on 5th (JDL), 185 at the Long Nanny on 27th (AIB/JDS), 130 at Longhoughton Steel on 22nd (IK) and 90 N. at Annstead on 27th (BRS). Inland 35 were at Hallington on 25th (BNR).

Spotted Redshank

Two were at Black Low on 5th (JDL) and between 11th-22nd one-two were at Holy Island, the Long Nanny, Druridge, Cresswell, and Wallsend Swallow Pond. Inland one was at Caistron on 18th/19th.

Redshank

A third brood was found at Shankhouse on 1st (LJM). Large gatherings along the coast included 300 at Budle Bay on 27th (BRS), 280 at Black Low on 11th (DPa), 200 at the Coquet Estuary between 23rd-28th (SW/EMY) and up to 120 at Hauxley (HRS).

Greenshank

Along the coast from 3rd one-three were noted on several dates in 12 localities although as many as 16 were at Black Low on 19th (JDL). Inland at Caistron there were four on 18th and two on 26th (MR).

Green Sandpiper

Singles were at the Long Nanny and Warkworth Lane on 6th (AIB/MLC) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 17th (AC). On 18th three flew S. at Cullercoats (KW) one S. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and another was at Caistron. Numbers increased from 19th onwards when five were at Hauxley, six at Hadston Lake (HRS/MJS) and one-three at Holy Island, Budle Bay, Hoppen Kiln, Cresswell, Druridge, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Gosforth Park, Backworth and Arcot.

Wood Sandpiper

One was at Hoppen Kiln on 17th (JDS/AIB) and another at Hauxley on 18th (HRS). A conspicuous influx occurred on 19th when as many as 17 were at the harbour pool at Holy Island (JDL) and nine at Backworth (RD et al). Six were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 20th (AC) and one-two were in four other localities up to the end of the month.

Common Sandpiper

One-two lingered in several inland localities during the month. On the coast birds were noted in many localities in groups of one-six but a flock of 20 was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th (AC) and 15 were at Backworth on 19th (ES).

Turnstone

Up to 65 were noted at Berwick Little Beach and Hauxley (JDL/HRS). More unusual was one N. at Arcot on 22nd (AHB).

Pomarine Skua

On 19th five flew S. at Cullercoats (KW) and one N. at Cresswell (RD/ADM). Singles moved N. at Seaton Sluice and Cresswell on 29th (SSWT/KH).

Arctic Skua

A total 58 flew N. and 38 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 38 were recorded at the Long Nanny on 16 dates (AIB/JDS). Ten flew N. at Cresswell in one hour on 19th (RD), 12 were at Holy Island on 26th (JDL) and one-seven noted in nine other coastal localities. One arrived from inland at the Long Nanny on 28th and a party of five flew inland at Newton on 31st.

Great Skua

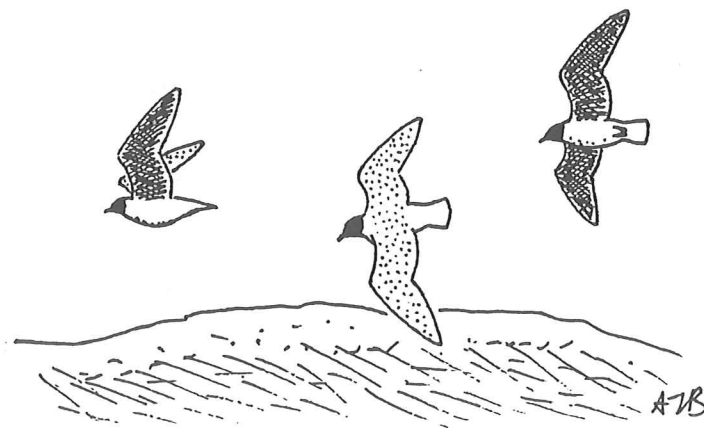
A total of nine flew N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice during the month. One-four were seen in eight other localities between 7th-29th.

Mediterranean Gull

An adult flew S. at the Long Nanny on 11th (per AIB) and a second summer N. at Seaton Sluice on 20th (MHP).

Little Gull

A total of 12 flew S. and two N. at Seaton Sluice between 12th-27th (SSWT) and one-four noted offshore at Tynemouth, St. Mary's Island and Hauxley on several dates. One -four visited the coastal pools at Druridge, Hauxley and Hadston and singles at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Seaton Burn.



Little Gulls · St. Mary's Island · July '87

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts included 440 at Scotswood on 13th, 900 at Hallington on 25th, 650 at Colt Crag on 27th and 2,300 at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (BNR).

Common Gull

Three pairs reared seven young at the regular breeding site. The arrival of passage birds marked by roost counts included 2,450 at Hallington on 16th when over 90% were first summer and 2,600 here on 25th when 75% were adults, 5,000 at Colt Crag on 27th and 6,600 at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (BNR). 1,030 (nearly all adults) arrived from SW at the Long Nanny on 26th (AIB/JDS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Seven pairs hatched young at the regular moorland colony but seven other pairs failed. 143 roosted at Caistron on 18th (MR) and 60 at Colt Crag on 27th. 200 were at E. Allendale on 31st.

Herring Gull

At least three pairs noted with young on roof-tops at Newcastle on 22nd (BNR) and several young on roofs at Berwick on 28th (MSH). 350 were at North Shields on 19th (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

One was at Hauxley on 9th where a first summer present on 25th (AC/HRS). A second summer was at the Long Nanny on 12th and a first summer on 14th (AIB/JDS).

Great Black-backed Gull

A maximum of 212 was at the Long Nanny on 13th (JDS/AIB).

Kittiwake

209 were at North Shields on 18th (DMT). One pair bred successfully at the P.T.A. building at North Shields. More unusual was an adult at Hallington on 25th (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

250 flew S. at Tynemouth on 12th (AH) and 145 N. in five minutes at Holy Island on 26th (JDL).

Roseate Tern

Up to 12 were in the Tyne Estuary during the first two weeks (CB/AH et al). One-three were also noted at St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Hadston, Hauxley, Coquet Estuary and the Long Nanny.

'Commic'Tern

100 were at the Blyth Estuary on 26th (LJM) when one flew over Earsdon (RD). Between 1st-19th up to four 'portlandica' types were noted at Hauxley (HRS).

Common Tern

Two pairs hatched young at Wallsend Swallow Pond. 200 flew N. at Tynemouth on 27th (AH). Birds were noted along the River Tyne on several dates (see note by IHA). One was at Seaton Burn on 1st/16th (GB) and four at Holywell on 30th (RD). Much further inland three at Hallington on 16th eventually flew NW (BNR).

Arctic Tern

At one mainland colony only two young were fledged by 12 pairs. Up to five 'portlandica' types were noted at the Long Nanny.

Little Tern

At one mainland colony 26 clutches or very young broods were taken by a dog during darkness hours and another clutch was lost to a weasel. Only two young fledged at this colony. All birds had departed by 30th. One-three were noted at Seaton Sluice, Blyth, Embleton and Budle Bay.

Guillemot

15 were at Dunstanburgh on 4th (MPF).

Razorbill

5 were at Dunstanburgh on 4th (MPF), 30 off the Long Nanny on 23rd and five at Druridge on 30th (CD/SW).

Puffin

A total of 102 flew N. and 90 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and 152 S. at Tynemouth on 15th (AH). Smaller numbers were noted in several other localities.

Stock Dove

One-three were at the Long Nanny, Longhoughton, Hauxley and near Brandon.

Cuckoo

One was at Hauxley on 1st/3rd (HRS) and a juvenile at the Long Nanny between 19th-25th (AIB/JDS).

Barn Owl

Two were at Druridge on 29th (ADM/JECM).

Little Owl

One-two were noted at Shankhouse (LJM).

Tawny Owl

A juvenile was at Hazelrigg on 29th.

Long-eared Owl

A young bird was calling at Threestoneburn on 25th (BL) and a family party at Colt Crag on 27th (BNR). A road casualty was found at Bradford Kaims (MSH).

Short-eared Owl

Singles were at Hauxley on 17th and Derwent Reservoir on 21st (HRS/RKS).

Nightjar

Singles were noted in two localities in the S. of the county.

Swift

S. movement was reported on several dates including 150-220 at Tynemouth on 15th (AH). On 18th, in foggy conditions at Berwick as many as 6,000 moved S. very low down (JDL).

Kingfisher

One was at Close House on 25th (JSB).

Green Woodpecker

One was at Bolam on 9th (IK).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

A pair fed two juveniles in a garden at Walbottle during the month (L&KR). Successful breeding was also noted at Harbottle (IK/BG).

Sand Martin

30 were at Reaveley Greens all month (AMB).

Swallow

A pair nested under the footbridge of the Long Nanny Burn. 80 at this locality on 11th was the largest gathering (AIB/JDS).

House Martin

There were ten occupied nests at Matfen (RW) and 13 on a farm house at Wandylaw where heavy rain destroyed several during the month (MSH).

Rock Pipit

Pairs were feeding young at Seaton Sluice and Annstead (MSH).

Yellow Wagtail

12 were at Casitron on 19th (MR). Smaller numbers were in several coastal areas during the month.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding was confirmed at Kirkley Hall and the River Breamish (IK/AMB). One flew W. at Prior's Park on 13th (AH).

Pied Wagtail

A brood was reared on the roof of St.Nicholas's Cathedral, Newcastle (IK) and another from a nest in a flowerbed inside the British Gas building at Killingworth (LJM). 30 were at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL).

Dipper

About ten juveniles were noted along the R.Breamish between Alnham Moor-Ingram (AMB).

Redstart

Details of the Nunykirk nest-boxes were three pairs laying 18 eggs and fledging 18 young. The last brood fledged on 16th (RW). Two were at Seaton Burn on 25th (AIB).

Whinchat

Family groups and juveniles were noted in several localities.

Wheatear

They were still widespread in inland localities during the month and small numbers were also noted in several coastal areas.

Ring Ousel

Pairs in regular breeding areas at Coquetdale had second broods by 5th (IK/BG) and juveniles were noted at Muggleswick Common (JSB).

Grasshopper Warbler

Breeding was confirmed at Seaton Burn (AJJ). Birds were seen or heard 'reeling' here and at Weetslade, Low Prudhoe and Hadston up to 28th.

Sedge Warbler

Passage was noted during the month. At Seaton Burn a total of 71 was trapped including 45 in just three hours on 28th (AJJ). Only two were adult birds. 18 were at Bambrugh on 27th and smaller numbers moved through daily up to 31st (BRS).

Reed Warbler

Four were at Gosforth Park on 2nd (ES) and another singing at Warkworth Lane Pond on 19th (MJS).

Lesser Whitethroat

Breeding was confirmed at Corbridge. Singles were at Milbourne on 6th and Castron on 19th (MR/WGJ).

Whitethroat

Numbers appear to have been higher in the Corbridge area this year (MR). Two family parties were near Brandon on 25th (AMB) and one-four noted in seven other areas.

Garden Warbler

Noted as very common in the Corbridge area this year (MR). Singles were also at Harwood and Allenbanks.

Blackcap

One-two were at Lilburn Burn, Seaton Burn, Heddon, Scots Gap and on the coast at Hauxley.

Chiffchaff

Singles were noted in four localities.

Willow Warbler

Birds were moving through several areas after 15th.

Goldcrest

A family party was at Blanchland on 14th (RKS).

Spotted Flycatcher

Three pairs hatched second broods at Matfen (RW). Four family parties were at Harthope Valley on 19th (RKS). About ten were at Linnels on 1st (KIB).

Pied Flycatcher

One was at Castron on 4th (MR). Detailed results from Nunnykirk were 23 pairs laying 156 eggs, hatching 122 young and fledging 118 (RW). Some broods did not fledge until this month.

Long-tailed Tit

A family party was at Arcot Lane on 16th (LJM).

Blue Tit

Four pairs laid 34 eggs at Nunnykirk, hatched 31 young and fledged 22 (RW).

Great Tit

Eight pairs laid 60 eggs at Nunnykirk, hatched 49 young and fledged 49 (RW).

Nuthatch

A pair fledged at least two young at Langley (SJH), a new breeding area. A juvenile was in a garden at Walbottle on 31st (L&KR). One-two were at Close House, Matfen, Capheaton and Heddon.

Treecreeper

Family parties were at Lilburn Burn, Scots Gap, Blanchland and the Harthope Valley. On the coast singles were at Hauxley on 12th and Prior's Park on 16th (HRS/AH).

Starling

About 5,000 were at Tughall on 6th (AIB).

Tree Sparrow

Family parties were at Warkworth Lane and Backworth (MLC/MPF).

Greenfinch

140 were on Holy Island on 26th (JDL).

Goldfinch

Noted only at Newcastle and Bamburgh.

Siskin

Six-seven were at Langley on 20th (SJH) and five at Hartside on 25th (AMB).

Linnet

70 were at the Long Nanny on 28th (JDS).

Crossbill

Two were at Threestoneburn on 4th (AMB).

Bullfinch

Family parties were at Seaton Burn and Arcot (AJJ/ES). Two visited a bird-table at Lesbury on 7th (JMA).

Hawfinch

A flock of about 14 at Langley on 20th included about seven juveniles indicating successful breeding (SJH).

Yellowhammer

Very common, including family parties, in the upper reaches of the River Breamish (AMB).

Corn Bunting

One-three were at Holy Island, Football Hole, Warkworth Lane, Ellington and Horton.

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

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INDOOR MEETING - 10th SEPTEMBER

Please remember that Indoor Meetings will be held in the new venue at Lecture Theatre 120, First Floor, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University (opposite side of Claremont Road to the Hancock Museum).

Our guest speaker for this first meeting is Geoff Horne who will talk on 'Upland birds in Lakeland'. We hope to see you all there.

WINTERING MERLINS SURVEY

Last winter the club made a special appeal for details of all sightings of Merlins as part of a study into the wintering habits of the species.

This resulted in well over 100 records being provided, most from coastal localities but also some very interesting observations of individuals wintering inland.

To provide a more accurate picture it has now been decided to continue this survey during the coming autumn and winter (i.e. September-March) to give a more comprehensive picture of the situation.

I would like to express the club's thanks to everyone who provided records and to appeal for their continued support for 1987-88. All records of birds seen in or near potential breeding areas will, of course, be regarded as strictly confidential.

It is hoped to publish the results of the survey in a future Birds of Northumbria, adding to the knowledge of the species for which our county is of prime importance. Please submit all sightings in the usual way on club record cards to the county recorder who will pass them on to me.

IAN KERR

WADER COUNTERS WANTED

I still have several stretches of coastline without a wader counter for this season's work. If any member is interested in covering one of the following areas please contact me as soon as possible.

Budle Point	-	Seahouses
Chevington Burn	-	Cresswell Village
Cresswell Village	-	Newbiggin
Blyth S. Beach	-	Hartley Point
Tyne Estuary		

The dates for the counts are as follows:

<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
13th September	17th January
25th October	21st February
22nd November	20th March
20th December	17th April

MIKE HODGSON

COMMON TERNS ON THE RIVER TYNE, JULY 1987

An oiling incident occurred on the River Tyne, close to the Swing Bridge, when oil escaped from the British Rail Engine Repair Workshops during the early hours of Monday, 20th July, 1987.

During checking to see if any oiled birds were present during the following days, Common Terns were noticed to be feeding in the area of the bridges.

On Tuesday, 28th July, I counted c. 100 fishing between the Swing Bridge and an area just to the west of the Redheugh Bridge. They were catching small fish in two main areas, one between the Swing Bridge and the King George V, and the other just west of the Redheugh.

The main feeding activity occurred either side of low water (a common sandpiper was on the mud below High Level Bridge) and the birds dispersed on the higher tide, where to is not known.

A search on the evening of 29th July, at high tide, found no birds at the main sites, but 10 (7.45p.m.) were fishing app. 400 metres to the west of the Redheugh Bridge and many have been roosting on an old jetty in the area. Further up river, opposite the old coal staithes, and on the old Vickers site, now being converted to a shopping centre, at least 20 more were roosting with Black-headed, Herring and Lesser-Black-backed gulls (8.30 p.m.).

At least 5 were seen fishing at Stella Power Station (9.00p.m.), and flying as far up river as Newburn Bridge.

Only 5 or so birds remained fishing at the bridges on 30th July, the site being checked at mid-tide and low water.

No birds were at the bridges on 31st July but in the evening 5 were at the old Vickers site, and further up river c. 35 were fishing on the bend of the river at Stella at 9.00 p.m. At about 9.15p.m., 15 left the main group and climbing high in the sky, headed off north until out of sight.

IAN.H.ARMSTRONG

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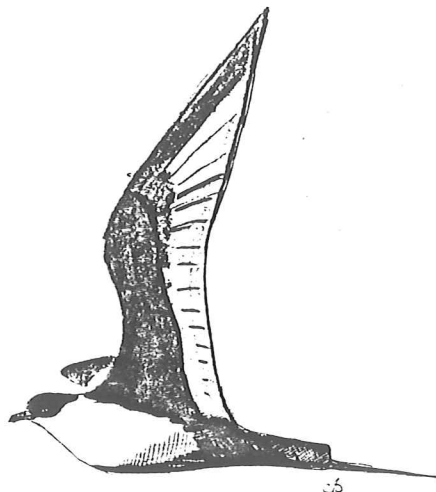
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - AUGUST 1987

August was a cool and damp month throughout the area. Rainfall totals were generally 10-15% above average and, away from the coast, there was little sunshine. Winds were from west to north during the early part of the period and the last ten days saw predominantly northerlies. Newcastle Weather Centre commented that if you define 'summer' as being June, July and August and consider the mean temperature, rainfall and sunshine then this month helped to make summer '87 the second coldest, second wettest and by far the dullest since records began at the centre in 1968.

Leaving the weather aside, it was an exciting month for birds. Sea-watching was very good with many Fulmars, Gannets, Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, and Arctic and Great Skuas. Pomarine Skuas made a good showing on several days, many of these being pale-phase adults. Four Long-tailed Skuas were identified including one adult seen at three locations, on 9th, as it steadily moved N. The two reports of Sabine's Gull may well refer to one individual. Tape luring after dark has again proved the presence of Storm Petrels off our coast and some lucky observers had day-time sightings. About 15 Black Terns were noted.

Strong wader passage was a feature of the month including many Greenshanks and Spotted Redshanks. There was a distinct influx of Ruffs during the last ten days.



Long-tailed Skua
Tyneside

There were a number of rarities reported starting with a male Trumpeter Finch on Holy Island on 1st. This locality also produced a Lesser Crested Tern flying N. on 16th, probably the Farne Islands bird, but no consolation to the sea-watchers who have scanned in vain for it during the last few years. A Marsh Harrier visited the lough area on 30th.

A small influx of night migrants from 22nd included two Wrynecks and single Barred and Icterine Warblers. Pride of place at this time, however, went to a Bonelli's Warbler at Howick on 24th, the first occurrence for 20 years.

Other interesting records included confirmation of Little Ringed Plovers breeding, two rather early (or escaped?) Bramblings, and sighting of Garganey, Ruddy Duck, Blue-headed Wagtail and several Reed 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/Diver (Sp)

A total of 18 flew N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). One-three were noted in six other localities.

Great Northern Diver

One flew N. at Cullercoats on 22nd (KW).

Little Grebe

At least four broods were at Holywell Pond (TRC/ISD), two broods at Holy Island lough and Gosfroth Park (JDL/ES) and single broods at Newton Pool and another at Seaton Burn (RKS/AJJ). Eight at Bothal on 21st included some juveniles (ETN).

Great Crested Grebe

Family parties were still at several waters during the month. Six were offshore at Hadston on 4th (IF) and singles flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th and 11th.

Black-necked Grebe

Singles were at Holywell Pond on 15th/28th and Druridge Pool between 23rd-31st (TRC/JRT et al).

Fulmar

15 young were reared from 32 eggs laid at Coquet Island. On 23rd there were 13-14 young visible at Tynemouth Cliffs (DMT) and several at Cullernose (BG). N. passage was noted on several dates with a maximum of 1,000-1,200 per hour at Tynemouth and Cresswell on 27th (CB/IK)). Five 'blue' phase birds were 10-12 miles off Tynemouth on 8th (TRC).

Sooty Shearwater

A total of 129 flew N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with the largest counts of 33 on 23rd and 27 on 24th (SSWT). 26 flew N. at Tynemouth on 26th (AH) and 31 N. at Cullercoats on 27th (KW). Smaller numbers were noted in seven other localities including nine well offshore (10-12 miles) off Tynemouth on 8th.

Manx Shearwater

A total of 653 flew N. and three S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of 162 on 5th (SSWT). Passage was noted on many dates in other localities including 26-33 moving N. at Tynemouth on 6th, 26th and 27th (AH/AJB).

Storm Petrel

A total of 26 was trapped at Hauxley (lured to a tape recording after dark) between 2nd-29th. Four of these were already ringed and had been marked at Yell, Shetland in 1981, Noss, Shetland (two birds) in 1984 and 1986 and another locality in Scotland in 1987 (HRS). One was trapped at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS). Sight record involved one on the pelagic club trip and two at St. Mary's Island on 8th (TRC/LH/MPC).

Gannet

Heavy N. passage was noted of several dates with up to 1,000 per hour at Seaton Sluice on 4th and Cresswell on 27th (SSWT/IK). Up to 750 per hour were seen at several other coastal localities. Large gatherings of birds fishing included 1,000 at Holy Island on 1st and off Budle on 2nd (WGT/WG).

Cormorant

56 flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). 31 were at Budle Point on 30th (BRS) and 20 at North Shields on 31st (DMT).

Grey Heron

Seven roosted at Howick on 16th (RKS) and six were at Newton Pool on 10th (JDL). One-four were in a further 16 coastal and three inland localities.

Mute Swan

393 were at Berwick Harbour on 14th (JDL). The brood of five cygnets at Holywell Pond have all been killed by lurchers put into the reserve during late July/early August. (ISD).

Grey Lag Goose

Up to 12 were in the Holywell/Wallsend Swallow Pond area.

Canada Goose

62 roosted at Colt Crag on 27th (BNR).

Shelduck

A brood of seven was at Cresswell on 15th (TRC). 18 were at Hauxley on 6th and 13 in Budle Bay on 31st (HRS/BRS). 11 flew S. at Coquet Island on 14th (TAC). One was at Backworth on 1st (JRT) and two at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (MPF).

Wigeon

A total of 60 flew N. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 38 were at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (BNR), 30 at Cresswell on 29th (ES) and two-twelve at five other localities.

Gadwall

One was at Seaton Burn between 17th-30th and two on 31st (GB/AJJ). More unusual was five N. at Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSWT).

Teal

Light coastal passage was noted on several days with a total of 132 N. and two S. at Seaton Sluice during the month. The largest gatherings were 150 at Caistrion on 30th (MR) and 60 at Hoppen Kiln on 29th (BRS). A further brood of four was found at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (BNR).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 600 at Caistrion on 22nd/30th (MR), 252 at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ) and 131 at Newton Pool on 22nd (JDS). Further broods were found at Holywell Pond, Seaton Burn and Anick Pond.

Pintail

Two were at Cresswell Pond between 15th-20th (TRG) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (JRT).

Garganey

One was at Seaton Burn on 10th (AJJ/LR).

Shoveler

34 were at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ), 23 at Newton Pool on 10th (JDL) and 11 at Caistrion on 30th (MR). Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd and one on 25th (SSWT).

Pochard

Three broods (nine young) were hatched at Holywell Pond (TRC). 55 were at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ).

Tufted Duck

Three broods (13 young) were seen at Holywell Pond on 4th (TRC). Single broods were also noted at Killingworth Lake (eight young), Tynemouth Boating Lake (seven young) and at Corbridge (one young) (LJM/KW/MR). The largest gatherings were 61 at Holywell on 15th and 80 at Caistrion on 22nd.

Scaup

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 4th.

Common Scoter

A total of 343 flew N. and 12 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month. 135 flew N. at Cullercoats on 22nd (KW) and 26 N. at Howick on 23rd (IK). 105 were off Hadston on 4th (IF).

Velvet Scoter

Five flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT) and one-two N. here and at at three other localities on another six dates.

Goldeneye

At Seaton Sluice three flew N. on 5th and two on 20th. One was at Druridge Pool on 30th/31st (TRC).

Red-breasted Merganser

16 were off Stag Rocks on 9th (GB) and seven at Holy Island on 29th (WTL).

Goosander

18 were at Caistron on 22nd (MR) and seven at W. Woodburn on 31st (GB). Six were at Foxton on 31st (AJ) and four at Seaton Burn on 29th (AJJ).

Ruddy Duck

One was at Druridge Pool between 16th-20th (MJS/MGA).

Marsh Harrier

A female was at Holy Island lough on 30th (JCD).

Sparrowhawk

One-three were noted in 17 widespread, mainly coastal, localities. A male at Seaton Burn caught a Lapwing and took ten minutes to kill it and another 45 minutes to pluck it before flying off with it's catch! (AJJ).

Kestrel

One-four were in eight localities.

Merlin

Singles were reported in nine coastal areas from 8th.

Peregrine

Singles were at Druridge on 2nd (MJS), Hauxley on 16th (JRS) and Holy Island on 15th/30th (DPa/JDL).

Red Grouse

Numbers were up on the last two years in the S.W. where some records have been broken during shoots (CJ).

Black Grouse

A covey of 11 was at the East Allen on 31st (BNR).

Red-legged Partridge

Two were at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Water Rail

One was near Longhorsley on 15th (RKS).

Moorhen

Second or replacement broods were noted at Seaton Burn, Anick Pond and Caistron.

Coot

278 were at Seaton Burn on 30th (GB) and 41 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th.

Oystercatcher

150 were at Cresswell on 8th (DRS), 120 on Coquet Island on 14th (TAC) and 95 at St. Mary's Island on 9th (IDM). Inland 21 were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (BNR) and 27 at Castron on 2nd declining to five by 30th (MR).

Little Ringed Plover

Breeding was confirmed in one locality where two young reared. One was at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Ringed Plover

143 at the Long Nanny on 9th and 272 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL) were the largest gatherings. 20-34 were at St. Mary's Island and the Coquet Estuary. 11 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd (JRT) and singles were further inland at Ladycross on 17th and Castron on 30th. A recently hatched brood was at the Long Nanny on 2nd (RKS).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 900 at Hauxley (HRS), 800 at Boulmer-Longhoughton, 490 at Holy Island, 450 at St. Mary's Island and 160-380 at three other localities. Inland 47 were at Castron on 16th and 67 at Hallington on 29th (MR/BNR).

Grey Plover

65 were at Holy Island on 23rd (JDL). A total of 18 flew N. at Seaton Sluice during the month. Singles were also at Cullercoats, Cresswell and Hauxley.

Lapwing

Numbers at Castron peaked at 1,800 on 8th (MR). Other large gatherings were 700 at Colt Crag on 27th, 565 at Prestwick Carr on 28th and 550 at Hallington on 29th (BNR/GB).

Knot

100 were at Budle Bay on 31st (ADM), 60 at Cresswell on 26th (BG), and Fenham-le-Moor on 30th (MSH) and 18-27 at three other localities.

Sanderling

89 were at Holy Island on 2nd (JDL). 2-22 were at Berwick, Football Hole, Hauxley, Druridge and St. Mary's Island.

Little Stint

Singles were at Cresswell on 7th/8th and Hauxley between 8th/15th (MW/HRS). Between 24th-30th two-four were at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Cresswell. Another was well inland at Castron on 30th (MR).

Curlew Sandpiper

Up to seven were at Cresswell Pond and five at Hauxley between 1st-23rd (AJ/HRS et al). Five were at Berwick Little Beach on 7th and two on 15th/17th (JDL), one at North Shields Fish Quay on 27th (AH) and four at Budle Bay on 30th (BRS).

Purple Sandpiper

35 were at St. Mary's Island on 9th (IDM) and 120 on Coquet Island on 14th (HRS).

Dunlin

The largest gatherings on the coast were 490 at Holy Island on 2nd (JDL), 205 at Berwick Little Beach on 15th (DPa) and 200 at Budle Bay from 22nd (BRS). Inland one-three were at Holywell, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Castron.

Ruff

Small numbers were noted in several coastal areas throughout the month but an increase was apparent from 21st onwards. The largest gatherings involved up to 67 at Hoppen Kiln Pool by 31st (BRS/AIB), 33 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd (AJB), 19 at Prestwick Carr on 28th (GB) and up to 12 at Cresswell. One-two were also as far inland as Castron.

Snipe

15 were at Hoppen Kiln on 9th (GB), 46 at Caistron on 22nd (MR) when 20 were at Hauxley (HRS).

Black-tailed Godwit

One-two were seen at Holywell, Cresswell, Hadston, Hauxley, Hoppen Kiln, Budle Bay and Holy Island during the month although seven were at Hauxley on 29th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Light coastal passage involved a total of 21 N. at Seaton Sluice during the month and 13 N. at Howick on 23rd (SSWT/BG). 500 were at Holy Island on 29th (ES/DRS). More unusual were two at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th (L&KR).

Whimbrel

Passage was noted on many dates at Hauxley with the highest counts being 30 S. on 8th and 50 S. on 9th (HRS). 14 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th. One-six were seen in a further ten coastal localities.

Curlew

74 were at the Long Nanny on 2nd (RKS), and 30 at Hauxley on 30th. Inland 40 were at Caistron on 30th (MR) and 2-18 noted at four other localities.

Spotted Redshank

One-four were in 14 coastal localities particularly after mid-month. As many as seven were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th (LR) and eight at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 30th (AIB/JDS).

Redshank

The largest gatherings were 450 at Black Low on 8th and Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL), 280 at Hauxley on 11th (HRS), 250 at Coquet Island on 14th (TAC), 200 at Budle Bay on 29th (BRS) and 100-120 at Cresswell and the Coquet Estuary.

Greenshank

They were conspicuous throughout the month with one-six in about 23 widespread localities although larger gatherings involved 16 at Hadston Lake on 23rd (JRT), 12 at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 13th (AW), 11 at Black Low on 30th (JDL) and eight at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 17th (AJB). Inland a maximum of six was at Caistron on 12th (MR) and one-two at Whittle Dene, Colt Crag and Hallington between 27th-29th (RMH/BNR).

Green Sandpiper

One-three were noted in nine coastal localities during the month. Inland up to three were at Caistron (MR) and singles at Monkridge on 1st (TAC) and Laydcross on 21st (CJ).

Wood Sandpiper

One-two were at six coastal pools during the month.

Common Sandpiper

They were still conspicuous in coastal areas during the month with one-six in 12 localities. As many as 17 were at Seaton Burn on 24th (per AJJ). Inland three were at Whittle Dene on 28th (RMH).

Turnstone

The largest gatherings were 274 at St. Mary's Island on 9th (IDM), 200 on Coquet Island on 14th (TAC), 140 between Boulmer-Alnmouth on 8th (ES) and Craster-Newton on 22nd (RKS).

Pomarine Skua

At Seaton Sluice a total of 29 flew N. and three S. during the month, most of these being pale phase adults (SSWT). At Tynemouth a total of 15 flew N. and four S. on nine dates up to 24th (AH/AJB/CB). One-five were also seen from seven other coastal points during the month.

Arctic Skua

Noted offshore throughout the month. At Seaton Sluice a total of 148 flew N. and 454 S. during the month with a maximum of 107 S on 23rd (SSWT) when 70 S. noted at St. Mary's Island in 35 minutes (AJ) and 53 S. at Tynemouth (CB). Other strong movements involved 216 S. at Cullercoats on 22nd (KW). 62 S. at Tynemouth on 15th and 80 S. there on 17th (AJB/AH). Smaller numbers were seen in many other coastal localities. One off Cresswell on 3rd attacked a Canada Goose flying N. (AJ).

Long-tailed Skua

At Seaton Sluice a sub-adult flew N. on 4th, an adult N. on 6th and an immature S. on 9th (MHp,RJ/TRC et al). On the last date an adult also flew N. having previously been noted at Tynemouth (CB) and St. Mary's Island (AH/MPC/LH).

Great Skua

A total 111 flew N. and 25 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of 35 N. and three S. on 23rd (SSWT). At Tynemouth large counts involved 43 N. on 6th and 20 N. on 26th (AH) and at Cullercoats 21 N. and seven S. on 22nd (KW). Smaller numbers were noted here and at nine other coastal localities on several dates, 25 were seen on the pelagic trip out of Tynemouth on 8th (TRC).

Little Gull

A total of 14 flew N. and 35 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and up to six were also noted offshore at five other localities. Birds were present at Hadston Lake on several dates with a peak of 20-25 on the evening of 27th (MJS et al). One-two were noted other coastal ponds.

Sabine's Gull

An adult in summer plumage was at Seaton Sluice on 18th (AH/MHp et al). It, or another, was seven-eight miles off Tynemouth on 22nd (GPB/AJ/MW et al).

Black-headed Gull

Roost numbers inland built up during the month with 2,200 at Scotswood on 25th, 3,100 at Colt Crag on 27th, 1,200 at Hallington on 28th and 1,900 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (BNR).

Common Gull

Roost counts included 1,200 at Hallington on 5th increasing to 4,400 by 28th, 17,000 at Colt Crag on 8th where 15,000 still present on 27th, 6,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th increasing to 11,000 by 30th and 1,100 at Sweethope on 26th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

155 roosted at Casitron on 8th and 216 on 22nd (MR).

Herring Gull

450 were at the Tyne Estuary on 6th (DMT) 200 roosted at Scotswood on 4th (BNR).

Great Black-backed Gull

60 roosted at Scotswood on 25th (BNR). 146 were at the Tyne Estuary on 25th (BNR).

Kittiwake

850 per hour moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th and 1,000 were offshore here on 18th (SSWT). Two adults were at Hallington Reservoir on 28th (BNR).

Lesser Crested Tern

A bird flying N. at Holy Island on 16th (DPa/JJ) was almost certainly the one that has again frequented the Farne Islands this summer.

Sandwich Tern

370 per hour moved S. at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT). 85 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th (TRG).

Roseate Tern

Birds were again present at the Tyne Estuary on several dates with a peak of ten on 17th (AH et al). One-three were also noted at Hauxley, Druridge, Seaton Sluice and St. Mary's Island during the month.

'Commic' Tern

Three were at Killingworth Lake on 6th (TAC).

Common Tern

The largest gatherings were 50 at Tynemouth on 23rd (CB) and 40 at Hadston Lake on 8th (JRT). 22 were at the Long Nanny on 2nd (RKS) and one-eight were at Seaton Burn, Holywell, Killingworth and along the R. Tyne to Close House. Further inland four were flying W. at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (BNR).

Artic Tern

Six were at Killingworth Lake on 5th (L&KR).

Little Tern

One-three were at Howick, Amble and Tynemouth between 1st-21st.

Black Tern

Three flew N. at Cullercoats on 10th (KW) and seven were off Seaton Sluice on 18th (ES/MBS). Between 22nd-31st singles were at Hadston, Cresswell, Holywell, St. Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

Auk (Sp)

A maximum of 200 gathered off Seaton Sluice on 18th (SSWT).

Guillemot

Eight were at Newton Point on 8th (RKS) and 12 off Hauxley on 22nd (HRS). One was on Hauxley Pool on 9th/10th.

Razorbill

Two-three were off Hauxley between 2nd-12th.

Cuckoo

Singles were noted at Howick Haven, Holy Island, the Long Nanny, Craster, Seaton Sluice, Tynemouth and inland at Slaggyford up to 27th.

Barn Owl

Three breeding sites in the Wansbeck Valley were not occupied this summer (SEB). The pair at Druridge lost their first clutch, almost certainly due to human disturbance, but fledged at least two young from a second attempt. Four young were on the wing near Craster by 29th (JDS). Singles were noted at Prestwick Carr and Wideopen.

Little Owl

One-two were noted in the Earsdon area.

Tawny Owl

One-two were noted in six localities. A road casualty was found dead at Wallsend on 22nd (FC).

Short-eared Owl

One was at East Allen on 31st (BNR) and other singles near the coast at Seaton Burn, Horton and Chevington.

Swift

Up to 100 were at Seaton Burn to 9th. Numbers declined generally from mid-month in many areas.

Kingfisher

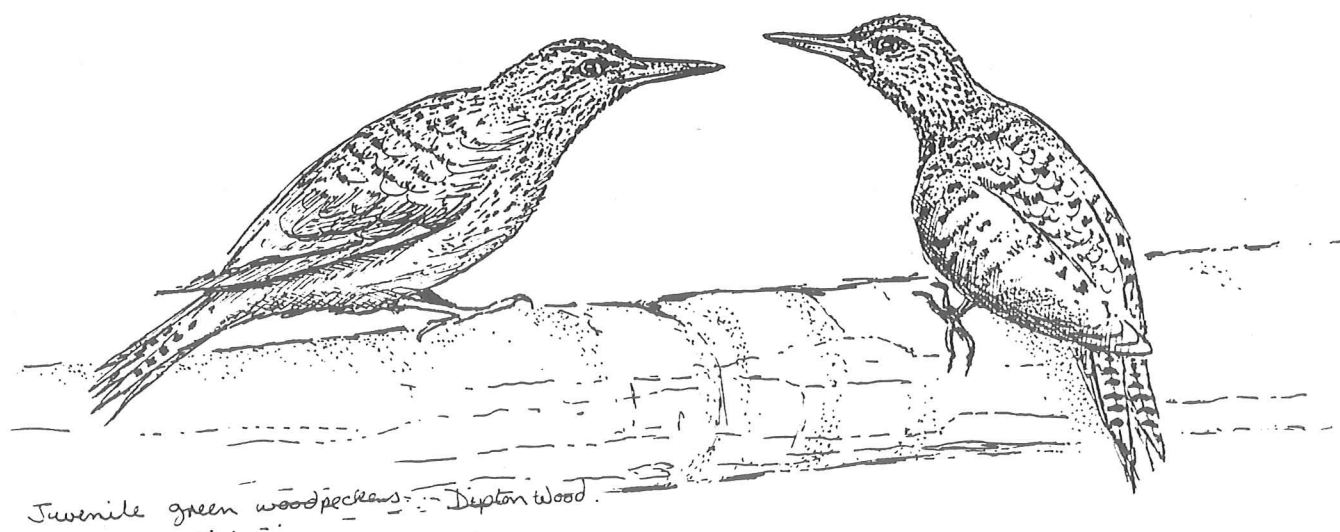
Probably three birds were on the R.Front between Mitford-Netherwitton on 1st (WTL/ES). Another was at Wylam on 10th (L&KR).

Wryneck

Two were at Prior's Park on 26th and one on 27th (PPRS).

Green Woodpecker

Four were at the Harthope Valley on 9th (RKS). One-two were at Dipton, Ryton, Netherwitton, Dalton and Gosforth Park.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

The family party (now three juveniles) in the garden at Walbottle were noted on several dates (L&KR). Singles were at Dipton, W.Thirston and Mitford.

Sand Martin

About 100 were in the Foxton-Boulmer area on 8th where 20 occupied holes were noted (ES/DRS). 40 were at Reaveley Greens on 9th (AMB) and three-six in four other localities.

Swallow

S. passage and groups of up to 80 noted in many areas during the month. 200 at Chevington Burn on 22nd was the largest gathering reported.

House Martin

There were 43 nests at Cullernose (64 in 1986) (AW). The largest gathering were 100-150 at Matfen on 28th (RW), 120 at Ladycross on 30th (CJ) when 60 at Bamburgh.

Tree Pipit

A juvenile was at Ordley on 6th (BNR). One flew S. at Westerhope on 21st (BG).

Yellow Wagtail

15 were at Caistron on 2nd declining to one by 22nd (MR). 12 at Hartley on 28th was the largest count on the coast (WAK).

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male was at Cresswell beach on 2nd (MW).

Grey Wagtail

A family party was at the Harthope Valley on 9th (RKS) and singles at Threestoneburn and Wylam. On the coast two were at North Shields on 27th (ADM).

Pied Wagtail

39 were at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL). A nest with three young was found in the engine of an old truck at Castron on 16th (MR).

Redstart

Family parties were noted in several inland areas early in the month. One-three moved through Seaton Burn between 4th-10th (GB) and between 17th-30th one-three were in four coastal areas.

Whinchat

Small numbers were still in some inland localities during the month. Light coastal passage was noted after 23rd although 30 were at Druridge Pool on 29th (ES/DRS) and 15 at Chevington on 30th (IF).

Wheatear

Still small numbers inland during the month. Light coastal passage was also noticed with a maximum of 13 at Tynemouth on 25th (MPC).

Song Thrush

Three arrived from the E. at Hauxley on 16th (HRS).

Mistle Thrush

25 were at Hexhamshire on 30th (BNR) and 10-12 at Newburn and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Grasshopper Warbler

One-two were 'reeling' at Seaton Burn up to 9th (GB/AJJ) and another at Castron on 30th (MR). A recently fledged juvenile was trapped at Bamburgh on 29th (BRS).

Sedge Warbler

Broods were still being fed at Seaton Burn between 13th-22nd and at Bambrugh to 31st (AJJ/BRS). Small numbers were noted in several coastal localities.

Reed Warbler

Two juveniles were trapped at Gosforth Park on 4th and one at Seaton Burn on 31st (ES/AJJ). Singles were at Hauxley on 13th (HRS) and Prior's Park on 23rd (CB).

Icterine Warbler

One was trapped at Prior's Park on 23rd (PPRS)

Barred Warbler

One was trapped at Hauxley on 27th/28th but was later taken by a Sparrowhawk (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

One was at Seaton Burn on 12th (AJJ) and two at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (MPF).

Whitethroat

One-three were in nine widespread localities.

Garden Warbler

Singles were at Prior's Park on 2nd and Hauxley on 15th. Between 22nd-31st one-three were at these localities and Holy Island, Bamburgh and Seaton Delaval.

Blackcap

A juvenile was still being fed at Craster on 16th (RKS). One-five were in several other coastal localities during the month.

Bonelli's Warbler

One was watched closely at Howick on 24th (BG/IK). This will be only the second county record, the first being at Hauxley on 4th November, 1967.

Wood Warbler

One was at Prior's Park between 3rd-5th, two on 9th and one on 11th (PPRS). One was in nearby Northumberland Park on 24th (AJB/IF).

Chiffchaff

Singles at Hauxley on 22nd and Threestoneburn on 30th (HRS/AMB) were the only records.

Willow Warbler

Passage was noted in both inland and coastal areas during the month. 25 were trapped at Threestoneburn on 8th/9th (AMB) and 20 were at Prior's Park on 25th (PPRS).

Goldcrest

They were noted as common all month at Threestoneburn (AMB). One-four were in six coastal localities after 22nd.

Spotted Flycatcher

Small numbers were reported in several coastal localities late in the month although as many as 12 were at Marden Quarry on 19th (AH).

Pied Flycatcher

One-five were in six coastal localities between 22nd-30th. One was still inland at W. Woodburn on 31st (GB).

Willow Tit

A fledged brood was noted at the R. Front on 1st (ES/WTL). Four were trapped at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ). One was at Hallington on 29th (BNR).

Nuthatch

At least two were at Chillingham Castle on 30th, another new locality (MSH). One-two were also at Matfen and Heddon Haugh.

Treecreeper

One was at Craster on 22nd (RKS).

House Sparrow

250 were at Seaton Deleval during the month (MLC).

Brambling

A moulting male was at Blackhall Mill on 9th (APM) and another male was reported on Holy Island on 23rd (JDL).

Goldfinch

20 were at Newburn on 29th (JSB).

Siskin

Ten were at Caistron on 8th (MR) and one at Threestoneburn on 9th (AMB).

Redpoll

20 were at Wideopen on 21st (AIB).

Trumpeter Finch

A male was found at the Castle Point, Holy Island on 1st (RKS), but not seen subsequently. This will be the first record for the county of this extremely rare, erratic vagrant.

Bullfinch

Two pairs were at Netherwiton on 1st (ES) and four at Stocksfield on 4th (DP). More unusual was one at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Yellowhammer

40 were at Matfen on 22nd (RW).

Corn Bunting

Breeding was confirmed at High Hauxley (HRS). One-three were at Holy Island and Football Hole.

Please send all September records, in Voous order, to Mike.S.Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX by 8th October.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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N.Foggo	E.T.&J.R.Norris	Bamburgh Ringing Station
M.P.Frankis	D.Patterson (DPa)	Hauxley Ringing Station
B.Galloway	D.Pickard	Prior's Park Ringing Station
		Seaton Sluice Watchtower

INDOOR MEETING - 8th OCTOBER 1987

The next meeting will be the club's A.G.M.. After the formal business Lyndsay McDougall will give an illustrated talk about his experiences in Kenya. Please remember that our new venue is Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University and the meeting starts at 7.00 p.m.

IMPORTANT - SUBSCRIPTIONS 1987/88

Please note that subscriptions for 1987/88 are due on 1st October 1987. A renewal form is enclosed in this bulletin and should be used by all members. Remember you can still covenant your subscription if you do not already do so. Please pay your subscription promptly.

THE ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Many club members will already be aware that the B.T.O. are undertaking a new survey of breeding birds in Britain during the 1988-1990 seasons. The club has decided to take the opportunity to carry out a full breeding survey in Northumberland during those years and will work in tandem with the B.T.O. The ultimate aim for the club is to publish a definitive breeding atlas for the county. This is, of course, a massive undertaking and will require many fieldworkers. We will be contacting those on the recently compiled register of survey workers but if you are not on that register you can still help. With almost 60 ten km squares to cover in the county, Nick Rossiter, our co-ordinator, is hoping to be swamped with offers of help. Please contact him now if you wish to take part.

Watch this space for more news!

LAPWING, GOOSANDER AND EUROPEAN ATLAS SURVEYS

The recording cards for these surveys are now overdue. If you have any outstanding cards please return them (completed) to the appropriate survey organiser (see previous bulletins for details).

FIELD OUTINGS 1987/88

The following field trips will be undertaken during the next few months:

1987

3rd October	Holy Island	-	Leader Colin Bradshaw
7th November	'Local Sites'	-	Leader Alan Johnston
28th/29th November	Norfolk Weekend	-	Leader t.b.a.

1988

30th January	Ross Back Sands	-	Leader Mike Hodgson
27th February	The Solway	-	Leader John Day
19th March	Castron	-	Leader Mike Richardson
30th April	N.Cheviots	-	Leader Sandy Bankier

If you wish to book on any of these outings please contact Colin Bradshaw.

PELAGIC TRIP I 8.8.87

After a hazardous descent down a vertical ladder we duly set sail on the good ship Meander at 0815hrs. The early arrivals had scrounged some more fish waste to add to the 'chum'.

It was soon noticed that there were 11 birders and two crew and as some thought this might prove unlucky, it was suggested one member should be ditched!

It was a fine day with what the skipper said was a 'slight swell' but a neighbouring skipper said four of his party had been sick and you had to hold on when moving about, some of our birders feeling a bit queasy.

Birds were soon found on the way and included up to 500 Fulmars, at 10-12 miles out, feeding on the fish scraps. Large numbers of Gannets were seen, two Little Gulls, about 25 Great Skuas and Arctic Skuas.

Michael proposed heading half way to Denmark for more shearwaters but instead we went north towards Blyth.

As we were not running out of offal, our skipper managed to get the skipper of a neighbouring boat to throw across a bag of fresh mackerel, 2 of which Michael promptly took to take home.

A large Shearwater (SP) passed and four Sooty Shearwaters came to within four metres and plunged-dived. There were small numbers of Razorbills and Guillemots, some with youngsters.

On return as again we were running short of fish Adam Hutt requisitioned Michael's fish for the birds. Then a Storm Petrel headed N. past the boat at 70 metres range.

We arrived back about 2.30pm glad to return to terra firma after an exceedingly good day. The storm petrel being a lifer for quite a few.

John Fergusson and Tim Cleaves.

PELAGIC TRIP II 22.8.87

Another wet and misty day, so typical of this summer. Ten bemused birders huddling in the rain on North Shields fish quay wondering aloud whether our trip would be cancelled. But thanks to light winds and a sympathetic boatsman, we were able to leave port and head out onto the open sea. Soon we were seeing Fulmars and Kittiwakes in considerable numbers, as well as Gannets, terns, auks and the occasional skua. Otherwise the outward voyage was uneventful. A solitary Whimbrel flew overhead, and the lucky few caught glimpse of a whale as it surfaced for an instant.

We stopped the boat 8 miles offshore. At last the chance to test the "chum" made up the previous evening - a foul smelling porridge of fish scraps, cereal and vegetable oil. Sure enough a thin film of fish smelling oil spread out on the sea, quickly attracting a flock of 40 Fulmar including a tame 'blue phase' bird. Several Arctic Skuas and Bonxies flew close by, but to our disappointment neither Sooty Shearwaters nor Storm Petrels were anywhere to be seen. At least we learnt something new. Fulmars don't like thunder nor RAF Hercules, but neither did we relish the prospect of the storm passing overhead!

A mile further out we saw the highlight of our trip - an adult Sabine's Gull in summer plumage, mixing with a flock of 50 Kittiwake. We had great views as this lovely bird flew in close, showing off its wing pattern of black, white and grey, black hood and forked white tail. What a treat and antidote to the rain and queasiness some of us were feeling!

The homeward journey saw a more exciting selection of birds. Several more Skuas were seen (making the day's total 12 Great and 20 Arctic), plus a Manx Shearwater, Red Throated Diver, Roseate Tern and a juvenile Pied Flycatcher which wearily struggled to land on the boat before flying off towards Norway. We were glad to reach dry land, but despite the weather it was great fun and a novel way to birdwatch. However, the mystery remains why we failed to see Sooty Shearwaters. Perhaps they don't like cornflakes!.

M. Winter



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FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM EITHER JOHN AND MARGARET EVANS (091 236 2369) OR PETER AND PAULA McEWEN (091 257 2601)

PROGRAMME OF INDOOR MEETINGS FOR 1987/88

21st October	"THE PROTECTION RACKET"	Dave Dick
18th November	"BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES"	Tim Cleaves
9th December	"GET AWAY WITH BOWYER AND BEST"	Arthur Best & Eric Bowyer
27th January	"BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN"	Andy Simpson
24th February	"BIRDS OF DORSET"	Doug Ireland
23rd March	"BIRDS OF THE BORDERS"	Robin Robeson
13th April	"ICELANDIC HOLIDAY" COMBINED AGM/SOCIAL EVENING AND SLIDE PRESENTATION	Peter McEwen

All meetings are held in the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne and begin at 7.30 pm except the Combined AGM/Social Evening which commences at 7.15 pm.
Admission free for Group members and 50p for non-Group members.

NAME

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Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

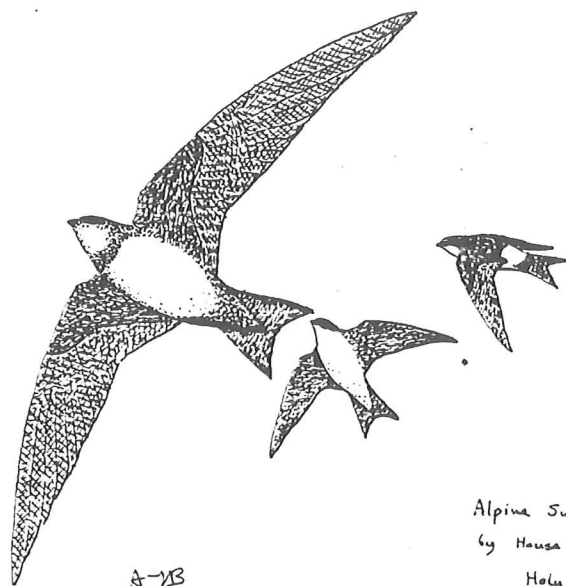
MONTHLY SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 1987

September at last gave some relief from the previous three months weather. All parts of the region received sunshine well above average but temperatures were not particularly high. Rainfall totals were below average with most falling in the W. of the county. Winds were mainly from the south west or south although during the latter half there were some easterlies.

Wader passage continued to be conspicuous particularly early in the month. Good numbers of species such as Ruff, Greenshank and Spotted Redshank were reported although there were relatively few Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. A Temminck's Stint was at Hadston on 17th. The regular monthly wader count received excellent coverage but showed that some species like Dunlin were scarce.

Sea-watching produced few Shearwaters or Skuas but a Long-tailed Skua, the fifth this autumn, was seen on 26th at Bondicarr. An Osprey flew S. over Ladycross on 8th.

The period between 13th-18th saw a remarkable run of rarities. On 13th an Alpine Swift arrived at St. Mary's Island, later moving to Holywell Dene. Whilst looking for this bird on 14th two observers were lucky enough to find a Red-rumped Swallow, only the third county record.



Alpine Swift modelled
by House Martin.
Holywell Dene.
Sept. 1977.

A Red-crested Pochard appeared at Seaton Burn on 15th but was probably overshadowed by a Black-winged Stilt which arrived at Wallsend Swallow Pond for a ten day stay. This elegant bird must have been seen by many observers. Finally; and from a different direction, a Little Bunting was found at Hauxley Reserve on 18th. Again this confounding bird attracted many watchers.

Goose passage was evident from the 20th with the arrival of Pink-feet and Brents. Barnade Geese appeared from 26th and an interesting movement inland was noted on 29th, a day when some 9,000 apparently arrived on their wintering grounds on the Solway. The first Whooper Swans were seen on 27th.

A late Quail was well inland at Belsay on 28th. Passerine movement at the coast was light but small numbers of several species were noted from about 20th when two Yellow-browed Warblers were at Tynemouth. During the last ten days winter visitors like Redwings, Bramblings, Snow and Lapland Buntings were all reported and two Jack Snipe were seen.

Our interesting species during the month included Garganey, two Buzzards, two Mediterranean Gulls, several Black Terns, two Nightjars and two lingering Reed Warblers inland.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver (Sp.)

A total of 73 flew N. and 26 S. at Cullercoats between 20th-29th (KW). 22 moved N. at Annstead on 20th (CK) and smaller numbers were passing nine other localities on several days. Numbers in Druridge Bay reached 40 by 25th (AGH et al).

Black-throated Diver

One was close inshore at Hadston on 26th (ADM/MGA).

Little Grebe

Broods of small young were noted at Gosforth Park, Holywell Pond (two broods), Throckley Pond and Hoppen Kiln. Gatherings on several lowland waters included some family parties. The largest counts were 17 at Holywell on 13th (IC) and 15 at Hartburn on 20th (TAC/MLC).

Great Crested Grebe

Gatherings of up to eight (including some juveniles) were on nine waters during the month. Along the coast five were off Hadston on 26th (ES) and singles at Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin, Boulmer and Newton.

Red-necked Grebe

At least one was in the Hadston/Cresswell area between 14th-26th (IRD/RD). Two flew N. at Cullercoats on 29th (KW).

Slavonian Grebe

One was at Ross on 2nd and another at Guile Point on 25th (ASJ/AGH). Two were off Cresswell on 20th (MGA).

Black-necked Grebe

One was still at Druridge Pool on 3rd/5th (ES et al). Six were still at the regular breeding locality on 10th.

Fulmar

60 flew S. in 30 minutes at Hauxley on 5th (HRS). One flew SW over Corbridge on 14th (MR).

Sooty Shearwater

12 flew N. at Annstead on 5th (CK) and one S. at Holy Island on 12th (DPa). On 26th six-eleven moved N. at Tynemouth, Cullercoats, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley.

Manx Shearwater

At Hauxley a total of 46 flew N. and one S. between 12th-28th (HRS). Between 19th-28th passage was noted at several localities including 50 off Annstead on 20th (CK) and a total of 31 N. at Seaton Sluice.

Gannet

On 5th heavy S. passage was noted at several localities with a maximum of 1,000 per hour at Boulmer (ES/MBS et al). Between 20th-29th a total of 1,000 moved N. at Cullercoats (KW) and up to 300 N. at Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 20th.

Cormorant

49 at Blyth harbour on 13th increased to 98 by 26th (LJM). 40 flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 8th (SJL). Inland 24 flew upstream at Bywell on 27th (MD) and two-six were at Holywell, Seaton Burn, Castron, Whittle Dene, Derwent Reservoir and Kielder Reservoir.

Grey Heron

Up to seven were at St. Mary's Island and Holywell Dene on 14th (ASJ/ADM) and six at Heddon, Castron and Newton. One-five were in a further 17 widespread localities.

Mute Swan

377 were at Berwick harbour on 4th (JDL). A maximum of 20 was at Cresswell on 27th (LJM) and 2-11 at seven other localities.

Whooper Swan

The first arrivals were on 27th when four flew W. at Beal Sands (JDL), two at Cresswell (RD/MJS) and at Seaton Burn (AJJ/BG).

Pink-footed Goose

Between 20th-27th a total of 60 moved SW over Budle/Spindlestone (CK), 250 flew N. at Craster on 28th (ISD) and 62 N. at Cullercoats on 29th (KW). One-six were also noted at Castron, Holy Island, Seaton Sluice, Hadston, Holywell and Seaton Burn after 20th.

Grey Lag Goose

400 flew W. at Belsay on 26th (JSt). 71 were at Budle Bay on 27th (ETN) and up to 23 in the Holywell/Wallsend Swallow Pond area. One-four were at five other localities.

'Grey' Goose (Sp.)

A total of 400-500 flew S. at Slaley on 25th and 50 S. at Juniper on 26th (CJ). 40 flew W. at Newton on 28th and 500 were at Holy Island on 29th (ISD).

Canada Goose

35 were at Capheaton on 3rd (TAC) and ten flew S. at Seaton Burn on 6th (BG). One-five were also at Cresswell, Holywell and St. Mary's Island.

Barnacle Goose

The first arrivals were on 26th when 30 flew N. at Seaton Sluice and 14 N. at Hadston (SSWT/ADM). On 28th 29 flew N. at Cullercoats (KW), 30 at Seaton Sluice, 50 at Cresswell and 25 at Hauxley (HRS). Movement was still strong on 29th when 267 N. at Cullercoats (KW), up to 95 at Cresswell, Hadston and Hauxley, 51 S. at St. Mary's Island (SJL) and 30 N. at Newton (AW). Inland on this date W. passage included 400 over Ladycross, 270 at Slaley and 105 at Bywell (CJ).

Brent Goose

Ten (dark-bellied) were at Druridge on 20th (WAK) and two at Elwick on 25th (AGH). 14 flew N. at Cullercoats on 29th (KW).

Shelduck

Ten were at Black Low on 5th (JDL). Inland two were at Seaton Burn on 2nd/3rd (AJJ/BG).

Wigeon

Small numbers were moving N. offshore after 20th with a maximum of 894 at Cullercoats on 29th (KW). 1,000 were at Fenham Flats by 22nd (ASJ) and 65 at the Northumbrian Loughs on 20th (JMM).

Gadwall

One-three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 7th-29th (TAC/AH). Two were at Seaton Burn between 1st-6th and one on 17th (AJJ) and three were at Cresswell between 16th-26th.

Teal

280 at Castron on 6th declined to 150 by 27th (MR). Other large gatherings were 350 at Holburn Moss on 25th (ISD), 224 at Colt Crag on 13th (RW), 150 at Gosforth Park on 10th and 20-70 at eight other waters. 100 flew N. at Hauxley on 20th (JRS) and 62 N. at Cullercoats on 28th (KW).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 350 at Seaton Burn on 20th and Pawston Lake on 23rd (AJJ/ISD), 300 at Castron on 12th (MR), 275 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR), 250 at Hartburn on 20th (MLC) when 225 on the Northumbrian Loughs (JMM) and 200 at Holywell on 22nd (IC).

Pintail

Four were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 20th (AJB), two at Cresswell from 17th (MGA) and singles at Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene and Derwent Reservoir. Three flew into Hadston on 26th.

Garganey

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 4th (AH/LH).

Shoveler

30 were at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJJ) and up to 25 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (AH). One-eleven were at eight other waters. Three were on the sea off Tynemouth on 1st and two off Hauxley on 5th (AH/HRS).

Red-crested Pochard

A female was at Seaton Burn between 15th-30th (GB/AJJ et al).

Pochard

99 were at Seaton Burn on 21st (GB), 69 at Holywell Pond on 12th (IC) and 27 at Hadston Lake on 26th (KWY).

Tufted Duck

The largest gatherings were 88 at Hadston Lake on 26th (ES/DRS), 82 at Whittle Dene on 13th (MR), 70 at Colt Crag on 20th (BNR) and 45 at Holywell on 12th (ISD). 12-25 were at eight other waters.

Scaup

One-two were at Holywell Pond, Cresswell, Druridge, Hauxley, Newton Pool and Holy Island after 5th.

Common Scoter

30 were off Hauxley on 3rd (JCD) and 40 at Stag Rocks on 25th (AGH). A total of 78 flew N. at Cullercoats between 20th-29th (KW).

Velvet Scoter

Two flew S. at Hauxley on 17th (HRS). On 24th four flew S. off Holy Island and seven SE out of Fenham Flats (AGH). Four were off Hadston on 26th (ADMc) when two N. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Goldeneye

One was at Druridge Pool on 5th (KWY) and three at Holy Island lough on 12th (DPa).

Red-breasted Merganser

Eight flew S. at Craster on 1st (JDS). Up to 12 were in Druridge Bay (ADMc) and ten in the Ross/Holy Island area (ASJ/AGH). Between 26th-28th a total of 22 flew N. at Cullercoats (KW). More unusual were two, inland, at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR).

Goosander

Up to 40 were on the R.Coquet above Felton on 16th/17th (per ETN). 23 were at Caistron on 12th (MR), 18 at Riding Mill on 3rd (DP), 16 at Pawston Lake on 23rd (ISD) and one-eleven at five other localities.

Sparrowhawk

Three were at Caistron on 12th (MR). One-two were noted in nine coastal and about 16 inland localities during the month.

Buzzard

One was at Budle/Spindlestone between 15th-18th (CK) and another inland at Shillmoor on 23rd (JCB). A buzzard (sp.) flew W. over North Shields on 17th (IC).

Osprey

One flew S. over Laydcross on 8th (CJ).

Kestrel

One-two were in 13 widespread localities.

Merlin

One-two were in eight coastal and six inland localities during the month.

Peregrine

Singles were at Embleton/Newton on 15th and 17th (JDS/AIB), Holy Island on 13th/27th (DPa/JDL) and throughout the month at Budle Bay (CK). One-two were in three inland localities.

Black Grouse

One was at Harwood on 23rd (MH).

Grey Partridge

29 were at St. Mary's Island on 29th (SJL) and a covey of 24 near Craster on 27th (ISD).

Quail

One was near Belsay on 28th (JSt).

Water Rail

Singles were at Warkworth Lane on 17th and Seaton Burn on 20th/22nd (ASJ/GB).

Coot

The largest gatherings were 325 at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJJ), 110 at Cresswell on 26th (AMB) and 56 on the Northumbrian Loughs on 20th (JMM).

WADER COUNT - 13th September

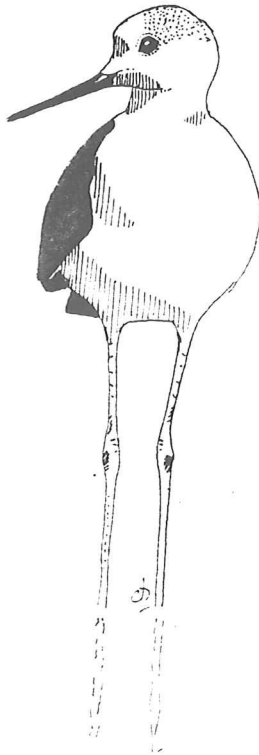
Excellent coverage was obtained on this priority month count. The stretches covered were: Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle Point-Seahouses (TAC), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (AW/AIB/JDS), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/MBS/DRS), S.Alnmouth (ETN.JRD), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (EC/MRS/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), Newbiggin-Cambois (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S.Pier-Hartley Point (KVB), St.Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,163 noted during the wader count. In addition 300 were at Guile Point on 21st (ISD) and a maximum of 100 at Cresswell Pond on 6th (TAC).

Black-winged Stilt

One, probably a first summer bird, was at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 15th-24th (BW/TMM et al). This will be the third record for the county, previous records being in September 1954 and May 1986.

Ringed Plover

A total of 329 noted during the wader count. 130 were at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL) and 106 at Ross on 21st (ISD).

Golden Plover

The largest flocks were 800-1,000 at the Long Nanny on 20th (RKS), 800 at Hauxley on 19th (LJM), 730 at St.Mary's Island on 27th (JRT), and up to 500 at Budle Bay and Boulmer.

Grey Plover

A total of only five found during the wader count. In addition 530 were at Holy Island on 12th (JDL) and singles at Howick, Hauxley, Druridge and Cresswell.

Lapwing

The largest gatherings were 700 at St.Mary's Island on 6th (IDM), 530 at the Coquet Estuary on 13th (PWW), 400 at Boulmer on 14th (IK), and 300 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (MSH). 40-250 were in eight other localities.

Knot

Only 100 were seen during the wader count. About 2,000 were at Fenham Flats between 23rd-25th (AGH).

Sanderling

A total of only 18 noted during the wader count. Up to 40 were at Hauxley (HRS), 33 at Holy Island on 23rd (AGH) and 12 at Cresswell Pond on 21st (L&KR).

Little Stint

Singles were at the Coquet Estuary on 4th, Long Nanny on 5th (AJH), Berwick on 11th (JDL), and Budle Bay on 12th/13th (CK). On 18th two were at Hadston Lake (MJS) and one-two at Hauxley between 18th-30th (HRS). Further singles were at Cresswell Pond on 20th (IC) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st and between 28th-30th (JP/MPF).

Temmick's Stint

One was at Hadston Lake on 17th (MJS).

Curlew Sandpiper

Two were at Budle Bay on 2nd (ASJ), and the Long Nanny on 5th (AJH). At Hauxley there was one on 9th and two-three between 17th-23rd (JRS) and at Wallsend Swallow Pond one on 3rd, two on 15th, one remaining until 30th (AH/ADM et al). Three were at Boulmer on 19th (MBS), six at Cresswell on 22nd/23rd, two at Holy Island on 26th (MSH) and three at Fenham Mill on 28th (ASJ).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 36 noted during the wader count were all at St. Mary's Island. Three were at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Dunlin

A little scarce on the coast with a total of 336 noted during the wader count. 850 were at Holy Island causeway on 27th (JDL), 150 at Guile Point on 21st (ISD) and up to 60 at Hauxley. One still well inland at Caistron on 20th (MR).

Ruff

Numbers at Hoppen Kiln Pool increased from 43 on 1st to 83 on 4th (AIB/BRS), this gathering quickly dispersing. Up to 15 were at Hauxley Pool (HRS), a maximum of 11 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (ASJ), ten at Beal on 23rd (IK) and two-seven at six other coastal localities. Inland five were at Whittle Dene on 16th (JMS) and one at Caistron on 20th (MR).

Jack Snipe

The first was one at Ross on 26th (ISD). Another was at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Snipe

Numbers increased during the month with 58 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 19th (ES), 35 at Caistron on 12th (MR), when 50 were at Hauxley (HRS) and 20-22 were also noted at Holy Island lough, Cresswell, Gosforth Park and Seaton Burn.

Woodcock

One was at Harwood on 23rd (MH).

Black-tailed Godwit

Birds were present all month in Budle Bay with a maximum of ten on 26th (AW et al). Four were at Cresswell Pond on 4th/18th and up to three at Hauxley. Three were at the Coquet Estuary on 4th (MJS), and singles at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 1st (AIB), Seaton Burn on 3rd (JCD) and one-two at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 14th-21st.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 93 was noted on the wader count. A maximum of 1,600 was at Holy Island on 27th (JDL).

Whimbrel

Passage was still conspicuous early in the month. On 2nd about 70 flew N. at Low Newton (AIB/JDS) and 20 S. at St. Mary's Island (BDK) where a further 55 moved N. on 6th (SJJ). One-nine were noted in a further ten coastal localities. One flew NW at Ladycross on 1st (CJ).

Curlew

A total of 355 was noted on the wader count, most being seen between Beadnell-Boulmer. 200 were at Budle Bay on 25th (RKS), 159 at Holy Island on 12th (JDL) and 31 at St. Mary's Island on 20th (PM). Ten were still inland at Hallington on 19th (BNR).

Spotted Redshank

Ten were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 3rd (AW). Eight were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st where smaller numbers present all month (ASJ/AH et al) and a maximum of six was at Hadston Lake on 17th (MJS). One-three were in a further six localities.

Redshank

A total of 1,268 was noted during the wader count. 480 were at Black Low on 5th, 450 at Berwick Little Beach on 11th (JDL) and 120 at Foxton on 20th (MSH).

Greenshank

Still well reported during the month. A maximum of 24 was at Black Low on 19th (JDL), eight at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 3rd (AW) and seven at Cresswell on 17th (IRD). Up to five were at Hauxley and four at Wallsend Swallow Pond. One-three were in a further 11 coastal localities. Inland one-four were at Colt Crag, Derwent Reservoir, Whittle Dene and Castron.

Green Sandpiper

One-two were in five coastal localities up to 24th. One was at Castron on 12th (MR).

Wood Sandpiper

Two were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 1st (AIB) and singles at Hauxley on 18th and Castron on 20th (MR).

Common Sandpiper

One-four were in nine coastal localities up to 25th. Inland two were at Whittle Dene on 3rd (RMH), three at Castron on 10th (P&Pm), one remaining until 20th, and another at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (BNR).

Turnstone

A total of 736 noted during the wader count. 162 were at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL).

Pomarine Skua

Singles were off Hauxley on five dates between 3rd-12th and two N. on 26th (HRS). One was at Budle Bay on 12th, two on 18th and one on 20th (CK).

Arctic Skua

They were noted at 13 coastal localities although passage was light with no more than 17 reported on any one day.

Long-tailed Skua

One was off Bondicarr on 26th (ES).

Great Skua

A total of 24 was noted off Annstead during the month (CK). One-three were also seen at Cullercoats, Seaton Sluice, Warkworth and Holy Island.

Mediterranean Gull

An adult, presumably the ringed bird, was back at Craster on 15th (ISD). Another adult was at North Shields Fish Quay between 21st-28th (DMT).

Little Gull

Ten flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT). A maximum of ten was at Hadston Lake on 3rd (ES) and seven at Cresswell Pond on 5th (MJS). One-three were in a further seven coastal or near coastal localities.

Black-headed Gull

Large roosts included 2,400 at Scotswood on 14th, 1,100 at Hallington on 19th, 3,800 at Colt Crag on 20th and 4,700 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (BNR).

Common Gull

1,300 roosted at Sweethope on 18th, 2,200 at Hallington on 19th, 14,000 at Colt Crag on 20th and 9,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (BNR). 10,000 roosting at Budle Bay on 3rd all arrived from SW (MSH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

258 at Caistron on 12th declined to 124 by 20th (MR). 46 were at Budle Bay on 13th (DPa).

Herring Gull

280 roosted at Scotswood on 14th and 120 at Hallington on 19th (BNR). 800 were at the Tyne Estuary on 21st (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

An adult flew N. at Cullercoats on 20th (KN).

Great Black-backed Gull

400 were at the Coquet Estuary on 17th (EMY), 300 at Annstead on 1st (BRS) and Druridge on 26th (ES) and 100-260 at four other localities.

Kittiwake

600 flew N. in 1 1/2 hours at Hauxley on 26th (HRS). 700 were at Annstead on 1st (BRS) and 400 at Amble harbour on 5th. Inland an adult was at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

500 moved S. at Hauxley on 12th. Much smaller numbers were noted at seven other localities up to 28th.

Roseate Tern

At St. Mary's Island there was one on 5th, three on 8th and four on 18th (SJL). An adult and juvenile were at Tynemouth on 3rd (ES).

Common Tern

Up to 11 were in three coastal localities up to 30th. Singles were at Gosforth Park on 3rd and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd/5th.

Arctic Tern

A maximum of 22 was at St. Mary's Island on 3rd. Eight flew S. at Annstead on 20th (CK).

Little Tern

One was at Tynemouth on 2nd (ADM) and another flew S. at Cullercoats on 20th (KW).

Black Tern

Between 5th-12th up to eight were at Cresswell Pond (IK/ASJ et al). One was at Hauxley on 10th. On 12th 13 flew S. at Holy Island (DPa) and two were at St. Mary's Island (IDM). Singles were at Holy Island on 13th and the Long Nanny on 14th (JDS/AIB), four flew S. at Newbiggin on 21st (WO'B) and another was at Guile Point on 24th (AGH).

Auk (Sp)

On 26th very heavy S. passage was noted at Seaton Sluice and Cullercoats. At the latter site sample counts included up to 860 passing in five minutes although movement declined to 300 per hour by afternoon (KW). N. movement was noted here and at Hauxley on 27th/28th.

Guillemot

Two were in Blyth harbour on 13th (LJM).

Razorbill

Three were at Amble marina on 25th (EMY).

Stock Dove

Two-three were at Prior's Park on several dates (CB).

Woodpigeon

Two young were still in the nest at Craster on 17th (ISD).

Cuckoo

A juvenile was on Holy Island on 5th (AJH).

Barn Owl

Up to three were seen at Druridge.

Little Owl

A pair and three young were noted at Druridge. Another was at Ordley on 20th/23rd (BNR).

Tawny Owl

One-three were seen or heard in eight widespread localities. A dead road casualty was found at Kirkharle on 10th (ASJ).

Long-eared Owl

One was at Buston Links on 21st (AIB/AW).

Short-eared Owl

Two were at Newbiggin on 18th and singles at Newton on 6th and New Hartley on 28th (MHP/WAK).

Nightjar

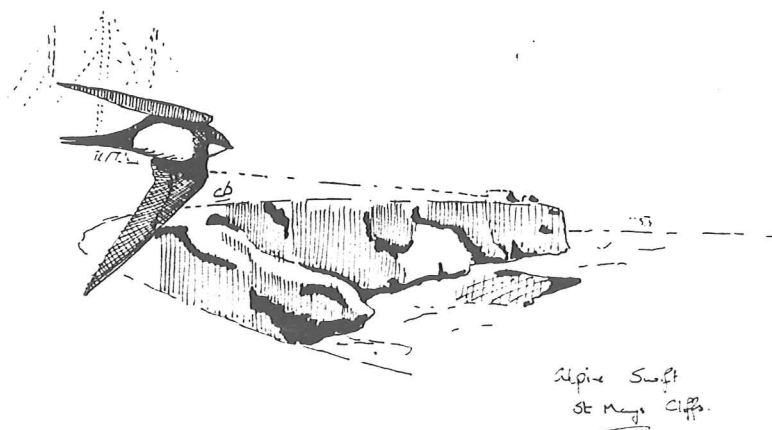
Singles were at Bowsden, near Berwick on 9th (IG) and near Hexham on 15th (BNR).

Swift

Between 1st-15th one-ten were seen in about 19 widespread localities. One was at Bamburgh on 19th, six S. at Warkworth on 21st (L&KR) and the last at Seaton Burn on 25th (GB).

Alpine Swift

One was at St. Mary's Island on 13th moving later in the day to Holywell Dene where it was seen again on 14th (RJ et al). This will be the sixth county record, the last being on 27th September 1980.

Kingfisher

One-two were at Seaton Burn between 9th-30th (AJJ/GB). Singles were also noted at Wideopen, Weetslade, Jesmond Dene, Woosington, Caistron and Morpeth.

Green Woodpecker

One-three were seen or heard at the Harthope Valley, Harwood, Plessey Woods, Bywell, Heddon and Gosforth Park.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were in 12 widespread localities.

Skylark

S. passage was noted on several days at Hauxley with a maximum of 60 on 29th (HRS). Inland 15 moved S. at Ordley on 19th (BNR) and 93 were at Ciastron on 27th (MR).

Sand Martin

One-three were seen in eight widespread localities up to 27th including one still entering a nest-hole at Annstead on 20th (AIB et al).

Swallow

S. passage was noted in several localities throughout the month with a maximum of 500 over Hauxley on 12th. Larger gatherings included 300 at Old Mousen on 2nd and at Dipton on 11th (SDJ/BNR). Only small numbers roosted at Seaton Burn with a peak of 200 on 15th (AJJ/GB). Young were still being fed in the nest at Swinoe on 15th (ISD).

Red-rumped Swallow

One was with other hirundines near Holywell Dene on 14th (NM/ASJ). This will be only the third sighting in the county, previous records involving singles in October 1977.

House Martin

S. passage was noted on several dates. Large gatherings included 300 at Rothbury on 17th (MLC), 200 at Corbridge on 6th (RMH) and Holywell Dene on 13th/14th (ADM) and 100-130 at three other localities young were still being fed in the nest up to 24th.

Tree Pipit

One was at Bambrugh on 2nd (BRS).

Meadow Pipit

Steady S. passage was noted in several inland and coastal localities during the month. The largest gatherings were 400 at Castron on 6th (MR) and 300 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS).

Rock Pipit

16 were at Newton Point on 29th (ISD) and nine at St. Mary's Island on 6th (SJL).

Yellow Wagtail

One-eight were noted in 12 widespread localities up to 23rd.

Grey Wagtail

About 20 were with Pied Wagtails at Hallington on 13th (RW). One-four were in eight, typical, inland localities. On the coast one was at Embleton on 4th (RKS) and two at Bamburgh on 19th (BRS).

Pied Wagtail

200 gathered at Hallington on 13th (RW). Counts of 28-69 were made at Matfen, Corbridge, Castron, Kirkley Hall and Berwick Little Beach.

White Wagtail

One was at Newton Pool on 12th and 20th (KWY/RKS) and two on Holy Island on 23rd (IK/PWW).

Dipper

One-three were in four typical localities.

Duncock

40 were at Prior's Park on 21st (PPRS).

Robin

An influx noted in coastal areas from 20th with a maximum of 25 at Prior's Park on 27th/30th (PPRS).

Redstart

One-three were in five coastal localities after 14th. Two were at Seaton Burn on 8th and one on 16th (GB). One was still well inland near Belsay on 26th (JSt).

Whinchat

11 were at St. Mary's Island on 11th (ASJ), nine at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (PM) and 12 at Cresswell on 21st. One-seven were in another 11 localities. Three were still at Belsay on 29th (JSt).

Stonechat

One was inland at Belsay on 27th (JSt).

Wheatear

One-seven were in 12 coastal localities including two Greenland race birds at Hauxley on 9th. One was on waste ground at Byker on 14th (AJB) and another in a garden at W. Denton on 19th (BG). Singles were also inland at Whittle Dene on 13th and Hepburn on 28th.

Ring Ousel

2 arrived at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Blackbird

100 were at Prior's Park on 21st (PPRS).

Fieldfare

The first were three W. over Newcastle on 17th (DG-M). Singles were at Prior's Park and Hauxley on 30th.

Song Thrush

Light arrivals noted almost daily in coastal areas from 19th.

Redwing

Three at Ordley on 20th and one at Hexham on 25th were the first arrivals (BNR). Between 26th-30th small numbers were in six coastal localities although 74 flew W. at Ladycross on 28th (CJ).

Mistle Thrush

Large flocks involved 60 at Harwood on 24th (MLC), 43 at Seaton Burn on 30th (GB) and 24 at Hepburn on 28th (ASJ). 2-16 noted in nine other localities.

Sedge Warbler

Birds were present at Seaton Burn up to 27th with a maximum of nine on 13th (AJJ). Between 1st-24th one-four were in five coastal areas and one was at Caistron on 12th (MR).

Reed Warbler

One was at Gosforth Park on 5th (KVB) and another juvenile trapped at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJJ/BG).

Lesser Whitethroat

Between 3rd-16th one-two were at Arcot, New Hartley, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Warkworth Lane. One still well inland at Belsay on 26th (JSt). Singles were at Hauxley and Tynemouth on 29th/30th.

Whitethroat

One-two were in five localities up to 20th.

Garden Warbler

One-two were noted in five, mainly coastal, localities up to 21st.

Blackcap

One-three were in eight widespread localities.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Two were at Prior's Park on 20th, one remaining until 22nd (PPRS/CB).

Wood Warbler

One was at New Hartley on 7th (KWY).

Chiffchaff

From 20th singles were in three coastal localities including an adult in full moult at Bambrugh. One-four were also in four inland localities.

Willow Warbler

Small numbers remained in several inland localities up to 27th. Passage on the coast was light.

Goldcrest

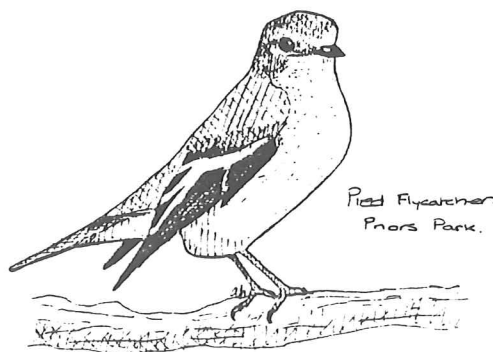
Light coastal passage was noted in several localities throughout the month. Also seen in several inland localities including one in a garden at W.Denton on 2nd/4th.

Spotted Flycatcher

Newly fledged young were being fed at Spindlestone on 3rd (MSH) and Newcastle Town Moor on 11th (MH). Birds lingered in seven inland localities up to 28th. One-four were in five coastal areas during the month.

Pied Flycatcher

One-two were in three coastal localities between 2nd-13th and in nine areas between 17th-28th.

Long-tailed Tit

Nine were at Felton on 29th (ETN).

Marsh Tit

One-three were at Spindlestone, Stocksfield and Linnels.

Willow Tit

Two-four were at Ciastron, Spindlestone, Allenbanks and Arcot.

Coal Tit

Coastal movement noted from 19th when three arrived from N. at Bamburgh (BRS). Between 20th-27th one-four were noted here, and at Newton, Craster and Hauxley. Parties of 10-25 were seen at Thrunton, Swinoe and Tillhead Wood between 22nd-25th (ISD). Three were in a Newcastle garden on 3rd (KIB).

Blue-Tit

40 moved through Bamburgh on 19th (BTS), 30 were at Prior's Park on 30th (PPRS) and up to 20 at Hauxley. One was feeding amongst the rocks at St. Mary's Island on 21st (MPF). Inland 50 were at Felton on 20th (ETN).

Great Tit

One-four moved through Bamburgh and Hauxley from 17th.

Nuthatch

Ten were at Bolam on 18th (ASJ) and one-three in seven regular localities. A family party was noted at Bywell (JH).

Treecreeper

One was at Bamburgh on 20th (BRS).

Raven

One was in the N. Cheviots on 19th (P&Pm).

Starling

600 flew W. at Matfen on 12th (RW).

House Sparrow

A flock of 1,500 was at Redhouse Farm, Whitley Bay on 6th (SJL). 500 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th (WAK).

Tree Sparrow

Six were at Boulmer on 19th (ES).

Chaffinch

600 were at Slaley on 21st (CJ) and 150 at Corbridge on 27th (RMH). Small numbers were noted in coastal localities from 19th.

Brambling

Singles were at Hauxley on 26th and 28th-30th with one at Holywell Dene and two at Cresswell on 30th (HRS/MPF).

Greenfinch

100 were at Cresswell on 30th.

Goldfinch

50 were at Ordley on 30th (BNR) and 30-40 at Newton Pool on 17th (ISD). Charms of four-eleven noted in six other localities.

Siskin

Several flew S. at Seaton Burn on 13th (BG). One-three were at Prior's Park and Bamburgh between 21st-30th.

Linnet

300 were at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJJ), 200 at Cresswell on 21st (JP) and 60-150 at five other localities.

Redpoll

100 were at the Harthope Valley on 6th (RKS). Flocks of 20-25 were also seen at Harwood, Caistron and Ordley.

Crossbill

A maximum of 23 was at Ladycross on 21st (CJ). Two-ten were noted at Kirkley Hall, Steel, Sweethope, and Harwood.

Bullfinch

One-six were noted in six widespread localities.

Lapland Bunting

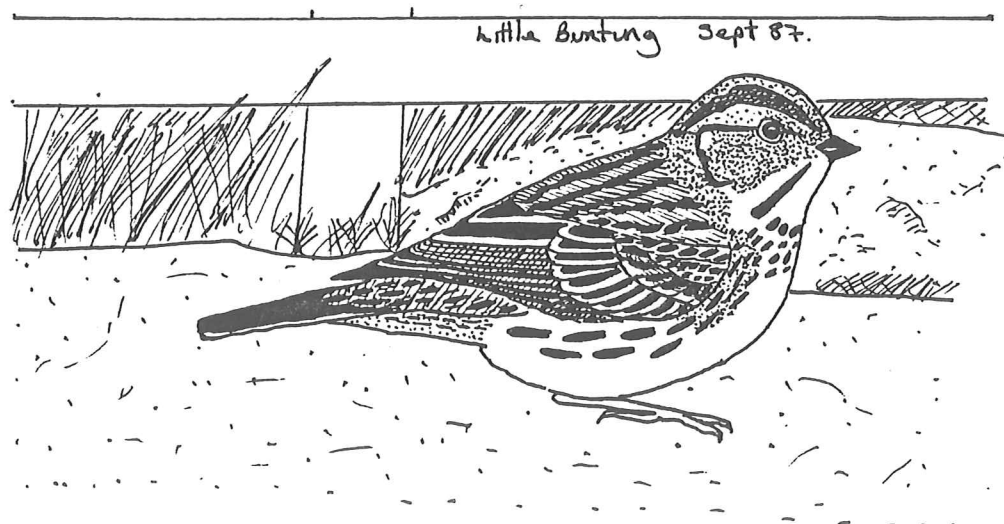
Three at Bambrugh on 13th were the first (CK). One was at Warkworth Gut on 17th (MJS) and another flew W. at Budle on 20th.

Snow Bunting

Singles were at Holy Island on 21st (MJS), Budle Point on 27th (CK) and Cresswell on 30th.

Little Bunting

One was found at Hauxley on 18th and remained until 20th allowing many observers close views (IF). The last record in the county was in September 1984.

Reed Bunting

One-two at Marden Quarry and Prior's Park from 19th indicated light passage.

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

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E.M.Young
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Hauxley Ringing Station
Prior's Park Ringing Station
Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

INDOOR MEETING - 12th NOVEMBER 1987

Our next meeting will be in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremount Tower, Newcastle University on Thursday 12th November at 7.00 pm Mike Freeman the National Trust Coastal Warden based at Low Newton will be talking about what our coastline has to offer wildlife.

FIELD TRIPS

The next field trips will be:
Saturday 7th November

'Local Sites' lead by Alan Johnston. This should be particularly interesting for our newer or less experienced members but all are welcome.

Saturday 30th January 1988

Ross Back Sands lead by Mike Hodgson. Grebes, divers and sea-duck aplenty. We hope!

Please contact Colin Bradshaw (Tel: 2572389) if you wish to go on either of these outings.
Note: The Norfolk weekend trip is fully booked.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1987/88

These were due on 1st October. If you have not already done so please pay your subscription now. A renewal form was issued with the August bulletin and should be completed and sent with your subscription to John C Day, 2 Grange Avenue, Benton, Newcastle NE12 9PN.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE YEAR 1987

The closing date for this competition is 31st January 1987. Any bird slides that you have taken during 1987 in the clubs recording area are eligible. The full rules for 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 2x2 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 an N.C.C. licence is required should be accompanied by a copy of the appropriate licence.
6. The photographers name should be enclosed with the transparencies.

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 N. and T.B.C. 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, or
- b) by hand to Ian at any club meeting.

WADER COUNT - Change of date

Wader counters should note that the B.T.O. have changed the January 1988 count date from 17th to 24th.



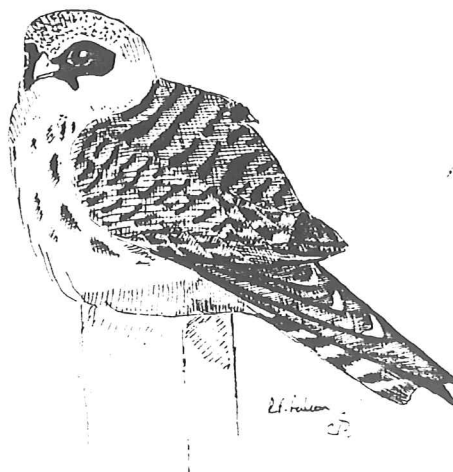
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - OCTOBER 1987

October was a rather cold month with high totals of rainfall, generally the wettest since 1981. Particularly wet spells were recorded on 5th, 9th/10th, 18th-20th and on 27th. Sunshine totals were about normal but it was still the dulllest since 1982. There were a lot of south or south-east winds during the month especially during the first week and again from 18th onwards. These combined with fog and the rain resulted in some interesting falls along the coast.

The first few days produced some interesting birds along the coast including at least nine Yellow-browed Warblers, two Firecrests, a Bluethroat and a Red-breasted Flycatcher. This influx also included a number of arriving winter visitors and typical species such as Garden Warblers Blackcaps, Redstarts and Spotted Flycatchers. Perhaps a more exciting influx of small birds occurred from about 19th onwards with huge numbers of thrushes, with Song Thrushes being very conspicuous, another two Yellow-browed Warblers, and single Red-breasted Flycatcher and Barred Warbler. Black Redstarts appeared from 21st and of nine Reed Warblers during the month seven were trapped between 19th-31st. Hauxley had it's second Little Bunting of the autumn when one was trapped on 20th. Lapland Buntings were conspicuous on Holy Island during the last week where another massive influx of thrushes took place on 27th.

A Grey Phalarope on the River Tyne was a surprise find on 22nd. Interesting birds of prey included a Hobby inland at Castron on 6th/7th, a Goshawk on the coast at Hauxley on 21st, two Marsh Harriers, sadly one of them a corpse, on 22nd and at least two coastal Buzzards. Pride of place, however, must go to a female Red-Footed Falcon near Belford on 29th.



Whooper Swans continued to arrive, again with very small numbers of juveniles in the herds. Numbers of Grey Lag and Brent Geese built up in the Lindisfarne/Budle Bay areas.

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.

Sea-watching was not particularly productive but there were some interesting reports of Little Gull movements and the first three Little Auks appeared.

Summer visitors made their last appearances and at least three late broods of Swallows fledged. Very late reports involved a Cuckoo at Whitley Bay on 26th and a Nightjar still inland at Langley on 27th.

Other interesting records included Black-necked Grebe, Late Swifts, Mediterranean Gulls, Water Pipit and a Hooded Crow.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

Up to 20 were at Holy Island between 24th-31st (IK) and 12 at Ross Back Sands on 22nd (BRS). Nine were off Warkworth Beach on 4th (KVB) and one-six were in eight other localities. A total of 35 flew N. and 16 S. at Cullercoats between 1st-11th (KW), five N. and 15 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and ten S. in 30 minutes at Holy Island on 11th (TAC).

Black-throated Diver

Two were at Ross on 24th (JRT/KWY) and Holy Island on 29th (IK). Singles were also noted at Cullercoats, St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Hauxley, Warkworth, Beadnell and Stag Rocks.

Great Northern Diver

One-two were in the Holy Island area between 10th-30th (DPa/IK). Singles were also seen at Berwick, Bamburgh, Hauxley and Cresswell from 4th.

Little Grebe

A maximum of 12 was at Cresswell Pond on 30th (JS), seven at Seaton Burn on 23rd (AJJ), the River Wansbeck at N. Seaton on 30th (RJ) and Holywell Pond on 19th (ISD). One-five were in eight other localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Five were at Colt Crag on 18th when three at Hallington (RW) and another three were at Whittle Dene on 17th (MR). One-two were on five other waters including one at Marden Park on 3rd (JDM). Along the coast singles were at the Coquet Estuary on 9th (EMY) and Holy Island and Berwick on 18th (DPa).

Red-necked Grebe

Two at Holy Island on 3rd increased to three by 10th and five from 24th (ES/DPa/IK). One was at Stag Rocks on 17th/24th (BRS) and three at Ross on 29th (MR).

Slavonian Grebe

One was at Holy Island on 4th and three from 10th (ASJ/AJ). Three were at Stag Rocks on 24th (RKS) and one at Beadnell on 25th (MLC/AS).

Black-necked Grebe

One was at Whittle Dene on 17th (MR).

Fulmar

Two were at Dunstanburgh on 3rd (BNR) and one back at Bamburgh Castle by 31st (BRS).

Sooty Shearwater

Singles flew N. and S. at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (KW).

Manx Shearwater

Singles flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st and S. on 2nd/3rd (KW). Two flew N. and three S. at Hauxley on 3rd where two N. on 11th (HRS). Three flew N. at Holy Island on 18th (DPa).

Gannet

N. passage was noted in several localities between 1st-16th but heavier movements involved 200 per hour S. at Cullercoats on 18th (KW), 100 per hour N. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS) and 650 per hour at Beadnell on 26th (WGJ).

Cormorant

55 were at Berwick Harbour on 18th (DPa), a maximum of 44 roosted at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 13th (RJ) and 32 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd (DMT). 15 roosted at Corbridge on 22nd (MR) and one-eleven were in another six inland localities.

Shag

24 were at Dunstanburgh on 3rd (BNR) and 20 at St. Mary's Island on 13th (JRT).

Grey Heron

One arrived from E. at Whitley Bay on 10th (DA). One-five were in 16 widespread localities.

Mute Swan

149 were at Berwick on 31st (JSg). Numbers at Cresswell reached a peak of 35 by 25th (JS et al). A ringed bird found dead under powerlines at Seaton Burn on 12th had been involved in the Berwick oil spill in January. After cleaning it had been released at Berwick on 7th March (AJJ).

Whooper Swan

Only small numbers of juveniles noted with herds arriving in the county during the month. Eleven at Holywell on 10th increased to a maximum of 41 on 16th/19th (three juvs.) (LR/ISD). Only three were here by 31st. In the Linton/Cresswell area numbers increased from 15 on 11th, to 53 by 28th (nine juvs.) (ADM/RJ/JS). Up to 22 were at Grindon after 11th (four juveniles) (AJ/RMH), 20 were at Rayburn Lake on 17th (RKS) and up to 13 in the Holy Island area. Three-twelve were also noted at Hauxley, the Coquet Estuary and Berwick.

Pink-footed Goose

On 3rd two flew N. at Cullercoats (KE) and one was at Holywell (GB). Seven flew S. at Druridge on 10th (ES), six were at Hallington on 18th (RW), one at Seaton Burn on 20th (AIB), three at Newbiggin on 22nd (BNR) when a large skein of 300 flew SW over Hexham (KD). Eight were at Grindon on 23rd and 16 at Budle Bay on 24th increased to 39 by 29th (JRT/MR).

Grey Lag Goose

Numbers at Budle Bay increased to 1,000 by 21st (ES et al). 330 were at Colt Crag on 17th (BNR) and 300 at nearby Hallington on 18th (RW). 108 at Castron on 11th increased to 230 by 25th (MR) and up to 64 were at Holywell Pond (IC). 70 flew S. at Warkworth Lane on 24th (JS) and 50 W. at Milbourne on 31st (WGJ). Tow-ten were at four other localities.

Snow Goose

One was at Caistron on 3rd (MR) and two at Hallington on 18th (RW).

Canada Goose

92 were at Hallington on 18th (RS) and 14 flew E. at Ryton on 21st (STR).

Barnacle Goose

42 flew N. at Cullercoats on 1st (KW). One was inland at Hallington on 18th (RW). Between 27th-31st one-two were at Budle Bay, Holy Island and Berwick.

Brent Goose

42 at Holy Island on 3rd increased to 900 by the end of the month (DPa/IK). Four flew N. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS) and 20 N. at Stag Rods on 24th (AIB).

Shelduck

17 were at Budle Bay on 2nd (ISD). One-five were at three other localities.

Wigeon

Up to 2,000 were in the Ross/Holy Island area. Numbers at Cresswell Pond reached a peak of 365 on 28th (JS et al). 168 were at Grindon on 18th (JMM), 133 at Hadston Lake on 1st (HNR) and 51 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (RKS). Light N. passage was noted during the first few days but over 2,100 passed Cullercoats on 11th (KW) when 311 passed Hauxley.

Gadwall

Singles were noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn, Holywell, Cresswell, and Hadston Lake during the month. One also flew W. at Boulmer on 10th (WD).

Teal

The largest gatherings were 335 at Caistron on 4th (MR), 300 at Holburn Moss on 1st (ISD), 120 at Seaton Burn on 22nd (GB), 110 at Grindon on 10th (RKS), 102 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st (L&KR) and up to 89 at Cresswell/Druridge. A total of 173 flew N. at Cullercoats on 1st/2nd (KW) and 80 N. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 400 at Pawston Lake on 2nd (ISD), 360 at Caistron on 25th (MR), 270 at Colt Crag on 18th (RW), 220 at Grindon Lough on 10th (RKS) and 100-170 at Holy Island, Whittle Dene, Kimmer Lough, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn, Cresswell, Hexham, and Budle Bay. Light N. passage was noted at Tynemouth and Cullercoats between 1st-11th.

Pintail

One-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene, Warkworth Lane, Cresswell and Fenham during the month. On 1st three flew S. at Tynemouth and one N. at Cullercoats (CB/KW).

Shoveler

Ten were at Seaton Burn on 4th (AJJ) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 13th (IF). One-four were on five other waters.

Red-crested Pochard

The female at Seaton Burn remained until 23rd (AJJ et al). On 3rd it visited Holywell Pond (LR).

Pochard

Numbers at Hadston Lake increased to a peak of 168 by 19th (HNR). 142 were at Seaton Burn on 9th (AJJ), 62 at Caistron on 25th (MR) and 32 at Holywell on 19th (ISD). Two flew S. at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Tufted Duck

98 were at Hadston Lake on 7th (HNR), 46 at Holywell on 19th (ISD), 41 at Seaton Burn on 30th (GB), 38 at Marden Park on 31st (JDM) and up to 28 at nine other waters.

Scaup

One flew N. at Cullercoats on 1st (KW). Two were at Holy Island causeway on 3rd (DPa) and one present at Cresswell all month was joined by a further two on 29th (JS).

Eider

120 were at Dunstanburgh on 31st (ISD).

Long-tailed Duck

One was at Hadston on 2nd (MJS). One flew N. at Bamburgh on 17th (BRS), 15 were at Ross on 24th (JR T/KW Y), two at Holy Island on 25th where ten present on 30th (JDL/IK).

Common Scoter

A total of 283 flew N. at Cullercoats on 1st/2nd (KW) and 113 N. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Velvet Scoter

Two flew N. at Cullercoats on 1st (KW). One flew N. at Cresswell on 3rd when three were in Druridge Bay (AIB/GB). Two were off Stag Rocks on 24th and Holy Island on 29th/30th (MW/IK).

Goldeneye

12 at Druridge Pool on 27th was the largest gathering (JS) although one-two were seen at ten localities after 4th. 11 flying S. at Hauxley on 21st was the only offshore record (HRS).

Red-breasted Merganser

At Hadston Lake one on 2nd increased to a maximum of 37 by 19th (HNR). One-three were also at Cresswell, Druridge and Hauxley pools. 20 were at Warkworth Beach on 4th (KVB), 13 at Alnmouth on 28th (AIB) and one-five in three other coastal localities. 24 flew N. at Cullercoats on 1st (KW), seven N. at Holy Island on 11th (BNR) and 18 N. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS). More unusual was one inland at Seaton Burn from 28th (GB/AJJ).

Goosander

Six were at Pawston on 2nd (ISD), 30 at Caistron on 4th (MR) and one-three in Upper Coquetdale, Felton and Berwick Harbour. Two flew S. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Marsh Harrier

On 22nd one was at Holywell Pond (JEF) and another was found dead on the tide-line at Hauxley (HRS).

Hen Harrier

A male flew over the Simonsides on 24th (ADM).

Goshawk

A male was at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were in about 13 coastal or near coastal localities and singles in two inland areas.

Buzzard

One flying N. at Warkworth Lane on 17th (MGA/ADM) was almost certainly the same bird seen at Hadston (MH). Another on Holy Island on 25th (DPa/SJH) suggested immigration. Singles were also inland at Corbridge on 2nd (BNR) and Langley on 26th (SJH).

Kestrel

One-three were noted in about 12 widespread localities. 13 were counted during a drive between Hadston-Newcastle on 17th (MH).

Red-footed Falcon

An adult female was watched and photographed at close range near Old Mousen on 29th. The bird was eventually chased off by a Kestrel! (DS/ASJ). This will be the ninth record for the county and the latest ever.

Merlin

One-two were seen in eight coastal or near coastal localities and singles in four inland areas.

Hobby

One was at Caistron on 6th/7th. On the second day it was mobbed by a flock of about 500 Lapwings! (EJS).

Peregrine

Up to three were noted in the Holy Island area where an immature female attempted to take a Black-headed Gull from the water on 10th (BG/IK). Singles were also seen at Budle Bay, Hoppen Kiln, Hadston and in one inland locality.

Red Grouse

About 120 brace have been shot on the Otterburn Ranges this season (per MH). Over 50 were noted in a 1¹/₂ hour walk on the Simonsides on 24th (ADM).

Black Grouse

Five were at Allenheads on 23rd (KD) and one at the W. Allen on 31st (BNR).

Red-legged Partridge

12 were at Netherwitton on 28th (WAK).

Grey Partridge

Coveys of 8-14 noted in five localities.

Water Rail

One was found dead at Bondicarr on 5th (HRS). Singles were at Holywell Dene between 9th-15th (WAK), Gosforth Park on 11th (ISD), Cresswell on 15th (MGA) and Warkworth Lane on 25th (MJS).

Coot

144 were at Cresswell Pond on 31st (TAC), 106 at Seaton Burn on 29th (AJJ) and 26-85 at four other waters.

WADER COUNT October

The following stretches were covered:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle Point-Seahouses (TAC), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WTL), S. Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TW), Chevington Burn- Cresswell (EC/BDG/ISD). St. Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 852 was noted during the wader count, 105 were at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (JS).

Ringed Plover

A total of 176 was noted during the wader count. A maximum of 115 was at the Long Nanny on 4th (RKS) and 58 at Berwick Little Beach on 23rd (JDL).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 2,000-2,500 in the Hauxley/Druridge area (HRS/JS) and up to 1,500 at St. Mary's Island (MSH). 500 were at Linton on 22nd (JR). Inland 139 were at Castron on 11th (MR).

Grey Plover

A total of 28 was found on the wader count. 74 were at Holy Island on 25th (JDL).

Lapwing

1,200 were at Castron on 11th (MR) and 1,000 at Druridge Pool on 30th (JS). 200-500 were in five other localities.

Knot

Only 69 were seen during the wader count.

Sanderling

A total of only 16 noted during the wader count. 16 were also at Ross on 29th (MR).

Little Stint

One-two were at Holy Island between 1st-11th (MJS/MHp). Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th/9th (GCP/ASJ) and Hadston on 21st (MJS).

Curlew Sandpiper

Three were at Fenham Mill on 4th (ASJ) and one at Cresswell Pond on 9th/10th (JS).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 203 noted during the wader count.

Dunlin

Numbers on the coast still low with only 154 noted on the wader count. 440 were at Holy Island on 25th (JDL). Up to six were at Wallsend Swallow Pond (L&KR).

Ruff

Up to four were at Budle Bay and Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month. One-two were at Hauxley between 2nd-19th (HRS) and singles at Cresswell Pond on 3rd and 31st (JS).

Jack Snipe

Singles were seen at Hauxley on five dates between 2nd-24th (HRS). Other singles were at Holy Island on 3rd (MHP), Gosforth Park on 5th, Amble on 10th (ES), Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th (JP) and Ross Links on 29th (MR).

Snipe

The largest concentrations were 55 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 8th (L&KR), 50 at Seaton Burn on 12th (AJJ) and up to 40 at Hauxley where 13 arrived from E. on 6th (HRS).

Woodcock

One was at Prior's Park on 2nd (PPRS) and two at Hauxley on 14th (HRS). Between 20th-31st one-three in seven coastal localities including one which flew into the overserver at Cullercoats on 28th (KW).

Black-tailed Godwit

A maximum of ten was present in Budle Bay on 24th (JRT/KWY) and up to four at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 29th/30th were probably from this gathering. Two were at Holy Island on 3rd (JDL).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 72 was noted during the wader count. In addition 1,300 were at Holy Island on 3rd (JDL).

Whimbrel

Singles were at Holy Island on 10th (TAC), and 21st (MJS), Bradford Kains on 19th (BRS) and Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Curlew

A total of 145 was noted on the wader count. In addition 269 were at Holy Island on 3rd (JDL), 145 at the Long Nanny on 17th (RKS) when 53 were near St. Mary's Island (IDM). Inland 57 were at Caistron on 18th (MR).

Spotted Redshank

Up to five were at Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month. One-three were also at Budle Bay, Hoppen Kiln, Hauxley and Hadston up to 19th.

Redshank

A total of 774 noted during the wader count. 217 were at Black Low on 24th (JDL). 47 were at Warkworth Lane Pond on 29th (JS).

Greenshank

Four were at Hauxley on 19th (HNR) and two at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th (L&KR). Singles were in four other coastal localities up to 25th.

Green Sandpiper

One was at Colt Crag on 17th (BNR).

Common Sandpiper

Two were at Seaton Burn on 4th (LR) when one was at Tynemouth (PPRS). The last were singles at Cresswell Pond on 10th (JS) and Scotswood on 14th (BNR).

Turnstone

A total of 694 was noted during the wader count. 107 were at Berwick on 23rd (JDL).

Grey Phalarope

One was on the River Tyne at Newburn on 22nd (L&KR). The last inland record in the county was in 1979 at Harbottle Lough.

Pomarine Skua

Singles were at Holy Island on 3rd and 10th (MHP/DPa) and N. at Hauxley on 7th ((HRS).

Arctic Skua

One-four were noted in six coastal localities during the month.

Great Skua

Six flew N. at Cullercoats and Seaton Sluice between 1st-6th (KW) and a total of nine N. at Hauxley on 2nd/11th/21st (HRS). Singles were at Whitley Bay on 7th (SJL) and off Warkworth on 18th (ADM).

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult was at Craster during the month, and the adult at North Shields remained until 9th.

Little Gull

There was strong N. passage during the first two weeks, particularly on 3rd and 11th with some large groups of birds at both Seaton Sluice and Cullercoats (KW et al). At Seaton Sluice 84 flew N. on 16th and 39 S. on 18th (TRJT/SSWT). Singles were noted on the pools at Druridge, Holywell and Seaton Burn.

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts included 680 at Scotswood on 14th, 6,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th, 1,300 at Colt Crag on 17th and 7,500 at Hallington on 20th. 1,250 were at Low Hocket on 3rd and 1,400 at Goswick on 12th (BNR). One attacked a Noctule bat near St.Mary's Island on 31st (MPc/AH).

Common Gull

Numbers at inland roosts declined with 8,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th, 9,500 at Colt Crag on 17th when 2,600 at Sweethope and 700 at Hallington on 20th (BNR). 200 were at Hartburn on 15th (TAC).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Up to 250 were at Caistor where a Scandinavian race bird was noted on 11th (MR). Two-five were in three other localities.

Herring Gull

100 roosted at Hallington on 20th (BNR). 800 were at North Shields on 2nd (DMT) and 400-500 at Berwick and Druridge (JSg/RJ).

Great-Black-backed Gull

A maximum of 3,000 was counted between Druridge-Hauxley on 8th, about 75% being adults (RJ). 220 were at Berwick on 18th (DPa) and 111 at North Shields on 4th (DMT).

Kittiwake

100 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS). 133 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th and 87 at Berwick on 1st (DMT/RMH).

Sandwich Tern

Six were off Hauxley on 3rd (HRS). One-three were noted here and at three other localities between 7th-16th and the last was one S. at St. Mary's Island on 18th (IDM et al).

Roseate Tern

An adult was at St. Mary's Island on 14th (ES/DRS).

'Commic' Tern

Small numbers were noted in several localities up to the 18th although as many as 70 were off St. Mary's Island on 13th (AH et al). The last were singles S. at Hauxley on 21st and 22nd (HRS).

Common Tern

Small numbers were noted in five coastal localities up to 18th and the last was one at Hauxley on 23rd (HNR).

Arctic Tern

One was at St. Mary's Island on 10th (DA).

Little Tern

One flew S. at Cullercoats on 11th (KW).

Auk (Sp)

At Cullercoats 107 flew N. on 16th and 50 per hour S. on 18th (TJT/KW).

Guillemot

Small groups were noted offshore in several localities particularly in the N. of the county.

Razorbill

One-three were noted in five coastal localities.

Little Auk

Three flew N. at Holy Island on 25th (DPa).

Stock Dove

One-two were on Holy Island between 24th-31st (IK).

Collared Dove

48 were at Low Newton on 24th (RKS). Two young were still in the nest at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Turtle Dove

One was at Holywell Pond on 22nd (JEF).

Cuckoo

One landed on a T.V. ariel at Whitley Bay on 26th (SJL). This is one of the latest records in the county since 1976.

Barn Owl

One was at Blagdon on 30th (TAC).

Little Owl

One-two were noted at Druridge and Backworth.

Tawny Owl

One-two were seen or heard calling in four widespread localities.

Long-eared Owl

One arrived from the E. at Holy Island on 28th (per IK).

Short-eared Owl

One arrived from the E. at St. Mary's Island on 14th (JRT). One-two were at Earsdon, Holywell, Cresswell and Ross after 25th.

Nightjar

One was at Langley on 27th (SJH). This appears to be the latest ever record in the county.

Swift

One was at Prior's Park on 19th (PPRS) and two flew S. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Kingfisher

One-two were at Castron, Mitford, Seaton Burn, Jesmond Dene and Ryton during the month.

Hoopoe

One was seen and photographed in a garden in Whitley Bay on 20th September per (IDM).

Green Woodpecker

One was at Harthope Valley on 22nd (ASJ).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were in seven widespread localities. In addition one was watched flying NE-SW over the Simonsides on 11th (MH) and another was at Hauxley on 17th (HRS).

Skylark

Passage was noted on several dates along the coast, and also inland as far W. as Ordley, particularly on 6th-11th and again between 21st-25th. Over 790 arrived from E. at Black Low in 1½ hours on 24th (JDL). 200 were in one stubble field at Castron on 11th declining to 10 by 25th (MR).

Sand Martin

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 17th (JS).

Swallow

Late broods fledged at Matfen on 3rd (RW), Ellington on 12th (ADM) and Bewick Bridge on 13th (JMA). Between 1st-25th small numbers and S. passage was noted in many widespread areas. The last this month were seen on 28th when six were at Druridge Pool (JS) and singles moving S. at Craster and Hauxley (AJ/HRS).

House Martin

Large young were still being fed at Kirkley Hall on 7th (TAC). 30 were at Holywell Village on 3rd (GB) and 20 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th (AH). One-eight were noted in nine other localities.

Meadow Pipit

100 were at Calder on 3rd (AMB). 30-50 were at Hauxley and Bamburgh early in the month.

Rock Pipit

16 were at St. Mary's Island on 7th (SJL) and 15 at Low Newton on 4th (RKS).

Water Pipit

One was at Caistron on 18th (MR).

Yellow Wagtail

Singles were at Holy Island and Old Hartley on 3rd (JDL/KIB) and Hauxley and Amble on 10th (NNR/ES).

Grey Wagtail

Passage was indicated by one-four in ten coastal localities from 2nd. One at Belsay repeatedly attached it's own reflection in a house window (SJt).

Pied Wagtail

30 were at Weetslade Pond on 2nd (GB).

White Wagtail

One-two were at Hauxley between 5th-7th (HRS).

Dipper

One-seven were noted in six typical localities.

Wren

Small numbers moved through Bamburgh and Hauxley throughout the month.

Dunnock

Passage was indicated by a large increase in numbers at Tynemouth on 11th (CB) and 32 trapped at Hauxley during the month (HRS).

Robin

Small numbers were in many coastal areas early in the month but an influx from 20th brought 100 to Prior's Park, 50-60 at Holy Island, 30 at Berwick and Bamburgh and up to 50 at Hauxley where a Belgian ringed bird was controlled on 22nd.

Bluethroat

A first year female was trapped at Prior's Park on 2nd (PPRS).

Black Redstart

One was on Holy Island on 2nd (GCP). Between 21st-31st one-three were at St. Mary's Island, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay Cemetery, Newbiggin, Cresswell, Lynemouth, Druridge Pool, Hadston, Hauxley, Warkworth Gut, Dunstanburgh, Seahouses and Holy Island.

Redstart

Between 1st-10th up to eight were on Holy Island (M Hp) and one-three in another seven coastal localities. Between 20th-22nd one-two were in six coastal areas and the last was at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Whinchat

Singles were at Holy Island on 1st (MJS) and Hauxley on 5th (HRS). Between 20th-24th further singles were at Seaton Burn, Tynemouth, Chevington and Holy Island.

Stonechat

From 4th one-three were seen in five coastal localities between the Long Nanny-Druridge. Inland three were together on the Simonsides on 11th (MH).

Siberian Stonechat

A bird showing characteristics of one of the eastern races was at St. Mary's Island on 30th/31st (GPB/MW et al).

Wheatear

One was inland at Belsay on 5th (JSt). Between 1st-24th one-five were noted in 13 widespread coastal localities. The last were singles at Warkworth Gut on 26th (MJS) and St. Mary's Island on 28th (LR).

Ring Ousel

Singles were at Bamburgh on 4th, and Warkworth Lane on 14th and two at Holy Island on 15th (BRS/JS/PWD). Between 19th-31st one-four were at Holy Island, Fenham Mill, Spindleston, Bamburgh, Newton, Hauxley and Tynemouth.

Blackbird

Small arrivals occurred on several dates during the month in coastal areas. Larger numbers were involved from about 19th and particularly on 27th when 2,000 were estimated on Holy Island (IK/WGJ). Inland 50 in gardens at Hexham on the morning of 15th quickly dispersed (RMH).

Fieldfare

Only small numbers were noted in coastal areas during the first three weeks but a large arrival occurred on 25th with flocks of up to 40 flying over several coastal localities. On 27th a huge 'fall' occurred on Holy Island in mist and rain when 6,000-7,000 were estimated to be present (IK). Inland W. movement was noted at Slaley on four dates (CJ), 300 moved W. at Milbourne on 30th (WGJ) and 120-280 were in three other localities.

Song Thrush

30 were at Blyth Park on 1st and 100 on Holy Island on 3rd (MHP). On 19th a large arrival occurred along the coast with 'hundreds' passing over Ross and Bamburgh (EJS/BRS) and up to 400 at Hauxley and Tynemouth (JRS/PPRS). Smaller arrivals were noted up to the end of the month.

Redwing

Arrivals were noted throughout the month although the heaviest occurred from 19th onwards with other thrushes. An estimated 2,000 were on Holy Island on 27th (IK/WGJ). Many birds could be heard passing over on several nights. Inland 700 flew W. at Ladycross on 13th, this movement also being noted at Langley (CJ.SJH). 500 passed over Kirkley Hall on 22nd (SWA).

Mistle Thrush

Small numbers were in several coastal localities early in the month although 40 arrived at Hauxley on 6th and a further 30 on 10th (HRS). Up to 90 were in the Budle Bay area on 18th (BRS) and from 19th birds were conspicuous in several coastal areas. Inland a large gathering of 200 was at Ingram on 30th and a W. movement up Coquetdale on 31st involved about 400 birds (EJS).

Sedge Warbler

One was still well inland at Castron on 4th (MR).

Reed Warbler

Two were trapped at Hauxley on 4th, one remaining until 7th (HRS). Four were trapped at Bamburgh between 19th-24th (BRS) and singles at Hauxley and Prior's Park on 22nd and another at the latter on 31st (HRS/PPRS). Single 'unsteaked' Acrocephalus warblers were at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (AJB) and Seahouses on 23rd (AIB).

Barred Warbler

One was on Holy Island on 18th (KR).

Lesser Whitethroat

Between 1st-11th up to four were at Holy Island (MHP) and one-two at Prior's Park, Whitley Bay Cemetery, Warkworth Lane, Cresswell and Hauxley. Singles were at Prior's Park on 20th/21st and 27th/28th (PPRS/CB).

Whitethroat

One was at Cresswell on 22nd (BNR).

Garden Warbler

Between 1st-6th one-four were in five coastal localities. Between 19th-24th one-two were at Hauxley where the last was trapped on 28th (HRS).

Blackcap

Birds were noted in many coastal localities during the month with influxes between 1st-6th and again after 19th. Largest counts involved 15 at Prior's Park on 4th and 21st (PPRS) and eight at Holy Island on 3rd (MHP). A total of 54 was trapped at Hauxley during the month where a W.German ringed bird was controlled on 23rd (HRS). Inland one-two were seen in seven widespread areas.

Yellow-browed Warbler

One was at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS). At least six were on Holy Island on 3rd, two remaining until 5th (MHP et al). Two were also at Prior's Park between 4th-6th (PPRS/CB et al). Two were trapped at Hauxley on 19th/20th, one remaining until 23rd (HRS) and another was at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Chiffchaff

Between 1st-12th one-two were in five coastal localities and another influx from 18th onwards brought one-six to ten localities. A bird showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race 'abientus' was at Craster on 25th (PWD) and singles of the Siberian race 'tristis' were trapped at Hauxley on 18th and 28th (HRS). Singles were inland at Matfen on 1st (RW) and Corbridge on 22nd (MR).

Willow Warbler

Singles were at Prior's Park on 2nd and 11th (PPRS) and Holy Island on 3rd (MHP). Three were at Holy Island on 22nd (ASJ).

Goldcrest

Along the coast the largest counts involved 30 at Prior's Park and Hauxley on 5th (PPRS/HRS) and ten in Blyth Park on 4th (MHP) although smaller numbers were noted in many localities throughout the month. Inland they were noted as common with up to 50 in Jesmond Dene and 10-30 in five other areas.

Firecrest

One was trapped at Hauxley on 2nd/3rd (HRS) and another was at Holy Island on 4th (ASJ/DPA).

Spotted Flycatcher

Between 1st-5th one-four were at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Lesbury, Blyth Park, Tynemouth Park and Prior's Park where the last was seen on 6th.



Spotted Flycatcher

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Singles were at Holy Island on 2nd and at Hauxley between 2nd-5th (GCP/HRS). Another was at Holy Island on 17th/18th (EJS/DC et al).

Pied Flycatcher

Between 1st-5th singles were in four coastal localities. Two were at Holy Island on 10th (LJM) where one was present on 22nd (ASJ). Another was at Hauxley on 18th (HRS).

Long-tailed Tit

Five-fourteen were noted in four widespread areas. On the coast ten were at Cresswell on 22nd (BNR).

Marsh Tit

Three were at Hulne Park on 10th (ES).

Willow Tit

Noted only at Hulne Park on 10th (ES).

Coal Tit

One-two were seen in five coastal localities during the month. Up to 12 were at Riding Mill on 12th and they were common all month at Threestoneburn (KIB/AMB).

Blue Tit

A total of 45 was trapped at Hauxley during the month (HRS).

Great Tit

Small numbers moved through Bamburgh and Hauxley during the month.

Nuthatch

One-two were at Hexham and Cambo. One at Espley Hall on 19th was a new area (RJ).

Treecreeper

Interesting coastal records involved singles at Briar Dene on 2nd (AJB), Holy Island on 4th (DPa) and Prior's Park on 11th (PPRS). Singles were also seen in six typical localities.

Hooded Crow

One was at Cresswell on 17th (JRT).

Starling

About 7,000 roosted at Colt Crag on 17th (BNR). A leucistic bird was near Sweethope Lough on 25th (AIB).

Tree Sparrow

50 were at Cresswell on 21st (JS), 30 at Beal on 25th (DPa) and 10-15 at Amble and Holywell Dene.

Chaffinch

Small numbers moved through Prior's Park, Hauxley and Bamburgh during the month.

Brambling

Small numbers were seen in about 12 coastal localities during the month with larger counts of 30 at Prior's Park and Hauxley (PPRS/HRS), 15 at Newton Point on 20th (MSH) and 23 at Cresswell on 22nd (BNR). Inland 30 were at Corbridge on 10th (MR) and six at Langley on 23rd (SJH).

Greenfinch

A large movement eastwards occurred over W.Heddon on 10th and involved about 1,000 birds (TPG). Up to 100 were at Bamburgh (BRS) and 20-70 in five other localities.

Goldfinch

Charms of 25 were noted at Boulmer and several localities in Druridge Bay.

Siskin

At Hexham ten flew S. on 1st and a total of 120 S. on 2nd (RMH). 60 were at Ladycross on 29th (CJ) and 40 at Beltingham on 24th (SJH). 6-20 were in three other areas. Coastal passage involved eight at Prior's Park on 3rd (PPRS), where one on 11th (CB), five S. at St. Mary's Island on 15th (AH) and singles at Hauxley on 17th/21st (HRS).

Linnet

Flocks of 80-100 were at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Newbiggin.

Twite

One was at Holy Island on 4th (JDL). About 50 were between Seahouses-Beadnell on 25th (MLC/AS) when two were at Newton (PWD).

Redpoll

One-four were in three coastal localities.

Crossbill

On 17th four were at Colt Crag and one at Sweethope (BNR).

Bullfinch

12 were at Espley Hall on 29th (RJ). One-four were in five other localities. On the coast three were at Craster on 24th (MSH) and two at Hadston on 30th (MJS).

Hawfinch

12 were near Swarland on 10th (WAK), five at Hexham on 30th (KD) and three at Beltingham on 24th (SJH).

Lapland Bunting

One on Holy Island on 3rd increased to 12 by 11th (DPa) and up to 40 were present between 23rd-31st (IK). Two flew in off the sea at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Snow Bunting

Between 2nd-11th one-two were in three coastal localities. Ten were at Ross on 12th (MGA). Between 22nd-31st one-five were in six localities and a party of 29 arrived from the E. at Hauxley on 31st (HRS).

Little Bunting

A first year bird was trapped at Hauxley on 20th (HRS).

Reed Bunting

Small numbers were noted in several coastal localities during the month.

Corn Bunting

One was at Hauxley on 22nd when two were at Glororum (HRS/BRS).

Please send all November records to Mike. S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX by 8th December 1987 at the latest.

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 N.Moores
 I.D.Moorhouse
 E.T.&J.R.Norris
 D.Patterson (DPa)
 J.Pattinson
 G.C.Pollinger
 K.Rich

M.Richardson
 L.Robson
 B.N.Rossiter
 L.&K.Russell
 S.T.Rutherford
 D.R.Shannon
 J.Sharpe
 M.J.Sharp
 M.B.Shaw
 D.Short
 E.Slack
 E.J.Steele
 R.K.Stephenson
 A.Stimpson
 J.Scott (JSt)
 J.Stowger (JSg)
 T.J.Tams
 D.M.Todd
 D.M.Turner
 K.Walton
 R.Walton
 T.Watson
 P.R.Weighill
 P.W.West
 M.Winter
 K.W.York
 E.M.Young
 Bamburgh Ringing Station
 Hauxley Ringing Station
 Prior's Park Ringing Station
 Seaton Sluice Watchtower
 Hauxley Nature Reserve

INDOOR MEETING - 10th DECEMBER 1987

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th December in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University at 7.00pm when our guest speaker will be John Steele who will talk about 'Conservation in the Cheviots'.

FIELD TRIP

The next field trip will be to Ross Back Sands on 30th January 1988. Please contact Colin Bradshaw (257 2389) if you are interested.

BINOS FOR SALE

One pair of Carl Zeiss Notarem 10x40 binoculars including case. Excellent condition, unmarked and virtually as new £95 Tel: Rob Jordon on Morpeth 512761.

WINTERING HEN HARRIERS - A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The winter population of Hen Harriers in Northumberland seems to be much smaller than that of eastern counties further south, though perhaps typical of coastal Britain between the Tees and the Firth of Forth. Winter roost surveys have never been seriously considered in Northumberland because no roosts are known and it seems unlikely that the population exceeds 3-6 birds in the entire county except in an exceptional winter like 1978-79. With such small numbers winter predation on Grouse stocks (which makes the harrier such a controversial bird) would be negligible, especially as most records are from the coastal plain (e.g. Lindisfarne N.N.R.).

Over the next few winters the club would like to establish how accurate the assessment given above is, and exactly what is the Hen Harrier's preferred habitat in Northumberland in winter. Especially useful would be details of harrier's flightlines at dawn or dusk, to try and pinpoint where the few harriers present are actually roosting. Such information would be valuable and interesting in itself, but it could also enable the club to contribute data to the B.T.O.'s Winter Roost Survey. Records should be entered on record cards and sent to Mike Hodgson in the usual way. Because the Hen Harrier is such a controversial and persecuted species, records will be treated in the strictest confidence and no locations will be published unless permission is given.
MIKE HENRY

RECORDS OF RARE AND UNUSUAL SPECIES

If you are submitting a record of a rare/unusual species please remember to use the club's special report form (see 'Guide to submitting Ornithological Records' issued to all members). Supplies of the form are available from me.
MIKE HODGSON

IMPORTANT - SUBSCRIPTIONS 1987/88

These are now long overdue. About 50 members have not, as yet, re-subscribed and this represents about £550 of revenue for the club. Please send your overdue subscription to John Day now. If you do not re-subscribe this will be the last bulleting that you will receive. On a pleasing note a further 20 or so members have covenanted their sub. this year. Many thanks to all who are able to aid sub funds in this way.

CLUB OFFICERS 1987-88

Your committee have appointed the following officers for 1987-88:

Chairman and County Recorder
Mike S. Hodgson
45 Elmtree Gardens
Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear
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: 2663071)

Assistant Secretary
Alan J Johnston
27 Park View
Wideopen, Newcastle
NE13 6OH
(Tel: 236 5263)

Indoor Meetings Secretary
Nick Rossiter
West Barn
Lee Grange, Ordley
Hexham NE46 1SX
(Tel: Slaley 509)

Field Meetings Secretary
Colin Bradshaw
9 Tynemouth Place
Tynemouth
North Shields
(Tel: 257 2389)

Sales Officer
Muriel L Cadwallender
32 Manners Gardens
Seaton Delaval
Whitley Bay NE25 ODW
(Tel: 237 1145)

Bulleting Production Officer
Sandy Bankier
12 Lartington Gardens
S. Gosforth, Newcastle
NE3 1SX
(Tel: 285 4201)

Librarian
Mike Henry
15 Bedford Place
Newcastle
(Tel: 267 4957)

COUNTY RECORDS COMMITTEE

The committee has appointed Bryan Galloway and Brian Little to serve on the County Records Committee during 1987/88. The committee has also decided that other members will attend Records Committee meetings during the year in an attempt to broaden the scope for future membership.

KEITH DURES AND JACK PARK

Members will be saddened to learn of the recent death of two of our long standing members.

Keith Dures died at his home, after a long illness, on 20th October. Keith had a long interest in natural history but became seriously involved with birdwatching 20 years ago. He joined the bird club and was quickly elected to the committee. He became the club's secretary and involved himself fully in the running of the club, a task he thoroughly enjoyed because he met so many different people. He trained to become a ringer and this allowed him to cover his home 'patch', Prior's Park tht more thoroughly. Even during his illness he would eagerly discuss the latest bird news, particularly in the local area. Our deepest sympathy goes to his children, Eden and Ben.

Jack Park died on 17th October at his home. Jack was a stalwart at the original Seaton Sluice Watchtower where he could be found on many weekends. Unfortunately his failing eyesight forced Jack to virtually give up birdwatching in recent years, although he still occasionally travelled to some of the Northumbrian sites. Our sympathy goes to his family.

M.S.HODGSON

EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGICAL ATLAS 1987

Thanks to everyone who took part in this survey. The response was very good with much effort and hard work during the breeding season. (If there are any outstanding cards please send them in, they will be of use). The total for the NZ 50 kilometre square was 98 confirmed breeding species. The grand total for Northumberland will be very close to 135 species.

Once again, weel done and thank you.

The European Atlas served as a timely training exercise for the coming B.T.O./N.&T.B.C. Breeding Atlas. This survey will be a more in-depth study and will span three breeding seasons which will result in a publication. So we look forward to hearing from observers who wish to do a bit of 'square bashing' in the coming months.

Tom Cadwallender
for the B.T.O. Survey Organisers.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 1987

	£	£
<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u>		
<u>INCOME</u>		
Members' Subscriptions (264 members at 30.9.87)	2,909.50	
Sales - Birds in Northumbria 1986 (to N.H.S.)	336.00	
- Birds in Northumbria 1985	601.28	
- Birds in Northumbria - previous years	97.05	
- Lindisfarne's Birds	150.18	
- Access Guides	144.70	
- Other	113.40	
Refund of Income Tax - Subscription Covenant Scheme	500.89	
Deposit Account Interest	87.14	
Social - (net)	<u>43.52</u>	4,983.66
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Subscriptions (B.T.O., R.S.P.B., B.B.)	66.50	
Indoor Meetings	861.87	
Monthly Bulletins	974.00	
Birds in Northumbria 1986	1,597.25	
Officers' Expenses	187.58	
Seaton Sluice Watchtower (alterations, rent)	216.70	
Record Cards	70.00	
Advertising	41.61	
Miscellaneous	<u>71.36</u>	<u>4,086.87</u>
PROFIT FOR YEAR		896.79
 £		
Less Depreciation of Typewriter	40.00	
Adjustment of Stock Valuation	<u>202.32</u>	<u>242.32</u>
ADJUSTED PROFIT FOR YEAR		<u>654.47</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 1987

	£	£
<u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u>		
Balance as at 1st October 1986		2,507.58
+ profit per Income & Expenditure Account		654.47
		<u>3,162.05</u>


Represented By:-

<u>ASSETS</u>		
Stocks - Birds in Northumbria, etc. (at cost or less)		1,025.00
Typewriter - (At Valuation)		75.00
Debtors - N.H.S. Birds in Northumbria 1986	336.00	
- Inland Revenue - Refund of Income Tax	500.89	836.89
Cash - Deposit Account	1,065.80	
- Current Account	219.35	
- In Hand	18.01	1,303.16
		<u>3,240.05</u>

<u>less LIABILITIES</u>		
Creditors - Subscriptions for 1987/88 - prepaid		78.00
		<u>3,162.05</u>

HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

.....

 BRIAN ARMSTRONG I.P.F.A.

2nd November 1987



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

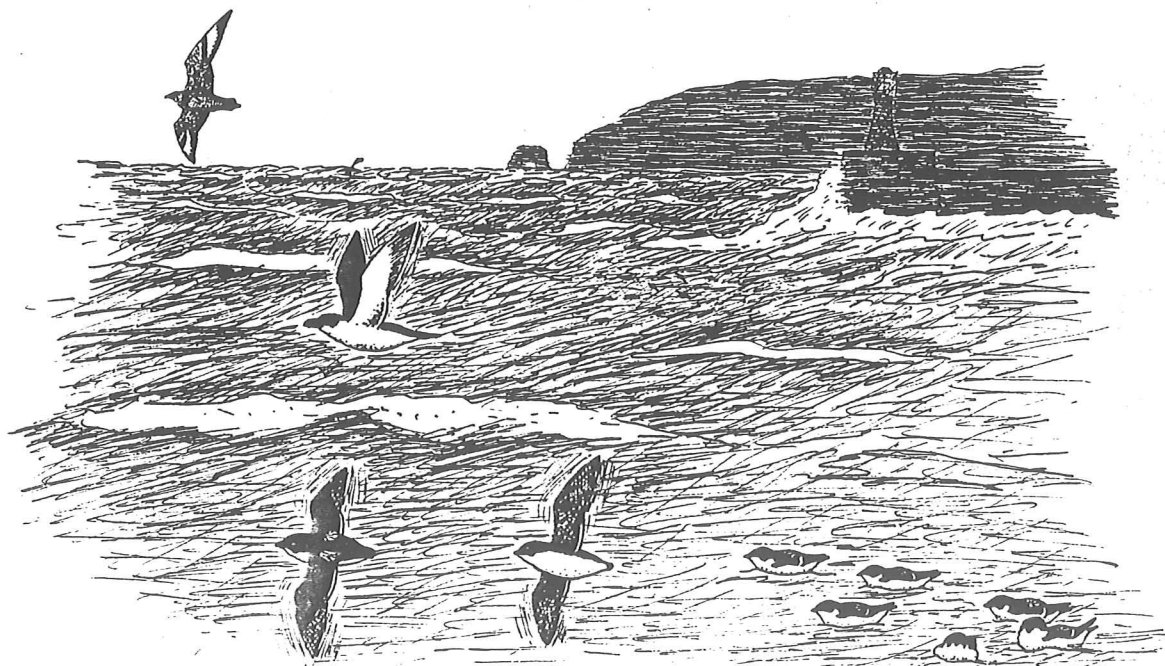
MONTHLY SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 1987

Temperatures were about average for November but it was a cloudy month with sunshine 20% below normal. Amounts of rainfall varied widely over the region but the two wettest periods were 11th/12th and 23rd/24th when most localities had half of their monthly total. The middle two weeks were windy with strong north-north easterlies from 22nd-25th initiating some interesting seabird movements.

On the 1st a Firecrest was found at Hauxley and a Red-rumped Swallow arrived at Bamburgh to hawk over the village for many observers. As usual Blackcaps and a few Chiffchaffs lingered during the month but more interesting records of late summer visitors involved a Willow Warbler at Hauxley on 8th, where an even later Garden Warbler was trapped on 14th, and a Ring Ousel in Whitley Bay on 21st.

Up to nine Bewick's Swans were recorded at Cresswell but numbers of Whooper Swans were comparatively low. It would be interesting to know the origin of a drake Red-crested Pochard found at Wylam on 15th. Numbers of Short-eared Owls increased and the sight of 20 together near Ponteland must have been splendid. Two Bitterns arrived, at Castron on 12th and Holywell Pond on 14th.

An Iceland Gull and at least five Glaucous Gulls were seen but there have been no reports of 'our' Laughing Gull at Newcastle.



Little Auks, Pomarine Skua, Razorbills
Tynemouth 23.11.87

AJB

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.

The highlight of the month for many observers must have been the passage of Little Auks particularly from 21st-24th. The peak movement on 23rd was spectacular and probably involved several thousands. Inevitably there were some inland records and others found dead or exhausted along the coast. Other auks were involved in the movement, principally Razorbills. Sooty and Manx Shearwaters, Pomarine and Great Skuas, and various ducks were also seen.

At least five Hen Harriers were present in the county and numbers of Snow Buntings increased during the month.

Other interesting species included Bean Goose, three Mediterranean Gulls, Water Pipit, Waxwing and Hooded Crow.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

30 were at Ross on 18th (IK/PWW), 20 in Druridge Bay on 28th (MH), up to 14 off St. Mary's Island, and one-seven in several other localities. A total of 52 flew N. and eight S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Light N. passage was noted in several areas between 22nd-25th.

Black-throated Diver

One-two were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area and singles at Howick, Hauxley, Druridge and Cresswell. Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 21st, one N. on 24th (SSWT) and another N. at Craster on 22nd (TRC).

Great Northern Diver

Three flew N. at Seaton Sluice between 21st-24th (SSWT). One-two were noted at Ross and singles at Holy Island, Stag Rocks, Craster and Druridge.

Little Grebe

12 were at Cresswell Pond on 7th (ES), and five at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR). One-three were reported in a further ten widespread localities during the month.

Great Crested Grebe

One-two were noted at Hallington, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn, Holywell and Hadston Lake. Two flew N. at Bamburgh on 18th (IK/PWW) and one was off Cresswell on 22nd (AGH).

Red-necked Grebe

One was at Tynemouth Pier on 2nd (AJB). One-two were at Holy Island, Ross and Stag Rocks.

Slavonian Grebe

A maximum of six was at Ross on 29th (TRC/MHp). One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd and another S. on 25th (SSWT/ADM).

Fulmar

Six at Bamburgh Castle on 1st increased by 20 by 28th (BRS/ES). Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (SSWT).

Sooty Shearwater

Three flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (ASJ/MSH).

Manx Shearwater

Singles flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd and 24th and at Tynemouth on 25th (SSWT/AH).

Gannet

Light N. passage (up to 20 per hour) was noted in several coastal localities between 23rd-25th.

Cormorant

67 were at Blyth Harbour on 29th (LJM) and 49 at North Shields on 24th (DMT). Inland 15 were at Newburn on 30th (L&KR), ten at Hallington on 14th (RW), nine at Kielder Reservoir on 22nd (MD) and one-six in another seven localities.

Shag

A N. movement just after dawn at Holy Island involved about 1,100 birds (JDL). 35 were between Budle Point-Seahouses on 15th (TAC).

Bittern

Singles were at Holywell Pond between 14th-28th (KVB et al) and Castron on 12th/22nd (MR).

Grey Heron

Seven were at Warkworth on 28th (JRT/KWY) and six at St. Mary's Island on 3rd (ASJ). One-five were in 13 other localities.

Mute Swan

190 were at Berwick Harbour on 22nd (JSg). Up to 27 were at Cresswell Pond (IC/TAC) and 33 at Queen Elizabeth Park on 27th (CDH). Two-eight were at seven other waters.

Bewick's Swan

Three adults at Cresswell Pond between 7th-10th increased to nine on 14th (two juveniles), three remaining until 16th (JS/ADMc).

Whooper Swan

The herd in the Cresswell/Linton area reached a peak of 110 (12 juveniles) on 15th although numbers declined to about 15 by the end of the month. 18 were at Ray Lake on 21st (RKS), 14 at Prestwick Carr on 26th (CDH), 13 at Sweethope on 12th (TAC) and two-eleven in 12 other localities.

Bean Goose

One was at Castron on 22nd (MR).

Pink-footed Goose

120 flew S. at Ladycross on 20th (CJ). 60 were at Budle Bay on 28th (ES/WTL) and 300 near Holburn on 29th (TRC/TMM/MHp). Skeins were also heard moving over Wideopen on 20th and Juniper on 22nd (AIB/CJ). One-five were seen in another six localities.

White-fronted Goose

Two were near Holburn on 29th (TRC/TMM/MHp).

Grey Lag Goose

About 2,000 were in the Budle Bay area where a white-headed individual was noted on 18th (IK/PWW et al). 420 were at Castron from 8th (MR), 250 at Chatton Moor on 14th (MF), about 200 at Grindon on 21st (JSB) and a maximum of 93 at Holywell on 28th (TRC). 30-65 were in five other localities.

Snow Goose

Two were at Hallington on 1st/14th (RW).

Canada Goose

73 were at Hallington on 1st (RW).

Barnacle Goose

On 1st six flew in from E. at Drudige Pool (ADMc), five were at Holywell (TRC/CH), and one still at Hallington (RW). Five were at Rayburn Lake on 2nd (TAC), four at Caistron on 8th/15th with three still present on 22nd (MR) and three at Hadston on 9th (HNR).

Brent Goose

A dark-bellied bird was at Cresswell between 10th-14th (JS). One flew N. at Tynemouth on 25th (CB). About 330 were off Guile Point on 29th (MHP/TRC).

Shelduck

37 were at Budle Bay on 8th and 14 at Holy Island causeway on 29th (JDL). A total of 14 flew N. at Seaton Sluice during the month and light N. passage noted in several other coastal areas between 23rd-25th.

Wigeon

About 10,000 were at Fenham on 5th (ASJ). 1,000 were at Budle Bay on 7th (ES/WTL) and up to 500 in the Cresswell area (JS/MA et al). 272 were at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (BNR), 138 at Grindon on 20th (RMH), and 75 at Hartburn on 12th (TAC). A total of 153 flew N. and 44 S. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT).

Gadwall

One-two were at Cresswell up to 21st. One was at Holywell Pond on 7th (GB).

Teal

A maximum of 239 was at Cresswell Pond on 27th where birds also seen resting offshore (JS et al). 180 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 12th (L&KR), 135 at Grindon Lough on 8th (BNR), and 20-80 at Seaton Burn, Gosforth Park, Newton Pool and Holy Island. 116 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 374 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (BNR), 318 at Seaton Burn on 14th (AJJ), 212 at the Northumbrian Loughs on 15th (JMM), 200 in the Cresswell area (RJ et al), 196 at Colt Crag (RW) and 160-170 at Hartburn, Kimmer Lough and Holywell Pond (TAC/ISD).

Pintail

Singles were at Holy Island on 8th (DPa), Pawston on 14th (JSg) and Seaton Burn on 30th (AIB). Six flew N. at Whitley Bay on 9th (AH).

Shoveler

11 were at Seaton Burn on 21st (GB), seven at Cresswell on 7th (ES), six at Grindon on 21st (JSB) and two-four at two other waters. Two were on the sea at Cresswell on 22nd (AGH).

Red-crested Pochard

A drake was on the River Tyne at Wylam on 15th (JD/JSB).

Pochard

66 were at Seaton Burn on 4th (BRG), 44 at Caistron on 8th/15th (MR), 41 at Holywell Pond on 22nd (IC) and up to 13 in eight other localities.

Tufted Duck

120 were at Cresswell on 1st (TAC), 56 at Seaton Burn on 9th (AJJ) and 25-46 at eight other waters.

Scaup

Up to nine were at Cresswell during the month. Singles were also noted at Hadston Lake and Newton Pool and inland at Seaton Burn between 11th-14th (BRG et al) and Caistron and Bolam on 22nd (MR/RKS). N. passage included 15 off Snab Point on 22nd (MSH), four at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (SSWT) and five at St.Mary's Island on 24th/25th (JDP).

Eider

Between 21st-26th a total of 92 flew N. and 38 S. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) with smaller numbers passing St.Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

Long-tailed Duck

Up to 47 were in the Stag Rocks/Ross area during the month and one-two in Druridge Bay on 5th and 21st (ASJ/AGH). N. passage included a total of 22 off St.Mary's Island on 23rd/24th (JDP/MSH) and smaller numbers off Tynemouth, Seaton Sluice, Hauxley and Holy Island.

Common Scoter

A total of 327 flew N. and 16 S. at Seaton Sluice with a maximum of 220 N. on 10th (SSWT). 20-60 were also noted at Tynemouth and Holy Island. More unusual was a party of eight, well inland at Caistron on 8th (MR).

Velvet Scoter

Between 9th-23rd a total of six flew N. at Tynemouth (AH et al) and three N. at Seaton Sluice on 22nd/26th (SSWT). One was off Ross on 18th (IK/PWW).

Goldeneye

The largest gatherings were 70 on the Tweed Estuary on 22nd (JSg), 43 on the River Tyne at Heddon on 28th (JSB), 34 at Holywell Pond on 4th (RW) and 20-30 at Bolam, Whittle Dene and the River Wansbeck at N.Seaton (TAC/MR/RJ). Smaller numbers were in a further 11 widespread localities. A total of 47 flew N. and two S. at Seaton Sluice during the month and 10-15 were noted offshore at Ross, Beadnell and Cresswell.

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 16 was at Hadston Lake on 24th (HNR). 11 were at Warkworth beach on 28th (KWY/JRT), nine at Budle Bay on 7th (ES) and one-seven in six other localities. Light N. passage between 21st-24th included ten off Seaton Sluice. One was still inland at Seaton Burn on 1st (GB/AJJ).

Goosander

A maximum of 33 roosted at Caistron on 15th (MR). Ten were at Pawston on 14th (JSg) and at Wylam on 28th (JSB). One-three were at Bolam and Bellingham. On 18th five arrived from the E. at Ross (IK) and one was at Boulmer on 21st (KIB).

Hen Harrier

Single 'ringtails' were at Newton Pool on 8th (JDL) and in the Cresswell/Druridge area between 13th-25th (JS et al). A male was on Holy Island on 28th (DPa). Singles were also noted in two inland localities.

Sparrowhawk

Singles were seen in at least 22 widespread localities.

Kestrel

Noted as plentiful in the Kielder area on 22nd (MD). One-two were seen in another 24 localities.

Merlin

Singles were noted in seven localities along the coast and in two inland areas. In addition one was hunting at Cochrane Park, Newcastle on 22nd (KIB).

Peregrine

Singles were at St. Mary's Island on 1st (TRC), Budle Bay on 10th (MJS) and Holy Island on 22nd (JDL). A tired bird arrived from the E. at Ross on 18th and rested briefly on the beach (IK/PWW). One was in an inland locality on 22nd.

Red-legged Partridge

Ten were at Netherwitton on 2nd/5th (TAC) and two at Shankhouse on 7th (LJM).

Grey Partridge

22 at Dunstan Square on 2nd was the largest covey (ISD).

Water Rail

Singles were noted at Holywell Pond, Seaton Burn, Warkworth Lane and Newton Pool during the month.

Moorhen

22 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th (IF).

Coot

250 were at Seaton Burn on 27th (BRG), 97 at Cresswell Pond on 7th (IC) and 48-50 at Bolam and Hartburn (TAC).

WADER COUNT November 1987

The following stretches were counted: Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle Bay-Seahouses (TAC/MLC), Seahouses-Beadnell (AS/TT), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WTL), S. Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (EC/ISD/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S. Pier-Hartley Point (KVB).

Oystercatcher

A total of 875 was noted on the wader count. In addition 75 were at Cresswell Pond on 7th (IC) and 60 at St. Mary's Island on 24th (L&KR).

Ringed Plover

A total of 201 was noted during the wader count. 44 were at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (JDL).

Golden Plover

Up to 2,000 roosted on the Emblestones and 2,000 in the Cresswell area during the month (MF/JS et al). 2,000 were also at Boulmer on 7th (ES). Up to 1,000 were at St. Mary's Island. Inland 250 were at Cornhill on 7th (JSg) and 500 at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR).

Grey Plover

A total of 48 was noted during the wader count. 127 were at Holy Island causeway on 29th (JDL) and one at Cresswell Pond on 13th (JS).

Lapwing

A maximum of 3,000 was at Druridge on 11th (JS). 1,500 were at Prestwick Carr on 26th (CDH) and 1,000 at the Long Nanny on 1st (RKS). 250-600 were in five coastal localities and 300-750 in six inland areas. S. passage was noted at Seaton Sluice during the month with a total of 462 and a flock of 200 moved S. at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (ADM).

Knot

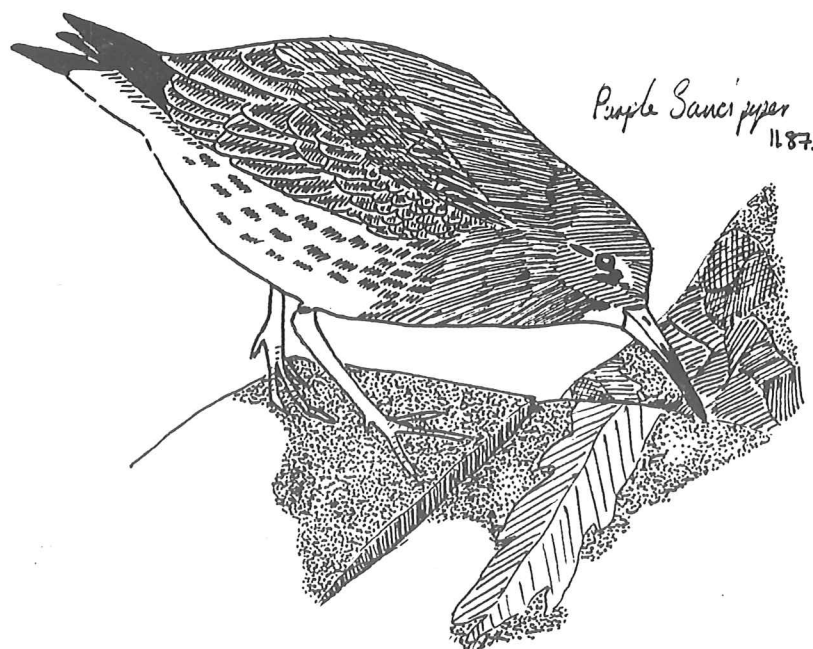
A total of only 22 was noted during the wader count although 28 were at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and 50 at St. Mary's Island on 18th (IF). An unusual record involved one at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th (AIB/GB).

Sanderling

A total of only 45 noted during the wader count. In addition 40 were at St. Mary's Island on 1st (TRC), 30 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS), 70 at Hadston on 22nd (AGH) when 21 were at Berwick Little Beach (JSg).

Purple Sandpiper

A large increase noted during the wader count with a total of 449 seen, including 265 between Budle Point to Seahouses.

Dunlin

A total of 605 noted during the wader count. In addition 2,900 were at Holy Island on 29th (JDL) and 120 at St. Mary's Island on 25th (PM). One was inland at Prestwick Carr on 30th (GAB).

Jack Snipe

One-two were at Warkworth Gut during the month and two at Cresswell Pond on 25th (SJH).

Snipe

Large counts involved 90 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (AJB/IF) and Warkworth Gut on 22nd (MHP/TRC), 72 at Cresswell Pond on 30th, 52 at Warkworth Lane Pond on 18th (JS) and 23-30 at Holywell and Hauxley.

Woodcock

One-two were seen in nine, widespread, coastal localities up to 28th. Singles were also noted inland at Kielder and Sweethope.

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were at Holy Island on 7th (DPa). Eight were in Budle Bay on 10th, one still present on 28th (MJS et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of only 15 noted during the wader count 1,400 were at Beal Sands on 29th (JDL).

Curlew

A total of 86 was noted during the wader count. In addition 200 were at Longhoughton Steel on 14th (ADM), 219 at Holy Island on 22nd (JDL), and 56 at Cresswell and St. Mary's Island. Inland 65 were at Caistron on 15th (MR).

Spotted Redshank

One-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond up to 16th (IF/AJB). Singles were also at Berwick on 7th and Beal Sands on 29th (JDL).

Redshank

A total 647 was noted during the wader count. In addition 340 were at Beal Sands and 265 at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL), 108 at Cresswell on 25th (JS) and 85 at St. Mary's Island on 24th (L&KR). 54 were at Warkworth Lane on 29th.

Greenshank

One was at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (JS).

Turnstone

A total of 1,296 noted during the wader count. 150 were at St. Mary's Island on 24th (PM).

Phalarope (Sp)

Two flew N. at Tynemouth on 25th (CB).

Pomarine Skua

One flew N. at Tynemouth on 23rd (AJB/AH) when six N. at St. Mary's Island where another two N. on 25th (JDP).

Arctic Skua

One flew N. at Cresswell on 21st (JS). A sick or tired bird was at North Shields Fish Quay on 24th/25th (RGW).

Great Skua

On 24th a total of 14 flew N. at St. Mary's Island (JDP) and one at Hadston (MJS).

Mediterranean Gull

The adult at Craster was present all month and an adult was at North Shields Fish Quay on 15th/19th (DMT). A first winter was at Seaton Burn on 8th (GB/AJJ).

Little Gull

Six flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 20th, one N. at Tynemout on 23rd, four at Seaton Sluice on 24th and another at Tynemouth on 25th (AJB/JEF/AH).

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts inland included 1,600 at Scotswood on 20th, 1,600 at Hallington on 22nd and 4,900 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR). On the coast up to 1,900 were in the Boulmer/Longhoughton area (ES/ADM) and 1,000 at Shankhouse (LJM).

Common Gull

1,080 roosted at Broomlee on 8th. Numbers increased later in the month with 19,000 at Hallington on 22nd and 10,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

180 roosting at Ciastron on 1st declined gradually to 25 by 22nd and none present by 29th (MR).

Herring Gull

260 roosted at Hallington on 22nd and 620 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR). Up to 800 were in the Coquet and Tyne estuaries (EMY/DMT).

Iceland Gull

A first winter flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 24th (JDP).

Glaucous Gull

An adult was at North Shields Fish Quay from 22nd and two first winter birds from 25th (DMT/AH). A second winter flew S. at Tynemouth on 24th (CB) and another was at Cresswell Pond on 25th (SJH).

Great Black-backed Gull

58 roosted at Hallington on 22nd and 65 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR). 700 were at the Coquet Estuary on 10th (EMY) and 110-150 at North Shields and Hauxley.

Kittiwake

400 per hour moved N. at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (MSH). 35 were at North Shields on 20th (DMT).

Auks (Sp)

Strong N. passage was evident on 23rd/24th. Counts just after dawn on 23rd involved 1,200-2,000 per hour at Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth with passage decreasing during the day. Many of those specifically identified were Razorbills (MHP/CB et al).

Razorbill

About 300 noted moving N. at Tynemouth Pier between 0900-1515 hrs on 23rd (AJB/AH/IF). Small numbers were seen in several other localities during the month. One on Cresswell Pond on 24th was later found dead (JS).

Little Auk

Two flew N. at Druridge on 5th (ASJ). 100 moved N. at Newbiggin on 7th (ES et al), nine were at Holy Island on 8th (DPa) and between 9th-11th a total of 111 flew N. at Seaton Sluice. One-two were at Ross and Stag Rocks on 15th. Between 21st-25th strong N. passage was recorded with the peak of the movement occurring on 23rd. Larger counts included 226 in three hours at Seaton Sluice on 21st, 274 in one hour at Craster on 22nd and on 23rd 1,621 in two hours at Seaton Sluice and 1,615 in six hours at Tynemouth. Passage declined on 24th/25th but small numbers were reported in several coastal localities (including several dead) up to the end of the month. Inland singles were on the River Tyne at Corbridge on 20th (NA), on a main road at Holywell and in a garden at Wideopen on 24th (KWY/AJJ).

Puffin

60 flew N. at Tynemouth on 23rd (CB).

Stock Dove

Six were at Ordley on 22nd (BNR) and 20 at Holywell Pond on 28th (KWY).

Collared Dove

49 were at Alnwick on 1st (AMB) and 50 at Brunton Lane on 29th (ADM).

Barn Owl

One-two seen at Ponteland, Berwick Hill, Castron and near Wooler.

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Chibburn and Backworth.

Tawny Owl

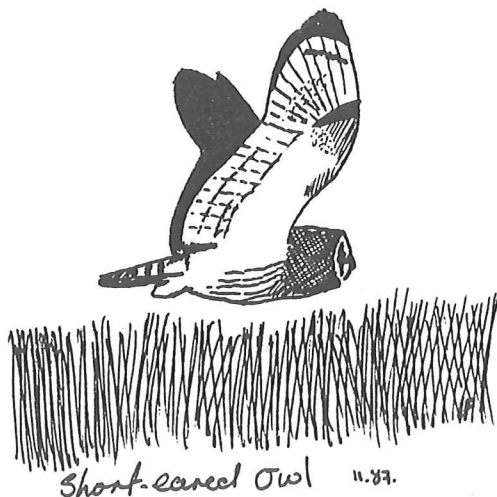
One-two were seen or heard in seven widespread localities.

Long-eared Owl

One was at Ross on 29th (MHP/TMM).

Short-eared Owl

A noticeable increase in reports during the month. At a locality near Ponteland about 20 were present on 15th with eight-ten still present on 28th (ADMc). About 12 were near Earsdon on 9th with five on 29th (JEF). One-four were noted in eight other coastal or near coastal localities during the month. One was inland at Sweethope on 19th (ASJ).

Kingfisher

One-two were at Jesmond Dene and Caistron.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were noted in five widespread localities.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were in eleven widespread localities. One was on the coast at Low Newton between 1st-21st.

Skylark

A steady N. movement was noted at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS). Small numbers were at Black Low on 7th/29th (JDL).

Swallow

Four flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 1st (TJT). Between 3rd-12th one-two were seen at Monkseaton, Cresswell, Hauxley, Amble and Newton. The last were singles at Berwick and Newbiggin on 22nd (JSg/AGH).

Red-rumped Swallow

One arrived at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS). This will be the fourth record for the county/



House Martin

Two were at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS).

Meadow Pipit

23 were at Ladycross on 2nd and 15 on 17th (CJ).

Rock Pipit

Ten were at Newton Point on 1st (ISD) and seven at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

Water Pipit

One was at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR).

Grey Wagtail

Up to six were in Jesmond Dene (MPF) and one-two in another six localities.

Waxwing

One was at Blagdon on 7th (GSR).

Robin

Ten were at Craster Willows on 1st (MSH).

Stonechat

One-two were in four coastal localities between Druridge to Newton Pool. Another was at Seaton Burn on 14th/20th (ES/BRG).

Siberian Stonechat

The bird found at St. Mary's Island last month remained until 2nd.

Ring Ousel

A very late bird was at Marden Quarry on 21st (AH).

Blackbird

Small numbers moved through Hauxley during the month.

Fieldfare

Only small numbers were reported in coastal areas. At Ladycross a total of 2,600 moved W. between 2nd-4th (CJ), 1,000 were in the Grindon area on 7th (RKS), 800 at Matfen on 2nd where 1,000 flew W. on 8th, 1,500 at Bavington on 14th (RW), 800 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (IF) and 300-500 noted at Caistron, Wooperton, Stamfordham and Prestwick Carr between 1st-5th.

Redwing

200 at Grindon on 7th was the largest gathering (RKS). 20 were at Wallington and Alnwick with smaller numbers in six other localities.

Mistle Thrush

15 were at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS) and 25 at Amble Braid on 7th (EMY).

Garden Warbler

A late bird was trapped at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

Blackcap

One-two were in ten coastal localities up to 10th. Two were at Cresswell on 22nd and one at Holywell on 29th. Further inland singles were at Jesmond, Newcastle, Seaton Burn, Milbourne, Wylam and Allenbanks between 7th-28th.

Chiffchaff

Two were at Tynemouth on 2nd (AJB). A bird showing the characteristics of the siberian race remained at Hauxley up to 8th and singles were there between 1st-10th, 14th and 28th (HRS). One was inland at Ovingham on 14th where three present on 22nd (GAB). Single 'phylloscopus' were also noted at Seaton Burn between 2nd-6th (BRG) and Embleton on 28th (RKS).

Willow Warbler

A very late bird was trapped at Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Goldcrest

Small numbers were at Hauxley between 1st-14th (HRS). They were common all month at Threestoneburn (AMB) and up to ten were in seven other localities.

Firecrest

One was at Hauxley on 1st (HRS).

Long-tailed Tit

24 at W.Woodburn on 15th (J&MH) and 20 near Bolam on 25th were the largest parties (BRG). Five-fifteen were also in another 13 widespread localities during the month. On the coast 12 were at Hauxley on 8th (HRS).

Marsh Tit

One-three were at Bolam, Wallington, Chollerford and Craggside.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Craster, Seaton Burn, Arcot and Derwent Reservoir.

Coal Tit

Three were at Craster on 1st (MSH).

Blue Tit

91 were trapped and ringed at Matfen on 22nd (RW).

Great Tit

19 were trapped at Matfen on 22nd (RW).

Nuthatch

Six were at Bolam on 6th (ASJ) and ten at Wallington on 28th (MSH). One-two were also at Espley, Bothal, Cheeseburn, Matfen and Hexham.

Treecreeper

They were noted in eight widespread localities.

Jay

One-four were in seven localities.

Magpie

Two were at Newcastle Quayside on 16th (IK).

Jackdaw

2,000 were at a pre-roost gathering at Todburn on 7th (BNR).

Rook

1,400 were at a pre-roost gathering at Todburn on 7th (BNR).

Carrion Crow

Large roosts included 45 at Grindon Hill on 8th, 97 at Sweethope on 22nd and 32 at Colt Crag on 28th (BNR).

Hooded Crow

One was at Holy Island on 28th (DPa).

Starling

Steady N-NW passage was noted at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS). 8,000 left a roost at Colt Crag on 28th (BNR).

Tree Sparrow

200 were at Druridge on 21st (ES) and 20-40 noted at Warkworth Lane, Holywell Dene and Stamfordham.

Chaffinch

200 were at Hallington on 14th and 250 at Stamfordham on 15th (RW).

Brambling

80 were at Allenbanks on 7th (RKS) and 60 at Bolam on 25th (BRG). 10-30 were also at Ladycross, Wallington and Kielder. The only coastal records were one at Hauxley on 7th (HRS) and 16 at Cresswell on 29th (NF).

Greenfinch

60 were at Holywell Dene on 1st (IC). 49 were trapped in a garden at Lesbury during the month (WD).

Siskin

21 were at Caistron on 1st (MR) and 15 at Craggside on 17th (MPF). Two were at Hauxley on 13th (HNR).

Linnet

100 were at Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ).

Twite

20 were at Cresswell on 1st (MD/IF) and up to 25 at Warkworth Gut by the end of the month.

Redpoll

A maximum of 30 was at Seaton Burn on 21st (AJJ).

Crossbill

Apparently widespread at Kielder and noted all month at Ladycross feeding on Sitka Spruce seeds (MD/CJ). 27 were at Kyloe on 29th (MHP) and 15 at Harwood on 14th (WTL/DRS). One-seven also seen at Corbridge and Sweethope.

Bullfinch

14 were at Thrunton on 8th (IF/MD) and ten at Ladycross on 27th (CJ). One-five were noted in another four localities.

Hawfinch

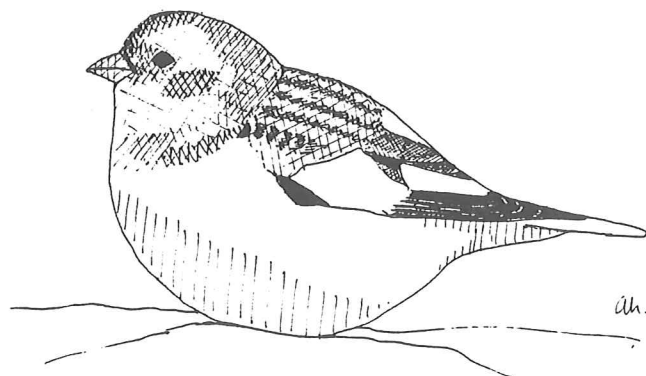
One-two were at Hexham and Hulne Park (KD/ASJ).

Lapland Bunting

A maximum of 15 was at Holy Island on 14th (DPa). On 1st two flew S. at Prior's Park (CB) and four were at St. Mary's Island (ADMc) where one-two present up to 6th. One was at Druridge on 19th/21st (JS).

Snow Bunting

55 were at Ross Back Sands by 22nd (Dpa et al), 100 flew N. over Hauxley on 21st (HRS), 40 were at Warkworth Lane Pond on 30th (JS) and 35 at St. Mary's Island on 29th (CH). One-eleven were noted in a further five coastal localities. Inland 13 were at Caistron on 29th (MR).

Yellowhammer

Flocks of 30-50 were noted at Hallington and Stamfordham (RW).

Reed Bunting

18 were at Caistron on 8th (MR).

Corn Bunting

One was at Lesbury on 8th (WD).

Please send all December records, in Voous order, to Mike. S. Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX by 8th January 1988 at the latest.

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M.Richardson
B.N.Rossiter

E.M.Young
Bamburgh Ringing Station
Hauxley Ringing Station
Seaton Sluice Watchtower
Hauxley Nature Reserve

INDOOR MEETING 14th JANUARY 1988

Our next indoor meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on Thursday 14th January 1988 at 7.00 p.m. Denis Summers-Smith, who is a leading authority on sparrows of the world, will give a talk entitled 'The Evolution of the House Sparrow'.

TELESCOPE FOR SALE

Nickel Supra 15x 60x telescope and case for sale. Good condition, Price £55 o.n.o.
Contact Alice Atkinson on Tyneside 2343448.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Tamron 500mm S.P. F.8 Mirror Lens Price £75

Tamron 200mm Adaptall 2 F3.5 Lens Price £25

Tamron 2x Converter Price £25

All complete with cases and in mint condition.

Contact Mike Richardson on Corbridge 3043 (after 6.00 pm)

THE THREAT TO BRITAIN'S SSSIs

The club has been asked to support a campaign by five conservation groups headed by the RSPB against proposals by South Glamorgan County Council, by way of a Parliamentary bill, to build a £50m. barrage across the mouths of the rivers Taff and Ely.

The issue, which has already received widespread national publicity, is regarded as being of the utmost importance because if the plan goes through it will be the first time in Britain that a local authority and the Government will have combined to completely destroy an area designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

While South Glamorgan may seem a long way from the North East, an important principle is involved and there are fears that if an SSSI can be destroyed in this way others could quickly follow. Members will recall that one of our own special areas, Budle Bay, was recently under partial threat until a planning application for holiday development was rejected by a public inquiry.

The organisers of the Taff-Ely campaign have asked the club to raise this issue with a cross-section of local MPs and we have written to Alan Beith (Lib, Neville Trotter (Tory) and Jim Cousins (Lab) who all have an interest in the environment and countryside affairs.

The campaigners are also appealing for funds to help save their important wader and wildfowl area and to present their own alternative proposals for spending the £50m. involved. Any members who want to contribute a small donation should write to:- Save the Taff Estuary Fund, Glamorgan Nature Centre, Foundtain Road, Tondu, Bridgend, CF32 0EH.

JANUARY SALE

Muriel Cadwallender is organising a small January sale of club goods at the next meeting. Who knows you may be able to pick up a bargain.

1986 RECORDS

If anyone has any outstanding records for 1986 please let me have them as soon as possible. There are a number of records for which notes are outstanding and so cannot be considered by the Records Committee. Please let me have them now.

Mike Hodgson.

THE COMMITTEE WISHES ALL CLUB MEMBERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR.

GEOFF MACFARLANE MEMORIAL TRUST

PROGRESS REPORT (1983 - 87)

The Trust, established to provide financial assistance for natural history projects in Northumberland and the immediate area, has now been in existence for four years. During that time the Trustees inaugurated a Natural History Competition, which, in 1985, was won by K. Reid of Morpeth with a study of the Birds of East Mill, Morpeth. In the following year two awards were made; the first to I. Fisher for his account of the Flora and fauna of Swallow Pond, Wallsend, the second to B.N. Rossiter for his detailed investigation of the status of the Common Gull in Northumberland. It is hoped that the high standard of entries will be maintained in future years.

The financial support provided during the period was indicative of the wide diversity of natural history projects being undertaken in the area. The Trust has actively supported the Northumberland Bat Group, the Northumberland Otter Project and the Northumberland Nuthatch Study Group. Substantial grants have also been given to two major nature protection schemes during the period. They involved Peregrines and Little Terns, both endangered rare breeding species. Two local naturalists have also received financial support from the Trust in connection with international conservation projects. The individuals concerned participated in Operation Raleigh and the Rio Mazan Project in Ecuador. A grant has also been made to the British Trust for Ornithology's "New Breeding Atlas" programme.

Two highly successful public lectures have also been held. In November 1985 Eric Meek, the RSPB Officer for Orkney, gave an illustrated talk on the Natural History of the Orkneys, and the following year Peter Lack of the British Trust for Ornithology dealt with the collection, interpretation and publication of the Winter Atlas Project, a detailed census of wintering species in the UK.

The Trustees would again like to thank those individuals and organisations who have given so generously during the last four years. New lectures and projects are being currently considered, and further donations should be sent to

J.C. Day, Hon. Treasurer, 2, Grange Ave., Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 9PN

Applications for Trust support can also be made in writing to the above address or to any of the Trustees listed below.

TRUSTEES 1983 - 7

R. Adams	B. Galloway	P. West
J. C. Day	M. Macfarlane	

Dec 1987



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - DECEMBER 1987

December was a very mild month with about half of the average frosts normally recorded. At Newcastle it was the mildest December since 1974. Although rain was not infrequently recorded it was a 'dry' month and there was no snow. Despite the mild pattern it was dull with little sunshine. Strong winds, mainly from a direction between south and west, occurred from the 18th as Atlantic depressions affected Britain.

Geese were still well reported during the month with some interesting records of Pink-feet, White-fronts and Barnacles. Numbers of Goldeneye and Goosander showed increases particularly along the Rivers Tyne and Tweed. A Red-breasted Merganser was well inland at Bakethin Reservoir on 5th and a Long-tailed Duck at Derwent Reservoir on 13th.

The bitterns at Holywell and Castron were still in residence and reports of five Hen Harriers included some different individuals from those seen during November.

The monthly wader counts are always interesting and can show trends in the populations along the coast. This month's count revealed a huge total of 1,027 Purple Sandpipers, almost certainly a record number in the county. Wintering Spotted Redshanks and a Green Sandpiper were also noted during the month.



There were five Glaucous and four Iceland Gulls and three Mediterranean Gulls included one inland at Derwent Reservoir. Following the large numbers of Little Auks during last month they continued to be well reported with a gruesome collection of remains at the Blyth harbour gull roost.

A dead Swift found on 31st must surely have been recently cleared out of a dry attic space! At least five Blackcaps and two Chiffchaffs were reported.

Perhaps the most interesting record involved a Black-bellied Dipper at Roddam Dene on 14th.

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.

Red-throated Diver/Diver

Between 1st-6th a total of 13 flew N. and three S. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Six were off Warkworth on 20th (PWW) and one-three in eight other localities.

Black-throated Diver

One flew N. at Holy Island on 27th (DPa).

Little Grebe

A maximum of 11 at Cresswell Pond on 4th declining to four-five by the end of the month (DBNR). Four were at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR) and one-three at six other localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Two were at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ) and one at Whittle Dene on 15th/19th (MR/JSB).

Red-necked Grebe

One-three were in the Stag Rocks-Ross area during the month.

Slavonian Grebe

A maximum of 11 were at Bamburgh on 19th (ES/DRS) and six at Holy Island on 10th (IK). One was at Alnmouth on 16th/17th (MR/AW).

Fulmar

On 5th 35 were at Cullernose Point and 12 at Dunstanburgh (JMA).

Gannet

Eight flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT).

Cormorant

48 were at the Tyne Estuary on 10th (DMT) where 66 flew S. on 15th (BNR). Inland, 30 were at the regular roost site at Corbridge on 26th (MR), 47 were on the Tyne at Newburn on 3rd (L&KR), and one-two in three other localities.

Shag

15 were at Stag Rocks on 3rd (TJT).

Bittern

Singles were at Castron on 6th and at Holywell Pond throughout the month.

Grey Heron

One-four were in 13 widespread localities.

Mute Swan

A maximum of 321 at Berwick Harbour on 5th (JDL). Up to 11 were in the Cresswell area (DBNR) and two-eight at ten other localities.

Bewick's Swan

One-two were in the Linton/Cresswell/Hauxley area between 5th-10th.

Whooper Swan

The herd in the Linton/Cresswell area numbered 140 (39 juveniles) on 6th although numbers declined from 12th (ADMc/DBNR). 11 were in the Holywell/Backworth area on 12th increasing to 54 by 24th (MPF/ES et al). Up to 18 were at Seaton Burn/Prestwick Carr (AJJ/BRG), 71 at Rayburn Lake on 30th (RKS), 33 at Holy Island on 13th (JDL/DPa) and 14 at Grindon Lough.

Pink-footed Goose

60 were at Budle Bay on 19th and Kyloe on 30th (ES/TRC). Several were heard calling over Tynemouth on 20th (CB), 24 flew W. at North Shields on 22nd (AH/TJT) and one was at Holywell on 29th (CH). Records of 'grey' geese including 160 S. at W.Denton on 8th (MH) and 13 over Newton Pool on 18th (MF) were probably Pink-feet.

White-fronted Goose

Three were in the Linton/Cresswell area on 5th/6th (ADMc). Eight were at Holywell Pond on 5th/6th and 11 on 12th (JRT/MPF). 13 near Embleton on 28th eventually flew S. (AJH). Five were at Kyloe on 30th (TRC) and one at Seaton Burn on 30th/31st (BRG).

Grey Lag Goose

1,330 were at Budle Bay on 12th (BNR), 1,950 at Beal Sands on 13th (JDL), 2,000 at Doddington North Moor on 29th (RMH) and 600 at Kyloe on 30th (TRC). 500 roosted at Castron on 6th/13th (MR), 209 were at Grindon on 7th (SJH), 107 at Whittle Dene on 15th and 33-60 at Colt Crag, Derwent Reservoir, Catton and Holywell Pond.

Canada Goose

One was at Berwick Harbour on 5th (JDL).

Barnacle Goose

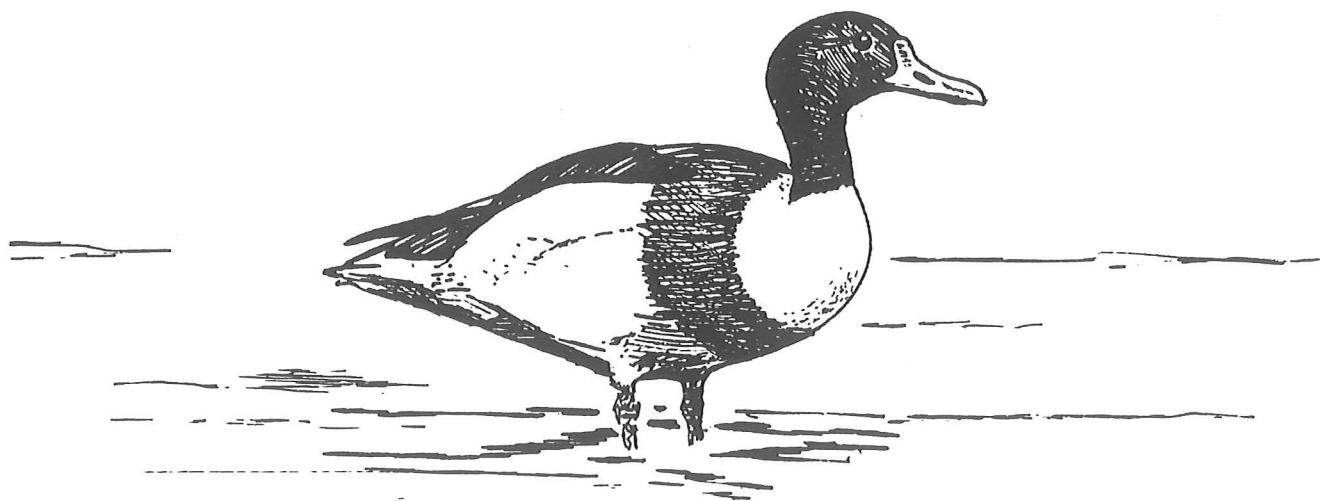
On 18th ten flew S. at Stag Rocks (SW) and 11 S. at Tynemouth (DY/SY). Six arrived at Cresswell on 19th and remained until 23rd. Two of these were colour-ringed, one having been marked as an immature at Caerlaverock in 1978 and the other as a moulting adult in Spitzbergen in 1986 (DBNR et al). Three were at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (JSg).

Brent Goose

About 1,190 were at Beal Sand on 13th (JDL).

Shelduck

158 were at Budle Bay on 20th (JDL) and 280 at Fenham Flats on 30th (TRC/MHp). One-three were at four coastal ponds.

Wigeon

About 5,000 were in Budle Bay on 30th (TRC/MHp) and up to 400 at Cresswell during the month (DBNR). 130 were at Derwent Reservoir on 13th, 120 at Harburn on 28th (BNR/TRC) and 157 at Grindon on 6th (RKS). 40-95 were at Seaton Burn and Whittle Dene.

Gadwall

Singles were at Seaton Burn between 19th-29th (AJJ) and Cresswell Pond between 19th-22nd (DBNR).

Teal

273 were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (DBNR). Other large gatherings involved 160 at Caistron on 20th (MR), 128 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (JRT) and 106 at Seaton Burn on 26th (AJJ). 25-70 were on seven other waters.

Mallard

Large gatherings included 520 at Seaton Burn on 11th (BRG), 220 at Whittle Dene on 15th, 209 at Caistron on 13th (MR) when 118-140 were at Bolam, Derwent Reservoir and Hallington and 193 at Cresswell Pond on 21st. 100-160 were on five other waters. 260 were on the sea at St. Mary's Island on 9th (PM).

Pintail

One was at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ).

Shoveler

Nine were at Seaton Burn on 20th (AJJ) and two-three at Arcot and Grindon.

Pochard

65 were at Hadston Lake on 12th (DBNR) and Cresswell Pond on 30th (ISD) 53 were at Holywell on 27th (TRC), 38 at Seaton Burn on 12th (AJJ) and 10-35 at six other waters.

Tufted Duck

150 were at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR), 63 at Seaton Burn on 5th (AJJ), 39 at Cresswell on 24th (DBNR) and 10-35 at six other waters.

Scaup

One was at Hadston Lake up to the 20th (DBNR) and another inland at Caistron up to 6th (MR). Six were at Holywell Pond on 27th (TRC).

Eider

Between 1st-6th 35 flew N. and six S. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Long-tailed Duck

A maximum of 70 were in the Stag Rocks/Ross area on 18th (MH et al). One was at North Shields Fish Quay on 15th (TJT) and two S. at Hauxley on 24th (HRS). More unusual was a single, well inland, at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR).

Common Scoter

Between 1st-6th 23 flew N. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). 43 were at Alnmouth on 9th (WD). 15-35 were at Cresswell, Stag Rocks and Holy Island.

Velvet Scoter

One was at Stag Rocks on 3rd (TJT).

Goldeneye

125 were at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (JSg). Along the River Tyne a maximum of 122 was at Heddon on 12th (JSB et al). 24 were at Holywell Pond on 13th/17th (IC/PRW) and 4-17 on six other waters. 40 were on the sea at Alnmouth on 9th (WD) and 47 at Seaton Sluice on 29th (CH).

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 12 were at Hadston Lake on 6th (JMA et al). One-six were in eight other localities along the coast. A drake was well inland at Bakethin Reservoir on 5th (BNR).

Goosander

45 were at Berwick on 5th (JDL). 17 were on the River Tyne at Heddon on 12th (JSB), 16 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR), 14 at Kimmer Lough on 20th (ISD) and 12 at Whittle Dene on 24th (MJS). Two-ten were in seven other localities. On the coast one flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 9th (PM).

Hen Harrier

At least one 'ringtail' was in the Ross/Budle/Holy Island area. An immature male was near Holburn on 22nd (MH). Inland single males were in two localities on 2nd and 28th and a 'ringtail' at a third locality on 29th.

Sparrowhawk

One-four were noted in about 27 widespread localities. One flushed Snipe at Druridge Pool on 29th whilst quartering rough ground like a harrier (MH).

Kestrel

Seven were between Cresswell-Hadston on 5th (IK). One-four were in another 14 widespread localities.

Merlin

Up to three were on Holy Island (JDL et al). Singles were also reported from another ten coastal and two inland localities.

Peregrine

One was in the Cresswell/Druridge area on 6th/25th with two present on 20th (MJS et al). Others were at Holy Island, Lowick and Seaton Burn. Inland one-two were in four localities.

Red Grouse

68 were counted in one km at Hexhamshire Common on 30th (BNR). Also noted as plentiful in the north and south Cheviots.

Red-legged Partridge

About six were at Hulne Park on 26th (WD).

Water Rail

Singles were noted at Newton Pool, Holywell Pond, Seaton Burn, Gosforth Park, Warkworth Lane and Caistron.

Moorhen

Larger counts included 32 at Warkworth Lane Pond on 9th (DBNR) and 29 at Brenkley on 12th (AHB).

Coot

166 were at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJJ) and 111 at Cresswell Pond on 12th (DBNR).

WADER COUNT 20th December 1987

Very good coverage was achieved this month. The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle Point - Seahouses (TAC), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/DRS/MBS), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (EC/MRS), Newbiggin-Cambois (MHp), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S.Pier-Hartley (KVB), St. Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,185 was noted during the wader count. Up to 127 were at Cresswell Pond. Four were near Gosforth Park on 17th (FC).

Ringed Plover

A total of 295 was noted during the wader count. In addition 260 were at Berwick Little Beach on 5th (JDL) and 35 at Tynemouth Haven on 22nd (AH).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were over 3,000 at Woodhorn, 1,000 at St. Mary's Island and 800 at Boulmer on 19th/20th. 150-170 were in five other localities.

Grey Plover

A total of 71 was noted during the wader count.

Lapwing

A total of 1,790 was noted during the wader count. Large gatherings included 1,500 at Cresswell on 19th (ES), Beal Sands (ADM) and Dilston Haugh (L&KR) on 26th/30th. 400-800 were noted in six other localities. Between 1st-6th a total of 500 flew S. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Knot

A total of 338 on the wader count included 306 at St. Mary's Island. 250 were at Ross on 5th (ISD).

Sanderling

A total of 174 was noted during the wader count. In addition 44 were at Hauxley on 13th (DBNR) and 21 at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (JSg).

Purple Sandpiper

A massive increase in numbers noted with 1,027 seen during the wader count, the largest number recorded in the county. In addition 40 were at Berwick and 52 at Tynemouth Haven on 20th/21st (JSg/AH) and 20 at Coquet Island on 24th (HRS).

Dunlin

A total of 749 was noted during the wader count. 169 were at Berwick on 20th (JSg) and 120 at Guile Point on 5th (ISD). Seven were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th (CDH).

Jack Snipe

Up to five were seen at Warkworth Gut during the month (PWW/ES et al). One was at Warkworth Lane Pond on 7th (DBNR).

Snipe

79 were at Druridge Pool on 21st, 70 at Cresswell Pond on 19th (DBNR) and 63 at Warkworth Gut on 20th (TRC/MHp).

Woodcock

Singles were noted in five widespread areas including one on the coast at Hauxley on 5th.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were at Budle Bay on 13th (MJS), four at Hoppen Kiln on 18th (MH), and one at Fenham Flats on 18th/30th (SW/TRC).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 35 was noted on the wader count. 1,700 were at Beal Sands on 13th (JDL).

Curlew

A total of 251 was noted on the wader count. 90 were at Holy Island on 6th (JDL) and inland 50 were at Castron on 27th (MR).

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd and 30th/31st (IF/MRS), Boulmer on 19th (IK) and Tynemouth on 20th (AJB).

Redshank

A total of 806 was noted during the wader count. In addition 377 were at Berwick Little Beach on 5th (JDL), 300 at Foxton on 19th (MBS/ES), when 253 at Cresswell Pond (DBNR) and roosted at Tynemouth during the month (AH).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Whittle Dene between 12th-15th (PWW/CJ).

Turnstone

A total of 1,361 was noted during the wader count, 41 were at Cresswell Pond on 19th (DBNR) and 110 at Berwick on 20th (JSg).

Pomarine Skua

An adult flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT).

Mediterranean Gull

The adult remained at Craster during the month. Other sightings of adults involved singles at Holywell Pond and Seaton Burn both on 20th (NJS/GB) and North Shields on 29th (AJB) and may refer to the same bird. More unusual was a first winter at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (BNR).

Little Gull

One flew N. at Tynemouth on 6th (AH) when three N. at Cullercoats (KW).

Black-headed Gull

700 roosted at Budle Bay on 12th, 4,400 at Scotswood on 18th and 3,500 at Hallington on 19th (BNR).

Common Gull

Inland roosts included 14,000 at Hallington on 19th, 5,400 at Dewent Reservoir on 24th, and 3,200 at Colt Crag on 21st. Along the coast 6,600 roosted at Budle on 12th and 1,050 at Tynemouth on 14th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Three were at Seaton Burn on 7th (BRG) and singles at North Shields and Seghill.

Herring Gull

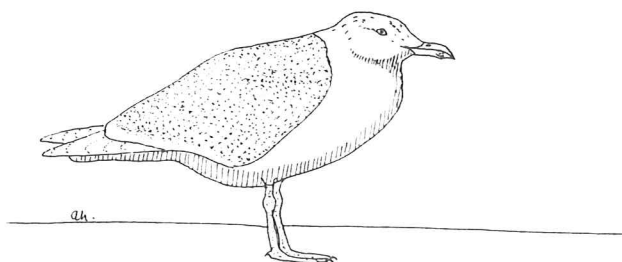
670 roosted at Hallington on 19th and 1,220 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (BNR). 900 were at the Tyne Estuary on 28th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

At least four individuals were noted at North Shields Fish Quay during the month. A first year was present from 5th being joined by another first winter from 15th and a second winter from 18th. An adult was present on 23rd. Records of birds at Tynemouth and St. Mary's Island probably refer to these birds.

Glaucous Gull

Two adults and a first winter bird were seen at North Shields Fish Quay on many dates. A first winter was in the Cresswell-Hauxley area between 1st-26th (DBNR). An adult was at Holy Island on 10th (IK).



Great Black-backed Gull

34 roosted at Hallington on 19th and 155 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (BNR). 209 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 7th (TJT).

Kittiwake

Steady N. passage was noted at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Razorbill

13 were in the Tyne Estuary on 18th (DY/SY). One-six were noted in six other localities along the coast.

Little Auk

They were still well reported during the month. 19 flew S. in one hour at St. Mary's Island on 5th (JRT) and 30 were in Druridge Bay on 9th (DBNR). One-seven were reported in eight coastal areas including a few corpses. The remains of 18 were found at the gull roost at Blyth Harbour on 13th and one dead at Hadston Lake (TRC/MHp). One was on Druridge Pool on 2nd and another flying along a road at Felton was caught and released on the R. Coquet where it flew off downstream (ETN.JRN).

Stock Dove

Six were at sweethope on 26th (BNR).

Woodpigeon

On 29th 1,800 were at Dinnington (BRG) and 1,500 flew S. at Blagdon (RMH).

Collared Dove

50 were at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Castron, Ford Moss, Longhorsley and Woodhorn.

Little Owl

One-two were at Druridge . Earsdon and Berwick Hill.

Tawny Owl

One-two were in five widespread localities.

Long-eared Owl

Two roosted near Percy Main on 20th (MSH).

Short-eared Owl

13 were still present near Ponteland on 13th (ASJ). One-two were reported in a further eight localities. One arrived from E. at Cresswell on 5th (IK).

Swift

The corpse of a juvenile was found on a pavement in Byker on 31st. This had probably been recently removed from a loft or attic space (AJB).

Kingfisher

One-two were in Jesmond Dene all month. Singles were noted at Heddon, Whittle Dene and Ford (JSB/PWW/JMA).

Green Woodpecker

One was at Newburn on 31st (L&KR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were at Gosforth Park, Walbottle, Whittle Dene and Matfen.

Meadow Pipit

Up to 26 were still on high ground at Slaley up to 22nd (CJ).

Grey Wagtail

Up to six were in Jesmond Dene during the month (MPF). One-two were in seven widespread areas.

Dipper

One-two were in nine widespread localities including some singing birds.

Black-bellied Dipper

A bird showing the characteristics of this continental race was at Roddam Dene on 14th (TMM/PWW).

Stonechat

At least two were in the Druridge area during the month.

Fieldfare

100 at Seaton Burn and Calder on 28th were the largest flocks reported (BRG/AMB). 20-70 were noted in a further eight localities.

Song Thrush

One was in song at Newcastle on 30th (KIB).

Redwing

Very few reports. 90 were at Hexhamshire on 24th (CJ) and 40 at Prestwick Carr on 14th (LJM). One-ten were in another five localities.

Mistle Thrush

17 at Blanchland on 29th was the largest gathering (BNR). Singing birds were at Juniper on 24th and Newcastle on 28th (CJ/KIB).

Blackcap

Singles were noted at Jesmond Dene, High Heaton, Chapel House, Whitley Bay and Belsay between 13th-30th.

Chiffchaff

Singles were at Benton on 22nd (FC) and Holywell Village on 25th/26th (TRC).

Goldcrest

Noted as prominent in forest areas at the Simonsides and Threestoneburn. Smaller numbers were noted in six other areas.

Long-tailed Tit

20 were at Gosforth Park on 27th (ISD). 10-15 also seen at Seaton Burn, Ovingham and Castron.

Marsh Tit

One-two were at Hulne Park, Ordley and Letah Wood.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Prestwick Carr, Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Coal Tit

20 were at Threestoneburn on 6th (AMB).

Blue Tit

80 were in Jesmond Dene on 31st (AH) and 15-30 in three other localities.

Nuthatch

Up to nine were at Wallington and six at Bolam (RKS/MSH). Singles were also seen at Allenbanks, Matfen and Close House. One visited a bird-table at Newton-on-the-Moor, another new locality (per IK).

Magpie

19 at Arcot Hall on 23rd and 13 at Warkworth Lane on 3rd were the largest counts (AHB/DBNR).

Jackdaw

1,600 were in a pre-roost gathering at Lower Heddon on 24th (L&KR).

Carrion Crow

Roost counts involved 176 near Hexham on 6th, 35 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th and 101 at Slaley on 20th (BNR). A partial albino was at Heddon on 23rd (RGW).

Hooded Crow

Two were on Holy Island on 13th (DPa) and one in the Druridge area between 17th-31st (DBNR).

Tree Sparrow

35 at Warkworth Lane on 15th, 30 at Newton on 19th and 25 at Lower Heddon on 6th were the largest flocks (DBNR/ES/L&KR).

Chaffinch

Large flocks included about 300 at Hexham Abbey on 10th and the Alwin Valley on 30th (KD/IK), 250 at Stanfordham on 22nd and Slaley on 31st (RW/CJ), 200 at Ryal on 8th and 80-140 at four other localities.

Brambling

Over 100 were at Hexham Abbey on 10th (KD). Up to 50 were in the Heaton Park area on 26th (AJB).

Greenfinch

The only large flock reported was 300 at the Alwin Valley on 30th (BG/IK).

Goldfinch

15-20 were noted at Jesmond Vale, Seaton Burn and Cresswell.

Siskin

50 were at Ladycross on 23rd (CJ) and 20-24 at Stocksfield and Castron (KIB/MR). Two-six visited a Morpeth garden from 21st (AS).

Twite

Up to 40 were at Warkworth Gut during the month.

Redpoll

50 were at Seaton Burn on 27th (AJJ). Flocks of 30 were noted at Bolam, Allenbanks, Plankey Mill and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Crossbill

Up to 17 were at Ladycross during the month (CJ). 13 were at Harwood on 28th (TRC) and three on the Simonsides on 13th (IK).

Bullfinch

21 were at Threestoneburn on 13th (AMB), 16 at Bakethin on 5th (BNR), and one-nine in a further eight widespread localities.

Hawfinch

Six were at Hulne Park on 20th (ASJ) and four at Hexham on 10th (KD).

Lapland Bunting

Four were on Holy Island on 13th (DPa).

Snow Bunting

Numbers at St.Mary's Island peaked at 125 on 6th (IDM/ASJ). 44 were at Holy Island on 10th (IK), 30-40 at Druridge on 20th (NF) and two-five in another four coastal localities. Inland 60 were at Cornhill on 12th (JSg) and two near Chatton on 22nd (MH).

Reed Bunting

15 were at Druridge Pool on 5th (PM).

Corn Bunting

One was at Foxton on 9th (WD).

Please send all January record, in Voous order, to Mike.S.Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay NE25 9QX by 8th February at the latest.

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INDOOR MEETING Thursday 11th February 1988

Our next indoor meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on 11th February at 7.00p.m. Ron Summers, a speaker of international reputation will be telling us something of 'The Migrations of the Purple Sandpiper'.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR 1987

This month is the last chance to enter this club competition so make sure you get your entries to Ian Kerr as soon as possible. As mentioned at the last meeting we will be considering the entries for publication in the 1987 annual report.

EASTERN AUSTRIA MAY 1988

There are still a few places available for this trip, lead by Eric Bird and Mike Hodgson, to Lake Neusiedl at the end of May. The tour will last nine days and cost is about £299. If you are interested please contact Peter Wilkinson at Dawson and Sanderson Ltd, Market Street, Blyth (Tel: 0670 351435) or Eric or Mike direct who can supply further information and a detailed itinerary.

BREEDING ATLAS 1988

Preparatory work for the first year of the county breeding survey is now well in hand and we hope to have recording cards, instructions, etc in the course of the next few weeks. The response for fieldworkers has been very good so far but we still need more volunteers to cover various areas. If you feel that you would like to help during this breeding season please contact Nick Rossiter (Tel: Slaley 509) as soon as possible.

BINDING

A consignment of books for binding will be sent away in APRIL/MAY of this year. Please let me have any item(s) you want binding

BY THE CLUB MEETING IN APRIL (Thurs. 14th)

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