



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - JANUARY 1988

The first month of the year continued to be mild with all areas experiencing above average temperatures. The latter half of the month, however, saw a drop in temperature and a higher incidence of overnight frosts. It was a very wet period with above average rainfall. On the 5th, for example, Haydon Bridge received 21.4mm! Snow was reported on several occasions but was lying mainly in the higher areas. Winds were mainly from between South and West and strong at both the beginning and end of the month.

The Bittern at Holywell Pond was joined by a second individual early in the month. There were low numbers of grebes in the Ross/Stag Rocks area when compared with January 1987 but 100 Long-tailed Ducks provided some compensation. There were some interesting 'sawbill' records with four Smew at their favourite locality at Hadston, a large gathering of 290 Goosanders at Berwick and a party of four Red-breasted Mergansers at Colt Crag. Following the record number of Purple Sandpipers in December a decrease to 695 was detected during the regular wader count. Wintering waders including Black-tailed Godwits, Spotted Redshanks and a Green Sandpiper.



Short-eared Owl numbers remained high with roost counts of 16 and 19 in two localities. A single Waxwing was at Budle Bay on 26th and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker at Dipton on 30th. Passerines have no doubt benefitted from the mild weather and nine Blackcaps and two Chiffchaffs were reported. Numbers of birds such as Bramblings and titmice have been high. Hawfinches have been conspicuous at Hulne Park during the month where 24 were counted on 23rd.

Other interesting records included Black-necked Grebe, Mediterranean Gulls, Hooded Crow, and Lapland Buntings.

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 (Sp.)

Up to 20 were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area (KWY et al) and one-two in three other localities.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were at Druridge on 3rd (CH) and Stag Rocks on 13th (IK/PWW).

Great Northern Diver

Up to three were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area (JRT/KWY). One flew N. at Holy Island on 10th (DPa.)

Little Grebe

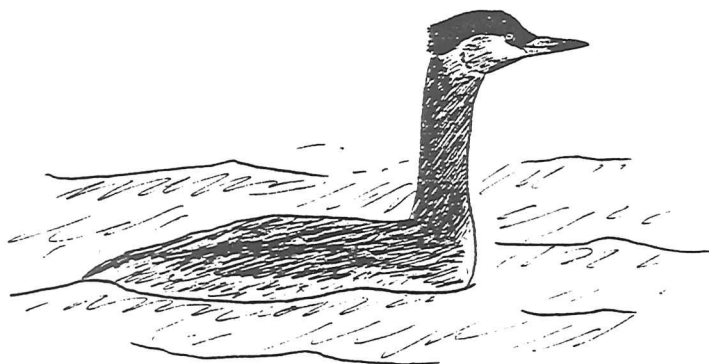
A maximum of seven was at Cresswell Pond during the month (DBNR) and one-two on four other waters. One-four were seen on the Rivers Coquet, Aln, and Tyne and two in Berwick harbour.

Great Crested Grebe

A pair was at Seaton Burn until 4th when display was noted (AJJ). Singles were at Whittle Dene and Hallington reservoirs (JSB/BNR).

Red-necked Grebe

Up to seven were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area during the month (RKS et al). Two were at Holy Island on 1st (CB) and one at Howick on 23rd (ASt). More unusual was a party of three on the River Coquet at Warkworth on 9th (KIB/GSR).



Red-necked Grebe Stag Rocks
Jan '88 AJB

Slavonian Grebe

They were regularly reported in the Bamburgh - Holy Island area with a maximum of 10-12 on 16th (JRT/KWY et al).

Black-necked Grebe

One was at Alnmouth on 21st (ETN/JRN).

Fulmar

40 were at Cullernose on 17th (RD), ten on Berwick road bridge on 24th (IC) and four pairs at Hartley on 27th (HES).

Gannet

Ten flew S. at Holy Island on 1st (CB).

Cormorant

Counts in harbours included 73 at Blyth on 1st (Mhp), 56 at North Shields on 7th (TJT) and 41 at Amble on 24th (IC). 30 roosted at Corbridge on 9th (MR) and one-eight were noted on eight inland waters.

Shag

Movements off Holy Island included 442 S. on the evening of 16th (JDL).

Bittern

Two were present at Holywell Pond, probably from 2nd-10th, one at least remaining until the end of the month (ADMC/GPB et al).

Grey Heron

12 were at Annstead on 11th (RMH), eight at Boulmer on 30th (WTL), seven near Pawston on 16th (JSg) and one-four in 14 other widespread localities.

Flamingo

An escapee was at Cresswell Pond on 3rd.

Mute Swan

A maximum of 328 was at Berwick harbour on 9th (JDL). 12 were at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ) and one-nine in ten other localities.

Bewick's Swan

A family party of five was in the Wallsend Swallow Pond/Backworth/Holywell area between 3rd-31st (JRT et al). One was at Cresswell Pond on 24th (WAL).

Whooper Swan

Up to 100 were in the Cresswell/Druridge area (ES/WTL et al), 71 at Rayburn Lake on 1st (RKS), 51 in the Holy Island area on 17th (JSg) and up to 40 at Holywell, 27 at Prestwick Carr/Seaton Burn, 23 at Hartburn and 21 on the Northumbrian Loughs.

Pink-footed Goose

Six flew N. at Corbridge on 5th (MK), three were at Otterburn on 7th (TMM), two at Whittle Dene on 29th (MJS) and one in Berwick harbour all month.

White-fronted Goose

Four were at Holywell Pond throughout the month. One remained at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ) and another at Whittle Dene on 29th (MJS).

Grey Lag Goose

Up to 1,000 were in the Budle Bay area (IC/MB et al), 700-800 roosted at Castron on 31st (MK) and 500 were at Ford Castle on 27th (JMA) 220 were at Whittle Dene on 29th when 175 at Holywell and 173 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR). When 26-140 were noted in a further seven localities.

Canada Goose

52 were at Colt Crag on 16th (RW) and 13 at Capheaton on 27th (BRG). Singles were at Grindon Lough on 29th (MJS) and Berwick harbour.

Barnacle Goose

One was at Budle Bay on 16th (JRT/KWT), four at Berwick harbour on 10th, three still present on 24th (WAK/IC) and four at Castron on 31st (MR).

Brent Goose

800-900 were in the Holy Island area. Other reports of pale-bellied birds were six S. at Howick on 23rd (ASt) and two at Amble on 30th/31st (WGJ/MW). One was at Hauxley on 24th.

Shelduck

382 were on Fenham Flats on 16th (JRT/KWY) and 118 at Budle Bay on 17th (TRC/MHp). 25 were at the Coquet Estuary on 31st (EMY) when ten were at Hadston (MJS). Two-eight were at seven other coastal localities. Inland five were at Grindon Lough on 9th (BSB/JMB).

Wigeon

1,030 were at Budle Bay on 16th when 500 at Fenham Flats (JRT/KWY). Up to 240 were at Cresswell Pond during the month (DBNR), 166 at Grindon Lough on 9th (BSB/JMB), 163 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (BNR), 136 at Angerton on 17th (MLC) and up to 70 at Whittle Dene.

Gadwall

Two were at Seaton Burn between 10th-31st (AJJ/DM) and one at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DBNR).

Teal

The largest gatherings were 250 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (IF), 190 in the Cresswell/Druridge area (DBNR), 150 at Castron on 3rd (MR) and Gosforth Park on 30th (ISD) and 107 at Grindon on 9th (BSB). 19-58 were at seven other localities. 75 were on the sea at Boulmer on 5th (WD).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 431 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (BNR), 310 at Seaton Burn on 3rd (BRG) when 200 at Castron (MR) and 272 at the Northumbrian Loughs on 17th (JMM). 110-190 were also noted at Holywell, Kimmer Lough, Hallington, Colt Crag, Cresswell, Gosforth Park and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Pintail

20 were at Fenham Mill on 31st (ADM^C).

Shoveler

Nine were at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ) and two-four at Arcot, Cresswell and Holy Island.

Pochard

The largest gatherings were 70 at Grindon on 9th (BSB) and Holywell on 14th (IF), 61 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (DBNR) when 55 at Hadston, 53 at Killingworth Lake on 19th (L&KR) and 48 at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ). 15-35 were on four other waters.

Tufted Duck

86 at Whittle Dene on 17th (MR), 63 at Seaton Burn on 30th (AJJ), and 60 at Cresswell Pond on 20th (DBNR) were the largest gatherings. 4-34 were at nine other waters.

Scaup

One was at Hadston Lake on 11th/13th (DBNR) and four at Ross Back Sands on 24th (IC/MB). Inland singles were at Seaton Burn on 4th (BRG) and Grindon Lough on 9th (BSB/JMB).

Long-tailed Duck

Up to 100 were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area during the month (TRC/MHp et al). 30 were at Beadnell on 24th (MLC/TAC) and two S. at Newton on 30th (RKS).

Common Scoter

Up to 60 were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area. 50 were at Druridge on 2nd (JRT) and Alnmouth on 11th (WD).

Velvet Scoter

Seven were at Ross Back Sands on 16th/17th (KWY et al).

Goldeneye

A maximum of 271 was at Berwick on 29th (JDL) and 109 on the River Tyne at Newburn on 7th (L&KR). 31 were at Holywell Pond on 9th (TRC) 23 at Castron on 16th (MR), 21 at Whittle Dene on 10th, 19 at Derwent Reservoir (BNR) and one-twelve in eight other localities. On the sea 19 were at Longhoughton on 1st (AS) and 21 at Beadnell on 24th (MLC).

Smew

A drake and three 'redheads' were at Hadston Lake on 28th, two on 29th and a single 'redhead' remained on 30th/31st (DBNR et al).

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 11 was at Hadston Lake on 31st (ES et al). 11 were at Holy Island on 10th (RKS), nine at Budle Bay on 16th (JRT) and one-eight in eight other coastal localities. More unusual was a party of four (three drakes) at Colt Crag on 3rd (BNR).

Goosander

A large gathering of 290 were apparently roosting at the Shad, Berwick on the evening of 8th (JDL). Other large counts included 26 on the River Tyne at Wylam on 2nd (JSB) and up to 25 at Whittle Dene (GAB). One-sixteen were reported from a further 11 widespread localities.

Hen Harrier

Still at least one 'ringtail' in the Budle/Ross/Fenham area throughout the month. Inland a male was at one locality on 1st and a 'ringtail' at a second locality on 30th.

Sparrowhawk

One-two were reported from 28 widespread localities during the month.

Buzzard

A buzzard (sp) was seen at Holy Island on 1st (JDL).

Kestrel

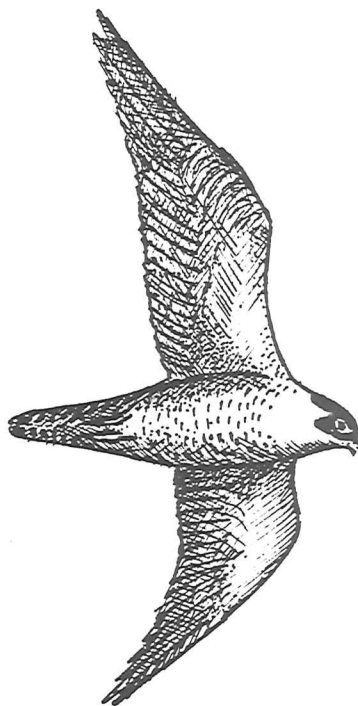
A pair were investigating a breeding site at Threestoneburn on 31st (AMB). Singles were noted in a further 13 widespread localities.

Merlin

Singles were seen in about ten lowland localities including three suburban sightings at Chapel House. Further inland singles were noted in two localities.

Peregrine

¹
Along the coast was at Druridge Bay for most of the month and others at Newton Pool and Holy Island. Inland they were in three further localities.



Red Grouse

Two-ten were at the Simonsides, Threestoneburn, Harthope Valley and Kimmer Lough.

Black Grouse

Five were near Plenmeller on 10th (TRC/TMM), seven at West Allen on 31st (BNK) and up to three at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Water Rail

Singles were at Hollywell Dene, Hollywell Pond, Seaton Burn, Newton Pool and Caistron during the month.

Moorhen

20 were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 30th (GB).

Coot

Low numbers only present in several localities. 105 at Seaton Burn on 3rd dropped to only 32 by 30th (AJJ). 171 were at Hartburn on 17th when 55 at Bolam (MLC/TAC) and 88 at Cresswell Pond on 4th (DBNR).

WADER COUNT January 1988

The following stretches of coast-line were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle Point-Seahouses (TAC/PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (AW/MF), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WTL), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/MRS/EC/ISD), Newbiggin-Camboise (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S.Pier-Hartley (KVB), St.Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,131 was noted during the wader count. In addition 180 were on Fenham Flats on 16th (JRT/KWY), 440 at Berwick Little Beach on 22nd/25th (JDL) and up to 107 at Cresswell Pond (DENR).

Ringed Plover

A total of 327 was noted during the wader count. 130 were at Berwick Little Beach on 14th (RMH), 47 at Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS) and 30 at Warkworth Beach on 31st (EMY).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were a maximum of 4,000 at St.Mary's Island on 10th (IDM), 2,000 near Boulmer on 9th (IK) and 1,000 at Druridge Bay on 3rd and 31st (DBNR/ASt.) 100-250 were noted in five other coastal areas.

Grey Plover

A total of 61 was noted during the wader count. 120 were at Holy Island causeway on 24th (JDL).

Lapwing

A total of 1,706 was noted during the wader count. A maximum of 1,180 was at Cresswell Pond on 12th (DBNR). 200-650 were in another 14 widespread localities with some moving into breeding areas inland.

Knot

A total of 409 noted during the wader count mainly at St.Mary's Island. 170 were at Holy Island causeway on 10th (JDL).

Sanderling

Only 112 were noted during the wader count although 103 were at St.Mary's Island on 28th (L&KR), 93 at Berwick Little Beach on 30th (JDL) and 50 at Tynemouth on 20th (JRT).

Purple Sandpiper

A large decrease in numbers since December with 695 noted during the wader count. In addition 26 were at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JSg) and 39 at Cullercoats on 18th (TJT).

Dunlin

An increase in numbers since December with 1,034 during the wader count and 1,300 at Holy Island causeway on 24th, 440 at Berwick Little Beach on 25th (JDL) and 122 at Cresswell Pond on 16th.

Jack Snipe

Up to four were at Warkworth Gut during the month (AJ et al). Singles were at Caistron and Cresswell on 3rd (MR/NF).

Snipe

30 were at Holywell Pond on 1st (TRC). One-four were inland at Harthope and Derwent Reservoir (AMB/BNR).

Woodcock

Three were at Langleeford on 10th (ADMc) and singles at Mitford on 17th (TAC) and Arcot on 24th (MJS).

Black-tailed Godwit

Four were at Budle Bay and Hoppen Kiln during the month (JECM/GB). One was at Holy Island causeway on 24th (JDL).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 67 was noted during the wader count. 1,100 were at Holy Island cuaseway on 10th (JDL) and 21 at Longhoughton Steel on 1st (TT/AS).

Curlew

A total of 298 noted during the wader count. 284 were on the Long Nanny on 30th (RKS), 250 at Holy Island on 1st (CB) and a maximum of 71 near St.Mary's Island on 19th (L&KK). Inland 18 flew E. over Prestwick Carr on 5th (MH) and two were at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR).

Spotted Redshank

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month (MPF et al) and another at Berwick Little Beach on 22nd (JDL).

Redshank

A total of 1,060 was noted during the wader count. In addition 285 were at Berwick Little Beach on 19th (JDL) and 286 at Cresswell Pond on 9th (DBNR). 218 were on Flood water at Boulmer on 10th (AJ). Small numbers were seen in several inland localities.

Green Sandpiper

A single was still present at Whittle Dene throughout the month (AJH) et al).

Turnstone

A total of 911 was noted during the wader count. 270 were at Berwick Little Beach on 19th (JDL).

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult remained at Craster all month. Another adult was at Cresswell Pond on 15th (DBNR).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roost counts included 4,500 at Scotswood on 22nd, 1,300 at Colt Crag on 24th, 2,200 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (BNR) and 1,000 at Castron on 3rd (MR). 2,300 at Hallington on 4th declined to 370 on 23rd. On the coast over 8,000 roosted off Tynemouth on 31st (CB).

Common Gull

9,700 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 26th. 12,000 roosting at Colt Crag on 3rd declined to 4,400 on 24th and 1,500 at Hallington on 4th to none by 23rd (BNR). 150-250 noted in three other localities.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Singles were noted at North Shields and Seaton Burn and further inland at Colt Crag.

Herring Gull

1,050 roosted at Hallington on 4th, 310 at Scotswood on 7th, 2,050 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th and 570 at Colt Crag on 24th (BNR). 700 roosted at Blyth harbour on 1st (MHp) and 800 were in the Tyne Estuary on 14th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

At least four (three first winter, one second winter), and possibly six, individuals were in the North Shields Fish Quay area during the month. An adult and a first winter were at Blyth harbour on 24th (MHP).

Glaucous Gull

Two adults and a first winter were seen on several dates at North Shields Fish Quay.

Great Black-backed Gull

120 roosted at Hallington on 4th declining to none by 23rd, 410 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th and only 60 by 26th and 24 at Colt Crag on 24th (BNR). 37 flew W. over Castron on 3rd (MR) when 500 were at Blyth harbour (MHP).

Razorbill

Six were at Tynemouth on 1st (JRT) and one-three in four other localities.

Little Auk

One was found dead at the Wansbeck Estuary on 1st (MSH).

Stock Dove

Eight were at Holywell Pond on 3rd (IF).

Woodpigeon

1,000 were at Havannah on 23rd (AHB) and 900-1,000 at Gosforth Park on 28th (BRG).

Collared Dove

30 were at Lucker on 31st (MSH).

Barn Owl

Singles were seen at Stamfordham, Castron, Alnwick and Seaton Burn.

Little Owl

Singles were seen at Druridge, Backworth, Longhorsley and Hexham.

Tawny Owl

Singles were seen or heard in about eight widespread areas.

Long-eared Owl

Three were near Backworth on 31st (MPF).

Short-eared Owl

19 were near Ponteland on 31st (RD) and up to 16 near Backworth during the month (per MSH). One-three were seen in five other lowland localities and a single further inland on 30th.

Kingfisher

Singles were noted at Jesmond Dene, Prestwick Carr and Whittle Dene.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were at Broomley, Dipton, Bolam and on the coast at Howick.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three were in 12 widespread localities including birds visiting three garden feeding stations.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was at Dipton on 30th (MD).

Sky lark

One was singing at Seaton Burn by 30th (AJJ).

Meadow Pipit

47 were moving on to the fell at Ladycross on 25th (CJ) and smaller numbers in two other moorland areas. 25 were at Druridge Pool on 26th (DBNR).

Rock Pipit

Eight were at Craster on 25th (RD).

Grey Wagtail

Singles were in three coastal and three inland localities.

Waxwing

One was at Budle Bay on 26th (per MSH).

Dipper

One-four were noted in seven localities including a pair carrying nest material to a site at Ovingham on 23rd (GAB).

Stonechat

Singles were reported at Newton Pool and Druridge all month.

Fieldfare

The largest numbers included 500 at Dalton on 11th (SW), 290 flying S. at Ladycross on 12th (CJ) and up to 200 at Hexhamshire. 60-150 were in a further six other localities.

Song Thrush

The first birds had returned to the Slaley area by 24th (CJ).

Redwing

100 flew S. at Ladycross on 11th (CJ). Gatherings of 20-80 were noted in six widespread localities.

Mistle Thrush

Singing birds were noted in four areas during the month. Large flocks included 43 at Seaton Sluice on 11th (TJT), 42 at Prestwick Carr on 20th, 35 at Ponteland on 19th and 21 at Black Heddon on 13th (BRG).

Blackcap

Singles were noted in nine widespread localities during the month.

Chiffchaff

One was at Prudhoe on 4th (TMM) and another in marram grass at Boulmer on 31st (IK).

Goldcrest

Still apparently prominent with reports from seven widespread areas including 30 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR).

Long-tailed Tit

Well reported during the month with the largest count being 23 at Dalton on 17th (SW). 5-15 were noted in a further ten widespread localities.

Marsh Tit

Two-six were at Bolam, Mitford, Hulne Park and Howick.

Willow Tit

Singles were at Holywell Dene, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Arcot, Prestwick Carr and Hexham.

Coal Tit

Up to 15 were noted in six widespread localities.

Blue Tit

About 100 were at Bolam on 16th where many were feeding on beech (IC/MSH). Large numbers were also noted in Dipton where many were roosting in nest-boxes (MD).

Great Tit

One was in full song at Walbottle on 9th (L&KR).

Nuthatch

At least ten were at Bolam on 16th (IC/MSH). One-two were also seen at Hulne Park, Rothley Lake, Bothal, Close House, Hexham and Matfen.

Treecreeper

One-four were in 11 widespread localities.

Magpie

A flock of ten was at Druridge on 9th (GSR).

Jackdaw

1,200 were at a pre-roost gathering at Wylam on 31st (L&KR).

Rook

5,000 were at Woolsington Hall on 16th and 2,000 at Cheeseburn Grange on 17th (MH).

Hooded Crow

Two were still at Holy Island and one at Druridge during the month.

Starling

400 roosted in Sitka Spruces at Chesterhope Common on 1st (BNR). 1,000 were at Warkworth on 29th (JMA). A Norwegian ringed bird was caught at Monkseaton (JPL).

Tree Sparrow

54 were at Felton on 7th (ETN/JRN).

Chaffinch

The largest gatherings were 700 at Hexhamshire on 16th, 300 at Ladycross on 1st, and 200 at Seaton Delaval on 31st (CJ/RW/RD). 50-150 were in eight other localities.

Brambling

200-300 at Hulne Park on 3rd/23rd (TRC/MHp.TMM) and 250 at Seaton Delaval on 31st (RD) were feeding mainly on beech mast. 110 were at Hexham on 16th (RHM) and 2-30 noted in five other localities.

Greenfinch

150-200 roosted at Newcastle Quayside during the month (IK). 150 were near Mindrum on 16th (JSg) and 60 at Gosforth Park on 28th (BRG).

Goldfinch

16 were at Matfen on 12th (RW). One-seven were in seven other areas.

Siskin

80 were at Horsley Wood on 9th (JSB), 60 at Guessburn on 14th (BRG) 40 at Felton on 15th (ETN/JRN), and 35 at Nunnykirk on 3rd (ADMc). Two-ten visited feeders at Morpeth and Ponteland.

Linnet

50 were at Seaton Burn on 10th and Matfen on 17th (AJJ/RW).

Twite

56 were at Warkworth Gut on 2nd (MPF/BRG).

Redpoll

30-50 were noted at Seaton Burn, Corbridge and Ladycross.

Crossbill

About 11 at the Wark Forest on 10th included several singing males (TRC/MHp). Two-six were also seen at Harwood, Stonehaugh and Threestoneburn.

Bullfinch

One-nine were noted in 19 widespread localities.

Hawfinch

Birds were seen regularly at Hulne Park during the month with a maximum of 24 on 23rd (TMM/MHp). One was at Bolam on 1st (DPa) and ten at Hexham on 24th (TMM).

Lapland Bunting

Birds were present, although elusive, at Druridge during the month with a peak of 19 on 21st (DBNR).

Snow Bunting

60 were at Druridge on 2nd (MBS/ES), 30 at Newbiggin on 20th (JEF), and 14-15 at Ross and Craster (BRG/ASt).

Yellowhammer

100 were at Felton on 29th (ETN), 85 at Hexham on 7th (BNR) and 30-50 in another four localities.

Reed Bunting

Three visited a garden at Wideopen on 14th (DM).

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

J M Almond
A M Bankier
A H Banks
K I Barratt
B S & J M Bates
M Bell
M Bentley
A J Booth
J S Booth
K Bowey
A I & G Bowman
C Bradshaw
K V Brooks
G P Bull
M L & T A Cadwallender
I Chadwick
T R Cleeves
F Colley
N B Cox
E Crabtree
I S Davidson
M Davison
W Dickson

B Galloway
D B Green
M Henry
R Henson
M Hepple (MHp)
A J Hewitt
C Hewitt
S J Hingston
M S Hodgson
R M Holmes
D Howey
A Janes
C Jewitt
W G Johnson
A J Johnston
W A Kelly
I Kerr
J P Lindsay
W T Logan
J D Lough
J M Macfarlane
J & J E C Malloy
L J McDougal

L Robson
M Robson
B N Rossiter
G S Rushbrooke
L & K Russell
H E Saunderson
W G Savage
D R Shannon
M J Sharp
M B Shaw
E Slack
M R Smith
R K Stephenson
A Stimpson
M P Stonebridge
A Stratton (ASt)
J Strowger
T J Tams
T Thain
J R Todd
D M Turner
R Walton
T Watson

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS continued

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| C Donald | D McKeown | R G Waugh |
| I R Douglas | A D McLevy | P R Weighill |
| R Dunn | T M Melling | P W West |
| J E Fergusson | A D Mould | M Winter |
| I Fisher | ET & JR Norris | S Winter |
| N Foggo | D Patterson (DPa) | A Woodhall |
| M P Frankis | A Priest | K W York |
| M Freeman | A Purvis | E M Young |
| B R Gadjus | M Richardson | Druridge Bay Nature Reserves |

INDOOR MEETING - THURSDAY 10th MARCH 1988

The next indoor meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm on 10th March. Our speaker will be Tim Cleeves, Assistant Regional Officer for the R.S.P.B. at the Norther Office, who will be telling us about 'Birding on the West Coast'.

GEOFF MACFARLANE MEMORIAL LECTURE

The third Geoff Macfarlane Memorial Lecture will be held on Monday 21st March 1988 at 7.15 pm. The speaker will be John Marchant of the B.T.O. who will talk about the Waders of the World. The lecture will be held in Lecture Theatre 1, Physics Building, Newcastle University. Tickets will be available at the next club meeting, price £2.00 for adults and £1.50 for O.A.P's, Unemployed, and under 16's.

MEMBER'S NIGHT

This will be held on Thursday 14th April. Besides the results of the club's photographic competition there will be an opportunity for several members to talk on any topic related to birds. Please contact Nick Rossiter (Tel: Slaley 509) if you are interested in giving a short presentation.

BLACK GROUSE STUDY

After a first year in which much was learnt about the species in the North-East, the Black Grouse Study Group is continuing its investigations this year. For those members not directly involved in the study please send details of any sightings as soon as possible after the event to Mike Hodgson who will pass them on to me. Please note that all details of sites will be kept confidential. A summary of the results from the first year will appear in Birds in November 1987.

NICK ROSSITER

FIELD TRIP SEAHOUSES TO ROSS SANDS JANUARY 30th 1988

Weather not withstanding (leaden skies, torrential rain and wind) nineteen intrepid males, including some junior members, and two intrepid females foregathered at Seahouses at 9.00am on January 30th for a day's bird-watching up the coast as far as Ross sands.

Owing to Mike Hodgson's indisposition (Did he have some premonition about the weather we ask? - sorry Mike, we know you'd rather have been there than ill!) the leadership was in the trusty hands of Tom Cadwallender.

Seahouses harbour and rocks only gave views of the ubiquitous gulls and Eider, the the odd Merganser and four Purple sandpipers. Stag Rocks at Bamburgh was an improvement with Common scoter, Red-necked grebe, Slavonian grebe, Red-throated and Great north divers, and excellent sightings of Long-tailed duck. But where were the four hundred plus "purps" counted by T.A.C. the previous Sunday? - Whisely left for warmer times one shouldn't wonder! Budle Bay on an incoming tide brought large flocks of Lapwing and Redshank some Shelduck, the odd Merganser and a few Grey lag geese.

Ever optimistic for an improvement in the weather it was arranged to meet at Koss farm for lunch and in the meantime side trips were made to other bird haunts. A wild goose chase, (via Belford Station for some, Hoppen Kiln being an elusive place to find), produced no wild geese, but a bonus in four Black-tailed godwit (already mentioned in the December bulletin). In another area the obligatory Hen harrier and a Peregrine were seen by two lucky watchers.

By midday it was obvious the "weather" was there to stay and several by this time called it a day. The hardier remaining twelve, including a black umbrellad figure and two who had no choice as they had come with the leader, then tackled Ross sands.

This magnificent beach, with the pinnacles barely visible in the gloom, seemed absolutely devoid of life. The returning advance party of three had seen nothing but an oiled Razorbill. The remaining nine saw one Ringed plover with a Turnstone but then, came the treat of the day, fourteen Snow buntings seemingly fluttering happily about the beach. A small deer was disturbed on the links and three more were seen at Howick on the homeward journey.

Craster brought nothing but magnificent spray - not even the Mediterranean gull - gone back home no doubt! The last report of the day was a red head Smew at Coldrife.

Altogether forty eight species were seen - not a record breaker by any means but a day to remember.

AUDREY STIMPSON

BREEDING ATLAS 1988

Recording cards, instructions, etc will be available at the March club meeting. For those Fieldworkers who are unable to attend your regional co-ordinator will pass these on to you. If you have still not volunteered to help then it is still not too late. Contact Nick Rossiter (Tel: Slaley 509) as soon as possible.



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 1988

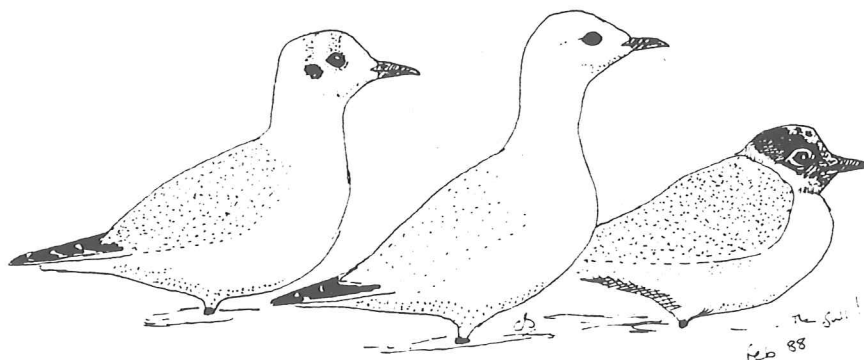
February was a relatively mild month and quite dry with most areas reporting less than average rainfall. Despite the temperatures sleet and snow were reported several times, about average for the time of year, but did not remain for long. It was a sunny month with about 50% more than average. Tynemouth had its sunniest February on record. Winds were often strong and mainly from the west.

In the mild conditions there were several indications that spring is not far away! Crossbills with juveniles were seen in at least three areas and nest-building activity was carried out by Blue Tits, Jackdaws and, of course, Dippers. Breeding waders, notably Oystercatchers and Lapwings, were moving into inland haunts and two Ruffs at Wallsend Swallow Pond were presumably migrants. The first few Cormorants showing the characteristics of the continental race were noted, as usual, during the month.

The wintering Bitterns were still at Caistron and Holywell and another was at Hartburn on 14th. A single Bean Goose was also at Caistron where three Barnacles still remained. Up to four 'redhead' Smew were present at Hadston Lake and other at Wylam and Colt Crag Reservoir.

There were some interesting inland gull records with a Glaucous Gull at Derwent Reservoir on 13th, Iceland Gulls at Great Tosson on 14th and Seaton Burn on 21st with a Mediterranean Gull at the last site on 23rd.

A Waxwing at Alnmouth on 21st was only the second record during this winter.



A strangely plumaged gull in the Budle Bay area late in the month was first reported as a Slender-billed Gull. Many observers searched for this bird and eventually it was observed closely and pronounced to be a leucistic Black-headed Gull!

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)

Six were at Druridge Bay on 16th and Holy Island on 20th (AP/ES). One-three were in six other localities.

Black-throated Diver

Two were at Stag Rocks on 20th (WD) and singles at Ross and Holy Island on several dates.

Great Northern Diver

Singles were at Ross Back Sands on 14th/19th (JDL/AGH) and Dunstanburgh on 22nd (MF).

Little Grebe

Seven were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (DBNR) and one-three in seven other localities. One was at Berwick harbour on 12th (JDL).

Great Crested Grebe

One at Holywell on 15th increased to six by 27th including two displaying pairs (ISD/IC). One-three were also at Hallington, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn and Arcot.

Red-necked Grebe

Seven were between Stag Rocks-Budle Point on 14th (RKS) and seven-eight at Holy Island on 22nd (IK/BG).

Slavonian Grebe

Birds were noted throughout the month at Bamburgh, Ross and Holy Island with a maximum of eight-nine at the last site on 22nd, including one displaying (IK/BG et al).

Black-necked Grebe

One was at Ross on 20th (ES/MBS).

Gannet

Heavy N. passage was noted at Berwick on 6th and 17th (JDL) and smaller numbers at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Cormorant

On 21st 79 were at Amble harbour (L&KR) and Blyth harbour (MHP). 44 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 29th (DMT). One-four were on six inland waters and up to 11 on the Tyne upstream of Newcastle. Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race included seven at North Shields on 28th (JRT) and singles at Boulmer (WD) and near Warkworth (MSH).

Shag

Ten were in Blyth harbour on 21st (MHP) and six at Alnmouth on 27th (WD).

Bittern

The Holywell bird remained during the month and the Ciastron bird was seen again on 27th (MR). One was at Hartburn on 14th (MHS).

Grey Heron

One-four were in 14 widespread localities.

Flamingo

One was at Cresswell Pond again on 15th (DBNR).

Mute Swan

227 were at Berwick on 26th (JDL). 24 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (KIB) and one-nine at eleven other waters.

Berwick's Swan

The family party of five in the Holywell/Backworth area remained until 11th (PRW). One was at Druridge Pool on 16th (DBNR).

Whooper Swan

The herd in the Druridge Bay area reached a peak of 177 on 21st, some of these being seen at Red Row (L+KR et al.). Numbers at Prestwick Carr increased to 53 by 15th (BRG/GAB), 40 were at Rayburn Lake on 27th (RKS), up to 32 at Holywell Pond (RD), 24 at Hartburn and one-seven at five other localities.

Bean Goose

One was at Castron on 27th.

Pink-footed Goose

100 flew SW over Callerton on 15th (MH). Up to four were at Whittle Dene between 5th-19th (IF/PM), two at Castron on 27th (MR) and singles at Budle Bay on 14th/16th (CB) and Holywell on 15th/21st (JRT/TRC).

White-fronted Goose

Four were at Holywell up to 17th. One was at Whittle Dene on 5th and 13th (IF/PM).

Grey Lag Goose

A maximum of 1,250 was in the Budle Bay area on 20th (JRT et al). Numbers at Castron increased to 1,200 on this date (MR). Other large groups included 280 at Whittle Dene on 27th (JSB), 260 at Hallington (RW), 230 at Holywell/Backworth (DM et al), and 46 at Druridge Pool. 200 'grey' geese flew N. at Ladycross on 22nd (CJ).

Canada Goose

13 were at Capheaton on 5th/6th (IF/GAB) and one-two at Berwick, Budle Bay and Arcot.

Barnacle Goose

Three were at Castron on 14th (MR). Four were in the Budle Bay/Lucker area on 12th/16th (IF/CB) and one at Whittle Dene on 19th (MJS).

Brent Goose

About 1,600 were at Holy Island on 6th (JDL). Three were on the Coquet Estuary between 24th-29th (EMY).

Shelduck

200 were at Budle Bay on 20th (ES/MBS) when 158 were at Beal Sands (JDL). 39 were at the Coquet Estuary on 12th/13th (EMY). On 14th at Hauxley 11 flew N., 21 were on the sea and a further ten on the reserve (HRS). Up to 20 were at Hadston Lake and 2-17 at three other coastal localities.

Wigeon

Up to 260 were in the Cresswell/Druridge area (DBNR). 172 were at Grindon on 25th (RMH), 74 at Whittle Dene on 13th (JSB) and 65 at Hartburn on 19th (MLC). 10-20 were at three other waters.

Gadwall

One was at Arcot on 2nd/4th and two on 14th (TMM/LJM). Two were at Holy Island lough on 20th and singles at Cresswell on 7th and Seaton Burn on 19th/21st (ES/DBNR/AJJ).

Teal

A maximum of 337 was at Druridge Pool on 22nd (DBNR) and as many as 415 were on the sea in the bay on 27th (AGH). 108 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd (L&KR), 90 at Caistron on 14th (MR) and 30-80 in seven other localities.

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 220 at Seaton Burn on 13th (AJJ), 175 off Boulmer on 6th (WD), 164 at Cresswell on 11th (DBNR), 115 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th (JKT), 106 at St. Mary's Island on 17th (PM) and 110 at Kimmer Lough on 21st (ISD).

Pintail

A drake was in the Cresswell/Druridge area between 5th-22nd (DBNR).

Shoveler

One-five were in five lowland localities during the month. A drake was on the sea at Druridge on 27th (AGH).

Pochard

A maximum of 119 was at Killingworth Lake on 19th (L&KR) and 100 at Hadston on 14th (DBNR). 82 were at Druridge Pool on 21st, 64 at Seaton Burn on 27th (AJJ) and 30-46 at four other waters.

Tufted Duck

Numbers remained low with up to 49 at 16 widespread waters.

Scaup

Six were near St. Mary's Island between 3rd-24th (TJT/PM). Singles were at Hadston Lake on 7th and inland at Whittle Dene on 16th (PM/TMM).

Eider

100 were at Blyth harbour and 43 off Whitley Bay beach on 29th.

Long-tailed Duck

Numbers in the Bamburgh-Ross area reached a peak of about 200 on 20th (CB et al). Five were at Beadnell Bay on 27th (RKS), two at Berwick harbour on 12th (JDL) and one at Newbiggin on 24th (AP). A drake was on Hadston Lake between 1st-17th (DBNR).

Common Scoter

Up to 120 were off Ross Back Sands (JDL/AGH).

Velvet Scoter

Seven were at Ross Back Sands during the month (IF et al). One was at Bondicarr on 27th (MBS/ES).

Goldeneye

276 were at the River Tweed at Berwick on 21st (JSg) and 100 on the River Tyne at Newburn on 11th (L&KR). A maximum of 35 was at Hol ywell on 20th (IC). 2-25 were noted on 11 other waters. On the sea 70 were off Cambois on 7th (LJM) and 43 in Beadnell Bay on 27th (RKS).

Smew

Up to four 'redheads' were present at Hadston Lake on many dates during the month (DBNR et al). Single 'redheads' were at Colt Crag on 6th and 20th (BNR/RW) and the River Tyne at Heddon on 28th (IHA).

Red-breasted Merganser

22 were on Hadston Lake on 24th (DBNR) and two on Druridge Pool on 7th. 14 were at Alnmouth on 19th (ES), 12 at Budle Bay on 14th (RKS) and two-six in eight other localities.

Goosander

33 were off Berwick on 21st (JSg), 22 roosted at Colt Crag on 6th (BNR), 19 were at Whittle Dene on 13th (JSB) and 14 at Caistron on 6th (MR). One-eleven were seen in a further 13 localities. At one site display and copulation was noted on 16th. A drake flew N. at Stag Rocks on 16th (CB).

Hen Harrier

A 'ringtail' remained in the Ross area up to at least 21st. Another was in an inland locality on 15th.

Sparrowhawk

One-two were seen in 22 widespread localities. Displaying pairs were seen in three areas from 11th onwards. One visited a garden in Walbottle on 26th/27th, killed a tame dove on the first date and perched on a bird-bath on second date! (L&KR).

Buzzard

One flew S. at Budle Bay on 16th (RD).

Kestrel

One-two were seen in 12 widespread localities.

Merlin

Two were at Holy Island and singles in another four coastal localities. A pair were back at one breeding locality by 20th.

Peregrine

Singles were noted at Berwick, Holy Island/Ross, Budle Bay and flying W. at Wallsend. Others were in two inland localities.

Black Grouse

Along the West Allen four-eleven were found in three sites (BNR/RJPL). One was at Threestoneburn on 21st (IF/MD).

Red-legged Partridge

One was near Fenham Flats on 21st (ASt).

Water Rail

One-two were seen or heard at Druridge Pool, Gosforth Park, Holywell Pond and Holywell Dene.

Coot

121 were at Capheaton on 28th (PM). On 19th 119 were at Hartburn and 75 at Bolam (MLC/AS). 62 were at Warkworth Lane on 13th (DBNR) and 24-42 at four other waters. 22 were at Berwick on 5th (JDL).

WADER COUNT 21 February 1988

The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (TAC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), S.Alnmouth (ETN.JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (EC/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (AGH), Newbiggin-Cambois (Mhp) Blyth Estuary (LJM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 734 was noted during the wader count. 150 were at Berwick Golf Course on 6th (JSg) when 124 at Holy Island causeway (JDL). Birds were moving back inland from 7th when one at Corbridge. Five at Caistron on 12th increased to 260 by 27th (MR) and one-three were in four other areas.

Ringed Plover

A total of 221 was noted during the wader count, including 71 at Boulmer. One was at Caistron on 16th (MR), three at Backworth on 28th (IF) and five flew W. over Seaton Burn (LR).

Golden Plover

A maximum of 1,600 was at St. Mary's Island on 3rd (PM). 1,000 in the Druridge area on 6th declined to several hundreds by the end of the month (DBNR). 600 were at Boulmer (IK) and 20-200 at five other localities. Birds were noted inland from 6th when 70 were at Caistron (MR). 100 were at Catton on 24th (MB).

Grey Plover

A total of 57 was noted during the wader count. 470 were at Holy Island causeway on 5th (JDL).

Lapwing

A total of 876 noted during the wader count. 600 were at Cresswell on 4th (DBNR) and 500, inland, at Caistron by 20th (MR). They were noted in several breeding areas with displaying birds towards the end of the month. A leucistic individual was at Seahouses on 21st (MLC).

Knot

A total of only 26 noted during the wader count. 1,200 were at Holy Island causeway on 6th (JDL), 500 at Ross on 20th (DRS/ES) and 150 at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (TJT). On 27th a total of 446 flew N. at Blyth harbour in 30 mins. (MHP).

Sanderling

Only 25 were noted during the wader count. 147 were at St. Mary's Island on 15th (JRT), 102 at Tynemouth Haven on 20th (AH), 57 at Berwick Little Beach on 19th (JDL) and 35 on Cresswell beach on 21st (ADM).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 524 was noted during the wader count. 135 were at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (TJT) and 54 at Tynemouth Haven on 20th (AH).

Dunlin

A total of 892 was noted during the wader count. In addition 2,000 were at Holy Island causeway on 7th (JDL) and 400 at St. Mary's Island on 17th (L&KR). 115 were at Cresswell Pond on 13th (DBNR).

Ruff

Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st (AMB).

Jack Snipe

Singles were at Seaton Burn on 27th (AJJ) and Druridge Pool on 29th (DBNR).

Snipe

36 were at Druridge Pool on 26th (DBNR) and 11 at Beal Sands on 20th (JDL).

Woodcock

One-two were in three inland and one coastal locality.

Black-tailed Godwit

Up to six were present in Budle Bay during the month (CB/IC). Two were at Holy Island on 6th and one on 20th (JDL).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 187 was noted during the wader count. 2,000 were at Beal Sands on 20th (JDL).

Curlew

A total of 389 was noted during the wader count. 240 were at the Long Nanny on 27th (RKS), 250 at Guile Point on 7th (ISD) and 89 at St. Mary's Island on 4th (L&KK). One-nine were noted in three inland breeding areas from 21st.

Spotted Redshank

The wintering bird was still present at Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Redshank

A total of 1,210 was noted during the wader count. 330 were at Holy Island causeway on 7th (JDL), and 56 at Backworth on 16th (JDM).

Green Sandpiper

One was still present at Whittle Dene up to 13th.

Turnstone

A total of 1,078 was noted during the wader count.

Mediterranean Gull

The adult was present all month at Craster. A first-winter was at Seaton Burn on 23rd (AIB/LR/DM).

Little Gull

One flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 27th (AJ).

Black-headed Gull

6,200 roosted at Scotswood on 4th, 2,900 at Hallington on 7th and 2,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR). On the coast 700 roosted at Blyth harbour on 29th (MHP). 2,000 were feeding amongst tide-lineweed at Boulmer on 20th (IK). A bird at Budle Bay from 14th was initially reported as a Slender-billed Gull but prolonged watching (and searching for it!) revealed it to be a leucistic Black-headed.

Common Gull

3,800 roosted at Colt Crag on 6th, 8,000 at Hallington on 7th and 8,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR). 8,000 were at Budle Bay on 16th (CB/MSH). 500 were in the Tyne Estuary on 16th (DMT).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Singles were noted in seven widespread localities from 10th.

Herring Gull

290 roosted at Colt Crag on 6th, 125 at Hallington on 7th, 1,050 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR) and 400 at Blyth harbour on 29th (MHP). 1,400 were in the Tyne Estuary on 28th/29th (DMT). A yellow-legged bird was at Cresswell Pond on 29th (DBNR).

Iceland Gull

At least six individuals visited North Shields Fish Quay during the month (three first-winter and single second-winter, third winter and adult). An adult was at Blyth harbour on 21st/27th (MHP). Inland an adult was at Great Tosson refuse tip on 14th (MR) and a second-winter at Seaton Burn on 21st (AJJ).

Glaucous Gull

At least three (adult, first-winter and third winter) were seen at North Shields Fish Quay and singles at Seaton Sluice on two dates. An adult was also at Holy Island between 6th-21st (DPa). Inland a first-winter was at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR).

Great Black-backed Gull

50 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (BNR).

Kittiwake

82 were at North Shields Fish Quay by 25th (DMT).

Auks (Sp)

42 flew N. and two S. at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Guillemot

A German-ringed bird was caught in a fishing net at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Kazorbill

One-three were noted in five localities.

Little Auk

One was at Seaton Sluice on 3rd where two N. on 12th (TJT/MPF). Singles flew N. at Hauxley and Stag Rocks on 13th and 16th (HRS/KD). Others were taken into care at Hauxley on 7th and 15th and a long-dead oiled bird was found at Ross on 12th (IF).

Stock Dove

15 were at Holywell on 3rd (TJT) and 12 at Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ).

Woodpigeon

3,000 were at Ross on 14th (JDL) and 900 at Roddam on 13th (ANB) 200-450 were at Warkworth Lane and Corbridge.

Collared Dove

35 were at Hauxley on 14th and 31 at Earsdon on 28th (HRS/JKT).

Barn Owl

Singles were near Morpeth, Castron and Swinburn. A recovered road casualty was released at Milbourne on 30th January and roosted in a farm building for the next ten days (WGJ).

Little Owl

A pair were at Backworth and singles noted at Druridge and Bedlington.

Tawny Owl

One was at Throckley Pond on 18th (TMM) and two calling at Swinoe Lake on 21st (ISD).

Long-eared Owl

One was at Bolam on 5th (IF/MJS).

Short-eared Owl

Four-five were in Newcastle Airport area (MH). One-three were in nine lowland localities. On 19th a Kestrel attempted to rob an owl of its prey at Seaton Burn. The owl eventually ate the prey (? a mouse) on the wing (AJJ).

Kingfisher

One was at Jesmond Dene all month, with a second present on 20th (MPF). Singles were also at Kirkley, Castron and Bothal (AHM/MK/AP).

Green Woodpecker

One-two were noted in five widespread localities, some 'yaffling' heard from 11th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-four were in ten widespread localities. 'Drumming' was heard from 8th onwards.

Skylark

Singing birds were in many widespread areas during the month and light movements noted in several upland areas.

Meadow Pipit

A flock of 25 was at Prestwick Carr on 19th (Alb/MPF). Small numbers noted at Ladycross and the Wanneys.

Grey Wagtail

Singles were noted in seven widespread areas.

Waxwing

One was at Alnmouth on 21st (DS).

Dipper

Almost completed nests were found at Ovingham and Wallington by 20th (GAB/SMH).

Duncock

One was in full song at Walbottle by 12th (L&KR).

Stonechat

One was at Hadston on 6th (RJ).

Blackbird

An increase was noted inland at Juniper on 29th (CJ). 27 were in a garden at Walbottle on 6th (L&KR). A pair were feeding young in the nest at Lynemouth on 10th January (per ADM).

Fieldfare

About 270-300 were at Slaley on 7th (CJ/BNR) when 120 were at Beal (JDL). 35-70 were in five other localities.

Redwing

220 were at Felton on 3rd (ETN/JRN), 120 at Hexhamshire on 7th (CJ) and flocks of 70 at Angerton and Spindlestone (MLC/MSH). 15-35 were in three other localities.

Mistle Thrush

20 were at Hulne Park on 6th (AST). Singing birds were noted in several localities including one performing at Tynemouth at 0300hrs! (CB).

Blackcap

Singles were in three localities and a pair were present all month in a garden at Benton (JCD).

Chiffchaff

One was at Cramlington on 18th/20th (LJM).

Long-tailed Tit

25-30 were at Dipton on 19th (IF) and groups of 4-15 were noted in another four localities.

Marsh Tit

One-two were in seven widespread localities.

Willow Tit

Two were at Arcot and Backworth (TMM).

Coal Tit

They were noted as common and widespread in several areas during the month with singing and displaying birds at the Wanneys by 29th.

Blue Tit

An almost complete nest was found in a box at Seaton Burn on 17th (AJJ).

Nuthatch

Ten were at Wallington on 20th (MSH) and one-three at Bolam, Allenbanks, Beacon Hill, Shepherd's Dene, Belsay, Brinkburn, Beltingham, Jesmond Dene, Bywell, and Bothal included several in song.

Treecreeper

Singles were seen in five widespread localities.

Jackdaw

A pair were nest-building at Alnwick on 15th (JMA).

Carrion Crow

20 were at Todburn on 14th (RMH).

Hooded Crow

Singles were still present at Holy Island and Druridge during the month.

Tree Sparrow

30 were at Widdrington on 7th (RD) and 20 at Matfen on 14th (RW).

Chaffinch

300 were at Calder on 7th (AMB) and at Harwood on 28th (MSH/IC). 60-100 were at Newton Links and Hulne Park. One was singing at Ordley by 11th (BNK).

Brambling

A maximum of 40 was at High Heaton on 3rd (JRT). Ten were at Hulne Park on 12th (IF).

Greenfinch

200 were at Red Row on 21st (L&KR).

Goldfinch

Charms of 30 were at Matfen on 3rd (RW) and Kyloe on 20th (ES).

Siskin

30 were at Horsley Wood on 6th (JSB) and 20 at Felton on 3rd (ETN). They were noted as numerous at Keilder and smaller numbers were in seven other areas.

Twite

12 were at Boulmer on 7th (GAF) and 15 at Ross on 20th (ES/DRS).

Redpoll

A total of 57 was trapped at Seaton Burn during the month including 14 birds ringed there in the winters of 1986 and 1987 (AJJ). 30 were at Horsley Wood on 27th (JSB) and 20 at Threestoneburn on 21st (MD/IF).

Crossbill

A family party was at Theeestoneburn on 20th (SMB). Three road casualties at Whickhope on 27th included one juvenile (WP) and 20 at Kielder on 28th included five-six juveniles (ADMc). 16 were at Ladycross on 22nd (CJ) and one-ten were in another three areas.

Bullfinch

A flock of 17 was at Harwood on 15th/17th (MH) and 14 at Ladycross on 3rd (CJ). Two-six were in four other localities.

Hawfinch

16 were at Hulne Park on 7th (ADMc/RD), up to five at Hexham (KD/TRC) and singles at Mitford and Plankey Mill (GAF/TMM).

Snow Bunting

25 were at Newbiggin on 6th (TRC), 15 at Ross on 13th (TO), and one-two at four other localities. Well inland two were at the West Allen near Ninebanks on 7th (BNK) and a flock of 25 on the Simonsides on 15th (MH).

Yellowhammer

45 were at Newcastle Airport on 11th (MH), 35 at Hauxley on 7th (HRS) and 15-30 at three other localities.

Corn Bunting

One was singing at Stamfordham on 27th (WP).

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| J M Almond | M Hepple (MHp) | L Robson |
| D Archer | A G Hetherington | B N Rossiter |
| I H Armstrong | A J Hewitt | G S Rushbrooke |
| A M Bankier | M S Hodgson | L & K Russel |
| A H Banks | K M Holmes | D R Shannon |
| K I Barratt | A Hutt | M J Sharp |
| G A Bentley | K Huxley | K & K D Shaw |
| M Bentley | A Jones | M B Shaw |
| J S Booth | C Jewitt | E Slack |
| A I & G Bowman | R Johnson | D Smith |
| C Bradshaw | W G Johnson | M R Smith |
| K V Brooks | A J Johnston | M H Snaith |
| P Burke | W A Kelly | K K Stephenson |
| M L & T A Cadwallender | I Kerr | A Stimpson |
| I Chadwick | P Knowles | (A Stratton (ASt)) |
| T R Cleeves | J P Lindsay | J Stowger (JSg) |
| W Clynes | W T Logan | T J Tams |
| E Crabtree | J D Lough | J R Todd |
| I S Davidson | J M Macfarlane | D M Turner |
| P W Davidson | L J McDougall | R Walton |
| M Davison | J D McElwee | T Watson |
| K Dawson | D McKeown | P R Weighill |
| J C Day | A D McLevy | P W West |
| W Dickson | P Maguire | M Winter |
| R Dunn | J & J E C Malloy | A Woodhall |
| G A Fenwick | T Melling | K W York |
| I Fisher | E T & J R Norris | E M Young |
| M P Frankis | T Oliphant | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| M Freeman | D Patterson (DPa) | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| B R Gadus | A Priest | Druridge Bay Nature Reserves |
| M Henry | M Richardson | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |

INDOOR MEETING 14th April 1988

Our next meeting on Thursday 14th April will be Members Night in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University. This is usually one of the best meetings of the year with our own members providing talks, slides, etc.

CAMERA LENS FOR SALE

Tokina 500mm F.8 Mirror Lens with Olympus mount:- £95

Cannon 600mm F4.5 lens + flight case (must be seen to be believed):- £1200

If your interested in either, please contact Colin Bradshaw on Tyneside 257 2389.

SOLWAY FIELD TRAIL - February 1988

We started with a visit to Longtown Gravel Pits where Tufted Duck, Shoveler, Great Black-backed Gull, Oystercatcher, Goldeneye, Wigeon and Cormorants were ticked off. Moving on to the Solway Marshes a mixed flock of about 150 Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese were seen in pasture fields. Nearby Heron, Shelduck and displaying Skylark were also recorded. Driving past the Wildfowl Trust (through a shooting party of some 100 guns) Curlew, Lesser Black-backed gull, Kestrel, and a small party of Whooper Swans were seen. Next stop was at Glencaple with Oystercatchers, Wigeon, Goldeneye and Red-breasted Mergansers present, but it was disappointing that there was no goose flock on the far bank of the Estuary. Moving on to Southerness Point proved worthwhile. Up to 1000 Scaup were on the sea together with eighty five Great-crested Grebes, and a few Red-throated Divers; Dunlin, Rock Pipits, Turnstone and Ringed Plover were also added to the list. En route for Loch Ken the cars came to an abrupt halt as a pair of Buzzards were spotted soaring above a wooded valley. Arriving at Loch Ken we were able to spend lunch watching Pintails (c. 30), Goosander, Wigeon, Greylag geese and Teal. A party of Greenland White-fronted Geese (253), and two Canada Geese were further highlights at the Loch. The final journey was to Murray's Monument (many fingers were crossed for Golden Eagle, but sadly they did not appear), however a splendid pair of Peregrines and three or four Ravens provided considerable consolation. After about an hour, as dusk was falling it was decided to look for Black Grouse. There was no immediate sign of them, then some were heard calling behind us. We raced down only to discover that we had been tricked and that it was a tape recording in one of the cars. Sadly a days birding was near its end, in the distance a Tawny Owl could be heard, and those of us in our car were fortunate enough to see a Short-eared Owl as we drove away from Bonny Scotland.

SIMON PARNABY (Junior member)



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - MARCH 1988

The mild weather experienced so far this year continued resulting in the mildest March in North East England since 1983. Winds were mainly from between South West and North West and were the main reason for above average temperatures. There were few instances of strong winds. Rainfall in the region varied between localities some recording below average totals. Sunshine, however, was above average across the region. Snow fell on several occasions, mainly on high ground.

Wildfowl and wader numbers began to fall during the month. Barnacle Geese were noted on return passage, particularly from 24th and Grey Lags were also on the move. A drake Mandarin astonished observers at Seaton Burn on 28th, before it departed to the S.E. Over the sea Gannets and Kittiwakes were moving N. and three early manx Shearwaters passed Beadnell on 27th. There were unusual numbers of Shags offshore in the southern half of the county.

Early breeding activity continued, in the mild conditions, for several species including further indications of a successful season for Crossbills.

Typically, summer visitors began to arrive. An early King Ousel was well inland at Sinderhope on 18th but only one other was reported by the end of the month. The first Chiffchaff (or perhaps a wintering bird?) was seen on 20th with signs of an influx from 27th onwards.

Sandwich Tern and Wheatear appeared on 26th with a further spate of records thereafter. There were also interesting records involving two Water Pipits and a number of White Wagtails. A Whimbrel was at Cresswell Pond on 31st.

There were two sightings of Stonechats far inland, perhaps the Breeding Atlas fieldwork will again give us proof of breeding away from the coast. A great Grey Shrike was seen on 19th but more exciting was a Red Kite moving W. over Fourstones on 24th.



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 33 flew N. and 16 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Up to 12 were off St. Mary's Island from 19th (AH), ten at Stag Rocks (AGH) seven at Holy Island (ES) and one-six in seven other localities. Inland one was on the River Tyne in the Wylam-Newburn area between 13th-30th (JD/L&KR).

Black-throated Diver

One was off Seaton Sluice on 19th (AH).

Great Northern Diver

At least one was in the Stag Rocks-Ross area between 5th-26th (ADMc et al).

Little Grebe

Eight were at Corbridge on 12th (MR), seven at Warkworth Lane on 29th (DBNR) and one-six at a further 15 widespread localities. 'Trilling' birds were heard from 1st. More unusual was one on the sea off Hadston on 4th (DM).

Great Crested Grebe

Four pairs were at Hallington by 12th (RW) and three pairs at Seaton Burn by the end of the month (AJJ). Seven were at Holywell on 19th (TJT) and one-five were on another eight waters. Two were in Blyth Bay on 12th (MHP), three off Druridge on 29th (AP) and singles flew N. at Hauxley on 27th (PM) and Seaton Sluice on 31st.

Red-necked Grebe

Ten were off Budle Point on 5th (RKS) and up to three at Holy Island.

Slavonian Grebe

15 at Ross on 21st included one in summer plumage (IK). Eight-nine were also noted at Holy Island and Stag Rocks. More unusual were singles on the River Coquet at Warkworth on 4th (DM) and at Queen Elizabeth Park, Ashington on 12th/13th (per MSH).

Manx Shearwater

Three flew N. at Beadnell on 27th (WGJ).

Gannet

N. passage was reported on several days during the month with a maximum of 560 per hour at Beadnell on 27th (WGJ).

Cormorant

70 roosted at Blyth harbour during the month (MHP) and 48 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th (DMT). A flock of 48 flew S. at Hartley on 20th (RJ). Inland a maximum of 46 were at the usual roost site at Corbridge on 16th (MR), 18 at Whittle Dene on 17th (RMH) and smaller numbers at ten other localities. Birds showing characteristics of the continental race included singles at Holy Island, Boulmer, Cresswell, and Seaton Burn and two at the Coquet Estuary.

Shag

31 were at Dunstanburgh on 31st (RKS). Larger numbers than usual were noted along the southern half of the coastline. 24 were at S. Alnmouth on 17th (ETN/JRW). A total of 60 flew N. and 77 S. at Seaton Sluice mainly after 21st and 64 gathered in Blyth Bay on 20th (SSWT et al). 18 flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 20th (IDM). Ten were still roosting in Blyth harbour during the month (MHP).

Grey Heron

Ten were at Berwick by-pass bridge on 2nd (ETN) and one-three in 13 other localities. A single nest was found at the edge of a Rookery in the S. of the county on 18th.

Mute Swan

152 were at Berwick harbour on 2nd (ETN/JRN), 17 at the Queen Elizabeth Lake on 13th (IC) and two-twelve at eleven widespread localities. Nest building was noted in several sites during the month.

Whooper Swan

A maximum of 91 was in the Druridge/Warkworth Lane area on 9th declining to 27th by 30th (DBNR/MGA). 70 were near Cornhill on 19th (JR/IF), 46 at Rayburn on 5th (IC/MSH), 43 at Prestwick Carr on 10th (GAB), and 10-22 at six other localities. 16 flew N. at Craster on 29th (ADM).

Bean Goose

A single was at Broomlee on 26th (BNR).

Pink-footed Goose

60 were at Holburn Moss on 6th (TRC) when 17 flew S. at Spindlestone (IC/MSH). singles were also noted at Berwick, Castron, Whittle Dene and Holywell Pond.

White-fronted Goose

Five were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 5th (ADMc). Three were at Holburn Moss on 6th (TRC), two at Whittle Dene on 27th (PWD), one-two at Holywell Pond on 9th/12th (BDG) and one at Hallington on 5th (BNR).

Grey Lag Goose

1,000 roosted at Castron on 6th and 1,500 on 19th (MR). Numbers generally increased and passage was noted during the month. Largest gatherings were 470 at Whittle Dene on 17th (mJS), 350 at Holburn Moss on 6th (TRC), 250 at Grindon and Hoppen Kiln Pool and 260 in the Holywell/Backworth area although 650 were here on 9th (BRG et al). 165 were at Hallington on 5th and 190 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (BNR). 110 flew N. at Tynemouth on 8th and 200 on 9th (TJT/AH), when 120 flew NW at Ladycross where 33 NW on 18th (CJ).

Canada Goose

51 were at Hallington on 5th (BNR). One-two were at Arcot and Brenkley.

Barnacle Goose

Three were at Berwick on 2nd (ETN) and four at Castron on 6th (MR). A single, bearing a white darvic ring, at Holy Island on 12th had been seen at Caelaverock on 12th January 1988, further details are awaited (TRC/ES). Return passage was evident from 24th when 40 over Fourstones (MJ) and 350 N. at St. Mary's Island (TJT). 39 were at Cresswell Pond on 26th, four bearing yellow darvic rings (AP/AMB). On 27th 11 were at Grindon Lough (PJC) and eight rested at the Long Nanny before moving N. (WGJ).

Brent Goose

39 were at Black Low on 19th (JDL). Four flew over Hauxley on 22nd (DBNR).

Shelduck

222 were at Beal Sands/Black Low on 5th (JDL), 110 at Budle Bay on 6th (IC/MSH), 38 at Hauxley on 20th (DBNR), 30 at the Coquet Estuary on 2nd (EMY), 21 at Cresswell on 17th and 19 at Hadston Lake. Two-fifteen were in five other coastal localities.

Mandarin

A drake at Seaton Burn on 28th eventually departed to the SE (AJJ/IF et al).

Wigeon

294 at Cresswell on 6th declined to about 60 by the end of the month (DBNR) 236 at Grindon Lough on 17th (SJH), 116 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (BNR) and 112 at Budle Bay on 13th (RKS). 12-30 were on four other waters.

Gadwall

A pair were at Cresswell Pond during most of the month and an additional drake was present between 22nd-24th (DBNR). Three were at Arcot between 10th-17th, a pair remaining until 23rd (LJM). Pairs were also at Holy Island Lough on 12th/13th (EK/RKS) and Hauxley on 20th (DBNR) and a drake at Grindon Lough on 12th (SJH).

Teal

196 at Druridge Pool on 3rd declined to 27 by the end of the month (DBNR), and 161 at Grindon Lough on 12th dropped to 50 by 20th (SJH), 145 were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 13th (KKS), 82 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (L&KK) and 75 at Castron on 6th (MR). 11-40 were in six other localities.

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 101 at Cresswell Pond on 1st declining to 9 by 31st (DBNR), 100 at Seaton Burn on 5th (AJJ) and 80 at Marden Quarry during the month (AH). Breeding activity was noted at Holywell from 8th (PM).

Pintail

Two were at Hauxley on 5th (DBNR) and Black Low on 19th (JDL).

Shoveler

The usual increase in reports in spring resulted in one-six on nine, mainly lowland, waters. A drake was on the sea at Druridge on 20th (AIB).

Pochard

The largest gatherings were 101 at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (L&KK), 70 at Holywell Pond on 12th (RD), 44 at Seaton Burn on 20th (AJJ), and 37 at Hadston Lake on 5th (DBNR). Smaller numbers were noted on a further 11 other waters.

Tufted Duck

50 were at Hartburn on 11th (L&KK), 49 at Bolam on 26th (JKT/KWY), 47 at Holywell Pond on 27th (IC) and up to 42 at Seaton Burn and Capheaton.

Scaup

Single drakes were at Hadston Lake on 7th, Cresswell Pond on 19th and a duck at Hauxley on 25th/26th (DBNR/AP).

Long-tailed Duck

Up to 20 were at Stag Rocks (IC/RKS) and smaller numbers between Beadnell-Holy Island. Two flew N. at Boulmer on 27th (PM). More unusual was a duck which landed on the River Tyne at Scotswood on the evening of 4th (BNR).

Common Scoter

150-160 were in the Ross/Stag Rocks area on 21st/30th (IK/JDS).

Velvet Scoter

Seven were off Ross on 21st-26th (IK/AGH). Three flew N. at Holy Island on 27th (DPa/AJ) when one was off Hauxley (PM).

Goldeneye

250 were at Berwick on 18th (JDL) and up to 140 on the River Tyne at Newburn (RGW/L&KK). 22 were at Hallington on 12th (RW) and 21 at Broomlee on 26th (BNR). There were also many record of 2-19 at a further 17 widespread localities. .

Smew

The four 'redheads' at Hadston Lake remained up to 16th.

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 17 was at Hadston Lake on 3rd (DBNR). Nine were at Budle Bay on 20th (PM) and Holy Island on 27th (JDL). One-five were seen in another six localities including birds visiting Cresswell Pond Druridge and Hauxley pools and the River Coquet up to Warkworth.

Goosander

52 were at Berwick on 4th declining to 22 by 18th (JDL). 15 were at Castron on 6th/19th (MK) and 14 at Colt Crag on 6th (BNR). One-eleven were seen in a further 17 widespread localities including several breeding areas and one on the shore at Alnmouth on 29th (JS).

Red Kite

One was reported flying W. at Fourstones on 24th (MJ).

Hen Harrier

A 'ringtail' was in an inland locality on 27th.

Sparrowhawk

One-two were seen in 15 widespread localities including birds visiting two gardens. A cock at Hoppen Kiln had to abandon a Lapwing, which it had apparently killed, to two Carrion Crows after the wader dropped into flood-water (IC/MSH).

Buzzard

Singles were in Allendale on 6th (BNR) and the Harthope Valley on 27th (MGA/ADMc).

Kestrel

Pairs were back in upland breeding sites in Coquetdale by 20th (IK/BG). One-two were noted in many other widespread localities.

Merlin

Singles were seen in nine coastal localities including Marden Quarry at Whitley Bay (AH).

Peregrine

Singles were at Bamburgh and Beal Sands on 19th (DA/JDL).

Red Grouse

20 were on the Simonsides on 27th where display noted (RD).

Black Grouse

27 cocks were found 'lekking' at four sites along the West Allen (BNR). Three greyhens were near the Cumbrian border on 20th (MGA/ADMc) and single cocks near Longframlington, Threestoneburn, Keilder and the East Allen.

Red-legged Partridge

One-two were noted at Longhorsley Moor, Warkworth, Bolam, Holystone and Netherwitton. At the last site one on 5th showed the characteristics of a Red-legged/Chukar hybrid (MSH/IC).

Water Rail

Singles were noted at Castron, Holywell, Gosforth Park and Hoppen Kiln Pool. On the coast another was at Prior's Park on 20th/26th (AH).

Moorhen

43 were at Holy Island Lough on 13th (KKS).

Coot

71 at Warkworth Lane declined to 42 by the end of the month (DBNR) 61 at Bolam on 11th (L&KR) and 50-53 at Hartburn and Holy Island Lough were the only other large gatherings.

WADER COUNT 20 February 1988

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (DKS/ES), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TW) Blyth S.Pier-Hartley (KVB), St.Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 563 noted during the wader count. 110 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th (DBNR). Movement to inland localities still evident with 350 at Caistron on 6th (MK), when 52 at Beltingham (RD), 28 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (BNR), 27 at Powburn on 20th (JS) and smaller numbers at several other sites.

Ringed Plover

A total of only 87 was noted during the wader count although 75 were at Boulmer on 5th (ES). One-five were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Backworth and Whittle Dene.

Golden Plover

Up to 800 were at St.Mary's Island and 600 at Hauxley. Many 'northern' race birds coming into summer plumage were in a flock of 130 at Holy Island on 12th (TRC). Small numbers were noted in several moorland areas.

Grey Plover

A total of 38 was noted during the wader count. 105 were at Holy Island causeway on 13th (JDL).

Lapwing

268 were at Cresswell Pond on 8th (DBNR). Inland 180 were at Derwent Reservoir on 12th and 350 at the West Allen on 13th when snow was covering the hills (BNR).

Knot

Only 224 were noted during the wader count although 450 were at St.Mary's Island on 2nd (PM), 200 at Holy Island on 27th (JDL) and 150 at Newbiggin on 1st (AP).

Sanderling

127 were noted during the wader count. 133 were at Berwick Little beach on 6th (JDL) when 84 were at North Shields Fish Quay (JRT).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 926 was noted during the wader count, including 453 on St.Mary's Island.

Dunlin

Only 181 were seen during the wader count. 900 were at Holy Island on 13th (JDL).

Ruff

One was at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 13th (IC/MSH).

Jack Snipe

Singles were at Holy Island, Ross and Seaton Burn, all on 5th (JDL/ADMc/AJJ).

Snipe

A maximum of 73 was at Druridge Pool on 12th (DBNR). Displaying birds were noted on high moorland at Coquetdale on 27th (IK/BG).

Woodcock

Six were at Lilburn Burn on 20th (AMB), three at Langley on 18th (SJH) and singles in six other inland localities with 'roding' birds noted from 12th. Nearer the coast singles were at Seaton Burn, Jesmond Dene and Hauxley between 21st-29th.

Black-tailed Godwit

Up to nine visited Hoppen Kiln Pool during the month.

bar-tailed Godwit

A total of only ten was noted during the wader count. 1,900 were at Beal Sands on 6th (JDL).

Whimbrel

One was at Cresswell Pond on 31st (DBNR).

Curlew

A total of 312 was noted during the wader count. 165 were at Holy Island Lough on 12th (JDL). Inland 66 were at Corbridge on 16th, 43 at the West Allen on 13th and 42 at Caistron on 19th (MR/BNR). 65 flew W. at Seaton Burn on 8th (BRG).

Spotted Redshank

The wintering bird remained at Wallsend Swallow Pond all month.

Redshank

A total of 585 was noted during the wader count. 295 were at Black Low on 19th (JDL) and 260 at Yarrow Slake on 2nd (ETN/JRN). Birds were also noted in many breeding areas.

Green Sandpiper

The wintering bird at Whittle Dene remained until at least 17th.

Turnstone

A total of 1,604 noted during the wader count represented a large increase since last month. 240 were at Berwick Little Beach on 6th (JDL).

Little Gull

A second summer bird was at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (BNR), apparently the 10th species of gull to be recorded at this inland roost site.

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts included 4,700 at Scotswood on 4th, 6,300 at Hallington on 5th, 1,600 at Colt Crag on 6th, 2,900 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (BNR) and 5,500 at Grindon on 15th (SJH).

Common Gull

Numbers at inland roosts increased during the month indicating spring passage. 10,500 at Hallington on 5th increased to 21,000 by 23rd, 2,100 at Colt Crag on 6th and 7,500 on 22nd, and 8,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th where 11,500 present on 27th (BNR). 500-550 also roosted at Grindon and Broomlee loughs.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

24 roosted at Broomlee on 26th and eight at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (BNR). One-three were also noted in 13 other localities.

Herring Gull

Roost counts involved 590 at Scotswood on 4th, 210 at Hallington on 5th, 180 at Colt Crag on 6th, and 150 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th decreasing to 40 by 27th (BNR). 700 were at the Tyne Estuary on 1st (DMT) and 280 flew N. in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT).

Iceland Gull

At least five different individuals (Adult, second-winter, three first-winter) were in the North Shields/Tynemouth/St. Mary's Island area. An adult was at Blyth harbour on 12th/13th (noted to be slightly 'lame' in right leg) (MHP) and possibly the same at Seaton Sluice on 20th/27th/28th.

Glaucous Gull

Probably five individuals present at North Shields Fish Quay (Adult, third and second winters, two first winter). Probably the same third winter bird was at Holywell Pond on 8th (PM) and single first winters were at Hadston Lake on 19th and Seaton Sluice on 27th (JRT).

Great Black-backed Gull

131 were at North Shields on 3rd where an immature with a peculiar swelling on its head was present on several dates (DMT) 25 roosted at Scotswood on 4th (BNR).

Kittiwake

N. passage was noted on several dates including 1,900 at Berwick on 12th (JDL). 112 were at North Shields on 3rd (DMT). Inland one at Castron on 6th had apparently roosted overnight (MR). Three tired adults arrived at Derwent Reservoir from W. on 11th and 17 at Colt Crag on 22nd apparently remained to roost (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

The first were two at Stag Rocks and one N. at Holy Island on 26th (AGH/DPa). Three flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 28th (AJB/AH) and between 29th-31st they were seen in a further six localities including 15 N. at Tynemouth on 29th.

Little Auk

The remains of two were found at Druridge on 22nd (AP).

Stock Dove

Two were at St. Mary's Island on 22nd (TJT).

Woodpigeon

1,200 were at Earsdon on 9th (BRG). 250-400 were at Newton and Hoppen Kiln (RMH/RKS).

Collared Dove

40 were at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Barn Owl

Singles were seen at Druridge, Castron and Rudchester. A road casualty was near Alnwick on 13th (IC).

Little Owl

A pair courtship feeding at Earsdon on 27th were swooped upon by a Short-eared Owl! (TRC). Singles were seen at Ked Row, Druridge, and Laverock Hall.

Tawny Owl

A nest with two eggs was found at March Burn on 5th (IF/MD). One-three noted in three other localities.

Short-eared Owl

Three were at Backworin and Holywell with wing-clapping noted at the latter locality on 20th (TRC). One-two were also seen in a further nine lowland areas and singles further inland at Langley and Broomlee.

Kingfisher

One was at Whittle Dene on 4th (RGW) and a pair in Jesmond Dene.

Green Woodpecker

Up to three were seen and heard in the Harthope Valley and singles at Waren Mill, Hexham and the March Burn.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Pairs and singles were noted in at least nine widespread localities including several 'drumming'

Skylark

Birds were noted singing in many lowland areas and moving onto higher ground during the month.

Meadow Pipit

N. coastal passage was noted in several localities during the month. Inland birds were also moving and in some moorland areas very high populations were reported.

Rock Pipit

At least two at St. Mary's Island on 17th/23rd showed the characteristics of the Scandinavian race (AJB/AH).

Water Pipit

Singles were at Whittle Dene on 4th (RGW) and St. Mary's Island on 15th (AJB/IF).

Grey Wagtail

Three pairs were in Jesmond Dene by mid-month (MPF). One-two were in six inland localities. Singles were on the coast at Howick on 19th and Holywell Dene on 20th.

Pied Wagtail

Coastal passage was noted from 14th onwards. Inland birds were also moving back into breeding areas.

White Wagtail

Six were at Tynemouth Haven and one at Hauxley on 29th (AH/HRS). Three were at St. Mary's Island on 30th when two at Prior's Park.

Dipper

Pairs and singles were in five widespread localities.

Wren

One was nest-building at North Broomhill on 22nd (JMA).

Duncock

Ten were singing within 200 yards at Cramlington on 9th (LJM).

Black Redstart

One was at Warkworth Gut on 30th (JMS).

Stonechat

A male was at Annstead on 13th (JDL). A female was at Holywell Pond on 19th (JKT/JEF) and much further inland a female at Threestoneburn on 12th and a male at Iderton Dod on 13th (AMB).

Wheatear

The first was one at Alnwick on 26th followed by two at the Harthope Valley on 27th (RKS). Between 28th-31st one-three were seen in a further six coastal and two inland localities although a group of six was at Dunstanburgh on 31st.

Ring Ousel

A very early bird was well inland at Sinderhope on 18th (FC). Another was on the Simonsides on 27th (IDM).

Blackbird

32 were in one field at Juniper on 1st (CJ). Coastal passage was noted at Hauxley and Holy Island from about 23rd.

Fieldfare

360 at Nunykirk on 26th was the largest number reported (JRT). 200 were at Hartburn and Beacon Hill on 27th (MLC/RD) and Earsdon on 31st (JDS) with 100-175 at five other localities.

Song Thrush

A nest at Threestoneburn was completed by 19th (AMB).

Redwing

190 were at Bolam on 2nd (BRG), 100 at Hartburn on 27th (TAC) and 50 at Hexham on 13th (RMH). Smaller numbers were noted in another seven localities. Emigration indicated by birds passing E. over North Shields after dark on 23rd (MSH).

Mistle Thrush

50 were at Bolam on 2nd (BRG). A pair were incubating four eggs at Hauxley by the end of the month (HRS).

Blackcap

Singles were visiting gardens at Stamfordham, Glanton and North Broomhill all month (RW/JMA).

Chiffchaff

One was at Hexhamshire on 20th (BNR) and another singing at Horsley Wood on 27th (JSB). On 30th singles were singing at Newton Pool, Felton and two at Waren Mill. Another was at Close House on 31st.

Goldcrest

Coastal passage was indicated by one-five at Holy Island, Craster, Hauxley and St. Mary's Island between 27th-31st.

Long-tailed Tit

Nest-building was noted at Plessey Woods on 7th (AJB) and Gosforth Park on 22nd (MKS). Two-six were in six other localities.

Marsh Tit

Two-four were noted at Bolam, Wallington, Felton and Hulne Park.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Heddon, Whittle Dene, Seaton burn, Arcot Hall and Plessey Woods.

Coal Tit

Singing birds were conspicuous at Hulne Park, Callaly, and Wallington. More unusual was one in a yard at Heaton on 1st (per KIB).

Blue Tit

A flock of 21 was at Bolam on 11th (L&KK).

Nuthatch

One-two were at Throckley, Hexham, Close House, Belsay and Hulne Park.

Treecreeper

A pair was nest-building at the Harthope Valley on 20th (RKS). On the coast one was at Prior's Park on 22nd (AH).

Great Grey Shrike

One was in the S. of the county on 19th (BNR).

Magpie

20 were at Bondicarr on 5th and 26th (ES/MBS).

Jackdaw

260 were at Bellingham on 8th (BNR) and 150 at Lucker on 6th (IC).

Hooded Crow

Two were at Holy Island and one at Druridge during the month.

Starling

1,000 were at Hartburn on 27th (MLC).

Tree Sparrow

30 were in a garden at West Heddon during the month (LS & TPG). One-eleven were in five other areas.

Chaffinch

100 were at Bolam on 2nd (BRG) and Netherwitten on 17th (WAK) and 50 at Threestoneburn on 13th (AMB).

Brambling

35-40 were at Hulne Park on 7th (AJB). One-twelve were noted at Jesmond Dene, Pansfield and Threestoneburn.

Greenfinch

A total of 74 was ringed in a garden at Lesbury during the month (WD). 50 were at Longhorsley on 5th (MSH).

Goldfinch

A very large flock of 150-170 was in a larch plantation near Pansfield on 5th (TO).

Siskin

20 were at Matfen on 2nd (RW). One-six also noted at Kyloe, Hulne Park and Horsley Wood.

Linnet

100 were on Beadnell links on 30th (JDS). 30-50 were in four other localities.

Redpoll

Up to 60 were present at Seaton Burn up to 29th (AJJ).

Crossbill

More proof of successful breeding included at least six pairs rearing 19 young in one wood at Slaley (CJ) and a flock of 21 at Harwood on 5th contained a male feeding three juveniles (MH).

Bullfinch

Two-three were noted in eight widespread localities.

Hawfinch

One-two were seen at Hulne Park, Close House and Jesmond Dene.

Snow Bunting

Ten were at Druridge on 19th (JRT). One-four were at Beadnell Hartley and St.Mary's Island between 17th-30th.

Yellowhammer

80 were near Longhorsley on 5th and 40 at Hoppen Kiln on 13th (MSH/IC).

Corn Bunting

One-two were at St.Mary's Island and Druridge.

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

J M Almond
M G Anderson
D Archer
A M Bankier
A H Banks
K I Barratt
G A Bentley
D H W Blair
A J Booth
J S Booth
G & A I Bowman
K V Brooks
P Burke
ML & TA Cadwallender
I Chadwick

M Hepple (Mhp)
A G Hetherington
S J Hingston
M S Hodgson
R M Holmes
A Hutt
A S Jack
A Janes
M Jeavons
C Jewitt
R Johnson
W G Johnson
A J Johnston
W A Kelly
I Kerr

M Richardson
B N Rossiter
G S Rushbrooke
L & K Russell
J D Searle
D R Shannon
M J Sharp
M B Shaw
E Slack
M R Smith
J S Spence
J Steele
R K Stephenson
A Stimpson
T J Tams

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| T R Cleeves | P Knowles | J R Todd |
| F Colley | W T Logan | D M Turner |
| T L Crilley | J D Lough | R Walton |
| P W Davidson | J M Macfarlane | T Watson |
| W Dickson | L J McDougall | R G Waugh |
| R Dunn | D McKeown | P R Weighill |
| J Dutton | A D McLevy (ADMc) | P W West |
| J E Fergusson | P Maguire | M Winter |
| I Fisher | I D Moorhouse | A Woodhall |
| M P Frankis | A D Mould | K W York |
| M Freeman | ET & JR Norris | E M Young |
| B R Gadus | T Oliphant | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| B Galloway | D Patterson (DPa) | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| P J Garson | M Potts | Druridge Bay Nature Reserves |
| LS & TP Goodwin | A Priest | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |

FIELD TRIP - SAT 21st MAY 1988

This will be a special field trip to cover a few tetrads for the Breeding Atlas. Meet at 8.30 am (for the morning only) in the car park behind St. Georges Church, Morpeth (Ref: NZ201859). All are welcome to join Muriel Cadwallender but the outing should prove useful for anyone who is unsure about any aspect of Atlas work or perhaps is taking part for the first time.

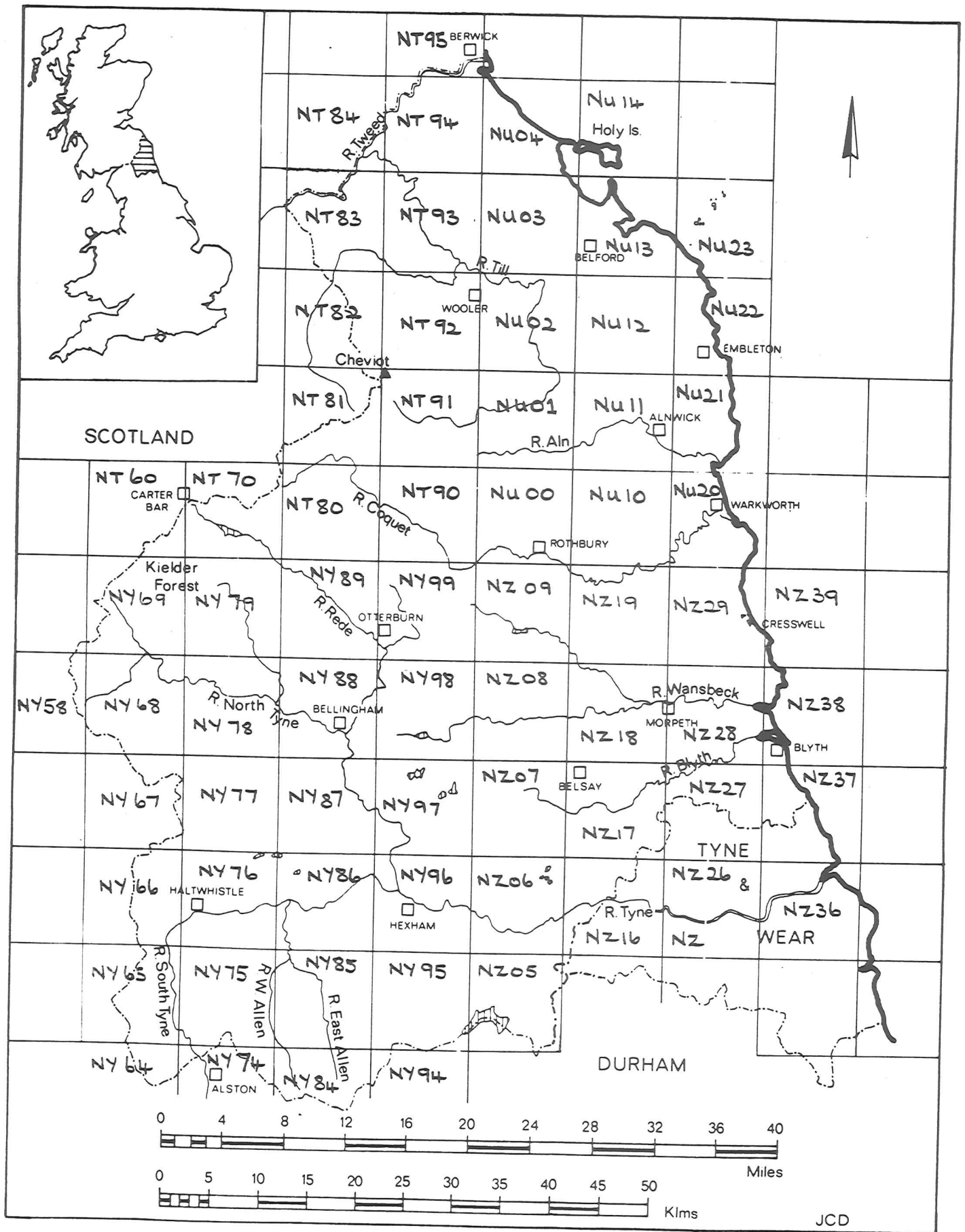
ARTICLES FOR SALE

- 1) Fensman Portable Photographic Hide (3ft x 3ft x 4ft approx)
Price £20
Contact Mike Richardson on Corbridge 3043
- 2) Panagor 500mm F8 Mirror Lens. (T2 Universal Mount)
Price £60
Contact Mr Heward on Tyneside 2766177

BREEDING ATLAS 1988

Fieldwork is now well under way for the first season of the club's Breeding Atlas. All members are encouraged to complete Supplementary Records cards even if they are not 'responsible' for a 10 km square. Supplies of Supplementary Record cards and instructions are available from the Atlas Co-ordinators (Nick Rossiter, Tel: Slaley 509, Margaret Macfarlane, Tel: Cramlington 715399, and Muriel and Tom Cadwallender, Tel: Tyneside 2371145).

To assist in the identification of the 10 km. squares in the county we are enclosing the appropriate map with this bulletin.





Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - APRIL 1988

Temperatures during April were generally about or slightly above average. Most areas experienced a mild spell in mid-month with 19th being the warmest day. The amount of sunshine was slightly below average in some areas although Boulmer received 12.8 hours on 13th. All areas received below average rainfall, Hartburn, for example, recording only 57% of average. Snow fell on the night of 8th giving two-four inches over high ground and on 27th these areas had a slight covering. Winds were not particularly strong during the month with easterly or northerly breezes during the cooler periods.

Numbers of winter visitors continued to decline and pre-emigration flocks of Fieldfares were noted. Black-necked Grebes returned to their regular site and others were seen in a further six localities. Both Great Crested and Little Grebes were seen with young and the first Coot brood had hatched by 23rd. A drake Mandarin at Holywell Pond seems likely to have been the one noted in March at Seaton Burn. A drake Ring-necked Duck appeared yet again at Holywell but perhaps more surprising was a duck at Hadston Lake from 24th. Will they meet up somewhere in the county!

Interesting raptors include an Osprey at Fontburn on 24th/29th and on the first date a splendid Golden Eagle at two localities in the west. Wader passage was evident with Whimbrels, Black-tailed Godwits, Green Sandpipers and four Little Ringed Plovers. The first Common Sandpiper appeared on 13th at Druridge.



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.

There was a strong movement of White Wagtails and a number of Black Redstarts were seen. Arriving summer visitors claimed much attention with Seallow on 2nd, Sand Martin on 3rd, Willow Warbler on 9th, Yellow Wagtail on 14th, Grasshopper Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat on 15th and Redstart and Swift on 16th. Between the 18th-29th Pied Flycatcher, Cuckoo, Common Tern, Whinchat, Wood Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Little Tern, Tree Pipit, Whitethroat and Garden Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Little Tern, Tree Pipit, Whitethroat and Garden Warbler all appeared.

More unusual birds included a Firecrest at Tynemouth on 21st and a Hoopoe, inland at Simonburn on 22nd.

Other interesting records were three Buzzards, two Mediterranean Gulls Black Tern, Blue-headed Wagtails and Hooded Crow.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

14 were off Stag Rocks (JRT/KWY) and 30-35 between Druridge and Chevington Burn on 2nd, (APP). Eight were at Ross and Boulmer with one-six at Holy Island, Cresswell and Beadnell Bay. Inland one was still on the River Tyne at Newburn on 2nd.

Little Grebe

Four pairs were at Corbridge on 28th where a pair with two young was noted (MR). Six were at Warkworth Lane on 16th (OBNR) with one-four at a further nine localities.

Great Crested Grebe

At least six were at Seaton Burn (AJJ) and four at Holywell (ES et al) with one-three at seven other waters. A pair with two young was at Corbridge on 28th (MR). On the sea two were at Seaton Sluice on 4th (KWY) and off Cresswell on 15th. A single flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 8th.

Red-necked Grebe

Two were in Beadnell Bay on 3rd (RKS) with singles at Holy Island and Stag Rocks. One was at Hadston Lake from 24th-30th (NFF/MJS et al).

Slavonian Grebe

Two were at Holy Island on 3rd (ASJ), eight off Stag Rocks on 7th (AGH) and five at Ross on 15th (AP).

Black-necked Grebe

Two had returned to the regular breeding site by 1st, increasing to ten by 14th. One was at Stag Rocks on 1st and 17th (TAC & MLC) with other singles at Hallington on 5th (BNR), Castron on 8th/9th (MR), Holywell Pond on 26th/28th and Seaton Burn on 27th (GB). Two were at another locality on 23rd.

Fulmar

50 per hour N. at Seaton Burn on 22nd (SSWT) was the first movement noted. One visited Holywell Pond on 23rd (AP/MPF).

Gannet

N. passage noted on several dates with a maximum of 80 per hour N. at Seaton Sluice on 22nd and 64 N. & 10 S. at Berwick on 23rd (JDL).

Cormorant

66 roosted at Blyth harbour on 6th (MHP), 15 at N.Shields Fish Quay on 27th (DMT). One-five also noted at Newton Pool, Whittle Dene, Seaton Burn and Alnwick. Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race were noted at Holy Island on 10th (RGW) and Cresswell Pond on 16th/30th.

Grey Heron

Ten flew S. near Alnmouth on 18th (APP). One-four were noted at nine widespread localities.

Mute Swan

161 were at Berwick on 22nd (JDL). Breeding pairs were noted at Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell and on R.Blyth.

Whooper Swan

13 were at Druridge on 1st/2nd (DBNR et al) with a single until 7th. Seven were at Grindon on 2nd (RKS).

Pink-footed Goose

Two were in the Backworth-Holywell area from 5th-28th (TJT et al). Three were at Whittle Dene on 4th/5th (MJS). One-two were at Castron, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Arcot Pond.

White-fronted Goose

Two were at Whittle Dene on 4th (MJS).

Greylag Goose

1000 roosted at Castron on 3rd where a brood of seven was present on 25th (MR) 245 were at Whittle Dene on 4th, 190 at Grindon Lough on 11th. With 20-46 at Hoppen Kiln, Colt Crag, New Hartley, Derwent Reservoir and Hallington. At St.Mary's Island 35 flew N. on 3rd, with 40 N. at Holywell Pond on 6th and 121 N. at Ford on 18th.

Snow Goose

11 flew in from the sea at Druridge on 30th. Later that day they were recorded flying N. over Hadston and at Hauxley Pool.

Canada Goose

15 were at Hallington on 5th (BNR) and nine at Capheaton on 10th (ES). One-three were also at Arcot, Cresswell, Grindon Lough, Colt Crag and Seaton Burn.

Barnacle Goose

Four roosted at Castron on 3rd/9th. Two were at Cresswell Pond on 20th-21st.

Brent Goose

Four were at Holy Island from 6th-9th (AGH) and a single on 10th-23rd.

Shelduck

53 were at Fenham Flats on 2nd (TJT), Black Low/Beal Sands on 16th, with 55 at Budle Bay on 11th. 41 at Cresswell on 16th and 34 at Hauxley on 17th. Inland two were at Whittle Dene on 24th (RGW), Seaton Burn on 27th (AJJ) and Backworth on 28th (LJM).

Mandarin

A drake was at Holywell Pond on 25th (AJD/RD).

Wigeon

72 were at Cresswell on 1st, 22 at Grindon Lough on 2nd and 40 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (RKS). One-four were at four other waters. Four pairs had returned to the regular breeding site by 24th. At the second breeding site four pairs were noted on 26th.

Gadwall

Two drakes and a female were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (PM) with one drake remaining until the 9th. At Grindon Lough one was present on 2nd with two drakes on 23rd. Two were at Hauxley on 24th and at Druridge on 30th. A female was at Wallsend Swallow on 28th (AH/JR T).

Teal

103 were at Hoppen Kiln on 4th reducing to 44 by 17th (RKS), 37 were at Grindon Lough on 2nd and 30 were at Holywell on 6th (RD). Pairs were also noted back in moorland breeding areas from 17th.

Mallard

40 at Berwick harbour on 11th (RMH) was the largest gathering. The first young were noted on 16th at Wallsend Swallow Pond (JRT/KWY). Single broods were also noted at Newton Pool, Caistron, Jesmond Dene, and Seaton Burn.

Shoveler

Nine at Cresswell on 6th/12th was the largest concentration with one-four reported from 14 widespread localities. A pair was on the sea at Boulmer on 17th (IK).

Pochard

The largest gathering was 18 at Seaton Burn on 16th (AJJ) one-two were at Arcot Pond and Marden Quarry.

Ring-necked Duck

A drake was at Holywell Pond on 8th (AJ). At Hadston Lake a female was present on at least 24th-25th/29th (MJS/NFF et al).

Tufted Duck

56 were at Caistron on 9th (MR) when 55 at Hadston Lake (JRT/KWY). 48 were at Holywell Pond on 10th and 54 at Druridge Pool on 22nd. 34 were at Marden Quarry, Whittle Dene Reservoirs and Seaton Burn with up to 25 at 13 waters.

Scaup

Single males were at Whittle Dene on 5th, at Derwent Reservoir on 16th, at Budle Bay from 22nd-24th and at Hadston Lake between 24th-26th. A female was at Holywell on 14th-16th and Hauxley on 2nd.

Eider

1,180 were between Budle Point to Seahouses on the 17th (PK). 303 were in Druridge Bay on 2nd (PM).

Long Tailed Duck

39 were at Stag Rocks on 2nd (JRT/KWY) with smaller numbers between Berwick and Druridge.

Common Scoter

100 were at Stag Rocks on 1st (TAC & MLC). More unusual two males were on the River Tyne at Newburn on 30th (L&KR).

Goldeneye

25 were on the River Tyne at Newburn on 2nd, 16 were at Caistron on 9th with 20 at Broomlee on 11th (BNR). One-14 were at a further 16 localities.

Red-breasted Merganser

16 at Black Low on 30th (JDL) was the largest concentration 12-15 were in Druridge Bay on 5th. A drake was at Caistron on 21st/23rd while a pair was noted on a river in the south of the county on 12th.

Goosander

20 were at Berwick harbour on 1st, 16 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (MH) and 25 at the River Tyne, near Bywell on 24th. One-seven were at a further ten localities.

Sparrowhawk

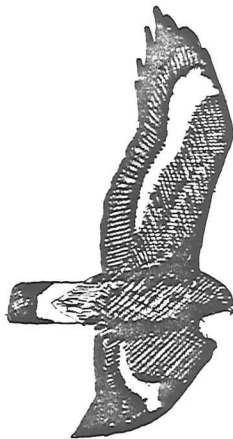
Pairs and singles were noted in 16 widespread localities.

Buzzard

Singles were seen at Briarwood Banks on 14th (CA), at Ford on 17th (JDL), and Riding Mill on 18th (BNR).

Golden Eagle

One was seen on the Simonsides and at the Carey Burn on 24th (IK/BG, MGA/ADMc).

Osprey

Single birds were seen at Fontburn Reservoir on 24th/29th (ADMc).

Kestrel

Singles and pairs were noted in 17 localities. Four were at Shankhouse on 24th.

Merlin

Singles were seen at Wallsend Swallow, Cresswell/Druridge, Newcastle University, Whittle Dene and at Ford.

Peregrine

Singles were at Hauxley on 1st (DBNR) at Beal Sands on 10th (JDL) and near Haydon Bridge on 25th (SY). One-two were at a further six inland localities.

Red Grouse

Noted as very plentiful in the Simonsides, a nest with eggs noted on 24th.

Black Grouse

Eight leks in the South West of the county held a total 29 males during the month and two leks on the Otterburn Ranges held at least 14. Singles were also noted at three other sites.

Red-legged Partridge

Four were at Hepple (MW) with a pair at Laverock Hall (LJM et al) and a single at Alwinton (TJT).

Moorhen

18 were at Hoppin Kiln pool on 4th (GB) and 12 at Wallsend Swallow on 18th (L&KR).

Coot

A brood was noted at Castron on 23rd (MR). At Seaton Burn and Laverock Hall incubating birds were reported by end of month.

WADER COUNT 16th/17th April, 1988

The following stretches were counted Budle Point-Seahouse (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC/AS), Boulmer-Howick (IK) Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL/DRS) S. Alnmouth (ETN/VRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Cresswell-Chevington Burn (EC/MRS) Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S. Pier-Hartley Point (KVB), St. Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 307 noted during the wader count, 110 were at Cresswell on 2nd (AMB) and 320 at Castron on 9th (MR).

Little Ringed Plover

A single was at Whittle Dene on 12th-25th (MR et al). Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 21st-30th (GAB et al). One was at Hoppen Kiln on 23rd.

Ringed Plover

A total of 16 noted during the wader count, although 20 were at the Long Nanny on 3rd (RKS). 14 were at Whittle Dene on 20th (GAB).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 11-1200 at St. Mary's Island on 3rd (DMT) and 510 at Longhoughton Steel on 9th (RKS). Pairs were also noted back in breeding areas.

Grey Plover

22 were noted during the wader count. 105 were at Holy Island on 10th (JDL).

Lapwing

51 pairs were at Coatenhill on 30th (BNR).

Knot

Only 28 noted during wader count, although 34 were at St. Mary's Island on 14th (L&KR).

Sanderling

149 were noted during the wader count.

Purple Sandpiper

714 were noted during the wader count including 430 at St. Mary's Island.

Dunlin

Only 95 were noted during the wader count. Five pairs were noted back in breeding territory on 24th.

Ruff

A single was at Hoppen Kiln on 4th/22nd/23rd (GB et al). Two were at Caistron on 17th/23rd (MR).

Jack Snipe

One was at Caistron on 17th (MR).

Snipe

54 were at Druridge Pool on 7th (DBNR). Drumming was noted at eight localities.

Woodcock

Roding was noted at Beacon Hill and Edlingham. One was at Buston Links on 6th (MR) with two at Dipton on 25th (IF).

Black-tailed Godwit

A maximum of six was at Cresswell Pond on 26th. Four were at Whittle Dene on 23rd. Two-three were at Hoppen Kiln from 1st-23rd.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Only five were noted during the wader count. 228 were at Holy Island on 2nd (JRT/KWY).

Whimbrel

A maximum of 23 was at Cresswell Pond on 21st (DBNR) and 13 at Druridge Pool on 27th. One-three were also noted at Black Low, Berwick, Hauxley, Lesbury, Newton Point, Prestwick Carr and Tynemouth from 2nd-30th.

Curlew

A total of 91 noted during the wader count. 230 were at Black Low on 16th (JDL). 150 were at Cresswell on 2nd (ES) and 180 at the Long Nanny on 3rd (RKS). One-nine in another five breeding areas.

Spotted Redshank

One remained at Wallsend Swallow Pond until at least 22nd. Singles were also at Cresswell Pond between 20th-24th and at Holy Island on 27th (ASJ).

Redshank

325 noted during the wader count. In addition 1,200 were at Black Low/Beal Sands on 2nd (JDL) Pairs were also noted in many breeding areas.

Greenshank

One was at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (AJH) with two on 26th/27th. Other singles were at Newton Pool on 12th and Backworth on 26th.

Green Sandpiper

Three were at Whittle Dene on 1st (MJS) with a single on 14th-16th. at Holywell Pond singles were present on 19th and 26th with two on 20th. Other singles were at Druridge Pool on 26th and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th.

Common Sandpiper

The first at Druridge Pool on 13th (DBNR) On 16th singles were at Whittle Dene (MR) and on R. Tyne at Fourstones (GWM), when two on River Tyne at Ovingham (GAB). From 17th onwards one-twelve were noted in at least 20 widespread localities up to the months end.

Turnstone

A total of 756 noted during the wader count.

Mediterranean Gull

A second summer bird was at Cresswell Pond on 1st (MSH/AJJ) and probably the same at Druridge on 16th (TMM). An adult was on Coquet Island on 9th (Per IF).

Little Gull

A second summer bird was in Embleton Bay on 19th (WD) and a first summer at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (MH/TRC/TMM).

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts include 1,000 at Hallington on 5th, 2,700 at Grindon on 11th, 2,800 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th and 3,700 at Broomlee on 23rd (BNR).

Common Gull

Inland roost counts were as follows 12,000 at Hallington on 5th declining to 270 on 25th. 6,600 at Derwent Reservoir declining to 95 on 26th. At Colt Crag 700 roosted on 6th (BNR).

Lesser-Black-backed Gull

43 roosted at Broomlee on 11th. 38 had returned to the moorland breeding colony by 24th. One-seven were noted in five other localities. A bird showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race was at Seaton Burn on 19th (L&KR).

Herring Gull

450 present at North Shields Fish Quay on 11th and 26th (DMT). Two pairs had returned to the moorland colony by 24th.

Iceland Gull

Up to Five were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (AH), and were probably responsible for singles at Tynemouth/Whitley Bay/St. Mary's Island. The adult reported last month was still in Blyth harbour on 6th (MHp). A second year was at Boulmer on 17th.

Glaucous Gull

At North Shields Fish Quay at least three were present between 1st-14th (A first, second and third winter). Singles were at Coquet Island on 2nd, Hadston Lake on 10th/16th, at Druridge Pool on 18th and at Holywell on 14th.

Great Black-backed Gull

34 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 19th (DMT).

Kittiwake

A maximum of 54 were at North Shields. Inland an adult flew S. at Ordley on 9th (BNR), another was at Seaton Burn on 10th (AJJ).

Sandwich Tern

20 at Coquet Island on 2nd (JRT/KWY) increased to 300 by 9th 33 were at Low Newton on 16th (RKS). One-15 were noted at another eleven localities.

'Commic' Tern

Three were at Stag Rocks on 17th (TAC).

Common Tern

The first were two at Tynemouth on 19th/24th/26th (CH/AH), One was at Holy Island on 30th (JDL).

Little Tern

The first were two at Holy Island on 23rd (JRT/KWY). Five were at Low Newton on 30th (RKS).

Black Tern

One was at Fontburn Reservoir on 30th (ADMc).

Little Auk

One, long dead, was at Longhoughton Steel on 9th (JRT/KWY).

Stock Dove

One-four were noted in five localities.

Collared Dove

A leucistic bird was at Wideopen throughout the month (GB).

Cuckoo

The first was one at Swallow Pond on 19th (JRT) with another at Seaton Burn on 20th (GB). Between 24th-30th further singles were at Harthope Valley, Catton, Tynemouth and near Chillingham.

Little Owl

Two were at Druridge throughout the month. One was at Corbridge on 26th (KD).

Tawny Owl

A nest with two eggs was at Tranwell on 7th (ADMc). Singles were heard in three other localities.

Long-eared Owl

One was found dead at Seaton Burn on 9th (AJJ).

Short-eared Owl

One-two were seen in eight lowland localities, with pairs in a further two suitable breeding areas.

Swift

The first were singles at Low Newton and at the Farne Islands on 16th (RKS/Per MPF). One was at Whittle Dene on 24th (RGW) and another at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 25th (JRT). Two were North of Berwick on 29th (JDL) and singles at Castron and Hadston on 30th (MR/JB).

Kingfisher

Two were in Jesmond Dene with singles on River Tyne at Ovingham, at Heddon, near Warden, at Hexham and Plessey Woods.

Hoopoe

One was at Simonburn on 22nd (TMM).

Green Woodpecker

Singles were at Broomley Wood, Ridley Hall, and Linnels with three in the Harthope Valley.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three noted in 18 widespread localities.

Sky lark

Up to 200 noted between Newbiggin and Boulmer on 2nd (ES).

Sand Martin

On the 3rd ten were at Corbridge (AJ), seven at Castron (MR), and a single at Seaton Burn (AJJ). 200 were at the last site by 18th, with 400 at Corbridge on 21st and 100 at Castron on 23rd. From 14th reports became widespread, with birds returning to a number of colonies by the months end. At Ovingham c40 burrows were noted on 26th (GAB) and at Hepple c16 noted on 28th (MLC).

Swallow

The first was a single at New Hartley on 2nd (JRT/KWY). On 8th one was at Seaton Burn (AJJ) and two at Corbridge (RMH/SW). One-two were at Whittle Dene, Arcot, Etal, Seaton Burn and Felton between 9th-13th, thereafter reports became widespread. The largest gatherings were c100 at Seaton Burn on 22nd (DM), 50 at Capheaton on 23rd (AJ), 37 at Swallow Pond on 29th (AH) and 40 at Castron on 30th (MR).

House Martin

The first was one at Holywell Pond on 12th (RD). On 17th singles were at Castron and Stag Rocks with two at Harehaugh. One was at Seaton Burn between 18th/30th. Numbers continued to be low with singles at Whittle Dene, Swallow Pond and Linnels on 21st. And at Arcot Pond of one-two between 27th/29th being the only records.

Tree Pipit

The first were two W. at Bamburgh on 24th (BRS). Four were at Beacon Hill on 25th (ASJ) when two at Thrunton (APP). On 29th three were in song at Dipton (MPF) Singles were at Bradford Cairns and near Barrow Burn on 30th (KIB).

Meadow Pipit

Noted as very plentiful in South Cheviots (IK/BG). Light coastal passage was noted at Bamburgh, while inland on 9th 80-100 were at Castron and 30 at Seaton Burn where N/NW. passage was noted on 11th (GB). On 14th/15th 70-80 were at Whittle Dene and 50 at Prestwick Carr.

Yellow Wagtail

The first were three at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR/MJS) where 18 were noted on 21st (ASJ). One flew W. at Holywell on 15th (AH). From 16th onwards reports were more frequent with one-eight in 13 widespread localities larger gatherings of nine were at Castron on 23rd and of 20 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (ADM).

Blue-headed Wagtail

Singles were at Cresswell on 18th (DBNR), Whittle Dene on 19th (MJS/RGW) and at Swallow Pond on 29th (AH).

Grey Wagtail

Four pairs were in Hulne Park on 16th (ES) while up to six were in the Upper Breamish Valley on 29th (L&KR) Pairs and singles were in seven other riverine localities.

Pied Wagtail

A roost of 30 was at Newton Pool on 1st (MR) while 15 were at St. Marys Island on 17th (AH).

White Wagtail

One was at St. Mary's Island on 1st (RGW). On 5th singles were at Swallow Pond (MW) and at Hartley West Farm (AP). Further singles were at Holy Island on 6th (RKS) and at Boulmer on 9th (AJ). Between 11th-30th one-six were in seven coastal localities although ten were between Beadnell-Seahouses on 17th (TAC). Inland two at Whittle Dene on 14th increased to maximum 20 on 19th (MR/IF). Singles were at Seaton Burn on 12th (GB) and at Shankhouse on 24th/25th (LJM) while two were at Castron on 17th/23rd.

Dipper

Pairs were noted feeding young at Mitford on 25th and at Happy Valley on 27th (ASJ). Seven were on R. Breamish on 29th (L&KR). Singles and pairs were noted in another seven localities.

Black Redstart

One was at Old Hartley on 2nd (RD/ASJ) when another at Boulmer (AJH). Two were in Blyth Cemetery on 6th (TJT) when singles were at Holy Island and St Mary's Island. At the latter site one-two were noted between 7-9th. Singles were also on Holy Island on 16th/23rd while another was trapped at Hauxley on 28th.

Redstart

The first were two on Holy Island on 16th (DPa). One was at Bamburgh on 17th (BRS), and another at Hexham on 20th (RMH). From 21st records increased with one-four seen in ten localities.

Whinchat

The first was a single on 21st at Whittle Dene (RGW) followed by another at Seaton Burn on 23rd (AJJ) where five noted on 29th. On 24th-26th one-two were at Druridge, Warkworth, Harthope Valley, Holywell and Hartley. A pair was at Shielhope on 30th.

Stonechat

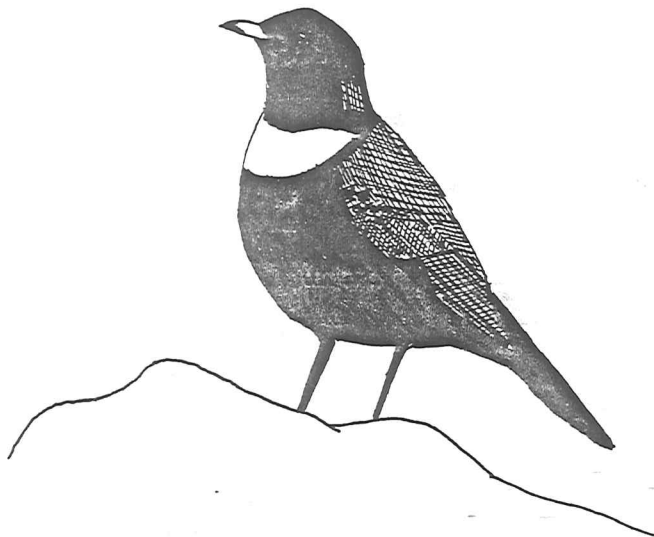
Single males were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (APP) and at Anstead on 17th (TAC).

Wheatear

Many records received during the month. Breeding areas were quickly occupied and steady passage was noted along the coast. The largest gatherings involved 15 at St. Mary's Island on 3rd (AM), seven pairs in the Alwin Valley on 7th (RKS), 12 at Cresswell on 19th (APP), 27 at Holy Island on 23rd (JDL) and 19 in the Upper Beamish Valley on 29th (L&KR).

Ring Ouzel

One was in Coquetdale on 2nd (IK/BG), two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (AH). On 4th a male was at Bamburgh while inland at Muggleswick Common six pairs were noted (WAK). Between 16th-30th one to five were noted in six inland breeding localities. More unusual was one at Seaton Burn on 17th (AJJ) and another at Warkworth Lane on 25th (DBNR). One-two were at Holy Island between 16th-23rd with a maximum of seven on 18th (IF/MJS).



Blackbird

Four young had fledged from a nest in Kenton by 24th (MRS).

Fieldfare

Pre-emigration flocks include c2,000 near Alnwick on 6th (ASJ), 850 at Allendale on 9th (RMH) with 350-500 noted at Allen Banks, Whalton, Hartington, Angerton, Bilsmoor and Muggleswick Common. 100-300 were noted in a further eight localities. A single leucistic bird was on the Simonsides on 3rd (MHP).

Redwing

45 were at Bolam Lake on 5th (RKS). 13 were at Ordley on 15th (BNR). One-two were also noted at Low Newton, Near Backworth and at Ros Castle.

Mistle Thrush

Fledged young noted at Hauxley on 15th and at the Harthope Valley on 29th.

Grasshopper Warbler

One at Corbridge on 15th was the first arrival (MR). Another was at Seaton Burn on 18th where four present by 30th (AJJ). From 20th one-two were seen or heard at Ponteland, New Hartley, Backworth, Hauxley, Priors Park, Bamburgh, Holywell and Druridge. Four were at Hadston Lake between 23rd-30th.

Sedge Warbler

The first were two at Seaton Burn on 20th where eight present on 29th (GB/AJJ). Singles were at Arcot, Lesbury and Gosforth Park between 21st-23rd. From 24th one-five were noted in seven widespread localities.

Lesser Whitethroat

The first arrivals were two at Warkworth Lane on 15th (DBNR). Two-three were at Arcot on 24th/25th (MPF). Singles were at Corbridge on 28th and at Marden Quarry on 30th (AH).

Whitethroat

The first were two at Warkworth Lane on 24th (MJS) followed by pairs at Prestwick Carr and Backworth on 25th (MRS/MHP). Singles were also at Corbridge, Cramlington and Bamburgh on 28th-30th.

Garden Warbler

The first was singing at Linnels on 29th (ASJ).

Blackcap

Females were at Morpeth on 6th (ADMc) and at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJJ). A male was at Priors Park on 18th (AH). On 24th one-three were noted at six widespread localities. Singles were noted in a further four areas by the end of the month.

Wood Warbler

The first was a single singing at Linnels on 21st (ASJ). On 23rd one-two were at Allenbanks, Hexham and Otterburn, one was near Haydon Bridge on 25th. Between 27th-30th one-two were at Dipton, Stocksfield and Jesmond Dene.

Chiffchaff

Singles were at Hexham, Bolam Lake, Threestoneburn, Ovingham, Seaton Burn and Linnels between 1st-4th. From 6th numbers increased and they had been reported from 26 widespread localities by the end of the month. Seven were singing in Hulne Park on 16th (ES).

Willow Warbler

The first was one in Holywell Dene on 9th where 12 were singing on 17th (AH). On 11th one was in a garden in Whitley Bay (MSH). Singles were at Arcot and Swallow Pond on 13th while four were at Seaton Burn on 14th (GB) when two were at Heddon (L&KR). From 15th reports became daily and they soon occupied many widespread localities. On 24th 20 were trapped at Bamburgh, 21 were singing along one mile of River Tyne at Corbridge and 25 were at Beacon Hill.

Goldcrest

10-12 were at Priors Park on 18th (AH), with one-nine in another eight coastal and two inland localities.

Firecrest

A single was at Priors Park on 21st (AH et al).

Pied Flycatcher

The first arrivals were three near Hexham and two at Linnels on 18th (RMH/ASJ). Between 21st-30th one-nine were in another five localities, although one at Bamburgh on 30th was the only coastal record.

Long Tailed Tit

A nest was complete at Allen Banks on 2nd (RKS).

Willow Tit

A pair were noted carrying nesting material at Seaton Burn with one-two in another four localities.

Coal Tit

One-five noted in ten localities.

Nuthatch

One-three were in nine typical woodland areas including a new locality at Newcastle Airport.

Treecreeper

Pair noted nesting at High Warden, Hexham on 20th (GWM). One-six were in a further five localities.

Magpie

On 1st 22 were at Seaton Burn (GB).

Rook

Colony counts include 83 at Cramlington Hall (LJM), c20 near Shield on the Wall (CDH) and seven in Wallsend (RGW).

Hooded Crow

Singles were at Holy Island on 1st, Bamburgh on 15th and Low Newton on 23rd.

Tree Sparrow

18-20 were at Beal on 10th (JDL). Nesting activity noted at Seaton Burn (AJJ) and Seghill (TAC) with three-four at Warkworth Lane and New Hartley.

Chaffinch

50 were at Broomley on 2nd (KIB). 53 at Allenbanks on 5th (L&KR) and 40 at Fenham Mill on 7th (AGH).

Brambling

At least seven were near Broomley on 2nd (KIB), four-six were at Morpeth and Arcot, with ten at Seaton Burn on 16th (ES).

Greenfinch

150 were at Seaton Burn on 19th (L&KR).

Siskin

15-20 were at Dipton on 29th (MPF).

Linnet

50 were at Caistron on 3rd (MR) while 300 were at Seaton Burn on 23rd (AJJ).

Redpoll

Up to 60 still fed at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ) with 20-30 at Dipton on 29th (MPF).

Crossbill

Family parties were prominent in Harwood Forest on 3rd (IK).

Bullfinch

Pairs noted at Cramlington, Dipton, Riding Mill and Linnels.

Hawfinch

One-two at Jesmond Dene, Bothal and Hexham. Six were at Hulne Park on 30th (MPF).

Snow Bunting

A single was at Longhoughton Steel on 9th (JR T/KW Y).

Corn Bunting

Seven were at Warkworth Lane on 25th (ADM). Three were at Boulmer on 17th (IK) and two at Cresswell on 25th. Singles were noted at Harton, Guide Post, Swallow Pond, Old Hartley, near Earsdon and up to three at St. Mary's Island.

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| M G Anderson | A J Hewitt | B N Rossiter |
| C Auld | C Hewitt | G S Rushbrooke |
| A M Bankier | M S Hodgson | L&K Russell |
| K I Barratt | R M Holmes | D R Shannon |
| G A Bentley | J M L & M Howat | J Sharp |
| J S Booth | A Hutt | M J Sharp |
| G & A I Bowman | A S Jack | M B Shaw |
| C Bradshaw | A Janes | E Slack |
| J P Brogdon | A J Johnston | M R Smith |
| J Brooks | W A Kelly | R K Stephenson |
| K V Brooks | I Kerr | A Stimpson |
| M L & T A Cadwallender | P Knowles | T J Tams |
| L Carpenter | W T Logan | P Tankard |
| T R Cleaves | J D Lough | J R Todd |
| E Crabtree | L J McDougall | D M Turner |
| A J Davis | D McKeown | N J Watmough |
| K Dawson | A D McLevy (ADMc) | M G Watson |
| W Dickson | P Maguire | R G Waugh |
| R Duell | T M Melling | P W West |
| I Fisher | I D Moorhouse | A Woodhall |
| N Foggo | A P Mossop | E M Young |
| M Freeman | E T & J R Norris | S Younger |
| B Galloway | D Patterson (DPa) | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| P J Garson | D Pickard | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |
| C D Hampton | A Priest | Druridge Bay Nature Reserve |
| M Henry | A Purvis | |
| M Hepple (MHP) | A J Richards | |
| A G Hetherington | M Richardson | |

THANKS

Are due this month to Alan Johnston who prepared the Classified List for the bulletin.

SCHEDULE 1 SPECIES

Last year I mentioned the problem of disturbance by birdwatchers at nest sites of 'Schedule 1' protected species. Recently I received a complaint about two birdwatchers visiting the site of a Schedule 1 species on private land. Please remember that to visit such a site you must hold the appropriate NCC disturbance licence.

Disturbance at Schedule 1 sites may jeopardise work being carried out by others who hold the correct licence and, even worse, could result in prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Breeding Atlas workers should also take great care and adhere to the club's instructions concerning Schedule 1 species. If you are in doubt about the species concerned please contact me.

M S HODGSON



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - MAY 1988

The relatively mild spring continued during May with levels of temperature and sunshine both above average. Rainfall totals were quite variable over the region however with, for example, Redesdale recording 156% of average and Boulmer only 65% of average. There were no gales during the month and the light winds came from an easterley sector on several dates.

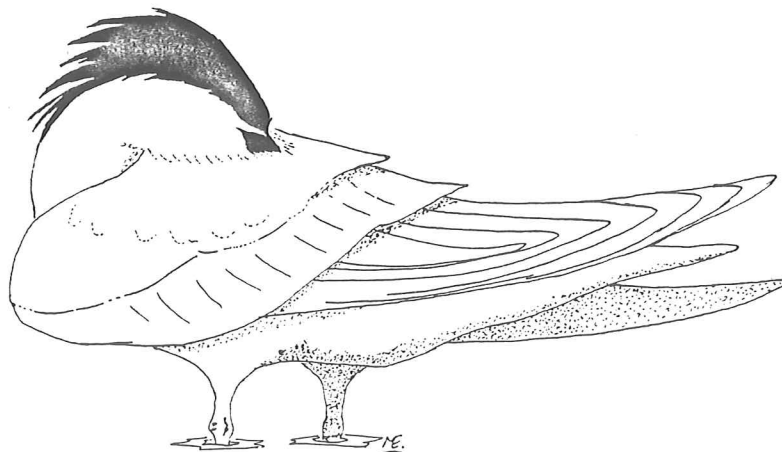
The month got off to an exciting start with a Spoonbill at Warkworth Lane on 3rd, a Hoopoe at Wallsend on 4th and a Crane at Cresswell on 5th. The regular drake Ring-necked Duck remained at Holywell and a pair of Ruddy Ducks appeared at Hadston Lake.

Birds of prey included about seven Marsh Harriers and at least four Ospreys. Surprisingly, two species seldom seen in the county, Corncrake and Quail, both appeared at Newton on 14th.

Wader passage continued and involved species such as Black-tailed Godwits, Whimbrels, Greenshanks and Green and Wood Sandpipers. A single Curlew Sandpiper was found and there were three each of Little and Temminck's Stints.

There were several records of lingering Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. An influx of Black Terns from 7th involved about 20 individuals. Summer visitors continued to arrive and it is nice to note at least six Reed Warblers back at their regular breeding site. Observers have obviously been busy with breeding atlas work as shown by the breeding records and counts throughout this bulletin.

May is usually a good month for rare and unusual species and this year is no exception. Highlights include a male Rustic Bunting at St. Mary's Island on 11th, a Golden Oriole at Longhoughton on 15th, a Bee-eater at Low Buston on 17th, a Wryneck well inland at Caistron on 21st, a Nightingale at Bamburgh on 22nd and Bluethroats on the Farne Islands and at Hauxley. Other interesting records included Garganey, Little Ringed Plover, Mediterranean Gull, Black Guillemot, Hooded Crow and Mealy Redpoll.



CLASSIFIED LISTRed Throated Diver/Diver sp

Two were at the Long Nanny on 5th (AHa/JM^{CO}). Singles were also noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice.

Black Throated Diver

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT).

Little Grebe

A pair was feeding two young on Holy Island Lough on 13th (IF). Breeding was suspected at Warkworth Lane, Arcot Pond and Newton Pool.

Great Crested Grebe

Six were at Seaton Burn on 15th (AJJ). At Holywell Pond a pair with young was noted on 20th (GAB). A pair had built a nest at Derwent Reservoir by 28th (RKS) with one-two at Marden Quarry, Hadston Lake, Arcot Pond, Castron, Angerton Lake and on R. Tyne near Wylam.

Red-necked Grebe

One was at Holy Island on 2nd (JR T).

Slavonian Grebe

Two were at Holy Island on 2nd (JR T).

Black-necked Grebe

A maximum of 24 was at the regular breeding site by 7th.

Fulmar

80 per hour moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). Inland a single flew over Seaton Burn on 28th (per AJJ).

Manx Shearwater

A single flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 16th with two N. on 29th (SSWT).

Gannet

100 per hour moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 19th.

Cormorant

One-six were noted at Seaton Burn, Killingworth Lake, Derwent Reservoir, Newton Pool and on R. Tyne at Newburn. 17 were present at North Shields Fish Quay on 3rd/25th (DMT). A single showing the characteristics of the continental race flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 5th (L&KR).

Grey Heron

Eight pairs reared 20 young at one heronry. One-two were at a further nine localities.

Spoonbill

One which flew over Warkworth Lane on 3rd (MJS) was later seen at Hauxley Pool (LH).

Mute Swan

Successful breeding was noted at Hauxley Pool (nine young), Seaton Burn (eight), Capheaton Lake (seven), Bolam Lake and Swallow Pond (both six), Castron (five), Angerton Lake (three) and Cresswell Pond (four). On 6th 67 were at Berwick (JDL).

Whooper Swan

Singles were at Rayburn Lake on 15th and Cresswell Pond on 25th (RD/APP/AFME).

Pink-footed Goose

Two were at Holywell Pond until at least 14th. A single was still at Castron until 21st (MR).

Greylag Goose

One-six were noted at Arcot, Blagdon, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Cresswell Pond, Newton Pool and Clennel.

Canada Goose

A pair with four young were at Brenkley Pond on 24th (DM). One-six were present at a further six localities. 34 were at Cresswell Pond on 30th (DBNR).

Barnacle Goose

Four were at Cresswell Pond on 22nd when six flew E. at Druridge (G.C.P.). Two were again at Cresswell on 25th (APP).

Brent Goose

One was at Hauxley Pool on 7th (Mph). On 8th one flew N. at Holy Island (JDL).

Shelduck

Two broods were noted at Hauxley Pool and single broods at Hadston Lake and Cresswell Pond (DBNR). A maximum of 45 adults was at Cresswell on 28th (L&KR) and 37 at Hauxley pool on 24th. Inland two were at Seaton Burn on 6th (GB) and at Swallow Pond on 18th (GAB); three were at Caistron on 3rd (MR).

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site a brood of six was present on 15th. At the second site three broods were noted.

Gadwall

One-two were at Hadston Lake, Druridge Pool, Cresswell Pond and Grindon Lough.

Teal

A brood of four was at Caistron on 29th (MR), and a female with one young was at Derwent Reservoir on 30th. Three pairs were noted on two Km of river in Upper Coquetdale and pairs were noted in three other moorland sites.

Mallard

At least ten broods noted at Caistron (MR). Broods were also noted at Hauxley Pool, Shankhouse, Newton Pool, Windyhaugh, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Hazletonrigg, Warkworth Lane, Druridge, Slaley and Rothley lake (all single broods), Grindon Lough (three broods) Derwent Reservoir (four).

Pintail

A pair were at Grindon Lough on 3rd, a male at Swallow Pond on 7th/8th, with two males and a female at Capheaton on 23rd.

Garganey

A single male was at Warkworth Lane on 19th and at Cresswell Pond on 26th (DBNR).

Shoveler

A brood of six noted at Holywell Pond on 27th (MPF). One-six were at another 14 waters.

Ring-necked Duck

A drake was noted at Holywell Pond on five dates between 4th-18th (RD).

Tufted Duck

A maximum of 50 was at Caistron on 7th where four broods totaling 17 young were present on 29th (MR). 20-29 were also noted at Cresswell Pond, Seaton Burn, Holywell Pond, Newton Pool and Hadston Lake.

Scaup

One-two noted at Cresswell/Druridge, Hadston Lake, Hauxley Pool, Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir and Holywell Pond.

Eider

The first brood was noted near Howick on 18th (WD). A brood of five was in the Coquet Estuary on 22nd (EMY) and another of 12 on 28th (L&KR).

Long Tailed Duck

A maximum of 12 was at the Long Nanny on 9th, four remaining until 16th (JMCO/AHa). One-five were also noted at Bamburgh and Holy Island.

Common Scoter

On 13th up to 600 were off the North Shore of Holy Island (IF).

Goldeneye

Four were at Hadston Lake on 4th (DB NR) with one-two at Seaton Burn, Cresswell/Druridge and on R. Tyne at Bywell.

Red-breasted Merganser

Four were at Hadston Lake on 11th with two-three at Druridge and Hauxley Pools.

Goosander

Eight were on Derwent Reservoir during the month (RKS) with four pairs in Upper Coquetdale.

Ruddy Duck

A pair was on Hadston Lake on 20th (DB NR).

Marsh Harrier

Single female/immature birds were at Newton Pool on 2nd/5th/24th, at Holywell Pond on 12th (KR), at Bamburgh on 14th (BRS). Others flew S. at Druridge Pools on 3rd and on 22nd another was noted at Hoppen Kiln Pool and at Druridge.

Hen Harrier

On 2nd a female flew S. at Low Newton (AW).

Sparrowhawk

A pair had built a nest at a suburban site in Newcastle. Singles were noted in a further seven localities.

Buzzard

On 15th a single was in the Harthope Valley (RD/ADMc) when a pair noted in the S.W. of the county.

Osprey

Singles were at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (RKS) and at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th (AH). On 18th one was at Whittle Dene Reservoir and may have been the bird noted flying up river on R. Tyne near Wylam. Another was at Seaton Burn on 21st (AJJ/JCD).

Kestrel

Breeding was confirmed at Horton (LJM).

Merlin

Singles were at Hauxley on 1st/2nd (HRS), at Newton Pool on 2nd (AW), at Whitley Bay on 20th and at North Shields on 31st (AH), with one-two at a further three moorland localities.

Peregrine

A single was at the Long Nanny on 20th.

Black Grouse

16 males were found at six leks in the S.W. of the county. A third lek site was noted on the Otterburn Ranges.

Red-legged Partridge

One-two noted at Harbottle, near Flotterton, Hepple and Caistrøn. Three pairs were at Longwitton on 2nd (MLC/ASt).

Quail

One was at Low Newton on 14th (RKS).

Corncrake

One was at Low Newton on 14th (RKS).

Moorhen

Young noted at Hauxley, Seaton Burn and Alwin Pond.

Coot

Broods noted at Seaton Burn, Arcot, Shankhouse, Bolam Lake, Angerton Lake, Newton Pool, Holy Island Lough and Annitsford Pond.

Crane

A single was at Hemscott Farm, Cresswell on 5th (DBNR).

Oystercatcher

95 were between Beadnell-Seahouses on 15th (MLC) and 79 at Cresswell Pond on 11th (DBNR). Inland 26 pairs were along two Kms. of the River Coquet (IK). Breeding was confirmed at Derwent Reservoir, Bygate and Barrow Mill (RKS/JR).

Little Ringed Plover

Two remained at Wallsend Swallow Pond until 17th. Another was at Druridge Pool on 21st (AP).

Ringed Plover

300 were at Holy Island causeway between 7th-19th (MSH et al), 122 at Berwick Little Beach on 15th (JDL) when 38 were on the Coquet Estuary (PWW). Inland breeding was confirmed at Backworth (JR T).

Golden Plover

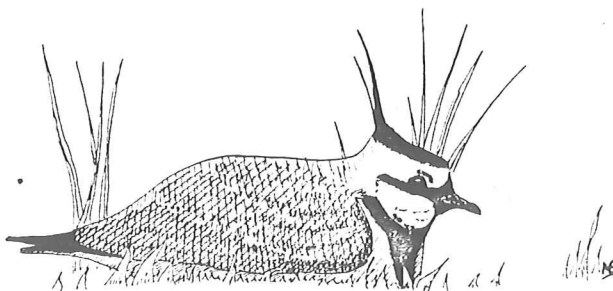
40 were at Druridge Pool on 2nd (DBNR).

Grey Plover

35 were at Holy Island causeway on 19th (TJT). One-two were at Druridge Pool and Cresswell Pond up to 7th (DBNR).

Lapwing

90 pairs were located on Plenmeller Common on 14th (BNR) and 17 pairs in two Kms in Upper Coquetdale (IK). Pairs with young noted in several other areas.



Knot

60 were at the Coquet Estuary on 18th (EMY). One-seven were noted in another three coastal localities. Inland three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (IF) and one at Caistron on 29th (MR).

Sanderling

110 were at Druridge Bay on 24th (AP), and 20 at Berwick Little Beach on 6th (JDL).

Little Stint

Singles were at Druridge Pool on 14th/15th and 26th/27th (MHP/DBNR), and Holy Island causeway on 15th (NJW/KWR).

Temminck's Stint

Two were at Hauxley Pool between 23rd-25th (MJS et al). Another was well inland at Caistron on 7th (MR).

Curlew Sandpiper

One was at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (AP/DBNR).

Purple Sandpiper

30 were at Tynemouth on 12th (IF), 19 at Berwick Little Beach on 6th (JDL) and four-eight at Beadnell and St.Mary's Island up to 15th.

Dunlin

215 were at Holy Island causeway on 8th (JDL) and 46 at Cresswell Pond on 4th (DBNR). Inland one-three were at four localities.

Ruff

Two-four were at Hoppen Kiln Pool between 13th-28th (AW et al). One was at Hauxley Pool on 12th and two between 27th-30th (DBNR).

Jack Snipe

One was at Druridge Pool on 8th (TJT).

Snipe

Noted in several breeding localities during the month.

Woodcock

'Roding' birds were seen in five localities including Beacon Hill where a nest with eggs was found on 29th.

Black-tailed Godwit

A maximum of 16 was at Cresswell Pond on 5th where three still present on 6th (DBNR). One was near Fenham-le-Moor on 28th (MJW/KWR).

Bar-tailed Godwit

72 were at Holy Island causeway on 8th (JDL). Two-four were also at Cresswell and the Coquet Estuary. Inland one was at Backworth on 2nd (AH) and another at Allenheads on 14th (KD).

Whimbrel

Passage continued throughout the month. 40 were at St.Mary's Island on 8th (TJT) and one-nine were noted in a further 14, mainly coastal, localities.

Curlew

52 pairs were located on Plenmeller Common on 14th (BNR). Birds were also noted at another four breeding localities.

Spotted Redshank

One was at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 8th/13th (NJW/AW).

Greenshank

A maximum of seven was at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 8th (NJW.KWR). Singles were noted here and at Arcot, Blyth Estuary, Druridge, Cresswell, Warkworth Lane, the Long Nanny and Caistron between 3rd-29th.

Green Sandpiper

One was well-inland at Allenbanks on 7th (GSR/KIB). Another was at Druridge on 15th (RD).

Wood Sandpiper

Two were at Backworth on 7th increasing to three on 9th/10th (MHP et al). Singles were also at Seaton Burn on 1st (DM), Cresswell on 12th, Hoppen Kiln Pool between 13th-29th (AW et al), Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th (AH), Laverock Hall on 16th and Druridge on 29th (RD). Two were at Warkworth Lane on 18th (DBNR).

Common Sandpiper

One-three were in about 11 coastal or near coastal localities up to 23rd. 20 pairs were along two Kms of river in Upper Coquetdale (IK) and ten pairs in the Alwin Valley (JR). One-three pairs were noted at seven other localities.

Turnstone

350 were at Berwick Little Beach on 6th declining to 150 by 15th (JDL). 112 were at St.Mary's Island on 10th (L&KR) and 100 at Hauxley on 1st (HRS).

Arctic Skua

One flew S. at the Long Nanny on 15th (JM/AHa).

Mediterranean Gull

A first summer bird was at Warkworth Lane on 14th (DBNR).

Little Gull

One-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell, Newton Pool, Hauxley, Hadston, Cresswell and Druridge Pool during the month although six were present at the last site on 30th/31st. One was far inland at Capheaton on 25th (GCP). All were immatures.

Black-headed Gull

2,200 were still roosting at Grindon Lough on 2nd (BNR). Three moorland colonies in the S.W. held a total of 1,000 nests on 15th.

Common Gull

92, all first summer birds, roosted at Hallington on 17th (BNR). At the breeding site three pairs were present on 22nd and a nest with one egg noted.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

35 roosted at Caistron on 7th increasing to 238 by 29th (MR). 21 roosted at Hallington on 17th and 43 at Broomlee on 23rd (BNR). A pair were displaying and copulating on roof-tops in Newcastle City Centre on 6th (IK).

Herring Gull

400 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 1st/23rd (DMT).

Iceland Gull

Between 1st-19th at least two were at North Shields Fish Quay (DMT et al), probably these birds being seen at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 8th and St.Mary's Island on 14th (MW/JRT).

Glaucous Gull

Singles were at Hadston Lake on 4th (MJS), the Long Nanny on 6th (AHa/JM) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (AH).

Kittiwake

250 per hour flew N. at Hauxley on 1st and 2,500 N. at Berwick on 21st (JDL). 67 pairs were at the North Shields warehouse colony and five nests counted at the Port of Tyne colony (DM/DMT). Seven nests were on the Co-op building at Newcastle on 12th (MPF).

Sandwich Tern

Gatherings of 100-140 were at Tynemouth, Hauxley, Longhoughton Steel and the Long Nanny.

Roseate Tern

The first were two at Hauxley Pool on 13th (DBNR). Two were at the Long Nanny on 19th and Tynemouth on 26th (JM/AH).

Common Tern

30-40 were at Hauxley Pool by 13th (HRS). Inland records involved up to eight at Wallsend Swallow Pond (JRT), singles at Seaton Burn and Killingworth and much further W. at Hallington on 17th, Derwent Reservoir on 19th and Castron on 8th (BNR/RKS/LJM).

Arctic Tern

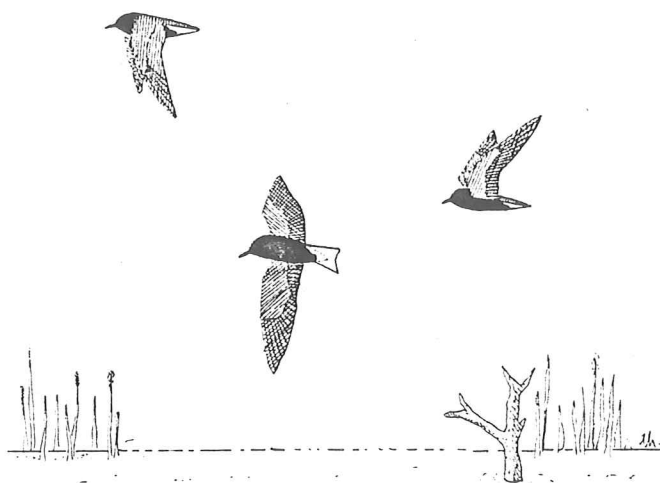
The only records received involved singles well inland at Castron on 7th (MR) and on the coast at Hauxley Pool on 14th (HRS).

Little Tern

16 were at Holy Island causeway on 22nd (DPa). Nine pairs had returned to one colony by 31st. One-three were in six other localities.

Black Tern

Three were in the Cresswell/Warkworth Lane area on 7th (DBNR), two at Seaton Burn on 8th (GB) when three at Castron (LJM), one at Hadston Lake on 13th (IF) and two at Arcot Pond. Three were at Capheaton on 23rd (IRD) and six were at Castron with one there on 29th (MR).

Auks (Sp)

N. movement was evident off Seaton Sluice between 15th-19th with a maximum of 410 per hour on 16th and 310 per hour on 19th (SSWT).

Guillemot

280-300 were off Dunstanburgh on 30th (RKS).

Razorbill

Ten flew N. in one hour at Seaton Sluice on 15th (SSWT). Three were off Dunstanburgh on 30th (RKS).

Black Guillemot

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 15th (TRC).

Turtle Dove

Singles were near Earsdon on 3rd (JEF), Warkworth Lane on 6th, Hauxley on 21st (KWR/HRS), Holy Island on 24th (GCP), Castron on 29th (MR) and Cresswell on 30th (DBNR).

Cuckoo

One-four were noted in 26 widespread localities.

Barn Owl

One was at Druridge Bay on 24th (AP).

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Backworth, Shankhouse, Plessey Checks, Ponteland, Longhorsley, near Whittle Dene and Swinhoe.

Tawny Owl

Breeding was confirmed at Angerton and Hyons Wood (TAC/GAB). One-two were heard or seen in another seven localities.

Long-eared Owl

Two recently fledged young were at Threestoneburn on 22nd (AMB).

Short-eared Owl

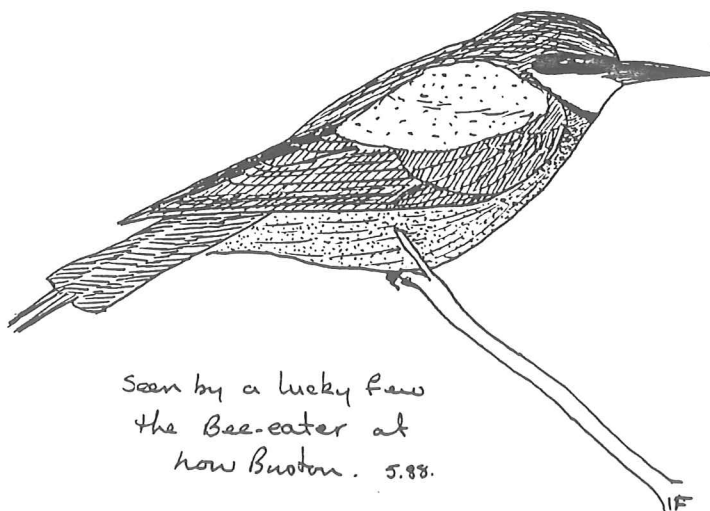
Singles were in eight, widespread, inland localities.

Swift

Numbers continued to increase during the month with the largest gatherings being 200 at Seaton Burn on 7th/9th (ES), 150 at Arcot on 13th/30th (LJM) and 50-55 at Shilford and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Bee-eater

One was found at Low Buston on 17th (IRD/JS et al).



Seen by a lucky few
the Bee-eater at
Low Buston. 5.88.

Kingfisher

Singles were at Jesmond Dene, Kirkley Hall, Mitford and Plessey Woods.

Hoopoe

One flew S.W. at Wallsend on 4th (JSB).

Wryneck

One was well inland at Caistron on 21st (MR).

Green Woodpecker

One-two were seen or heard in 11 typical localities.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Singles were in eight widespread localities. More unusual was one on the coast at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS).

Sand Martin

150 were at Seaton Burn on 7th (AJJ) and gatherings of 10-70 were noted in another six localities. About 50 nest holes were noted at Ovingham (GAB) and smaller colonies at Fourstones, Alwinton, Beadnell, Annstead, Seahouses and near Alnmouth.

Swallow

55 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 4th (L&KR) and on 8th 350 at Hadston Lake and 70 at Druridge Pool (KR).

House Martin

150 were at Arcot Pond on 30th (LJM). 10-35 were noted in five other localities and some colonies were re-occupied.

Tree Pipit

One-six were in 13 inland localities during the month including a nest with three young at Beacon Hill by 29th (RD). On the coast two were at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS).

Rock Pipit

Breeding was confirmed at Amble Harbour (HRS).

Yellow Wagtail

One-five were noted in eleven localities.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding was confirmed at Otterburn, Harle, near Wylam, Allenbanks, Blanchland, Windyhaugh and Waren Mill.

Pied Wagtail

Young were being fed in the nest in several localities from 28th.

White Wagtail

Five were at Druridge on 3rd (AP) and singles at Holy Island on 5th (RKS) and Hadston on 13th (IF). Inland singles were at Barrasford on 15th and Mitford on 29th (MW).

Dipper

Breeding was confirmed at Threestoneburn, Ilderton Dod, Lilburn Burn, W.Woodburn, Otterburn, Blanchland, Blindburn, Clennel, Shillmoor, Allenbanks and in the Harthope Valley with probably six pairs at the last locality. at Staward Peel on 28th and a mink raided a nest and took one youngster (RKS).

Robin

36 singing birds were at the Kidland Forest on 20th and 18 in Gosforth Park on 26th (L&KR). An albino was singing at Morpeth Common on 21st (MLC).

Nightingale

One was trapped at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS).

Bluethroat

Two males were on the Farne Island on 16th (MPF) and another at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Black Redstart

One was on Holy Island on 5th (RKS).

Redstart

Small numbers were noted in 11 inland localities. 12 were on Holy Island on 8th (NJW/KWR) and singles in four other coastal localities during the month.

Whinchat

Small numbers were noted in ten inland and ten coastal localities during the month.

Stonechat

One was on Holy Island on 1st (JDL).

Wheatear

Light coastal passage was noted on several dates with a maximum of eight on Holy Island on 1st (NJW). A Greenland race bird was at this locality on 4th (TJT).

Ring Ousel

One was at Holy Island on 1st (ADM), three at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and another flying over a Newcastle garden on 15th (SP). Pairs were noted at seven inland localities.

Blackbird

A count in a Newcastle tetrad gave a total of 70 (MPF).

Fieldfare

1,200 were at Rothley on 2nd (MLC/AS), 200 at Elsdon on 7th (IK) and much smaller numbers in 11 other localities up to 17th. 12 were still at Billsmoor on 18th (IK).

Redwing

One-five were in four localities up to 14th. The last was one on Holy Island on 24th (GCP).

Grasshopper Warbler

At least nine were at Bamburgh on 1st (MRS) and five 'reeling' at Seaton Burn on 5th (AJJ). One-three were seen or heard in a further nine localities.

Sedge Warbler

Birds continued to arrive during the month and were reported from many widespread localities. Counts of singing birds included 26 at Caistron on 16th (MR) 22 between Hauxley-Hadston on 21st (HRS), 19 at S.Alnmouth and 19 at Seaton Burn (ETN/AJJ).

Reed Warbler

One was at Gosforth Park on 6th (IDM) where six had been trapped by 14th (per MPF). One was at Hauxley on 13th/14th (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

Coastal passage was noticeable during the early part of the month, particularly on 8th when at least 25 were on Holy Island (NJW/KWR) and eight at Hauxley (HRS). One-three were in six other localities. Inland one-three were at nine areas including some singing birds. One trapped at Lesbury on 22nd had a brood patch (WD).

Whitethroat

Small numbers were in several coastal localities up to 21st. Inland birds were reported from a further 26 widespread areas.

Garden Warbler

Pairs and single birds were in 16 widespread, inland, localities from 1st onwards. On the coast one-two were in three localities with four at Bamburgh on 22nd.

Blackcap

One-two were at Bamburgh and Hauxley between 1st-15th. One-three, mainly singing birds, were noted in 15 other widespread areas.

Wood Warbler

Coastal migrants involved singles at Holywell Dene on 2nd (TRC), Holy Island on 8th (NJW/KWR) and High Newton on 22nd (JM). From 3rd onwards birds were noted in about 17 inland localities.

Chiffchaff

Small numbers were in several coastal localities up to 23rd although 15 were on Holy Island on 8th (NJW/KWR). Birds were seen or heard in a further 14 localities during the month.

Willow Warbler

Light coastal passage continued until about 23rd. A total of 21 was trapped at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB) and breeding atlas work produced some interesting counts of singing males including 21 in the Beamish Valley on 7th, 32 at the Kidland Forest on 20th (L&KR) and 46 in 3 tetrads of NZ27 (LJM).

Goldcrest

They were common all month at Threestoneburn (AMB) and 20 singing males were located in the Kidland Forest on 20th (L&KR). Singles were at Hauxley on 8th and 13th (HRS).

Spotted Flycatcher

One at Guyzance on 7th was the first arrival (AJJ). Another was at Prior's Park on 11th (AH) where four-five were present on 13th. From 15th onwards reports became more frequent with one-eight in about 17 widespread localities by the end of the month.

Pied Flycatcher

On the coast singles were at Hauxley on 8th and Prior's Park on 12th/13th. Inland birds were reported from 14 breeding localities. Five nests were located at Hartburn (TAC) and 19 pairs laid in nest-boxes at Nunykirk (RW).

Long-tailed Tit

Family parties were noted at Allenbanks and Greenhaugh on 28th/29th (RKS/JR). Pairs and singles were at three other localities.

Marsh Tit

Breeding was confirmed at Barrasford. They were also noted at Kirkharle, Middleton, Beacon Hill, Allenbanks and the Harthope Valley.

Coal Tit

A pair reared ten young in a nest-box at Spindlestone (MSH).

Blue Tit

Six pairs occupied nest-boxes at Caistron (MR). 22 were singing at Gosforth Park on 26th (L&KR).

Nuthatch

Eight pairs were located near Whitfield on 17th (WGJ). Two nest were found at Allenbanks on 3rd (RKS). Singles were also noted at Nunykirk, Little Harle, Kirharle and Belsay.

Treecreeper

Three pairs were feeding young in the Harthope Valley (RKS). One-six were in four other localities.

Golden Oriole

A male was seen well at Longhoughton on 15th (ML et al).

Hooded Crow

One was at Bamburgh on 14th (BRS).

Raven

A single was noted in the Cheviots on 1st.

Tree Sparrow

Small numbers were seen in eight widespread localities.

Chaffinch

During breeding atlas work a total of 111 were seen or heard in the Kidland Forest on 20th (L&KR).

Brambling

Four were on Holy Island on 4th (TJT).

Gold finch

30 were at E.Cramlington on 1st (LJM). One-fifteen were noted in many widespread localities.

Siskin

One was on Holy Island on 15th (KR).

Redpoll

They were reported from seven widespread breeding localities.

Mealy Redpoll

One was trapped at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Crossbill

Six were at Threestoneburn on 1st (AMB) and near Otterburn on 28th (JMA).

Bullfinch

Reported from only three localities including a pair on the coast at Bamburgh on 8th.

Hawfinch

One was at Hulne Park on 14th and two at Wallington on 15th (RD/ADMC).

Rustic Bunting

A male was at St.Mary's Island on 11th (IDM). This will be the sixth record for the county and the third in spring.

Reed Bunting

15 were between Hauxley - Hadston on 1st (HRS) and 12 males in three Kms of dunes at S.Alnmouth on 15th (ETN/JRN).

Corn Bunting

One-three were at Cresswell, Hauxley, Warkworth Lane, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Horton, Guide Post and E. Thirston.

Please send all June records, in Voous order, to Mike S Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE25 8QX by 8th July.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| J M Almond | A Hutt | B N Rossiter |
| N C T Anderson | A Janes | G S Rushbrooke |
| A M Bankier | W G Johnson | L & K Russell |
| A H Banks | A J Johnston | D R Shannon |
| K I Barratt | W A Kelly | M J Sharp |
| G A Bentley | I Kerr | J Sharpe |
| J S Booth | W T Logan | M B Shaw |
| G Bowman | J D Lough | E S Lack |
| M K & T A Cadwallender | L J McDougall | M R Smith |
| T R Cleeves | D McKeown | R K Stephenson |
| F Colley | A D McLevy | A Stimpson |
| A J Davis | J McOwat | T J Tams |
| K Dawson | P Maguire | J E Todd |
| W Dickson | I D Moorhouse | D M Turner |
| I R Douglas | E T & J R Norris | R Walton |
| R Dunn | S Parnaby | N J Watmough |
| J E Fergusson | D Patterson | R G Waugh |
| I Fisher | G C Pollinger | P W West |
| M P Frankis | A Priest | M Winter |
| M Freeman | K W Regan | A Woodhall |
| A Hart (A Ha) | A J Richards | K W York |
| M Henry | J Richardson | E M Young |
| M Hepple (M Hp) | M Richardson | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| M S Hodgson | M A Ridsdale | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| J & M Howat | K Robson | Druridge Bay N.R. |
| | | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |

British Birds reduced subscription scheme

The club has been invited to take part in this scheme for a further year. The normal annual subscription from August 1st will be £25.80 but for members this is reduced to £19.35, providing a welcome saving. The 1988/89 leaflet should be available soon and will be sent out with a bulletin. Many club members need no introduction to the country's leading bird magazine. But there may be some newer members or others who do not see it regularly who may wish to take advantage of a reduced subscription.

IAN KERR

FOR SALE

Hanimex 80-200mm Macro Zoom Lens, Pentax K fit.
Immaculate condition with pouch £25
Contact Mike Hodgson (2520511)

WADER COUNTS 1988/89

I have now received from the B.T.O. details of the dates etc for the regular monthly wader counts from August 1988 to April 1989. As usual the club would like to provide full coverage of the coastline for these counts. Would wader counters who already cover a stretch of coastline please confirm with me that they are able to continue during 1988/89, as soon as possible. New counters are always welcome.

MIKE HODGSON.

N&TBC Trip to Threestoneburn 30 April 1988

Eleven club members gathered in bright sunshine at Powburn to visit the Cheviots under Sandy Bankier's guiding hand. After hearing of the dire threats from the Men at the Met Office, we set off for the Harthope Valley, where a pair of Common Sandpipers and Grey Wagtails were found straight away. A Wood Warbler, two Redstarts and a Tree Pipit were singing, but out of sight in the trees across the burn. We then walked up the Carey Burn, objective Ring Ouzels. No birds in sight, but a very fine fox running across the hillside. Then birds started to appear, a couple of Wheatears, a Dipper, more Common Sandpipers and sundry Meadow Pipits. Graeme Bowman had a brief view of an Ouzel vanishing behind a rock, so we all moved up the slope to try to see it. We disturbed a Hare, which ran off and in turn disturbed a flock of no less than seven Ouzels. These flew over us across the valley; while watching them, Bob Gajdus suddenly found a distant raptor in his view. Unfortunately it soon vanished behind the hill and had to remain a 'probable Buzzard' only. We all had excellent views of the Ouzels as they settled with a couple more on the hillside. We then moved on to Langleeford, where Cuckoo, Green Woodpecker, Redstart and Whinchat were all seen well and Tree Pipits sang. A tit then caused us some headaches. Picked up as a Marsh Tit by its call, it was then announced as a Willow Tit, as it showed a clear pale wing panel! We eventually - after much arguing - decided that it was Marsh, as it had not only that species' call note, but also the neater bib and smaller, rounded head typical of Marsh Tit. We also tried to convince ourselves that it had a glossy cap, though some disagreed!

As we returned to the cars, the Weathermen started to show their hand, and by the time we had driven to Sandy's Cottage (stopping briefly en route to see eight Whinchats in one field), it was drizzling steadily. This meant that we could not participate in the traditional lunch on Sandy's lawn. So instead Sandy invited us all in for lunch in front of a lovely open fire in his living room. Very nice!

After lunch we went for a walk round Threestoneburn Forest, looking for Crossbills and Black Grouse, but without luck. A few Siskins and Redpolls were seen, and Sandy showed us one of his Dipper nestboxes, suitably occupied. Then off down the Lilburn Burn, through some ancient Alder woodland and Northumberland's finest stands of native Juniper, to be shown a Goosander nest in a hole. The duck was not in, but we could see an egg or two peeping out of the down. A few Curlews sang nearby, a lovely sound in the rain. When we returned to the cars, the final birds of the trip were a couple of Red Grouse. Ten out of ten for Sandy, but only four out of ten for the Weathermen. Let's hope they can come up to Sandy's standard next year with sun all day.

Notable bird totals: Teal 2. Common Sandpiper 6+. Cuckoo 1-2. Tree Pipit 3-4. Redstart 8+. Whinchat c.14. Ring Ouzel 8-9. Siskin c.8.

M. P. Frankis

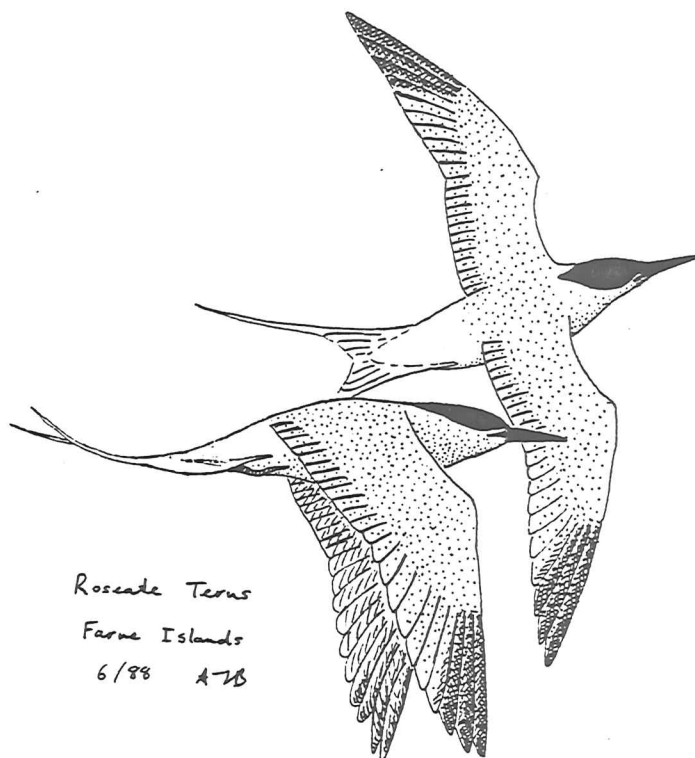


Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - JUNE 1988

The June bulletin typically concentrates on breeding records and the fieldwork for the County Breeding Atlas has certainly produced a great deal of information. Noticable records included further broods of Wigeon and a brood of Gadwall, the first confirmed breeding of this species for 18 years. A pair of Buzzards reared young and Common Gulls hatched young at a second site. Along the relatively neglected coastline between Berwick and the border Razorbills have established a foothold with at least three chicks seen and Puffins appear to be investigating a potential new area. Reed Warblers have made a good showing at their regular site, Gosforth Park, and another was singing, for the second year, at Warkworth Lane Pond. A family party of Crossbills at Wallsend Swallow Pond, which afforded a numbers of observers good views, must have wandered from further inland. Nighthawks were reported from two localities late in the month. It was not all successful news however, as reports from some nest-box studies indicated fairly high brood mortality among titmice, perhaps an effect of the cool spell early in the month.

Sea-watching attracted attention with the main period of passage after 24th. Manx Shearwaters were conspicuous off Seaton Sluice, several Arctic and Great Skuas were seen and a single Pomarine Skua. Summering Little Gulls were again a feature at the coastal pools at Druridge Bay. Two Little Ringed Plovers were noted and the first indications of return wader passage were evident towards the end of the month. Several rare or scarce species were also reported. The Lesser Crested Tern had returned to the Farne Islands and of several parties of observers who hired boats only one group apparently, were successful in their search. This must have been frustrating for the others but the bird made a brief appearance at Hauxley Pool on 23rd. Hauxley also attracted a Ruddy Shelduck on 6th. Raptors were represented by an Osprey at Low Newton on 12th and a Hobby over Hadston Lake on 15th. Other unusuals were the Holywell Ringed-necked Duck, Garganey, Black Tern, Turtle Dove and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.



Roscafe Terns
Farne Islands
6/88 A-JB

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

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

One flew N. at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Black-throated Diver

Two were off Ross on 2nd (RM).

Great Northern Diver

A winter plumaged bird was at the Long Nanny on 24th/25th (JM/AHa).

Little Grebe

Two pairs reared one young each at Wallsend Swallow Pond (AC). Breeding was also confirmed at Gosforth Park, Arcot Pond, Seaton Burn and Warkworth Lane Pond.

Great Crested Grebe

Nest building was noted at Seaton Burn and Arcot Pond (AJJ/LJM). One-two were seen at Rayburn, Hadston Lake and Cresswell during the month and one on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 9th (SSW T).

Red-necked Grebe

Two were near Holy Island harbour on 1st (RM).

Black-necked Grebe

One was at Arcot Pond on 18th (KDS/KAS).

Fulmar

230 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 9th, including a partial leucistic bird (SSW T).

Manx Shearwater

A total of 505 flew N. and three S. during the month at Seaton Sluice with 448 of these between 24th-29th (SSWT). 48 flew N. at Tynemouth on 28th (AH) and 41 at Hauxley on 29th (HRS). 4-27 were noted off a further seven localities.

Gannet

567 flew N. at Berwick on 28th (JDL) and 370 N. at Seaton Sluice on 29th (SSW T).

Cormorant

16 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 21st (DMT). Inland six were nesting in a tree at Close House on 4th (JSB).

Grey Heron

Two pairs reared eight young at a site in the S. Another pair failed at the egg stage (IK). Seven were at Black Low on 5th (JDL) and one-two in ten other localities.

Mute Swan

396 were at Berwick Harbour on 30th (JDL). Additional breeding records included young at Ellington, Hollywell Pond, Long Nanny and Budle Bay.

Pink-footed Goose

Singles were at Cresswell Pond between 12th-16th (DBNR) and Berwick Harbour on 30th (JDL).

Canada Goose

Five were at Cresswell Pond on 1st/2nd (DBNR). At Wallsend Swallow Pond there was one on 1st, nine on 3rd and six on 10th. Two were at Gosforth Park on 25th (ISD) and Berwick Harbour on 30th (JDL).

Ruddy Shelduck

A duck was at Hauxley Pool on 6th (DBNR).

Shelduck

Four broods, totalling 25 young, were at Hauxley on 15th although only six young were counted on 30th. Three (possibly four) broods, totalling 39 young, were at Hadston Lake on 23rd and two broods at Druridge and Cresswell (DBNR). Additional breeding records included broods at Boulmer, Berwick Little Beach, Coquet Estuary and two at Hoppen Kiln Pool.

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site three more broods were hatched bringing the total of young to 16. Eight were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (DBNR), one-two at three other waters.

Gadwall

A brood of four were found at a site in the W. of the county. This is only the third breeding record and the first since 1970. One was at Cresswell Pond on 19th/26th (DBNR).

Teal

A brood of five was at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (RKS) and another of three at Coalcleugh on 19th (KD). Three broods (eight young) were at a moorland site in the S.W. and another family party at a moor in the S.

Mallard

180 were at Seaton Burn on 24th where the total number of broods for this season is ten (63 young) (AJJ). Successful breeding was noted in another 13 localities.

Garganey

A drake was at Holywell Pond on 21st (JEF).

Shoveler

Broods were noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond (ten young) and Warkworth Lane (nine young) (AC/DBNR).

Pochard

At Holywell Pond six broods (26 young) were present by 28th (ISD). Two broods (nine young) were at Seaton Burn and one brood (seven young) at Arcot Pond (AJJ/LJM).

Ring-necked Duck

The drake at Holywell Pond was still present between 10th-12th.

Tufted Duck

33 were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (DBNR). Two broods (16 young) were at Holywell Pond on 28th (ISD).

Scaup

A pair were found on a moorland lough on 2nd but could not be relocated on 26th. Two-three were present at Cresswell Pond between 18th-24th (DBNR), two flew N. at Lynemouth on 25th and one at Seaton Sluice on 28th (TRC/MHp).

Eider

Five broods were at Newton Point on 12th (ISD) and crêches were noted in several other localities between Holy Island-Craster.

Common Scoter

A total of 293 few N. at 55 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of 158 N. in one hour on 17th (SSWT). 70 were off Cresswell on 11th (ADM), 40 N. at Annstead Point on 18th (GB) and 35 N. at Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Velvet Scoter

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT).

Goldeneye

One-three were seen at Berwick, Rayburn, Druridge and Seaton Burn during the month.

Red-breasted Merganser

Five flew N. at Hauxley on 8th where six were on the sea on 14th (DBNR). Three flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 26th/28th (SSWT).

Goosander

A brood of four was at Derwent Reservoir (RKS).

Buzzard

A brood of three were noted in the S.W. of the county.

Osprey

One flew E. over Newton Pool on 12th (MF/LC)

Kestrel

A very early breeding season indicated in the N.W. study area with fledged young by 12th, some two weeks earlier than usual (IK/BG). Broods of four and five fledged from nest-boxes at Threestoneburn on 18th (AMB). Breeding also confirmed at Druridge, Tynemouth and Seaton Burn.

Hobby

One was at Hadston Lake on 15th (DBNR).

Black Grouse

Two were lekking at Barhaugh on 2nd. One was at the College Valley on 11th and three at Kingswood Common on 17th (AJD/BNR).

Chukar

One was seen and heard at Brough Law on 11th, no doubt released locally (L&KR).

Red-legged Partridge

Two were at Netherwitton on 23rd (BNR) and one at S.Middleton on 25th (ADMc).

Grey-Partridge

A clutch of 15 eggs successfully hatched at Seaton Burn (AJJ).

Quail

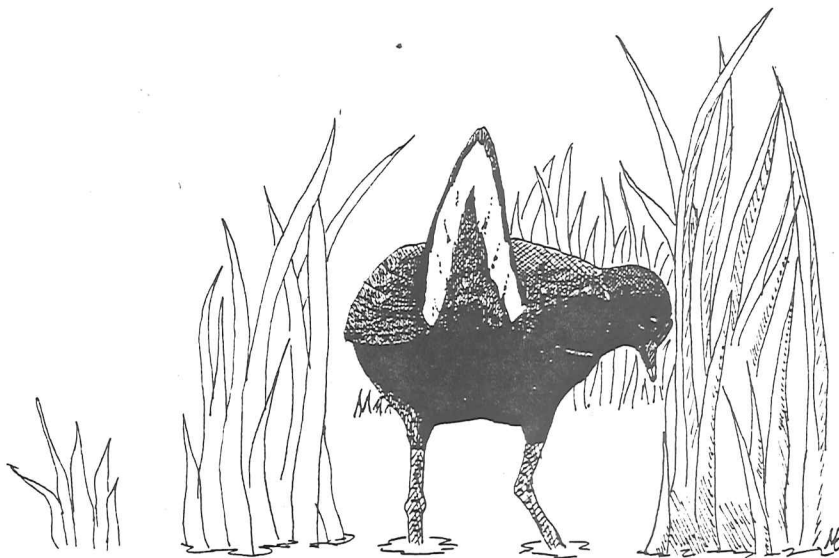
One was calling near Whittle Dene on 18th (JSB) but not located in three subsequent visits.

Water Rail

At least three adults were seen at Gosforth Park (ISD/GAB). One was at Warkworth Lane Pond on 7th (DBNR).

Moorhen

Five broods were noted at Hauxley and three at Wallsend Swallow Pond (HRS/L&KR).

Coot

100 adults were at Seaton Burn on 25th where at least 11 broods have been hatched (AJJ).

Oystercatcher

61 flew N. at Dunstanburgh on 2nd (RKS). 70 were at Hauxley on 14th, 42 at St. Mary's Island on 26th and 48 at Cresswell Pond on 27th (DBNR/IDM). A pair bred on moorland at 390 metres a.s.l. near Blanchland (BNR).

Little Ringed Plover

Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th (AC) and Druridge Pool on 19th (MHP/TRC).

Ringed Plover

Three breeding pairs were at Hauxley Pool (DBNR) and a pair with two juveniles at Gosforth Park on 24th/25th (GAB/ISD).

Golden Plover

15 at Hauxley on 19th increased to 50 by 27th (DBNR) and 26 were at Budle Bay on 25th (RKS).

Lapwing

Post-breeding flocks of 40-125 were noted inland from 8th and on the coast later in the month.

Knot

One was at Hauxley Pool on 15th (DBNR).

Sanderling

40 were at Holy Island on 4th (RKS).

Purple Sandpiper

One was on the Farne Islands on 14th (IF).

Dunlin

Pairs were noted in three potential, moorland breeding areas. 12 were at Cresswell Pond on 30th (DBNR).

Ruff

Singles were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 4th/18th (GB) and Hauxley Pool on 14th (DBNR).

Snipe

'Drumming' birds were noted in four localities.

Woodcock

Two were at the College Valley on 11th (AJD).

Black-tailed Godwit

Singles were seen at Hauxley Pool between 12th-18th, Hadstone Lake on 15th and Druridge Pool on 17th (DBNR).

Bar-tailed Godwit

One-four were noted at Seaton Sluice, Long Nanny and Black Low.

Whimbrel

One-four were in seven coastal localities during the month.

Curlew

A total of 136 flew N. At Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of 102 on 25th (SSWT). 241 were at Black Low on 26th (JDL) when 21 at Druridge and ten at St. Mary's Island (DBNR/IDM). 20 were at Wandylaw Moor on 30th (BNR).

Redshank

14 pairs were located on Kingswood Common on 17th (BNR). 17 were at Dodd Reservoir on 12th (KD).

Greenshank

Singles were at Hauxley Pool on 20th/27th and Cresswell Pond on 29th (DBNR).

Wood Sandpiper

Two were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 4th (GB).

Common Sandpiper

Noted in several breeding areas during the month. Birds were already returning to the coast from 25th with one-two in four localities.

Turnstone

38 were at Hauxley on 29th (HRS). Three-eleven were in another four localities.

Pomarine Skua

A sub-adult flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT).

Arctic Skua

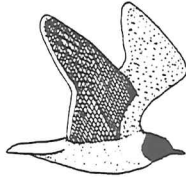
One-two were seen at St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin, Hadston, Hauxley and Holy Island after 10th.

Great Skua

Singles flew N. at Hauxley and Hadston on 9th/10th (DBNR). Between 25th-28th a total of six flew N. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and singles were seen at Tynemouth, Hauxley, Newton and the Long Nanny.

Little Gull

Up to seven first summer birds were at Druridge Pool between 3rd-22nd with three at Warkworth Lane and singles at Hadston and Hauxley probably coming from that site. An adult was at Hauxley on 29th (DBNR).



ah.

Black-headed Gull

The colony at Holburn Moss held no birds this season (per ISD). 450 pairs were at another moorland colony in the S.W. (BNR) and ten nests were noted at Coalcleugh (KD). 160 were roosting at Scotswood by 16th.

Common Gull

A pair hatched young at a second site by 18th. 69 first summers roosted at Hallington on 19th and 28 at Budle Bay on 30th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

15 pairs were present at the regular moorland colony with eight nests visible. 67 roosted at Broomlee on 14th (BNR).

Herring Gull

210 roosted at Scotswood on 16th (BNR). 800-900 were at the Tyne Estuary on 20th (DMT).

Great Black-backed Gull

61 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 30th (DMT).

Kittiwake

113 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th (DMT). 70 pairs were at warehouse colony at North Shields (DM). 225 per hour moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 4th and 150 per hour on 24th (SSWT). 43 were at Hauxley Pool on 29th (DBNR).

Lesser Crested Tern

The Farne Islands bird was seen on 4th. On 23rd it was noted at Hauxley Pool (DBNR).

Sandwich Tern

Regular N. movement of 100-130 per hour was noted at Seaton Sluice between 21st-27th (SSWT). 112 were at Tynemouth Haven on 11th (AH) and 54 at Hauxley Pool on 29th (DBNR).

Roseate Tern

19 pairs were on the Farne Islands and 15 pairs on Coquet Island (per IF). Singles were also seen at North Shields Fish Quay, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley Pool.

'Commic' Tern

200 were at Hauxley Pool on 30th. Several 'portlandica' types were seen including one at Hadston Lake on 27th and seven at Hauxley (DBNR).

Common Tern

Two breeding pairs were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, one pair hatching three young by 27th (AC et al). Another pair laid three eggs at Seaton Burn by 25th (AJJ/DM). One was at Scotswood on 16th (BNR).

Artic Tern

One was at Seaton Burn on 29th (L&KR).

Little Tern

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 15th and Hauxley Pool on 19th where one present on 26th (DBNR/MSH).

Black Tern

One was at the Farne Islands on 20th (per GB).

Auks (Sp)

119 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 9th and 340 per hour on 10th. Another period of N. passage between 27th-29th saw a maximum of 500 in two hours on 29th (SSWT).

Guillemot

A pair were on a ledge at Dunstanburgh on 2nd where 24 were present on 25th (DM/RKS).

Razorbill

Four were at Dunstanburgh on 25th (RKS). At least three chicks were hatched at a new breeding site N. of Berwick (WR).

Puffin

62 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 28th and on 29th about 80% of 300 auks (sp) were identified as this species (SSWT). Several were noted at cliffs N. of Berwick including one entering a hole (WR).

Stock Dove

Two young were reared in a nest-box at Lilburn Burn. Two pairs were at Calder on 26th (AMB) and a pair at Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Turtle Dove

One was at Hauxley between 1st-3rd (HRS).

Cuckoo

One-three were in about 16 widespread localities.

Barn Owl

One-two were seen in four localities.

Little Owl

A pair was noted at Shankhouse and singles at Backworth and the Long Nanny.

Tawny Owl

Fledged young were seen at Beacon Hill and Tranwell Woods (ADMc).

Short-eared Owl

Two pairs hatched young on a moor in the S.W. One was at Threestoneburn all month (AMB).

Nightjar

Singles were noted in two sites in the S. of the county on 21st/22nd (BNR).

Swift

150 were at Seaton Burn on 9th (AJJ).

Kingfisher

One was at Plessey Woods on 19th (LJM).

Green Woodpecker

One-three were seen or heard at Cawledge Burn, Broomley Wood, Steel, Minsteracres, the Harthope Valley and Humbleton Hill.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were noted in eight localities, including some still visiting gardens.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was at W.Woodburn on 11th (J&MH).

Sand Martin

Counts, at colonies, of breeding holes included about 170 in the Etal Bridge area (JDL), 96 at Ovingham (GAB), 20 at Reaveley and W.Woodburn (AMB/J&MH) and 15 at Hadston (DBNR).

Swallow

11 pairs bred at Matfen with nine fledging young (RW).

House Martin

Colony counts included 60 nests at Warkworth Bridge (DM), 16 at Alnham (L&KR) and 14 at Matfen (RW). A pair lingered at Threestoneburn where they were last seen in 1974 (AMB). 60 were at Throckely on 19th (AJ).

Tree Pipit

A pair were feeding young at Lynnsfield on 12th (AJ).

Grey Wagtail

Breeding was confirmed at Lilburn Burn, Guyzance, Felton, Alwin Valley, and the Harthope Valley. 15, including five juveniles, were counted between Low and High Bleakhope on 11th (L&KR). More unusual were singles at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd (AH) and at Craster on 25th (RKS).

Pied Wagtail

A pair reared six young in a log nailed to a cottage wall at Threestoneburn. A clutch of five eggs was laid in a Dippers nest at Lilburn Burn by 19th (AMB). Broods and family parties were noted in six other localities. An atlas count between Brough Law to Linhope on 15th gave a total of 49, including 28 juveniles (L&KR).

Dipper

Further confirmation of breeding was noted at Hulne Park, the Breamish Valley, Guyzance and Plessey Woods.

Wren

25 were singing at Plessey Woods on 19th (LJM).

Redstart

Eight pairs were in the Harthope Valley on 19th (RKS) and pairs and singles, including some at nests, were noted in a further nine widespread localities.

Whinchat

6 pairs were at Bewick Moor on 23rd (BNR). 19, including 12 singing males, were at Hazeltonrig Hill on 25th (L&KR). They were also noted in four other breeding areas.

Wheatear

Family parties were seen in six typical breeding areas. One was on the coast at Cresswell by 30th (DBNR).

Ring Ousel

Birds feeding young were seen at Lynnshield and in the Harthope Valley. Pairs and singles were also at Milkhope, the Bizzle and the Breamish Valley.

Mistle Thrush

Parties of six and 12 were at Ilderton Dod on 25th (AMB).

Grasshopper Warbler

Two were 'reeling' at Seaton Burn on 20th (GB) and singles also heard at Budle Point, Hauxley Hadston, Druridge Pool, E.Cramlington, Holywell and inland at Broomlee and Heddon.

Reed Warbler

At Gosforth Park a total of ten have been trapped this season. One was singing at Warkworth Lane Pond on 2nd (DBNR).

Whitethroat

A family party was noted at Seaton Burn on 17th (AJJ) and another at Hadston on 30th (DBNR). They were noted in a further ten widespread localities during the month. A late migrant was at Prior's Park on 3rd (AH).

Garden Warbler

Noted at Allenbanks and Blanchland.

Wood Warbler

One-four were at Langleeford, Eals, Broomley Wood and Allenbanks with breeding confirmed at the last site.

Chiffchaff

Singing birds were noted in six widespread localities. A late migrant was at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Willow Warbler

Noted in many widespread localities.

Goldcrest

14 were between Brough Law-Linhope on 15th and ten at Alnham on 25th (L&KR).

Spotted Flycatcher

Two pairs fledged eight young at Nunnykirk and three pairs fledged 13 young at Matfen (RW). Pairs were noted in a further 11 widespread localities.

Pied Flycatcher

19 pairs at Nunnykirk laid 127 eggs, hatched 117 and fledged 110 young (RW). Four pairs bred at Langley where two males fed the young in one nest (SJH). Breeding was also noted at Lilburn Burn and the Harthope Valley (AMB/RKS).

Long-tailed Tit

A family party was at Fournart Knowe on 23rd (BNR).

Marsh Tit

Birds were noted at four sites in the Harthope Valley including one fledged brood (RKS).

Willow Tit

Breeding was noted at Backworth and Whittle Dene (ES/GAB).

Coal Tit

Breeding was noted in six widespread areas.

Blue Tit

Results from nest-box study areas included nine pairs laying 89 eggs, hatching 78 and fledging 34 young at Nunnykirk (RW), eight pairs fledging 49 young at Spindlestone (MSH) and five pairs fledging 40 young at Kirkley Hall (IK). Breeding also noted in five other areas.

Great Tit

Nine pairs laid 57 eggs, hatched 48 and fledged 48 at Nunnykirk (RW). Five pairs fledged 33 young at Kirkley Hall (IK) and two pairs fledged ten young at Spindlestone (MSH).

Nuthatch

Adults were noted carrying food at Langley Wood on 21st (SJH).

Treecreeper

Breeding was confirmed at Blanchland and Allenbanks (RKS). More unusual was one at Threestoneburn on 18th (AMB), the first for several years.

Jay

An adult was feeding young at Billsmoor Foot on 25th (L&KR).

Raven

One was in the Cheviots on 18th.

Starling

Post-breeding flocks of 250 and 500 were at Blanchland and Wandylow on 19th/23rd (BNR).

Chaffinch

A total of 95 was seen or heard between Brough Law to Linhope on 15th (L&KR).

Goldfinch

Family parties were seen in several localities from 10th.

Siskin

A pair with fledged young was Blanchland on 11st (RKS).

Redpoll

14 pairs were counted at Fomart Knowe on 23rd (BNR).

Crossbill

A family party of four at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th-11th were almost certainly not local breeders (AC/GAB et al). Two-four were also at Langleeford and Threestoneburn (RKS/AMB).

Bullfinch

Pairs were noted in four widespread localities.

Hawfinch

Singles were seen at Hulne Park, Cawledge Burn and Hexham.

Corn Bunting

Pairs and singles were at Football Hole, Boulmer, Hauxley, E Thirston and Harton.

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| A M Bankier | A Hart (AHa) | RT & JR Norris |
| K I Barratt | M Hepple (MHp) | S Parnaby |
| G A Bentley | S J Hingston | B N Rossiter |
| A J Booth | M S Hodgson | W Ruddick |
| J S Booth | J & M Howat | L & K Russell |
| G Bowman | A Hutt | D R Shannon |
| L Carpenter | A Janes | J Sharpe |
| I Chadwick | A J Johnston | M J Sharp |
| T R Cleeves | W A Kelly | K A & K D Shaw |
| A Curry | I Kerr | M B Shaw |
| I S Davidson | W T Logan | E Slack |
| A J Davis | J D Lough | R K Stephenson |
| K Dawson | L J McDougall | D M Turner |
| W Dickson | D McKeown | R Walton |
| J E Fergusson | A D McLevy | E M Young |
| I Fisher | J McOwat | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| M P Frankis | P Maguire | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| M Freeman | R Mercer | Druridge Bay Nature Reserve |
| B Galloway | I D Moorhouse | |

BREEDING ATLAS 1988

As you receive this bulletin the period for timed atlas visits will be coming to a close for this year. It would be helpful if Fieldworkers could now start returning the record cards, and any completed Supplementary Cards, to their Atlas Co-ordinator. Please remember that any breeding records after 31st July can still be entered onto Supplementary Cards.

MIKE HODGSON

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 1988/89

Members are reminded that under the terms of the club constitution all nominations for committee membership for 1988/89 must be submitted in writing to the Secretary, Ian Kerr, at least 21 days before the A.G.M. on 13th October 1988. All members nominated must indicate their willingness to stand for election and must be proposed and seconded by club members.

Nominations please to: Ian Kerr, 27 Eddrington Grove, Chapel House, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE5 1JG.

PELAGIC FIELD TRIP 13th AUGUST 1988

For those with cast iron constitutions there will be a pelagic field trip leaving (and hopefully returning!) North Shields on 13th August. If you fancy meeting some seabirds on their terms please contact Colin Bradshaw (Tel:2572389).

FIELD TRIP TO TEESMOUTH 3rd SEPTEMBER 1988

Our annual trip to look for waders, etc on the pools and marshes at Teeside. If you are interested in joining this outing please contact Colin Bradshaw before 19th August.

Kittiwake counts at North Shields Fish Quay 1984-1987

D.M.Turner

During the period 1984-1987 I have been making daily counts of the kittiwakes present at North Shields Fish Quay on the river Tyne. The graphs plotted show how kittiwake numbers have varied during this period.

The birds counted are not at nesting colonies, but are birds resting at (on the water, roofs, and groyne/jetty) and flying around the Fish Quay area. The area covered is small - from the sewer outlet area by the lifeboat house to the fish quay itself, where the fishing boats shelter. This study area covers an overall river length of 400 to 500 metres, and normally all the kittiwakes are found in this small section. However when large concentrations occur on the Black Midden rocks in the Tyne estuary, approximately 600 metres from the fish quay, then these birds are included in the counts.

I have not included in the counts the birds on the building beside the Port of Tyne Authority offices, at the west end of the fish quay, where there is a small nesting colony (6 nests in 1988). The larger breeding colony at North Shields ferry landing (78 nests in 1986) is similarly not included because I have concentrated on the birds occurring away from the breeding sites.

Counts were made almost daily, if possible, during the four year period shown. Between 1 and 4 visits per day were made: normally 1 or 2 per day Sept-April, 2 or 3(4) per day May-Aug, numbers of birds vary during the day. From these counts the maximum daily count is used in estimating the weekly average number of kittiwakes present. It is these weekly averages which are plotted on the graphs.

The smallest number of kittiwakes normally occur during the winter, although the graphs also show a drop in numbers in late April/early May. Only very occasionally were there no kittiwakes present during a day at the fish quay:

dates during 1984-1987 when no kittiwakes seen at the fish quay
20.4.84, 28.9.84, 5.12.85, 30.12.86, 5.1.87

The largest number of kittiwakes occurs during the summer months - the graphs tend to show two peak periods during the summer in June and August.

For example some of the maximum daily counts during the peak periods between 1984-1987 were as follows:

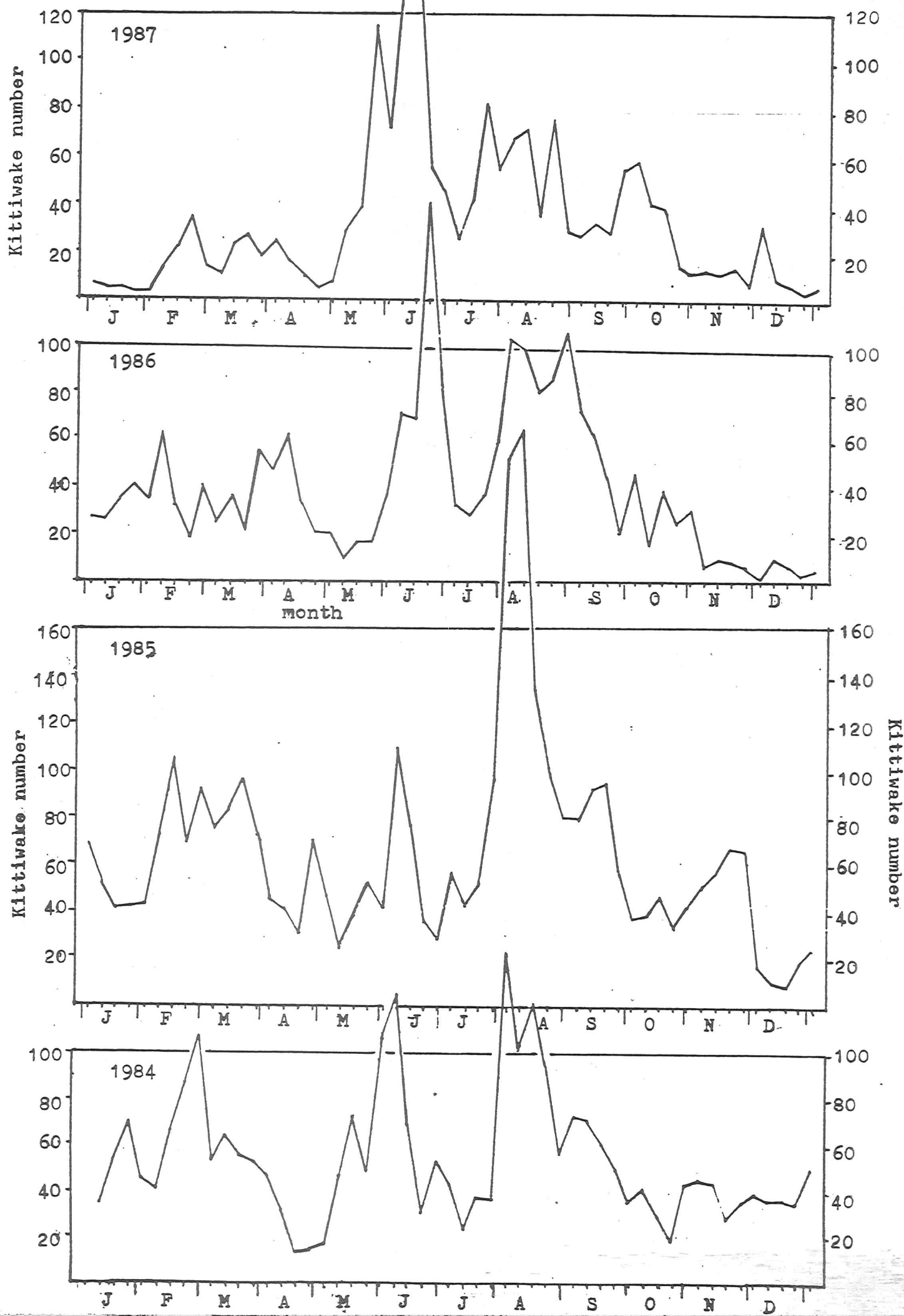
| | <u>DATE</u> | <u>COUNT</u> | | <u>DATE</u> | <u>COUNT</u> |
|------|-------------|--------------|------|-------------|--------------|
| 1984 | { 4 June | 291 | 1986 | { 21 June | 340 |
| | { 4 August | 256 | | { 30 August | 189 |
| | { 16 Sept | 191 | | | |
| 1985 | { 9 June | 289+ | 1987 | { 7 June | c460 |
| | { 31 July | 314 | | { 18 July | 209 |
| | { 6 August | c700 | | { 24 August | 124 |

The plots of average numbers of birds during a week are lower than these peak count values. When the peaks rise on the graphs the scale remains the same.

Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) counts
Weekly average plotted

at North Shields Fish Quay
D.M. Turner

Jan-Dec
1984-1987





Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - JULY 1988

July will be remembered as a very wet month with near record rainfall throughout the North-East. Not suprisingly sunshine totals were a little below normal. Winds were mainly westerly, moderate to strong, with a period of southerly gales on 25th/26th.

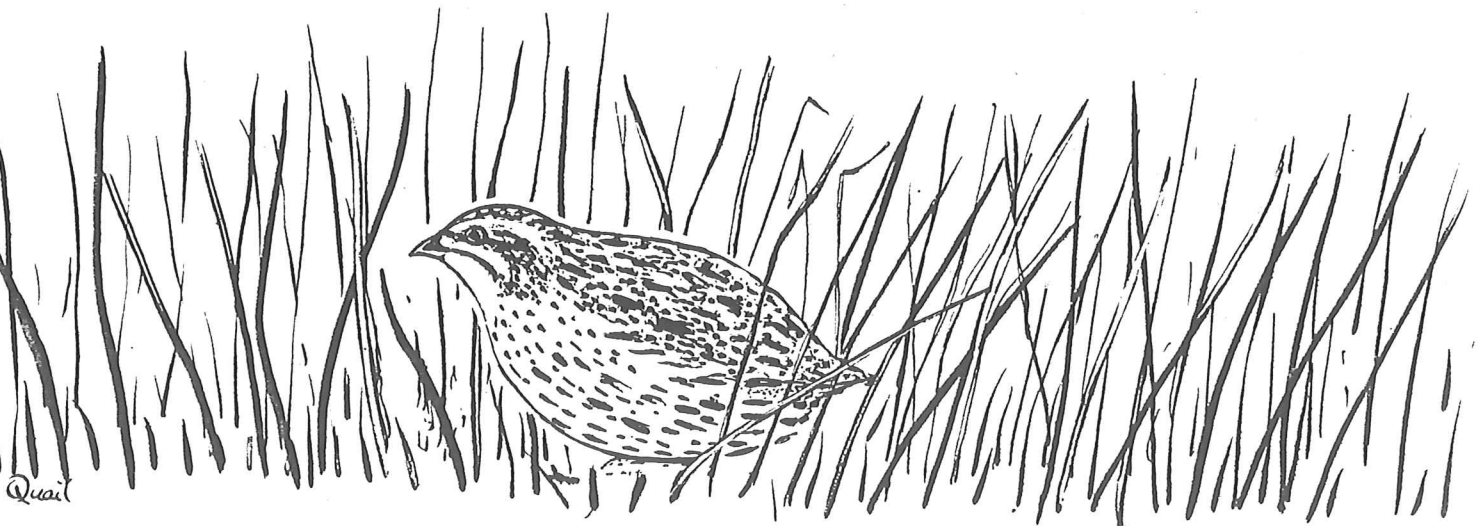
It is nice to report yet more reward for the fieldwork carried out for the County Breeding Atlas. Notably the first definite confirmation of the breeding of Fieldfare, along with the continuing success of some of our scarcer species including Black-necked Grebe, Wigeon and Little Tern.

Sea-watching produced reasonable numbers of Manx Shearwaters and the first Sooty Shearwater of the autumn, along with Arctic and Great Skuas. However a Cory's Shearwater on 15th remained the undoubted highlight.

Even more exciting was the discovery of not one but two species from tropical and sub-tropical oceans. A Sooty Tern was first present at the Long Nanny on 10th-11th and 19th and was also seen at another yet unconfirmed locality on at least two dates. Astonishingly this was followed by the first record for the county of Bridled Tern at Hauxley on 12th.

Return wader passage was evident throughout the month. Two Little Ringed Plovers were noted along with the first Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. Common Sandpipers were well represented at coastal and inland ponds along with Green and Wood Sandpipers. Never easy species to see, Nightjar was once again recorded in the S. of the county and Quail was heard at three localities.

Other interesting or unseasonal species included Great Northern Liver, Storm Petrel, Whooper Swan, Velvet Scoter, Little Gull, Turtle Dove and Twite.



CLASSIFIED LIST

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Red-throated Diver

Four were off Chevington Burn on 20th (APP) with singles at Stag Rocks St. Mary's Island, and Seaton Sluice.

Great Norther Diver

A winger plumaged bird was still at the Long Nanny on 3rd (JM/AHa).

Little Grebe

Ten were at Seaton Burn on 29th (AJJ). Two pairs reared second broods at Wallsend Swallow Pond (AC). Further breeding was also confirmed at Capheaton and Holy Lough, and may have taken place at Newton Pool.

Great Crested Grebe

A pair hatched two young at Seaton Burn on 10th (AJJ/DM). A single juvenile was noted at Angerton Lake on 17th (MLC/AJ) and two pairs with single large juveniles were at Holywell Pond on 15th (DM). One-four were seen at a further eight localities.

Black-necked Grebe

At the regular breeding site 9-10 pairs hatched 31 young. One was at Druridge Pool on 30th (MGA/TRC).

Fulmar

35 were on Bamburgh Castle on 2nd (ES) and 49 pairs on Holy Island on 17th (JDL).

Cory's Shearwater

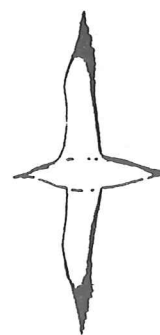
One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 15th (MHP). On 16th a large shearwater sp. was noted flying N. at Holy Island (RKS).

Sooty Shearwater

One flew N. at Newbiggin on 16th (MGA).

Manx Shearwater

At Seaton Sluice a total of 527 flew N. and 56 S. at Seaton Sluice with a peak of 195 N. on 16th (SSWT) when 100 flew N. in one hour at Newbiggin (ES). 80 per hour passed Beadnell on 15th (WGT) and 30N. at Holy Island on 31st (JDL).



Storm Petrel

On 24th five were trapped at Hauxley with at least 15 attracted to the tape (HRS).

Gannet

3,000 flew N. at Berwick on 16th (JDL).

Cormorant

42 flew S. with one N. at St. Mary's Island on 17th (IDM). 19 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 17th/30th (DMT).

Grey Heron

One-four were noted in 15 widespread localities while at Hauxley one was seen to kill and eat a stoat at Hauxley Pool (DBNR).

Mute Swan

542 were at Berwick on 24th (JDL). Additional breeding records included young at Caistrone, Marden Park and Rothley Lake.

Whooper Swan

A single was at Newton Pool on 6th (AW).

Pinkfooted Goose

One was still at Berwick Harbour on 24th (JDL).

Canada Goose

20 were at Capheaton Lake on 18th and at Alnmouth on 30th (MLC/MF).

Shelduck

100 were in Budle Bay on 2nd (ES).

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site four pairs fledged ten young. At the second site four pairs raised 12 young.

Gadwall

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 26th (AC).

Teal

Five broods (33 young) were noted at Caistrone (MR). 34 were at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (BNR).

Mallard

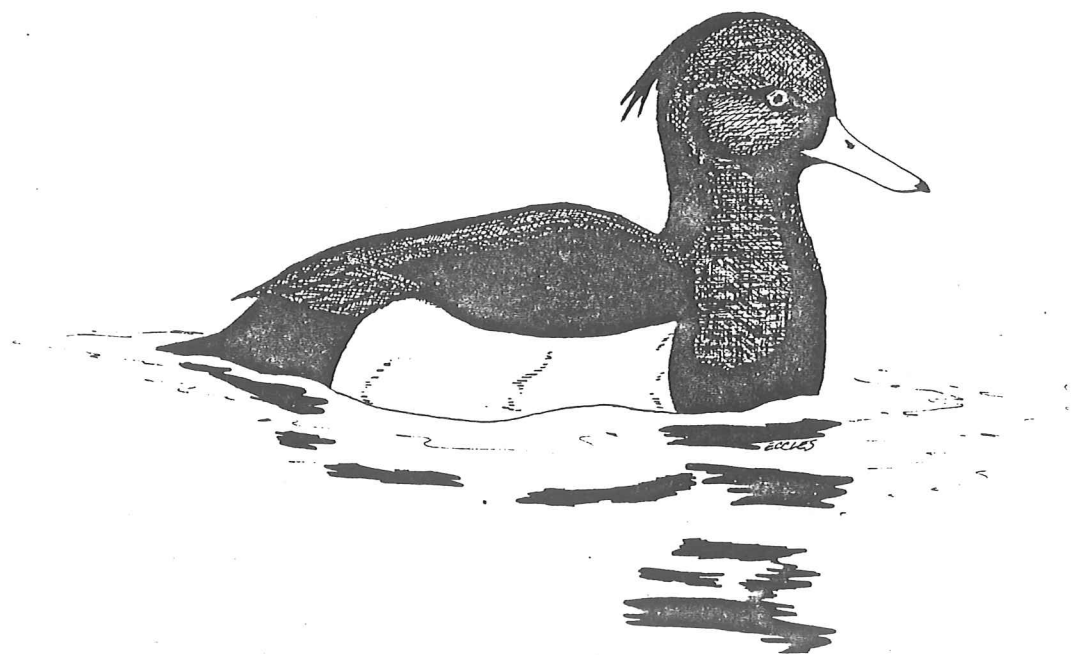
500 were at Caistrone on 24th (MR) where the total number of broods this season is 12. 177 were at Seaton Burn on 11th where 11 broods have been noted. Four broods were on 1/2 mile of river at Alnmouth (PM). Further breeding noted at Close House and Hauxley.

Shoveler

Further breeding success noted at Caistrone and Shankhouse (MR/LJM).

Tufted Duck

12 broods noted at Caistrone (MR), six at Holywell (DM/TRC), three at Arcot (LJM) with single broods at Kimmer Lough, Alnmouth Hauxley, Wallsend Swallow Pond, E. Allendale and Capheaton. 104 were at Whittle Dene on 23rd (JSB).



Scaup

Five were at Hauxley on 26th/28th (DBNR) with one-three at Cresswell Pond, Budle Bay and Hadston Lake.

Eider

800 were at Seaton Point on 16th (GB) and 460 at Holy Island on 17th (JDL).

Common Scoter

A total of 57 flew N. and 93 S. at Seaton Sluice (SSW T). 200 were in Druridge Bay on 24th (ES). 40 flew N. at the Long Nanny on 12th (JM/AHa) and 60 N. at Holy Island on 31st (JDL).

Velvet Scoter

Four flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSW T).

Goldeneye

One-three were at Swallow Pond, Berwick and in the Blyth and Wansbeck Estuaries.

Red-breasted Merganser

14 were in Druridge Bay on 17th (MGA) with one-three at the Long Nanny St. Mary's Island and Hadston Lake.

Goosander

Broods noted at Derwent Reservoir and on R. Wansbeck near Middleton.

Sparrowhawk

In the S. central study area two out of five sites were occupied fledging at least eight young. In the Coquetdale study area three nests produced 13 young (IK/BG). Fledged juveniles were noted at the suburban site in Newcastle.

Kestrel

Three pairs raised 13 young in the Coquetdale study area (IK/BG). Single broods raised young at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle and at a Cramlington Church (IK/LJM). Breeding was also confirmed at another six localities.

Merlin

Singles were at Swinhoe (MSH), the Long Nanny (JM/AHa) and at Holy Island (JDL).

Red-legged Partridge

One was at Belford Moor on 2nd (W AK)

Grey Partridge

Broods noted at Arcot Pond, Hauxley Pool, Linnels, Blanchland Allenheads, Shankhouse and Cramlington.

Quail

Singles were heard at Gunnerton on 13th (TMM/CA), at Holy Island on 17th (JDL) and at Woodham on 23rd (MGA).

Water Rail

One was at Seaton Burn on 29th/31st (AJJ).

Coot

200 were at Seaton Burn on 28th where three second broods noted from 13th (AJJ). 90 adults were at Capheaton on 18th where ten family parties seen (MLC/AS). Five broods noted at Arcot Pond (LJM).

Oystercatcher

121 were at Boulmer (IK) with 60 at Castron on 9th (MR) and 76 at St. Mary's Island on 17th (IDM).

Little Ringed Plover

A single adult and juvenile were at Wallsend Swallow Pond from 24th/27th, the juvenile remaining till 31st (AC et al).

Ringed Plover

Eight pairs were at the Long Nanny, two new broods noted at Hauxley Pool and at Ciastron one pair raised three young.

Golden Plover

200 were at Hauxley Pool on 17th (MSH), 230 at Budle Bay on 24th (JDL) and 285 at Holy Island on 31st. 100-125 were at St. Mary's Island, the Long Nanny and Druridge.

Grey Plover

One was at Black Low on 3rd (JDL).

Lapwing

Larger concentrations included 1,000 at Castron on 24th (MR), 300 at Hepple on 17th (IK/BG) and 250 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (BNR), at Hauxley Pool on 17th (MSH) and the Long Nanny on 27th.

Knot

50 were at Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSW T), 61 at Cresswell Pond on 29th (MGA), 40 at the Coquet Estuary on 27th/29th (EMY) and 41 at Budle Bay on 30th (JRT/KW Y).

Sanderling

30 were at Druridge Bay on 26th (APP) with 50 at Hauxley on 29th (DB NR).

Little Stint

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (SP) and two at Cresswell Pond on 28th (W AK).

Curlew Sandpiper

One was at Budle Bay on 19th with two on 21st (AMB). Singles were also at Hauxley on 27th and Cresswell Pond on 26th-27th. Three were at Cresswell on 28th (W AK).

Purple Sandpiper

One was at Seaton Sluice on 11th where two were present on 27th.

Dunlin

230 were at Holy Island on 31st (JDL) with 62-65 at Budle Bay and in the Blyth Estuary. Inland one-seven were at Seaton Burn, Castron, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Derwent Reservoir.

Ruff

Three were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 31st (BRS) with singles at Budle Bay, Hauxley Pool, and the Long Nanny. Inland one-three were at Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Snipe

20 were at Castron on 30th (MR).

Woodcock

Three were 'roding' at Dipton Wood on 9th (BNR). Two were at Wallington on 1st (AMB) and a single at Newton Pool on 24th (JDL).

Black-tailed Godwit

Seven were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 27th (AW). Two were at Chevington Burn on 12th (APP), six flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 19th (AC), three were at Cresswell Pond on 26th and singles at the Long Nanny on 27th and Budle Bay on 30th. Inland two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th (AC).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Numbers at Holy Island built up to 260 by end of the month (JDL). One-nine were at Hauxley, Cresswell, Boulmer and St. Mary's Island.

Whimbrel

Birds were noted in a number of coastal localities during the month with the largest groups being 18 in the Coquet Estuary on 31st (EMY) and 12 at Black Low on 3rd (JDL). Further inland three flew NE over Heddon-on-the-Wall on 23rd (JSB) and one N. over Wallsend Swallow Pond on 30th (JRT/KWY).

Curlew

The largest gatherings were 200 at Black Low on 3rd (JDL), 126 at Boulmer on 6th (IK), 108 at the Long Nanny on 13th (JM/AHa) and 127 at Longhoughton Steel on 24th (RKS). Inland 37 were at Blanchland on 11th (CJ).

Spotted Redshank

Two were at Holy Island on 10th (JDL).

Redshank

Breeding was confirmed at Castron (MR), Acton Moor (BNR) and Seaton Burn (DM/AJJ). 240 roosted at Hauxley Pool on 30th (TRC) and 245 were at Black Low on 31st (JDL).

Greenshank

Along the coast from the 2nd one-two were noted on several dates in seven localities although eight were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 27th (AW) and five at Foxton on 31st (MSH). Inland three were at Castron on 21st with one-two on at least four dates (MR). Singles were at Catton on 17th (JPB) and at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 20th-26th with two at the latter locality on 22nd (AC).

Green Sandpiper

One-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th-31st (AC). Three were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 18th (MJS) when two were at Newton Pool (MF). One-two remained at the former locality until the 31st. Singles were also at Holywell Pond on 22nd-23rd (AC/SP) at Hauxley Pool on 21st (DBNR), at Druridge on 24th (MGA) and at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ/BG). Two were at Backworth on 30th (JRT/KWY).

Wood Sandpiper

Singles were at Seaton Burn on 3rd (AJJ/DM), at Hauxley Pool on 24th (MGA/TRC) and at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 27th/30th-31st (AW).

Common Sandpiper

One the coast birds were noted in many localities in groups of one-six although 14 were at Newton Pool on 5th (AW) and 12-15 were at Foxton on 31st (MSH). Inland eight were at Seaton Burn on 12th (LJM).

Turnstone

78 were at Hauxley on 16th (ES).

Arctic Skua

45 were noted at the Long Nanny and one-eight in seven other coastal localities. One was at Holywell Pond on 23rd (AP/SP).

Great Skua

One flew S. off the Long Nanny on 15th when seven flew N. at Seaton Sluice.

Mediterranean Gull

An adult was at Holywell Pond on 12th (JEF) and a first summer bird at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (AC).

Little Gull

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (MGA) and a single at the Long Nanny on 19th (JM/AHa). Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 15th and three S. on 21st (SSWT). At Hauxley Pool three different individuals were noted on 20th/23rd/28th respectively.

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts included 400 at Broomlee on 17th, 320 at Hallington on 24th, 750 at Colt Crag on 25th, 1,450 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th and 520 at Grindon on 31st. 2,000 at Scotswood on 19th rose to 7,000 on 28th (BNR). 500 were in the Tyne Estuary on 31st (DMT).

Common Gull

At the regular breeding site all three pairs failed, at the second site two pairs fledged three young. Slow return passage was evident and roost counts nearly all included adults. 110 were at Hallington on 24th, 1,400 at Colt Crag on 25th and 900 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

At least nine pairs fledged young at the regular moorland colony. In Newcastle city centre four pairs fledged at least three young. 61 were at Caistron on 9th (MR). Roost counts included 151 at the Long Nanny on 21st (JM/AHa), 56 at Broomlee on 17th, 29 at Hallington on 24th and 11 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th. 70 at Scotswood on 19th increased to 230 on 28th (BNR).

Herring Gull

Both pairs failed at the moorland colony while 40-50 pairs were in territory on roof tops in Newcastle. Ten pairs at least had young. Roost counts included 172 at the Long Nanny on 13th (JM/AHa) and 220 at Scotswood on 19th (BNR). 550 were at North Shields on 17th (DMT).

Great Black-backed Gull

73 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th (DM T).

Kittiwake

On 15th 1,000 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice (SSW T). Other large gatherings included 572 at the Long Nanny, 500 at Seahouses and in the Tyne estuary and 200 at St. Mary's Island. Two pairs raised three chicks at the P. T. A. building at North Shields (DM T).

Sandwich Tern

On 3rd/4th 300-350 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice (SSW T). 135 were at Hauxley Pool on 7th (DB NR), 80 at the Long Nanny on 10th (JDL), 97 at Longhoughton Steel on 24th (RKS) and 80 at St. Mary's Island on 26th (L&KR).

Roseate Tern

Three were at Hauxley Pool on 6th and 12th with one-two on at least 13 other dates (DB NR et al). Three were at Seaton Point on 16th (CB) and one at the Long Nanny on 22nd (JM/AHa).

'Commic' Tern

150 were at Cresswell Pond on 31st (MSH), 145 were at Hauxley Pool on 7th (DB NR). Several 'portlandica' types were seen including two at Hadston Lake and 13 at Hauxley Pool on 6th.

Common Tern

At Wallsend Swallow Pond the second pair reared one young (AC). At Seaton Burn one pair hatched two young on 9th although one had died by 13th (AJJ/LM).

Arctic Tern

At one mainland colony ten pairs fledged only one young. One was at Seaton Burn on 19th (PM) and a juvenile was at Holywell Pond on 22nd with an adult at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th (AC).

Bridled Tern

One was at Hauxley Pool on 12th (MJS/KM/ID) and constitutes the first record for the county.

Sooty Tern

One was at the Long Nanny on 10th-11th and 19th (JM/AHa). This is the second record for the county the first being in June 1966 at the Farne Islands.

Little Tern

At one mainland colony 11 pairs reared five young.

Turtle Dove

One was at High Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Cuckoo

Juveniles were noted at High Hauxley, Craster, Holy Island, Slaley and Abberwick Mill.

Barn Owl

One-two noted at Castron, Craster, Ellington, Druridge and Whittle Dene.

Little Owl

Singles were at Bingfield and in the Druridge area.

Tawny Owl

Singles were at Walbottle Hall and Embleton Mill.

Short-eared Owl

Breeding was confirmed at another site on a moor in the S. of the county. singles were at Hauxley, Druridge, Newton Pool, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell and Seahouses.

Night jar

One was still at a site in the S. of the county on 12th (BNR).

Swift

S. movement was reported on several dates with largest noted on 24th at Hauxley, Druridge and Holywell when several thousand were involved.

Kingfisher

Singles were at Seaton Burn on 23rd (AJJ) and at Caistron on 24th (MR).

Green Woodpecker

One was calling at East Woodburn on 2nd (GSR/KIB). An adult and juvenile was at Langford on 17th and 31st respectively (RKS).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

A pair fed a juvenile at a garden in Walbottle during the month (L&KR). Singles were also at Bamburgh, Hauxley and Arcot.

Sand Martin

Colony counts included 100 pairs at Prudhoe Country Park (TAC), 18 occupied holes at Hadston (HRS) and five occupied holes at Ogle (LJM). 120 were at Cresswell Pond on 13th (MSA).

Swallow

Three pairs raised a total of five broods from nests in entrance porches of the hides at Caistron (MR).

House Martin

110 were at Preston Towers on 24th (BNR).

Meadow Pipit

78 were at Ladycross on 11th (CJ).

Yellow Wagtail

Breeding was confirmed at Shankhouse (LJM). One-two were noted in another five localities.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding was confirmed at the Alwin Valley, Kidland Forest, Warren Mill, Felton, Weldon Bridge and Prudhoe.

Pied Wagtail

18 roosted at Newton Pool on 24th (MF). Breeding was confirmed at a further 14 localities.

Redstart

Four pairs fledged 24 young at Belsay (WGJ) and successful breeding was also noted at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Whinchat

Family groups and juveniles were noted in several localities.

Wheatear

They were still widespread at inland breeding localities and one-two were noted in several coastal areas.

Ring Ousel

Two juveniles were at East Allen on 30th (BNR).

Fieldfare

A pair escorted three recently fledged juveniles in the S.W. of the county. This appears to be the first definite confirmation of breeding in the county although it has been suspected on a number of occasions.

Mistle Thrush

A nest at County Hall, Morpeth contained possibly the 3rd brood for the year (MLC). Flocks of 14-28 were noted at Ilderton Dod, East Allen and Blanchland.

Grasshopper Warbler

One-two were 'reeling' at Hauxley, Seaton Burn, Budle Bay and Hadston Lake.

Sedge Warbler

At Seaton Burn 107 were ringed during the month with 65 trapped in five hours on 31st (AJJ).

Lesser Whitethroat

One-two noted at Hauxley and Arcot.

Whitethroat

Family parties were noted at Cramlington on 2nd and 3rd (LJM). Singing birds were also at Seaton Burn, Nelson Village and Shankhouse.

Garden Warbler

Noted at Seaton Burn, Allen Banks and Hauxley.

Blackcap

Noted at Seaton Burn, Hauxley, and Craster.

Chiffchaff

Six were singing at Hulne Park on 17th (W D). Two were at Kidland Forest on 8th (L&KR).

Willow Warbler

Noted as common with many fledged young at Threestoneburn Cramlington and Matten. 131 were ringed at Seaton Burn during the month, including 50 in five hours on 31st (AJJ).

Goldcrest

44 were at Kidland Forest on 8th (L&KR). Fledged young noted at Threestoneburn from 10th (AMB) with other family parties at Hulne Park and Jesmond Dene (WD/MPF).

Spotted Flycatcher

Eight pairs fledged 27 young at Matten (RW).

Pied Flycatcher

Six pairs fledged only 13 young at Brinkburn while a single pair fledged six young at Belsay (WGT).

Long-tailed Tit

Family parties noted near Whitfield, at Linnels and Sinderhope.

Willow Tit

Three were at Mitford on 1st (GB).

Blue Tit

Results from nest-box study areas included ten pairs fledging 75 young at Belsay, nine pairs fledging 59 young at Brinkburn and two pairs fledging 13 young at Milbourne (WGT).

Great tit

Eight pairs fledged 47 young at Belsay and two pairs fledged four young at Milbourne (WGT).

Treecreeper

A family party was in Jesmond Dene (MPF) and a recently fledged juvenile was trapped at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Starling

1,100 were at Acton Moor on 3rd and 300 roosted at Newton Pool on 18th (MF).

Tree Sparrow

34 were at Beal Farm on 3rd (JDL).

Goldfinch

Noted only at Felton and Bamburgh.

Siskin

A family party was at Carrshield on 16th and a post breeding flock of 18 at East Allen on 30th.

Twite

One was at Holy Island on 31st (JDL).

Redpoll

Noted as common at Threestoneburn (AMB), 22 were at Castron on 30th (MR) and breeding was confirmed at Seaton Burn (AJJ).

Bullfinch

Family parties were noted at Ordley, Seaton Burn and Castron.

Hawfinch

A pair were seen feeding two young at Hexham on 7th (KD).

Corn Bunting

A pair were feeding young at Hauxley on 17th (HRS) and one was seen carrying food at Seahouses on 12th (GB). One - three were also noted at Howick, Longhoughton Steel, Swinhoe, Newton, Old Hartley, Druridge Bay, Cresswell 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.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| J G Anderson | M Hepple | A Priest |
| M G Anderson | M S Hodgson | A Purvis |
| C Auld | K Huxley | M Richardson |
| A M Bankier | A Jones | B N Rossiter |
| A H Banks | C Jewitt | L & K Russell |
| K I Barratt | W G Johnson | D R Shannon |
| J S Booth | A J Johnston | M J Sharp |
| G Bowman | W A Kelly | M B Shaw |
| C Bradshaw | I Kerr | E Slack |
| J P Brogdon | W T Logan | R K Stephenson |
| M L & T A Cadwallender | J D Lough | J R Todd |
| T R Cleeves | L J McDougall | D M Turner |
| A Curry | D McKeown | R Walton |
| K Dawson | J McOwat | A Woodhall |
| W Dickson | P Maguire | K W York |
| J E Fergusson | T M Melling | E M Young |
| M P Frankis | I D Moorhouse | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| M Freeman | A D Mould | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| B Galloway | E T & J R Norris | Druridge Bay Nature Reserve |
| A Hart | S Parnaby | National Trust Coastal Wardens |
| | | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |

MANY THANKS

this month to Alan Johnston who prepared this bulletin while I was on holiday.

MIKE HODGSON

INDOOR MEETING 8th SEPTEMBER 1988

The first meeting of this winter season will be in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University at 7.00p.m. on 8th September. Our speaker will be Colin Bradshaw with his talk entitled 'Steppe by steppe from Samarkland'.

DRURIDGE SPONSORED BIRDWATCH

One of our members, Alan Priest, has organised a sponsored birdwatch to raise funds for the Druridge Bay Campaign. This will be held on 4th September, on the same day as Druridge Fair. Any birdwatchers are invited to take part in the Birdwatch and should assemble at 10.30a.m. at the Blackmoor Farm Visitors Centre.

A sponsor form is enclosed with this bulletin. Further information can be obtained from Alan on Ashington 817560 or the Druridge Bay Campaign on Morpeth 513513.

ROCKET FIELD POOL, HOLY ISLAND

Many members will now know that the Rocket Field Pool next to Holy Island harbour was drained earlier this year and more recently the field was ploughed over. At the time of the drainage the club committee wrote and explained its concern over the loss of this pool to the N.C.C. As yet we have received no reply to this letter. The committee also provided information from the club's records to the R.S.P.B. Regional Office in Newcastle. They, like ourselves, were dismayed at the loss of yet another section of habitat with ornithological importance particularly as it was adjacent to a National Nature Reserve. The possibility of recreating this wetland area at the moment appears to be unlikely. Tim Cleeves, who is known to many of his fellow members has provided the following notes to bring everyone up to date with the situation.

"In early April this year the estate on Holy Island decided to improve the drainage to all the arable land on the island by cleaning the main drain. This drain runs along the edge of one particular field known as the Rocket Field (Grid ref NU 130421). As a result of these works the Rocket Field was drained, including the shallow pool favoured by birds.

It appears that some twenty or thirty years ago this part of the island was under an arable system but because the main drainage ditch had gradually silted up or become choked the field had got damper (also because of a certain amount of salt water leaches through into the field as sea water backs up a drain on the seaward side of the area) and for many years the field has been used for stock. A shallow pond and associated tussocky vegetation at the site has made the Rocket Field very attractive for breeding birds like snipe and redshank and (because of a general dearth of freshwater, shallow ponds near the North Northumberland coast) the site is good for passage birds (over 50 species being regularly recorded). Waders which only normally favour freshwater sites - like Greenshank, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper and Green Sandpiper have all been recorded quite regularly at the site and wildfowl - particularly Teal and Wigeon were regular visitors to the margins of the pool. At times of very high tides some waders roosted in the area and up to 130 pale bellied Brent geese utilised the Rocket Field Pool in harder winters.

The Rocket Field Pool was easily seen from the main Holy Island car park area to the north and from the road to the castle on the west side - thousands of visiting birdwatchers have enjoyed watching birds at the site for over twenty-five years - as records of the Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club and North Northumberland Bird Club show.

The main opportunity to safeguard the site, which can only happen with the co-operation of Colonel Crossman (the owner), John Sale & Partners (the Agents) and Mr Patterson (the tenant farmer) come through the work of the NCC. The Lindisfarne SSSI, which incorporates the tongue of land around the south west corner of the island and the lough has not yet been renotified. NCC does not give landowner/occupiers advance notice of their intention to notify a site because (in some instances) this can lead to deliberate damage to sites (as happened in the days of the famous 'loophole' before the amendment to the Wildlife and Countryside Act in 1985). The NCC has had three meetings with the agent and tenant to attempt to reach a management agreement which would involve incorporating the Rocket Field Pool into the Lindisfarne SSSI, and would allow NCC to pay the tenant for managing the site sympathetically (thus ensuring the tenant, and owner, are not financially disadvantaged).

The NCC promoted the idea of trying to make good some of the damage done in April - by suggesting the blocking of the surface cut and not rodding the side drains in the Rocket Field and seeking advice from Northumbria Water Authority about the likelihood of some winter flooding.

The owner wished to see the coarse grasses removed, having got the drainage 'sorted out', and wished to plough and re-seed the site. NCC suggested a suitable compromise would be to plough and re-seed with a mixture of fine grasses (comparable to that in the southern most field areas near the castle).

Although the Rocket Field has now been ploughed the owner, agent and tenant have not yet replied to the idea of re-seeding with a mixture of fine grasses, but have rejected the idea of some positive conservation management of the water regime - so getting the site wet again is highly unlikely at present.

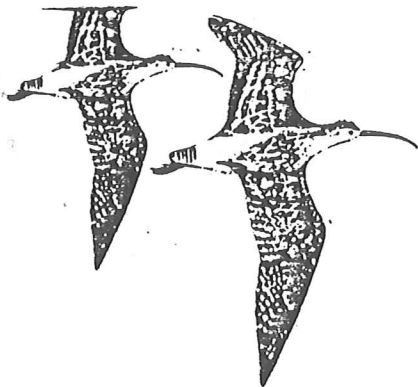
The owner and agent have approached Northumbria Water with the idea of having the drainage system on the island and standing water areas adopted as 'main river' (currently water supply on the island is controlled by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company). If this idea became reality the responsibility for drainage operations would pass to Northumbria Water (which like all water authorities, of course, have a duty to 'further conservation in the execution of their duties') then ongoing drainage would become part of the Authority's rolling programme of maintenance work.

Currently the owner of Holy Island, Colonel Crossman, has shown a highly responsible and responsive attitude to nature conservation - particularly with regard to leases relating to the Lindisfarne National Reserve. It is hoped that this benign attitude could extend itself to re-constituting a much loved and locally important wildlife site at the Rocket Field Pool.

As the European Community and the UK farming industry is currently locked into a problem of massive agricultural surpluses and is attempting to reduce grain, beef, butter mountains and milk surpluses, it is particularly ironic to be viewing a situation like the drainage of a field on Holy Island (a place with the highest public profile in terms of both its cultural and environmental heritage)".

TIM CLEEVES
CONSERVATION OFFICER
RSPB

CONTACTS: David Townshend, NCC Officer - North Northumberland - Tel. (091) 2816316
John Sale & Partners, Wooler, Northumberland (Agents)
Lt. Colonel H. Crossman (Owner)
Tim Cleeves - Tel. (091) 2324148
Tony Clarke, Northumbria Water - Tel. (091) 2843151



DRURIDGE BIRDWATCH Sponsor Form

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
DRURIDGE FAIR ON
SEPTEMBER 4

Tower Buildings Oldgate Morpeth Northumberland NE61 1PY
Tel. (0670) 513513

Name: _____ is taking part in the Birdwatch.

Address: _____

Meet at 10.00am at Cresswell Ponds Visitor Centre, Druridge Bay. Plenty of parking nearby. Take A1068 from Newcastle/Alnwick to Ellington and follow signs.

| NAME | ADDRESS | AMOUNT PER SPECIES | TOTAL | SIGNATURE | LEAVE BLANK |
|------|---------|--------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| | | | | | |

I certify that _____ observed the birds described overleaf.

Signed _____ .

All sponsor money to Druridge Bay Campaign, Tower Buildings, Oldgate, Morpeth NE61 1PY.
All profits to Druridge Bay Campaign. Send completed forms with money to address above.

BRING COMPLETED FORM TO THE DRURIDGE FAIR, BETWEEN 3.30 and 4.00 p.m., FOR SIGNING.
CAR PARK IN NATIONAL TRUST AREA. REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING REAL ALE AND TEA.
FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND MANY ATTRACTIONS FROM 12.30 - 4.30 p.m.

BIRD SPECIES SEEN

BIRD SPECIES SEEN

BIRD SPECIES SEEN

BIRD SPECIES SEEN



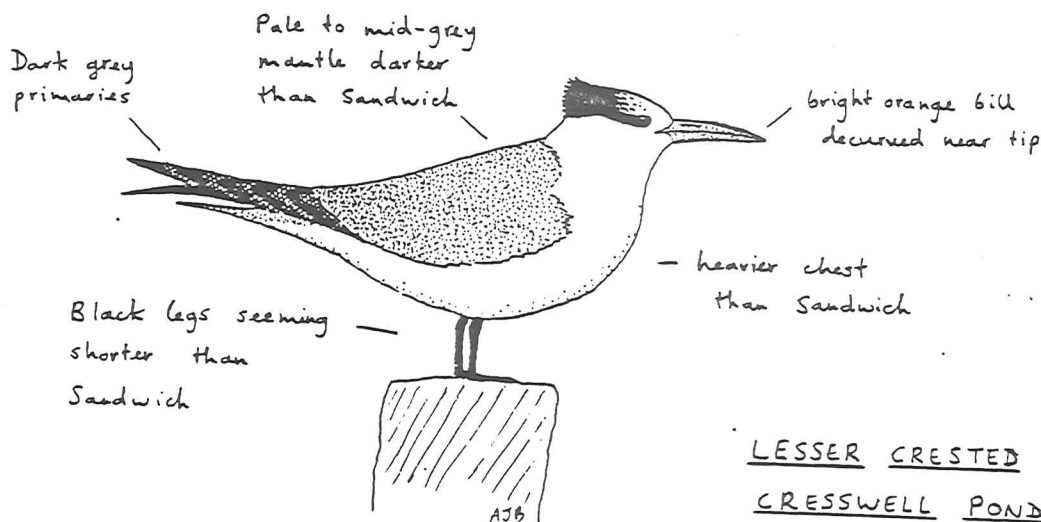
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - AUGUST 1988

Temperatures during August were very close to the long term averages for the time of year. After the excesses of July, rainfall was below average, some areas significantly so. Most areas reported sunshine totals above average. Although there were no gales it was quite a windy month, the windiest day being 25th.

Regular seawatching produced no surprises and numbers of Manx and Sooty Shearwaters were relatively low. There were however reasonable counts of Arctic Skuas and an unusual record was two inland at Colt Crag. Two Pomarine Skuas were also seen. Tape luring after dark produced more Storm Petrels at Tynemouth and Hauxley. The first Red-necked Grebe was seen on 12th and there was a scattering of Black-necked Grebes.

Two Mediterranean and one Glaucous Gull were noted and the club's pelagic field trip found an adult Sabine's Gull. The remarkable run of rare tern sightings continued with a belated report of last month's Bridled Tern, the Lesser Crested Tern at Cresswell and Tynemouth and a White-winged Black Tern at the latter locality on 29th. Tynemouth also produced a maximum of 28 Roseate Terns.



LESSER CRESTED TERN

CRESSWELL POND

10/8/88

Raptors included two Marsh Harriers, a Honey Buzzard and one, possibly two, Hobbys. As expected wader passage continued throughout the month with Curlew Sandpiper becoming conspicuous, as many as 35 attending the high-tide roost at Cresswell Pond on 27th. Interesting passerines included an early Icterine Warbler at Hauxley on 13th when a Wood Warbler was also present and Crossbills in unlikely areas at W.Denton and Wallsend Swallow Pond. There were prominent numbers of Willow Warblers as shown by regular ringing in certain areas and this type of work has shown an unprecedented number of Reed Warblers have been at Gosforth Park this year. Other interesting species were Garganey, Turtle Dove, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Blue-headed Wagtail.

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

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

One-four were at Druridge Bay, Seaton Sluice and Cullercoats.

Little Grebe

Two second broods were noted at Gosforth Park (ISD/MRS), two broods at Arcot Pond (LJM) and a newly hatched brood at Seaton Burn on 24th (AJJ). One-eight were noted on nine other waters.

Great Crested Grebe

Broods were still present at Holywell, and Seaton Burn. Four were at Whittle Dene on 26th (MR), two on the sea at Cresswell on 15th/30th (AJB) and singles at Newton Pool, Hadston Lake and Arcot Pond.

Red-necked Grebe

One, in summer plumage, was off Cresswell on 12th (AJB).

Black-necked Grebe

At the regular breeding site two pairs accompanied small young on 4th. One, possibly the same bird, was seen at Holywell and Seaton Burn between 13th-31st (KH/LR et al). Other singles were at Cresswell Pond on 21st (DBNR) and Bolam on 31st (ADMc).

Fulmar

60 per hour moved N. at Hauxley on 14th and Seaton Sluice on 17th (HRS/SSWT).

Sooty Shearwater

Two were noted on the club's pelagic trip out of Tynemouth on 13th when two flew N. at Cullercoats (TJT). One flew N. at Cresswell on 19th (AJB), nine N. at Seaton Sluice on 21st/22nd (SSWT) when one-two also seen at Tynemouth, Cullercoats, Newbiggin and Cresswell.

Manx Shearwater

130 flew N. at Cullercoats on 2nd (TJT), 26N. at Newbiggin on 7th (TRC) and 35 noted on the pelagic trip on 13th. A total of only 66N. and 7S. noted at Seaton Sluice during the month and smaller numbers at several other localities.

Storm Petrel

A total of ten was trapped at Tynemouth over four nights between 6th-16th but none on successive dates (MC/MPC/LH). At Hauxley six were trapped between 7th-27th with up to eight present on 12th/27th (HRS).

Gannet

N. movements of 100-200 per hour were noted on several dates at Cullercoats, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley although 400 per hour passed Berwick on 31st (JDL).

Cormorant

27 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 14th (DMT). 20 flew N. at Hauxley on 28th (HRS). Inland five were at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (RKS).

Grey Heron

The largest gatherings were 33 at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 31st (AT) and 20 at Alnmouth on 21st (AS). One-nine were in 13 other localities.

Mute Swan

485 were at Berwick Harbour on 10th (JDL).

Whooper Swan

One was at Berwick Harbour on 29th (JDL).

Pink-footed Goose

A single was still at Berwick up to 29th (JDL).

Canada Goose

12 flew N. at Horton on 18th (LJM). One was at Berwick Harbour on 12th (JDL) and one flew S. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Shelduck

A brood of nine was at Hadston Lake on 6th (TRC). One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (DM).

Wigeon

Two-five were on four waters from 9th. 20 flew N. at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Gadwall

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 1st-11th and 17th (AC).

Teal

130 were at Druridge Pool on 31st (DBNR). 20-65 were noted on three other waters. A total of 55 flew N. and nine S. at Seaton Sluice during the month and 80 N. at Hauxley on 27th (SSWT/HRS).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 600 at Castron on 20th (MR), 405 at Seaton Burn on 26th (LR), 245 at Grindon on 29th (RKS), 151 at Derwent Reservoir and 140 at Newton Pool (JRT).

Pintail

One was at Castron on 28th (MR).

Garganey

One was at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DBNR).

Shoveler

48 were at Cresswell Pond on 20th (DBNR), 21 at Seaton Burn on 11th (AJJ), eight at Hauxley on 14th and one-two at Gosforth Park and Holywell.

Pochard

41 were at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ) and nine at Holywell on 23rd (ISD).

Tufted Duck

Newly hatched broods early in the month included two at Arcot and Tynemouth Boating Lake (LJM/KW) and one at Wallsend Swallow Pond (L&KR). 42 were at Druridge Pool on 27th (DBNR) when 37 at Colt Crag (BNR).

Scaup

Five were at Hauxley Pool on 3rd declining to two by 13th (DBNR). One-two were also at Cresswell and Druridge between 3rd-14th. One was at Budley Bay on 6th (ES) and three at Holy Island Lough on 21st (RKS).

Common Scoter

200 were in Druridge Bay on 3rd/9th (ES/AJB). 50 flew N. at Hauxley on 27th (HRS) and 45 N. at Berwick on 31st (JDL).

Goldeneye

Two were at Berwick Harbour on 12th and one on 29th (JDL).

Red-breasted Merganser

Eight were at Alnmouth on 21st (WD). Singles were noted at Seaton Sluice and Cresswell.

Goosander

21 were on the River Coquet at Castron on 20th (MR). 11 were at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (BNR). Coastal records involved two at Foxton and three at Cresswell Pond on 28th (RD) and four N. at Berwick on 31st (JDL).

Marsh Harrier

Two were at Druridge Pool on 27th (WAK/KIB).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were in about 21 widespread localities.

Honey Buzzard

One flew S.W. over Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (AH/NM).

Kestrel

One-four were in 17 widespread localities.

Merlin

Coastal records increased during the month with singles in at least 12 widespread localities. A juvenile was killed by traffic at Newsham on 26th (MHP).

Hobby

Singles at Cresswell Pond on 13th (ADMc) and S.Almouth on 16th (ETN/JRN) may refer to the same individual.

Peregrine

One was at Hauxley on 1st (HRS) and another at Seaton Sluice on 21st (KR).

Red Grouse

Reports from shoots in the S.W. of the county indicated a good season this year (CJ). Family parties were noted at Threestoneburn on 11th/12th (AMB/IOK).

Black Grouse

A road casualty was at Catcleugh on 1st (IK).

Red-legged Partridge

One was at Netherwitton on 4th (WAK).

Water Rail

Singles were at Holy Island Lough on 7th (JDL), Seaton Burn between 10th-30th (ADMc/AJJ) and Gosforth Park between 22nd-30th (ISD).

Moorhen

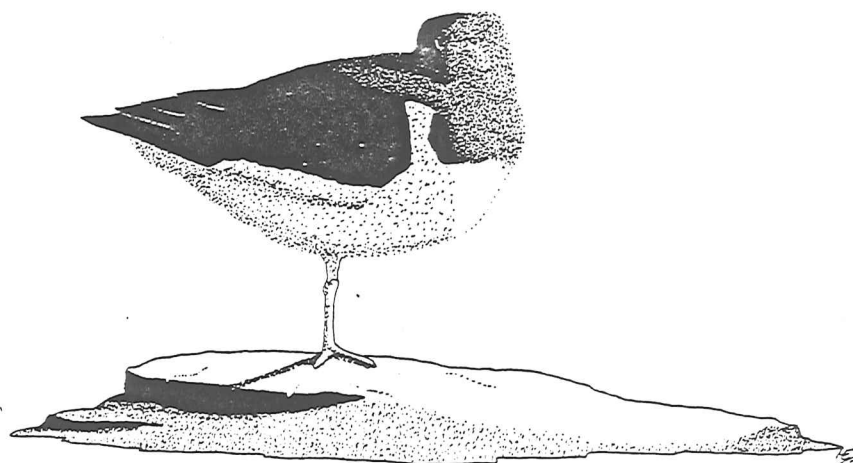
Two broods were noted at Shankhouse and Gosforth Park and one at Arcot Pond (L&KR/LJM).

Coot

178 were at Seaton BUrn on 12th (L&KR).

Oystercatcher

250 were at St. Mary's Island on 5th (DM), 236 at Howick on 27th (RKS) and 168 at Cresswell Pond on 17th/31st (TRC). 129 flew S. at Seaton Sluice between 16th-30th and 150 S. at Hauxley on 21st (SSWT/HRS). Inland 39 at Castron on 6th declined to none by 28th (MR).

Little Ringed Plover

A juvenile was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 20th/21st (AH).

Ringed Plover

282 were at Berwick Little Beach on 30th (JDL), 61 at S. Alnmouth on 16th (ETN) and up to 70 at Hauxley (HRS). One-seven were inland at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Whittle Dene. A brood of four was at the Long Nanny on 20th (RKS).

Golden Plover

Numbers built up along the coast with 1,100 at Longhoughton Steel on 27th (RKS), 800 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS), 600 at St. Mary's Island on 28th (DMT), 550 at Budle Bay on 13th (JDL) and 230-300 at Holy Island and Boulmer. Inland 114 were at Castron on 13th (MR).

Grey Plover

15 were at Holy Island on 28th (JDL). Singles were in four other coastal localities.

Lapwing

The largest gatherings were 1,650 at Castron on 13th (MR), 600 at Cresswell on 2nd (DBNR) and 500 at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Hallington (BG/BNR).

Knot

A maximum of 43 was at Cresswell Pond on 26th (DM). 6-16 were also at Boulmer, Amble and Hauxley. One was inland at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd July (JRT).

Sanderling

37 were at Berwick Little Beach on 29th (JDL) when 27 at Hauxley (HRS) and one-twelve in four other localities.

Little Stint

Singles were at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and Hadston on 13th (KH). Birds were present at Cresswell Pond almost daily from 16th with a maximum of four on 24th (AP/TJT et al).

Curlew Sandpiper

Good numbers were reported particularly after mid-month. At Cresswell Pond a maximum of 35 was present on 27th although smaller numbers were present on many days (ADMc et al). 12 were at the Blyth Estuary on 29th (MHP) and one-four also noted at Berwick Little Beach, Holy Island, Budle Bay, Boulmer, Hauxley, and Wallsend Swallow Pond. Inland at Whittle Dene eight were present on 26th, 11 on 27th/28th and one on 31st (MR/RGW).

Purple Sandpiper

Eight were at Tynemouth on 14th and St.Mary's Island on 21st (TRC/DMT). Three were at Newbiggin on 21st (ADMc).

Dunlin

300 were at Budle Bay on 21st (RKS), 60 at Berwick Little Beach on 29th (JDL) and 40-50 at Cresswell and Hauxley. Inland one-four were at Broomlee, Derwent Reservoir, Whittle Dene and Castron.

Ruff

Birds were present daily at Wallsend Swallow Pond with a maximum of 17 on 31st (AH et al). 13 were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 13th (JRT/KWY), ten at Hauxley on 9th and Whittle Dene on 31st (HRS/MR). One-three were in four other localities.

Snipe

Numbers increased at Wallsend Swallow Pond to a peak of 60 by 28th (BG). 50 were at Castron on 13th (MR) and 21 at Backworth on 24th (JDM). Seven arrived from the E. at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were at Hoppen on 3rd (ES/WTL). 13 flew S. over Cresswell on 29th where three present on 30th (MGA/ADMc). Singles were also noted at Boulmer, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Backworth.

Bar-tailed Godwit

1,300 were at Beal Sands on 28th (JDL). 30 flew S. at Craster on 27th (RKS) when 33 were at Cresswell Pond (ADMc). 40 flew N. at St.Mary's Island on 29th (KR) and 36 were at Boulmer on 31st (WD). One was at Backworth on 9th (JRT).

Whimbrel

A total of 32 flew S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 20 flew S. at Hauxley on 6th where 18 W. on 12th and 15 S. on 20th (HRS/DBNR). One-four were noted in a further eight localities.

Curlew

117 were at Long Houghton on 6th and 157 at the Long Nanny on 13th (RKS). 32 were at Hauxley on 1st and 35 at St.Mary's Island on 5th (HRS/DM). Inland 50 were at Castron on 20th (MR).

Spotted Redshank

At Wallsend Swallow Pond one-two were present on several dates and three on 15th and 20th (AH/L&KR). One-two were also at Hauxley, Hadston, Cresswell, Tynemouth, Seaton Burn, Gosforth Park and Whittle Dene.

Redshank

111 were at Cresswell Pond on 17th (TRC) and 300 at Hauxley Pool on 28th (HRS).

Greenshank

The largest numbers involved 11 at Black Low on 13th (DPa) and up to six at Hoppen Kiln Pool, Hauxley and Backworth. There were many reports of one-four in 14 other coastal or near coastal localities. Inland six were at Hallington on 29th (BNR), up to four at Whittle Dene between 26th-31st (MR), three at Caistron and one-two at Colt Crag and Ladycross.

Green Sandpiper

Six were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (AH). One-two were reported from a further 11 coastal localities during the month. Further inland three were at Caistron on 13th with one still present on 28th (MR).

Wood Sandpiper

Singles were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 3rd (ES) and Newton Pool on 7th (JDL). Between 26th-31st further singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Backworth and Seaton Burn.

Common Sandpiper

A flock of 24 was at Seaton Burn on 8th (GB). One-five were seen in eight other localities. Inland four were at Colt Crag on 6th (BNR) and one at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (RKS).

Turnstone

400 were at Berwick Little Beach on 30th (JDL), 100 at St. Mary's Island on 5th (DM), and 62 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (DBNR).

Pomarine Skua

Single adults flew N. at Newbiggin on 20th (MGA) and Cresswell on 26th (AJB).

Arctic Skua

At Seaton Sluice a total of 77 flew N. and 390 S. during the month with a maximum of 338 S. on 21st (SSWT). 43 flew S. at Hauxley on the last date (HRS). Much smaller numbers were noted in many other coastal localities. 25 were seen on the pelagic trip on 13th (TRC). More unusual was two, well inland, at Colt Crag on 27th (BNR).

Great Skua

Only small numbers reported. Five flew N. at Newbiggin on 7th (TRC) and five N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT). Singles were also seen at six other localities. One pelagic trips out of Tynemouth on 13th and 16th up to 12 were seen (TRC/MW).

Mediterranean Gull

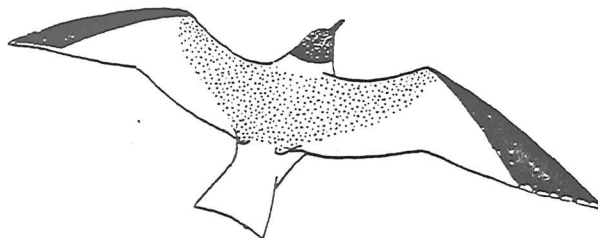
An adult was at Cresswell Pond on 6th (TRC/TMM) and a first summer at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 6th-11th (AH/AC).

Little Gull

One-three were seen in seven coastal localities between Budle Bay and Cullercoats. Three were five miles off the Tyne Estuary on 13th (TRC).

Sabine's Gull

The pelagic trip on 13th found an adult some 12 miles out from Tynemouth (TMM/TRC et al).



Sabine's Gull

Pelagic Trip

13.8.88 AJB

Black-headed Gull

Inland roost counts included 1,350 at Grindon on 3rd, 3,200 at Scotswood on 5th, 980 at Colt Crag on 27th, 770 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th, 750 at Hallington on 4th increasing to 4,100 by 29th (BNR).

Common Gull

Numbers at roosts inland continued to show a slow rise. 1,600 at Hallington on 4th increased to 3,800 by 29th, 5,200 at Colt Crag increased to 7,500 by 27th and 2,200 were at Derwent Reservoir on 9th. Over 90% of these birds were adults (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

A maximum of 280 roosted at Castron on 13th (MR). 120 were at Broomlee on 3rd and Scotswood on 5th with 25-70 at Grindon and Hallington (BNR). Two in Budle Bay on 2nd showed the characteristics of the Scandinavian race (ETN/JRN).

Herring Gull

370 roosted at Scotswood on 5th (BNR). 600 were at the Tyne Estuary on this date (DMT). An unfortunate immature at Seaton Burn had a fishing weight and hook entangled in its bill (GB).

Glaucous Gull

One flew S. at Holy Island on 7th (JDL).

Great Black-backed Gull

131 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 21st (DMT).

Kittiwake

1,000 were at Amble on 13th (AS). An immature was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th and 17th (AH/RGW).

Lesser Crested Tern

One, presumably the Farne Islands bird, was at Cresswell Pond on 10th (DBNR) and Tynemouth Haven on 12th/13th (AH/MPc).

Sandwich Tern

Numbers at the Tyne Estuary peaked at 500 on 12th (AH). 120 gathered at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (RKS).

Roseate Tern

21 pairs fledged 22 young on Coquet Island this season (TRC). Birds were present at Tynemouth Haven almost daily with a peak of 28 on 30th, red colour rings on some juveniles indicating that they came from Coquet Island (AH). One-six were noted in six other localities between Hauxley -St. Mary's Island.

'Commic' Tern

Up to 2,000 were at the Tyne Estuary on 11th/12th (AH). 223 were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd and 80 at Hauxley Pool on 10th (DBNR).

Common Tern

The Seaton Burn chick fledged on 1st (AJJ). Up to 12 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond (AC) and 14 were at Holywell Pond on 15th (TRC). Numbers at Tynemouth Haven peaked at 425 on 22nd (AH). 270 were at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (RKS) and 133 at St. Mary's Island on 4th (L&KR).

Arctic Tern

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 1st-8th with two on 3rd. Another was at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ). A maximum of 58 was at Tynemouth Haven on 22nd (AH).

Bridled Tern

A belated record of last month's bird at Cresswell on 31st July (A C Lose) has been received.

Little Tern

One-two were seen in five localities between Craster-Tynemouth although upto 15 were off Tynemouth Long Sands on 21st (KW).

Black Tern

Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 1st-4th (NGA/DBNR) and Tynemouth Haven between 9th-13th (AH). Two were off Hauxley on 19th and singles on 20th and 24th (DBNR). Singles were also seen at Newbiggin on 20th (JRT), Tynemouth on 21st and Cresswell on 26th (AJB). Inland two were at Whittle Dene on 26th (MR/RGW). All were juveniles.

White-winged Black Tern

An adult, moulting from summer plumage, flew N. at Tynemouth Pier on 29th (AH).

Guillemot

Small numbers, including family parties, were noted as far S. as St. Mary's Island. 50 were off Newbiggin on 7th (TRC). On the pelagic trip on 13th a raft of 200 about ten miles out included adults and juveniles.

Puffin

Five-six were off Coquet Island on 13th (AS).

Turtle Dove

One was at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (RD/TJT).

Cuckoo

Singles were at Blyth on 13th (MHp). Cresswell on 17th/26th (TRC) and Beal Sands on 20th (JDL).

Barn Owl

I was at High Hauxley on 7th and 28th (HRS).

Little Owl

Singles were seen at Backworth, Widdrington and Wooperton.

Tawny Owl

One-two were at Horton, Cresswell and Druridge. A road casualty was found at Wooperton on 28th (RKS).

Short-eared Owl

Up to five were at Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month (AH) and one-three in another eight lowland localities. Singles were also further inland at Threestoneburn and W. Woodburn.

Swift

Numbers declined as usual during the month with the last reported at Hauxley on 27th.

Kingfisher

One-two at W. Woodburn, Juniper, Wallington Hall, Castron, Whittle Dene, Mitford, Gosforth Park and Jesmond Dene.

Green Woodpecker

Two-three were in the Harthope Valley (RKS).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were at Preston Towers, Walbottle and the Harthope Valley.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was at W. Woodburn on 6th (J&MH).

Sand Martin

Few reports. Six were at Hallington on 4th (BNR) and High Hauxley on 27th where three present the next day (HRS).

Swallow

At Matfen 12 pairs fledged 41 young from 1st broods, six pairs attempted 2nd broods but three failed and the others fledged nine young (RS). A 2nd brood fledged at Threestoneburn on 22nd (AMB). 300-400 were at Castron on 13th (MR) and S. passage was noted in several localities being particularly heavy on 28th when 400-500 per hour moved over Alnmouth (GB). An all white bird was at Felton on 17th (per ETN).

House Martin

Many family parties were noted at Chapel Park indicating a good breeding season (IK). 170 were at Newton Pool on 13th (JRT) and gatherings of 70-75 at Slaley and Hauxley.

Tree Pipit

Two were at Threestoneburn on 16th (AMB/IOK).

Meadow Pipit

On 19th 60 were at Threestoneburn and 200 at Ilderton Dod (AMB/IOK).

Yellow Wagtail

14 were at Castron on 13th and 30 at Whittle Dene on 26th (MR). One-six were in another six, mainly coastal, localities.

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male was at Tynemouth Haven on 10th (AH).

Grey Wagtail

11 were at Wallsend Dene on 25th where four pairs have apparently bred this year (JDM). Family parties were still in several breeding areas. On the coast one-two were noted in four localities. At Tynemouth between 17th-30th small groups of up to three flew SW each evening, presumably to a nearby roost (KW).

Pied Wagtail

Up to 20 were on Hauxley beach (HRS). Small numbers flew SW at Tynemouth each evening between 17th-31st (KW).

Redstart

Small numbers, including family parties, were in several inland localities during the month although one-three at Seaton Burn and Prestwick Carr may indicate movement towards the coast.

Whinchat

Family parties were still at W.Woodburn and the Harthope Valley up to 28th (J&MH/RKS). One-eight were in several lowland localities.

Wheatear

One-four were seen in four inland and one-seven in eight coastal localities.

Mistle Thrush

48 were at Slaley on 14th (RMH).

Grasshopper Warbler

Singles were at Hauxley on 1st/18th, Hadston on 19th (DBNR), Holywell Pond and near Wooler on 2nd (RD/AMB) and Seaton Burn on 28th (AJJ).

Reed Warbler

The ringing program at Gosforth Park has resulted in 19 adults and two juveniles trapped up to 28th (ISD).

Icterine Warbler

One was trapped at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

Two adults accompanied a juvenile at Caistron on 6th (MR). One-two were also at Backworth, Seaton Burn, Arcot and Matfen. On the coast singles were at Hauxley on 6th and 28th (HRS).

Whitethroat

One-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn and Hauxley.

Garden Warbler

Four were at Prior's Park on 1st (AH) and one-two at Hauxley on several dates (HRS). Singles were inland at Threestoneburn on 8th and Seaton Burn on 29th (AMB/DM).

Blackcap

A family party was at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ) and small numbers in several inland localities. One-four were also on the coast at Prior's Park and Hauxley on several dates.

Wood Warbler

One was trapped at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Chiffchaff

One was at Hauxley on 5th (HRS) and two still singing at Hulne Park on 6th (ES).

Willow Warbler

Passage was conspicuous during the month in both inland and coastal localities. A total of 142 was ringed at Seaton Burn, 91 at Hauxley and 50 at Threestoneburn (AJJ/HRS/AMB). 40 were at Ladycross on 8th (CJ).

Goldcrest

Very common at Threestoneburn during the month where 38 were ringed (AMB). Small numbers appeared in coastal areas from 7th.

Spotted Flycatcher

Fledged broods were noted at W.Woodburn, the Harthope Valley and Wallington Hall (J&MH/RKS).

Pied Flycatcher

One was at Blanchland on 1st (CJ).

Long-tailed Tit

Flocks of 19 at Hexhamshire on 3rd (CJ) and ten at W.Woodburn on 21st (GB).

Marsh Tit

One was at Hareshaw Dene, Bellingham on 1st (RGW).

Willow Tit

One-three were at Seaton Burn, Castron and Hauxley.

Blue Tit

Further nest-box results included five pairs laying 36 eggs at Seaton Burn and fledging 26 young (AJJ) and three pairs fledging 19 young at Beacon Hill (MGA).

Great Tit

Further nest-box results included three pairs laying 22 eggs at Seaton Burn but fledging only seven young and two pairs fledging 14 young at Beacon Hill (AJJ/MGA).

Nuthatch

A pair fledged five young from a nest-box at Beacon Hill (MGA). One was at Hauxley on 28th, another new locality (HRS).

Treecreeper

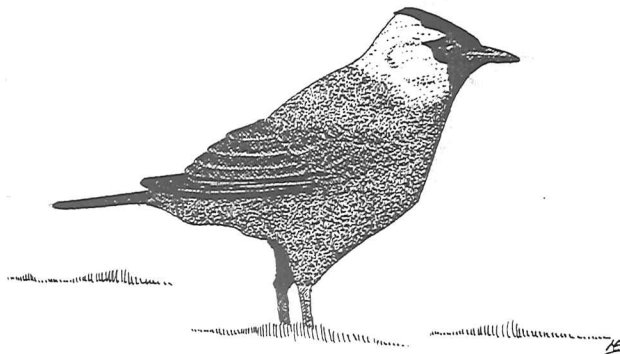
One-three were in three localities.

Magpie

11 roosted at Seaton Burn on 2nd (DM). A family party at Marden Quarry, Whitley Bay suggested local breeding success (JDM).

Jackdaw

1,000 were at Prestwick Carr with Rooks on 24th (MRS).



Rook

1,000 were at Prestwick Carr on 24th (MRS).

Starling

Up to 1,000 were at Prestwick Carr on 24th (MRS).

House Sparrow

300 were at Walbottle on 4th (L&KR) and 200 at Seaton Burn on 8th (AJJ). Singles leucistic birds were at Walbottle and Newburn (RGW).

Goldfinch

Family parties were noted in several areas and flocks of 15-25 at Wallsend Dene, Marden Park and Cresswell.

Siskin

Family parties were noted during the month at Threestoneburn (AMB). Two flocks, totalling about 60 birds, were in the Harthope Valley on 28th (RKS). One was at Matfen on 16th and five at Coldmartin Lough on 30th. On the coast one was at Hauxley on 13th and five on 28th (HRS).

Linnet

300 were at Low Newton on 20th (RKS), 250 at Caistron on 28th (MR) and 70-80 at Calder and Hauxley.

Redpoll

76 were trapped at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB). 40 were at Seaton Burn on 31st (AJJ) and 13 at Allendale on 29th (BNR).

Crossbill

Seven at Ladycross on 3rd increased to 34 on 9th (CJ). Two were at Threestoneburn from 16th (AMB) but more unusual were two flying SW at W.Denton on 13th (IK) and up to five at Wallsend Swallow Pond (TMM).

Bullfinch

At least five pairs were at Threestoneburn (AMB). A family party was at Ellingham on 2nd (BNR).

Corn Bunting

One-three were at E.Thirston, High Newton. Cullernose, Longhoughton Steel and Hauxley.

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

M G Anderson
A M Bankier
K I Barratt
A J Booth
G Bowman
G P Bull
M P Carruthers
T R Cleeves
M Cubitt
A Curry
I S Davidson
W Dickson
R Dunn
J E Fergusson
M P Frankis

K Huxley
A Janes
C Jewitt
A J Johnston
W A Kelly
I Kerr
I O Kerton
W T Logan
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J D McElwee
D McKeown
A D McLevy
T M Melling
N Moores

L Robson
B N Rossiter
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D R Shannon
J Sharpe
E Slack
M R Smith
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A Stratton
T J Tams
A Tilmouth
J R Todd
D M Turner
K Walton
R Walton

B Galloway
L Hall
C D Hampton
M Hepple
R M Holmes
J & M Howat
A Hutt

ET & JR Norris
S Parnaby
D Patterson
A Priest
M Richardson
M A Ridsdale
K Robson

R G Waugh
M Winter
K W York
Hauxley Ringing Station
Druridge Bay Nature Reserve
Seaton Sluice Watchtower

INDOOR MEETING - THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER

Our next meeting will be the A.G.M. and will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University commencing at 7.00pm. After the formal business of the meeting there will be a 'not to serious' birds quiz.

POSTAL STRIKE

This bulletin has been delayed due to the postal strike. Some record cards are still arriving and those not included in the classified list will be incorporated into the annual report in the normal way.

ST. MARY'S ISLAND

The hide on the island is now operational and is open to all during times when North Tyneside's warden is present (normally when the causeway is uncovered). At other times access is restricted to key-holders. These will cost £4 each and the club will have to place an order with North Tyneside Council. Please note that these are security keys and can not be copied. If you require a key please contact Mike Henry at any club meeting.

BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA 1987

All members should have now received their copy of the annual report. Unfortunately we did receive a few defective copies from the printer. If you have one of these please contact Muriel Cadwallender who will arrange for a replacement. Erratum slips are also available from Muriel for the incorrect entry for Yellow-browed Warbler.

WADER COUNTER REQUIRED

I still require a Wader Counter for the Tweed Estuary. If any member feels that he/she can provide regular monthly coverage of this important and interesting area please contact me as soon as possible.

MIKE HODGSON

RARE BIRDS

Could I remind everyone that notes for rare and unusual species should be submitted with the appropriate record cards. Details of those species concerned are shown in the club 'Guide to Submitting Ornithological Records'. Please help by submitting notes promptly.

MIKE HODGSON.

FIELD TRIP - HOLY ISLAND 1ST OCTOBER

The next field trip will be to Holy Island on 1st October 1988. Hopefully migrants will abound for us! Nick Rossiter will be acting as leader. If you are interested please contact Colin Bradshaw on Tyneside 2572389.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1988/89

These are due on 1st October 1988. Please see the enclosed renewal form. Remember it is still not too late to covenant your sub. and help the club's finances.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM

OCT 1988 - SEPT 1989

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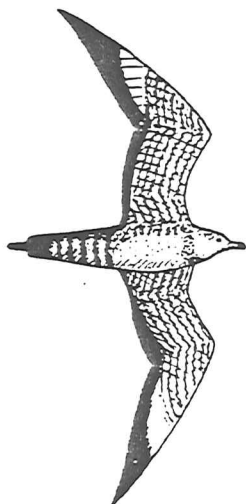
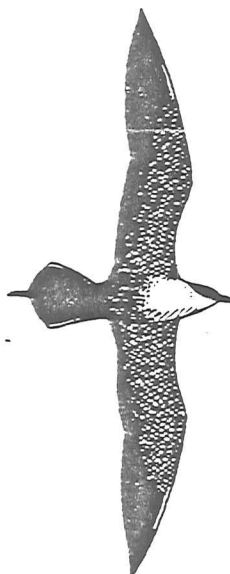
SubN



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 1988

Temperatures during September continued to be around the average for the time of year but the month ended on a chilly note. It was a dry month, rainfall in most areas being below average, Hartburn for example recording only 43% of normal. It was generally sunny with one or two localities receiving over 11 hours in a day. Winds were not exceptional but the strong northerly on 13th/14th and north-westerly from 23rd produced some good sea-watching. The first period produced most of the Sooty and Manx Shearwaters seen during the month and a Balearic Shearwater flew past Seaton Sluice on 14th. Many Arctic and Pomarine Skuas were recorded on 23rd. Perhaps the most exciting feature of the month was the large numbers of Long-tailed Skuas seen, particularly from the club's watchtower at Seaton Sluice. One startled observer had the pleasure of finding the first inland Long-tailed Skuas in the county.



Long-tailed Skuas
Sept. 88 A28

Numbers of duck increased, as expected, and goose passage was evident. Brent Geese were noted from the 14th and the regular movement of Barnacles gained momentum from 24th. Birds of prey included an Osprey over Seaton Burn on 3rd and an early Rough-legged Buzzard well inland on 13th. Wader watching continued to be excellent with further influxes of Curlew Sandpipers. The 'northern' reservoir at Whittle Dene had been drained creating an inland estuary type habitat which waders were quick to exploit.

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.

At least one, possibly two, Pectoral Sandpipers were found at Wallsend Swallow Pond and an exceptionally tame Grey Phalarope at Seaton Burn from 27th was probably the most photographed wader in England! Coastal passage of passerines was minimal but Goldcrests were present throughout the month, Coal Tits were on the move a little earlier and a male Red-backed Shrike appeared at Hauxley.

The first returning winter visitors were noted with Fieldfares on 7th, Snow Buntings on 18th, Redwings on 22nd, Whooper Swans on 29th and an early Bewick's Swan on 30th.

Other interesting records during an exciting month included two Hen Harriers, probably five Buzzards, two Little Ringed Plovers and four Mediterranean Gulls.

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CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

Numbers in Druridge Bay rose steadily from early in the month to a peak of 27 by 26th (AJB et al). A total of 48 flew N. and 46 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with 31 N. on 14th/15th, this movement also being noted at Cullercoats (SSWT/TJT). One-seven were seen in a further eight other localities.

Black-throated Diver

Two were in Druridge Bay on 5th, four together on 7th and one-two noted until the end of the month (AJB/MGA et al). On 25th singles flew N. at Seaton Sluice and S. at Tynemouth (KR/CB).

Great Northern Diver

Singles flew S. at Cullercoats on 13th and N. on 14th (TJT). A group of four flew N. here on 24th and another N. on 30th (KW). Two flew N. at Cresswell on 14th and one was offshore on 29th (AJB).

Little Grebe

On 2nd a Lesser Black-backed Gull ate two young from another late brood at Seaton Burn (AJJ). Adults were still feeding young at Arcot until mid-month (LJM). One-seven were on eleven other waters.

Great Crested Grebe

Five were on Whittle Dene on 17th (MR). Along the coast four were at Berwick Little Beach on 14th (JDL), up to three in Druridge Bay (AJB), and one-two at Annstead, Seaton Sluice and Cullercoats.

Red-necked Grebe

One flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (SSWT).

Slavonian Grebe

A winter plumaged bird was in Druridge Bay between 3rd-29th and a summer plumaged bird flew N. off Cresswell on 13th (AJB/ES et al). Another was in Annstead Bay on 15th (MJS).

Fulmar

120 per hour moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 13th (SSWT). Two 'blue' phase birds were seen on a pelagic trip out of Tynemouth on 17th (AJB).

Sooty Shearwater

On 13th/14th a total of 135 flew N. at Seaton Sluice, this movement also being noted at Tynemouth, Cullercoats, St. Mary's Island, Newbiggin and Cresswell (SSWT et al). One-six were noted at Hauxley, Cresswell and Tynemouth on several other dates.

Manx Shearwater

A total of 309 flew N. and four S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a peak of 267 on 13th/14th. This movement was again noted in several other localities. Much smaller numbers were noted on several other dates.

Balearic Shearwater

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 14th (NJW/AH/MHp).

Gannet

Fishing parties and N. movements were noted at many localities during the month with up to 2,000 per hour N. at Berwick on 17th/18th (JDL). 700 flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (SSWT).

Cormorant

186 were roosting at Blyth Harbour on 11th (LJM). 27 were at Warkworth on 20th (L&KR). 57 were at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 15th, nine at Derwent Reservoir on 18th when five at Bakethin (AT/BNR/MD).

Shag

Two small young were still in a nest at Inner Farne on 18th (JFG).

Grey Heron

22 were at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 20th (AT). Up to 15 were at Derwent Reservoir (CJ/MH), 12 at Hallington on 25th (IK), ten at Warkworth on 9th (EMY) and one-six in 15 other localities. One appeared to arrive from the E. at Howick on 24th (RKS).

Mute Swan

342 were at Berwick Harbour on 2nd (JDL). 16 were at Cresswell Pond on 20th (L&KR).

Berwick's Swan

An early arrival was at Cresswell and Druridge on 30th (MGA).

Whooper Swan

Nine were at Holywell Pond on 29th (GAB) when one was at Cresswell Pond increasing to 21 on 30th (MGA).

Pink-footed Goose

Three were at Colt Crag on 16th (BNR) where 21 rested briefly before heading W. on 25th (IK/BG). 32 flew W. at Berwick on 17th (JDL), six were at Castron on 18th (MR) and 13 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (SSWT). Singles were at Druridge Pools and Hauxley between 19th-30th.

Grey Lag Goose

15 were at Hallington on 15th (BNR), 35 S.W. over Hexham on 17th (JPB), 17 W. at Berwick on 18th (JDL), 19 at Colt Crag on 25th (IK/BG), 130 S. at Hedgehope on 22nd (AMB), 60 at Newton and 55 Kimmer Lough on 30th (MF/ISD).

Canada Goose

Up to 82 were in the Hallington/Colt Crag area during the month (IK/BG).

Barnacle Goose

The first were 21 N. at Cresswell on 14th (MGA). No more were reported until 24th when nine flew N. at Seaton Sluice. Heavy movement was noted on 25th in several localities with birds heading N., S. and W., particularly at Lindisfarne, in groups of up to 100. Birds were in several coastal areas to the end of the month. Inland one flew W. at Hallington on 25th (IK), 56 W. at Belsay on 27th (JS), about 50 W. at Cvingham on 30th (JD) when one was at Kimmer Lough (ISD).

Brent Goose

33 flew N. at Cullercoats and Newbiggin on 14th (TJT/IRD). 35 were at Holy Island on 17th increasing to 125 by 25th (DPa/ADM). 12 flew N. at Tynemouth on 24th (AJB) when a group of seven passed Seaton Sluice, Cullernose Point, and Stag Rocks. Groups of five were at the Coquet Estuary on 26th/29th (EMY), Tynemouth on 27th (SP) and Cresswell Pond on 28th (DBNR).

Shelduck

15 at Budle Bay on 10th increased to 40 by 17th (ES/MBS).

Wigeon

Numbers built up in several localities during the month with 4,000 at Fenham Flats by 19th (JFG), up to 200 at Cresswell from 17th (ES/DRS) and 350 at Holborn Moss on 30th (ISD). N. passage on 14th/15th involved up to 400 per hour at several localities along the coast although about 1,100 passed Berwick in 45 minutes (JDL).

Gadwall

One-two were at Cresswell Pond between 9th-24th (MGA et al), one at Seaton Burn between 5th-18th (AJJ) and two at Holywell Pond on 20th (MRS/DM). More unusual was a flock of 12 which flew into Newton Pool from the E., and then quickly departed on 22nd (ETN/JRN).

Teal

The largest gatherings involved 550 at Holborn Moss on 30th (ISD), 350 at Caistron on 18th (MR), 230 at Holy Island on 11th, 120 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (AW) and 50-80 at five other waters. A total of 412 flew N. and 31 S. at Seaton Sluice with a maximum of 284 N. on 14th (SSWT).

Mallard

500 were at Caistron on 3rd (MR), 373 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (BNR), 313 at Hartburn on 23rd (MLC) and 240 at Seaton Burn on 10th (AJJ). 120-180 were at three other localities.

Pintail

Up to eight were at Hauxley between 13th-26th (HRS/DBNR), three at Cresswell Pond between 15th-25th increasing to seven up to 30th (AJB), up to six at Seaton Burn on 21st/22nd (AJJ), three at Holywell on 4th (TRC) and Caistron on 11th (MR) and one at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (KR). 12 flew N. off Cresswell on 12th (AJB).

Shoveler

34 were at Seaton Burn on 10th (GB), 31 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (DBNR) and seven-nine at Druridge and Caistron.

Pochard

55 at Seaton Burn on 6th increased to 103 by 20th (GB).

Tufted Duck

178 were at Druridge Pool on 29th/30th (DBNR), 122 at Hallington on 18th (RW), 85 at Hadston Lake on 21st and 40-80 at five other waters.

Scaup

One-three were at Druridge Pool, Hadston Lake and Hauxley during the month (DBNR). One was at Holy Island on 27th (AJH). Nine flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 14th where seven S. on 25th (SSWT). More unusual was three at Seaton Burn on 21st (AJJ/GB).

Common Scoter

A maximum of 178 was in Druridge Bay on 24th (TRC/TAM). 79 flew N. at Seaton Sluice during the month.

Velvet Scoter

One-two were in Druridge Bay between 2nd-29th (AJB). Eight flew N. at Seaton Sluice between 13th-25th (SSWT).

Goldeneye

Two were still at Berwick Harbour up to 14th (JDL). One was on the River Wansbeck at Castle Island on 3rd (AT) and another flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (SSWT).

Red-breasted Merganser

A total of 19 flew N. and three S. at Seaton Sluice from 14th (SSWT). 11 were at Holy Island on 25th (JDL), eight at Druridge Bay on 18th (AGH) and seven at Warkworth on 24th (ES/MBS). A single was on Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools on 24th/25th (DBNR).

Goosander

18 were at Caistron on 3rd (MR), eight at Windyhaugh on 18th (JMA) and one-six at Shillmoor, Langlee, Bakethin, Derwent Reservoir, Mitford and Seaton Burn.

Hen Harrier

Cne was at Fenham Flats on 3rd (TRC/TMM) and Budle Bay on 11th (BRS).

Sparrowhawk

Cne-three were in about 22 widespread localities.

Buzzard

Singles were at Corbridge on 4th (MR) and near Stocksfield on 16th (GAB). Two were in the S.W. of the county on 5th (CJ). Cne was near Hoborn Moss on 15th (AW).

Rough-legged Buzzard

Cne flew S. at Ladycross on 13th (CJ).

Csprey

Cne passed S.W. over Seaton Burn on 3rd (AJJ/GB/MGA).

Kestrel

Cne-three were in about 20 widespread localities. Cn 24th four flew in from the E. at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Merlin

Cne-two were seen in seven coastal localities and singles at six areas further inland including one on the Town Moor at Newcastle on 20th (SJL).

Peregrine

Singles were noted in seven coastal localities between Seaton Sluice-Holy Island.

Red Grouse

Cn 24th/25th 94 were counted in 4 Km on Hexhamshire Common, 64 at Tosson Hill and 40 at Edmundbyers Common (BNR/MH).

Black Grouse

Cne was at Threestoneburn on 3rd (AMB).

Grey Partridge

40 were at Newton Pool on 18th (JDL).

Water Rail

Singles were at Seaton Burn between 1st-16th (AJJ), Newton Pool on 11th/23rd (AW) and Cresswell Pond on 15th (MGA).

Moorhen

25 were at Hauxley Pool on 24th (HRS).

Coot

208 were at Seaton Burn on 21st (L&KR), 111 at Hartburn on 23rd (MLC) and 85 at Cresswell on 18th (DBNR). A pair with three very small young were at Killingworth Lake on 7th (LJM).

WADER CCUNT - 11th SEPTEMBER 1988

The following stretches were counted:- Tweed Estuary (JSg), BUdle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (TAC/MLC), Beadnell-Howick (MR/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/MBS/DRS), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/EC/MRS/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Newbiggin-Cambois (MHp), Blyth Estuary (LJM), St Mary's Island (IDM).

Cystercatcher

A total of 1,040 was noted during the wader count. Up to 150 roosted at Cresswell Pond (ES). Inland seven were still at Castron on 3rd declining to two on 11th (MR) when one at Derwent Reservoir (RKS).

Little Ringed Plover

Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th/16th (JEF/MPF).

Ringed Plover

A total of 485 was noted during the wader count. 200 were at Berwick Little Beach on 4th (JDL). Inland numbers peaked at 25 at Whittle Dene on 6th declining to six by 17th (MR).

Golden Plover

Up to 800 were in the St. Mary's Island area and at Longhoughton Steel (L&KR/RKS). 650 were at Budle Bay on 4th (JDL) and 450 at Druridge on 28th (DBNR). 406 flew N. at Cullercoats on 14th (KW). Inland several hundreds were at Belsay (JS) and 253 at Castron on 25th (MR).

Grey Plover

Only 19 were noted during the wader count. 23 were at Holy Island on 25th (JDL). Small numbers moved N. at Cullercoats and Seaton Sluice on 14th and 24th. Inland birds were present at Whittle Dene between 3rd-25th with a maximum of nine on 15th (MR/TMM), three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 14th and one on 21st (SP/AH), one at Hallington on 25th (IK/BG) and one S.E. over Slaley on 30th (CJ).

Lapwing

900 were near Berwick on 27th (JDL), 600 at Castron on 11th (MR) 500 at Druridge on 29th/30th and 150-400 at seven other localities.

Knot

A total of only 138 noted during the wader count. Two were inland at Whittle Dene on 6th (MR).

Sanderling

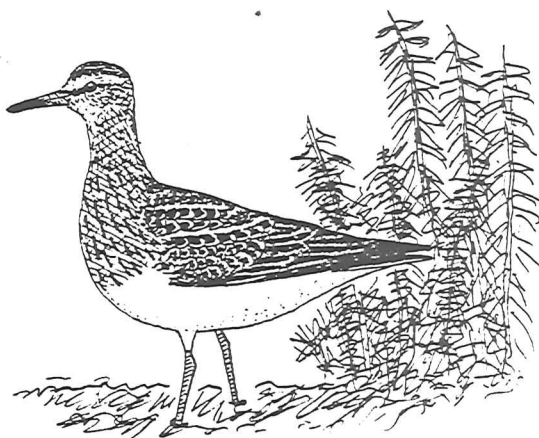
A total of 98 was noted during the wader count. 57 were at Hauxley on 1st (HRS).

Little Stint

One-two were in nine coastal localities up to 25th. Wallsend Swallow Pond attracted up to three between 1st-12th (AH et al) and at Whittle Dene there were five on 3rd increasing to ten on 7th with two still present on 13th (MR/TMM). One was also at Castron on 3rd.

Pectoral Sandpiper

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 4th-13th (AT/AJB et al). A bird present at this locality from 20th onwards was considered by some observers to be a different individual (DM/AH et al).



Pectoral Sandpiper Swallow Pond
Sept. 1988 AJB

Curlew Sandpiper

A marked passage continued through the county, particularly during the first fortnight. The largest gatherings involved up to 37 at Budle Bay, many of these visiting Hoppen Kiln (KR/BRS), 26 at Berwick Little Beach (DPa), 25 at Boulmer (ES/WTL), 22 at the Blyth Estuary (MHP) and 2-15 at a further coastal or near coastal localities. Inland they were present at Whittle Dene up to 20th with a peak of 30 on 13th (BG/IK) and two were at Hallington on 25th.

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 29 was noted during the wader count 41 were at St. Mary's Island on 7th (AMB) and 40 flew N. at Cresswell on 15th (DBNR).

Dunlin

A total of 527 was noted during the wader count. Large gatherings on the coast also included about 1,300 at Berwick Little Beach on 14th (JDL) and 880 at Budle Bay on 17th (KWY). Continuous N. passage at Seaton Sluice on 14th involved about 2,000 (SSWT). A maximum of 114 was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 13th (AH) when 78 were at Whittle Dene (MR). 70 were at Hallington on 25th. A dilute plumage bird with white wings was at Boulmer on 10th (IK/MSH).

Ruff

Birds were present at Wallsend Swallow Pond throughout the month with a peak of 29 on 5th (AH et al). Up to 24 in Budle Bay on 11th (JDL), 13 at Newton Pool on 21st (MR) and one-twelve in a further six coastal localities. Further inland numbers peaked at 13 at Whittle Dene on 11th when six were at Castron (MR) and six at Hallington on 25th (IK).

Snipe

60 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (JRT/KWY) and 26 at Cresswell on 25th (DBNR). Six arrived from the E. at Seaton Sluice on 23rd.

Black-tailed Godwit

Three were at Cresswell Pond on 9th where one flew S. on 22nd. Another flew S. at Druridge on 25th (DBNR). Singles were also noted at the Blyth Estuary, Newton Pool and Annstead Beach.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 161 was noted during the wader count. 2,000 were at Holy Island on 11th (JDL). 57 were in Newton Haven on 7th (AW).

Whimbrel

Cne-two were noted in six localities up to 24th.

Curlew

A total of 162 was noted during the wader count. 73 roosted at Castron on 18th (MR).

Spotted Redshank

At Wallsend Swallow Pond, where birds were present all month, there was a peak of ten on 9th/10th (AH et al). Six were at Hauxley on 9th (DBNR) and one-three in a further eight localities in the coastal stretch. Another was inland at Whittle Dene between 3rd-11th (MR).

Redshank

A total of 1,192 was noted during the wader count. 500 were at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (JDL) and up to 130 roosted at Cresswell Pond (DBNR).

Greenshank

Six were at Backworth on 8th (MHP) and four at Hauxley and Hoppen Kiln on 2nd/3rd (JRT/ES). Cne-three were also seen in 14 other localities along the coast. Inland six at Whittle Dene on 3rd declined to one by 23rd and one-three were at Castron between 11th-25th (MR).

Green Sandpiper

Singles were at Seaton Burn on 2nd (AJJ), Hauxley on 2nd/3rd and 21st/25th (DBNR), Holywell on 4th (TRC) and Whittle Dene on 3rd. Two were at Castron on 11th (MR).

Wood Sandpiper

Five were at Budle Bay on 4th (JDL). Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 2nd-9th (AH), Cresswell on 2nd and 17th (DBNR/ADM), Seaton Burn on 3rd (GB) and Backworth on 6th (JDM).

Common Sandpiper

Six were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (LR) and four at Cullernose on 3rd (RKS). Singles were in another coastal or near coastal localities during the month. Further inland six were at Prudhoe on 12th (L&KR), one-two were at Crdley, Sweethope, Newburn, Wylam and Whittle Dene between 7th-18th and one was still at Scotswood on 20th.

Turnstone

A total of 978 was noted during the wader count.

Grey Phalarope

A very tame bird was present at Seaton Burn between 27th-30th (LR/GB et al).

Pomarine Skua

A total of 16 flew N. and 67 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a peak of 50 S. on 23rd including a flock of 33 (SSWT). Cne-four were also seen at four other localities between 14th-30th.

Arctic Skua

A total of 88 flew N. and 218 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a peak of 138 S. on 23rd (SSWT). Much smaller numbers were seen at several other localities including 20 at Cresswell on 14th and 11 on the pelagic trip on 17th (AJB).

Long-tailed Skua

An unprecedented number of records were received during the month. An adult and a juvenile were seen on the pelagic trip from Tynemouth on 17th (AJB/AH). Between the 20th-30th there were 25 sightings at Seaton Sluice with one-five birds almost daily although it is different to say how many were involved in total (SSWT). Two adults were off Tynemouth on 25th and a juvenile on 29th/30th (CB). One was at St. Mary's Island on 29th (GPB) when one flew S. at Cresswell where at least four were seen on 30th (AJB). Perhaps most unusual was the sight of two adults and a juvenile flying W. at Kielder Water on 18th (MD), the county's first inland record. Observers are reminded that notes are required by the County Records Committee for this species.

Great Skua

Small numbers only continued to be reported. A total of seven flew N. and 13 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Five were seen on the pelagic trip from Tynemouth on 17th (AJB) and one-four at Cresswell and Holy Island.

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult had returned to Craster by 3rd (RKS). A first-winter and a second-winter were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st (AH) and an adult flew S. at Cullercoats on 30th (KW).

Little Gull

Large numbers were reported. During the month a total of 252 flew N. and 208 S. at Seaton Sluice with peak movements on 14th and between 23rd-27th (122 S. on 26th) (SSWT). These movements were also noted at several other coastal points. 66 were noted on the pelagic trip on 17th (AJB). 18 were at Druridge Pool on 18th when seven at Cresswell Pond (DBNR). One-four were in five other localities.

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts included 1,600 at Colt Crag on 16th, 1,100 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th and 2,900 at Scotswood on 20th (BNR).

Common Gull

Strong S. passage of 200-350 per hour was noted at Ordley on 3rd declining during 4th. Roosts included 6,000 at Sweethope, 4,200 at Hallington, 8,700 at Colt Crag, 8,000 at Derwent Reservoir and 270 at Broomlee between 13th-22nd (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

450 roosted at Castron on 3rd increasing to 600 on 25th (MR). 405 roosted at Broomlee on 2nd (BNR). Scandinavian race birds included three at Budle Bay on 17th, and Castron on 25th and one at Derwent Reservoir on 18th.

Herring Gull

210 roosted at Scotswood on 20th (BNR).

Great Black-backed Gull

300 were at the Coquet Estuary between 19th-21st (EMY) and 258 at Druridge on 24th (KWY).

Kittiwake

Three adults were inland at Sweethope on 13th and two at Colt Crag on 16th (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

The number of reports declined during the month in coastal areas, 34 at Holy Island on 17th being the largest gathering (RKS). One flew N. over Wallsend Swallow Pond on 8th (AH).

Roseate Tern

Seven were at Tynemouth Haven on 2nd with four on 13th (AH). Two were at Cresswell on 2nd/4th (AJB), one at Berwick on 9th (JDL), one N. at Seaton Sluice on 14th and two at St. Mary's Island on 17th (AHB).

'Commic' Tern

Two flew E. at Hexham on 1st (BNR).

Common Tern

30 were at Longhoughton Steel on 3rd (RKS), 21 at St.Mary's Island on 20th (DM), and the last this month at Islestone on 22nd (JFG).

Arctic Tern

Three were still at Islestone on 22nd (JFG).

Little Tern

Singles flew N. at Cullercoats on 24th and 29th (KW).

Black Tern

Singles were at Cresswell on 7th (AJB), St.Mary's Island on 10th (IDM) and Cullercoats on 24th (KW).

Stock Dove

15 were at Hexhamshire on 21st (CJ). 13 flew S. at Tynemouth on 10th (CB) and one-three were in six other localities.

Collared Dove

109 were at Brunton Lane on 9th (AT).

Cuckoo

Cne was on Holy Island on 3rd (TRC/MHp).

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Chapel House and near Alnwick (IK/JS).

Little Owl

Cne-two were at Druridge, Backworth, near Dinnington and Belsay.

Tawny Owl

Cne-two were seen or heard at Jesmond, S.Gosforth, Seaton Burn and Craster.

Short-eared Owl

Five were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (DM/MGA) and one-two were seen in a further 13, mainly coastal localities. Singles were also further inland at Threestoneburn and Derwent Reservoir.

Swift

Cne-eight were in seven coastal localities between 1st-10th although 16 flew S. at Hauxley on the last date. No more were reported until 29th when one was at Hauxley (DBNR).

Kingfisher

Singles were noted at Jesmond Dene, Newburn, Wylam, Warkworth, the River Aln at 18 Arches, Mitford and Castron.

Green Woodpecker

Cne-two were at the Harthope Valley, Derwent Reservoir and Seaton Burn.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Cne was at Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Skylark

30-40 were at Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 18th/25th (TAC/HRS) and inland S. passage was noted at Hallington and Ladycross on 25th/30th (IK/CJ).

Sand Martin

Cne was at Holy Island on 2nd and five S. at Howick Haven on 3rd (RKS). The last were singles S. at Druridge on 24th (TRC) and Whitley Bay on 25th (AH).

Swallow

Steady S. passage was noted during the first week being particularly heavy between 6th-8th at Tynemouth and well inland at Ladycross (KW/CJ). 200-300 gathered at Matfen on 11th and Boulmer on 18th (RW/IK). 500 gathered at Seaton Burn on 7th (GB/AJJ).

House Martin

S. passage included 600 per hour over Newton on 4th (JDL), and several hundreds moving over Tynemouth between 25th-29th (KW). Large gatherings were 100-200 at Seaton Sluice, Warkworth and Bamburgh between 10th-20th. Young were still being fed in the nest at Alnwick on 26th (WD).

Tree Pipit

Cne was on Holy Island on 9th (DPa).

Meadow Pipit

S. passage was noted on several dates in both coastal and inland localities.

Rock Pipit

Six were at Seaton Sluice on 15th (L&KR).

Yellow Wagtail

Eight were at Hartley on 6th (WAK), four at Whittle Dene on 7th (RW) and one-two in seven other localities up to 20th. The last was one at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Grey Wagtail

15 were at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR), 14 at Prudhoe on 12th (L&KR) and up to eight in Jesmond Dene (MPF). Cne-three were in seven coastal localities.

Pied Wagtail

An increase in numbers was noted in several areas. 50 were at Castron on 3rd (MR), 44 at Prudhoe on 12th (L&KR), 43 at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (JDL), 40 at Houstead on 11th (BNR), 39 at Tynemouth Park on 17th and 20-30 at five other localities.

White Wagtail

Cne was at Backworth on 15th (JDM).

Redstart

Singles were at Haggerston on 4th (JDL), Holy Island on 9th (DPa), Hauxley on 10th and 24th/25th (DBNR) and Tynemouth on 24th (CB). Cne was still well inland at W.Woodburn on 25th (J&MH).

Whinchat

20 were on Holy Island on 9th (DPa). Cne-six were in seven other localities on or near the coast. Inland one was at Threestoneburn on 4th (AMB) and five remained at Belsay (JS).

Stonechat

Cne-two were at Newton Pool and Hauxley. Cne was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 25th (SP/AJD).

Wheatear

13 were at Newton Point on 20th (ISD) and ten at Hartley on 6th (WAK). Cne-four were in 17 coastal localities during the month and small numbers lingered inland up to 26th/

Ring Cusel

Cne was inland at Kielder on 18th (MD).

Fieldfare

10 flying W. at Seaton Delaval on 7th were the first (TAC/MLC). 20 were at Allenheads on 9th, 15 at Catton on 17th (JPB) and one on Holy Island on 18th (ADM).

Song Thrush

Light W. movement was noted at Juniper on 7th (CJ) and Kielder on 18th (MD).

Redwing

Four at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd were the first of the autumn (TRC). Five were at Caistron on 25th (MR).

Mistle Thrush

31 were at Ridley Hall on 11th (RKS), 24 at Seaton Burn on 3rd (GB) when 17 at Whittle Dene (MR). On 25th 20 were at Hauxley (HRS) and a flock of 27 arrived from the E. at Bamburgh (BRS).

Sedge Warbler

One-two were at Hauxley and Bamburgh up to 10th. The last was one at Seaton Burn on 19th (AJJ).

Lesser Whitethroat

Singles were at Hauxley on 16th, 17th and 25th/29th (HRS), Seaton Burn on 16th (MRS) and Holy Island on 18th (MGA).

Whitethroat

One-two were at Seaton Burn, Holywell and Hauxley between 4th-18th. Another was at Newton Pool on 30th (ISD).

Garden Warbler

One-two were at Hauxley and Holy Island between 1st-10th (HRS/TRC).

Blackcap

Singles were at Hauxley on 10th/24th and two at Bamburgh on 25th (HRS/BRS). One was inland at Allenbanks on 11th (RKS) and three at Seaton Burn on 17th (GB).

Chiffchaff

One-two, including some singing birds, were in about eight inland localities during the month. On the coast one-two were at Hauxley, Howick and Newton Pool.

Willow Warbler

Small numbers moved through Hauxley and Bamburgh. Inland one-three were in four localities up to 17th.

Goldcrest

Coastal passage was noted in several localities during the month with a maximum of 35 at Holy Island on 9th (DPa). They were noted as common inland at Threestoneburn and Allenbanks and 70 were at Slaley on 10th. Recently fledged juveniles were fed by adults at two places in Jesmond Dene as late as 18th and 23rd (MPF).

Spotted Flycatcher

15 were at Haggerston on 4th (JDL) and one-two at Tynemouth, Howick, and Hauxley up to 24th. Inland two were at Matfen on 11th (RW) when two family parties were at Allenbanks (RKS).

Pied Flycatcher

Five were on Holy Island on 9th (DPa) and one-two at Tynemouth and Hauxley between 2nd-10th. Another was at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Long-tailed Tit

Eight-eleven were at W. Thirston, Allenbanks and Belsay.

Marsh Tit

Four were at Linnels on 17th (BNR) and singles on the coast at Newton Pool on 6th (MF) and Craster on 10th (RKS).

Willow Tit

One-two were at Caistron, Chollerford and E.Cramlington (MR/TMM).

Coal Tit

Small groups of up to six moved through Bamburgh and Hauxley from 4th (BRS/HRS). Two were at Tynemouth on 18th and Druridge on 24th (CB/GB). 25 were at Slaley on 10th (BNR).

Blue Tit

50 moved through Bamburgh on 25th (BRS). Smaller numbers were noted at Hauxley and St.Mary's Island.

Great Tit

Small numbers moved through Bamburgh from 17th (BRS).

Treecreeper

One was at Hauxley on 24th (HRS).

Red-backed Shrike

A male was at Hauxley on 30th (DBNR).

Magpie

19 were at Seaton Burn on 16th (AJJ).

Starling

30,000 roosted at Grindon Hill on 2nd (BNR).

Tree Sparrow

50 were at Cresswell on 27th (DBNR).

Greenfinch

70 were at Bamburgh on 17th (BRS). Three recently fledged young were at Hauxley on 10th (HRS).

Goldfinch

Large charms included 40 at Tynemouth (ES), 35 at Hauxley, 30 at Whitley Bay, Seaton Burn, Howick and Marden Park and 20-27 at six other localities.

Siskin

On the coast 5-17 were at Hauxley on six days between 1st-25th (HRS). One-two were also at Newton Pool and Tynemouth. 40 were at Kielder on 18th (MD) and 10-30 in five other inland localities.

Linnet

340 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (CJ). 100 were at Caistron on 3rd (MR) and 40-70 in five other localities.

Twite

One was at Druridge on 29th (MGA).

Redpoll

50 were at Slaley on 4th/7th (WAK/RMH), Prestwick Carr on 5th (MRS) and Seaton Burn on 25th (DM) when 30 at Caistron. On the coast 30 were at Newton Pool on 11th (JDL), 23 at Hauxley on 25th (HRS) and much smaller numbers at Bamburgh and Tynemouth.

Crossbill

About 17 were at Harwood Forest on 24th (MH). Seven were at Swinhoe Lake on 4th (ISD) and two at Slaley on 10th (BNR). Singles flew S. at North Shields on 3rd (MD) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 4th (AH).

Bullfinch

A family party of six was at Bolam on 9th (L&KR) and a juvenile at Craster on 10th (RKS).

Hawfinch

One was at Hexham on 22nd (KD).

Snow Bunting

The first arrivals were one at Embleton Bay on 18th (AW) and two at Cresswell on 30th (AJB).

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| J M Almond | M Hentry | L&K Russell |
| M G Anderson | M Hepple (MHP) | D R Shannon |
| R H Armitage | A G Hetherington | M J Sharp |
| C Auld | A J Hewitt | J Sharpe |
| A M Bankier | M S Hodgson | M B Shaw |
| A H Banks | R M Holmes | E Slack |
| K I Barratt | J & M Howat | M R Smith |
| G A Bentley | A Hutt | R K Stephenson |
| A J Booth | C Jewitt | A Stimpson |
| G Bowman | A J Johnston | J Stott |
| C Bradshaw | W A Kelly | A Stratton |
| J P Brogdon | I Kerr | J Strowger |
| G P Bull | P Knowles | T J Tams |
| ML & TA Cadwallender | W T Logan | A Tilmouth |
| T R Cleeves | J D Lough | A L Todd |
| R Crabtree | S J Lowe | J R Todd |
| I S Davidson | L J McDougall | K Walton |
| A J Davis | J D McElwee | R Walton |
| M Davison | D McKeown | T P M Watson |
| K Dawson | A D McLevy | K G Waugh |
| W Dickson | T M Melling | P W West |
| I R Douglas | I D Moorhouse | A Woodhall |
| J Dutton | ET & JR Norris | K W York |
| J E Fergusson | S Parnaby | E M Young |
| M P Frankis | J D Parrack | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| M Freeman | D Patterson | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| B Galloway | M Richardson | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |
| J F Graham | K Robson | Druridge Bay Nature Reserve |
| B D Green | L Robson | |
| C D Hampton | B N Rossiter | |

INDCCR MEETING - THURSDAY 10th NOVEMBER

Our next meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on 10th November 1988 at 7.00pm. Brian Bates will be entertaining us with his talk entitled 'Slovenia and Montenegro - Why you go birding'.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1988/89

These are now overdue. Please use the form attached to this bulletin for your renewal and remember that it is still not too late to covenant your sub.

HELP - HAVE YOU SEEN ANY FOXES?

Have you seen any foxes in Tyneside? If so you can help with a study on urban foxes which is being organised by Dr Veronica Wooley. Any sightings are valuable and recording forms are available now from the Hancock Museum.

PELAGIC TRIP - 17th SEPTEMBER 1988

Having witnessed a good passage of seabirds during the strong northerly winds of 13th and 14th September, I decided the time was right for another pelagic trip - especially as an incoming area of high pressure was expected to calm the rough seas of midweek. Having booked a boat for the Saturday, the 'crew' was quickly assembled and the ingredients for the 'chum' purchased. Thankfully, the forecast was correct with only a light to moderate north-westerly wind and a slight swell on the sea. More fish scraps were obtained from a skip on Saturday morning as we awaited the arrival of the final crew member but he had forgot to set his alarm and so we departed without him at 9am.

As we left the harbour, fish-cutting and chum-mixing was under way (using Mark Winter's practised recipe to create the chum) and we were soon seeing Little Gulls at close range. We made for a couple of trawlers which were fishing at about 6 miles out and stopped the boat near one of them. A number of birds were already gathered and the first of the chum was unloaded.

Fulmars soon began to investigate our offering and settled down to feed after a few minutes. A 'blue' phase bird passed northwards before the first Sooty Shearwaters arrived one splashing down dramatically only a few feet from the boat!

Other seabirds proved more interested in the fish scraps. - it being necessary to make sure they splashed loudly into the sea to interest the large gulls.

Excellent views of Great and Arctic Skuas preceded the highlight, however, as an adult Long-tailed Skua with full streamers passed steadily northwards at reasonably close range - unfortunately not stopping to feed, but a tick for several of the crew. Inspired by this, we headed further out and stopped by another trawler surrounded by birds - but no goodies here, just more Fulmars - and so we decided to head back towards Blyth.

By now, two people had succumbed to the constant swaying and unpleasant fumes - but their efforts did little to attract any birds!. Decent birds began to reappear at about 6 miles out and the remainder of chum was unloaded at our final stop. Another Long-tailed Skua was then seen - this an intermediate phase juvenile which passed southwards within 30 yards of the boat, allowing brief but close scrutiny of its pale, heavily-barred plumage.

We then sailed back to port - everyone, apart from the unfortunate two perhaps, having enjoyed the trip. In addition to the usual Fulmars, Gannets, Kittiwakes etc the following birds were seen: 66 Little Gulls (most spotted by Adam Hutt!), 11 Sooty Shearwaters, 7 Manx Shearwaters, 1 Red-throated Diver, 2 Wigeon, 1 Purple Sandpiper (6 miles out), 11 Puffins, 5 Great, 11 Arctic and 2 Long-tailed Skuas.

The furthest we went offshore was about 11 miles, but this proved fruitless - the best birds appearing within 6 miles of the coast. For anyone wishing to organise future trips it is possible to do so at short notice if the conditions seem promising as the boatmen seem fairly flexible.

A.J.BCOTH

1988 BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR AWARD

The closing date for this competition will be January 31st 1989 and, for the first time, we are launching a special additional class for members who have good slides from overseas holidays and birding trips.

The full rules for the main competition are as follows:-

1. The competition is open to all club members.
2. Photographs must take the form of 2 x 2 transparencies and must not be glass mounted. Up to three per entrant will be accepted with the entry fee being £1.
3. Photographs must have been taken during 1988 in the club's recording area.
4. Photographs of captive birds not allowed.
5. Any photograph showing a species for which an NCC licence is required must be accompanied by a copy of the appropriate licence.
6. The photographers name should be enclosed with the transparencies.
7. A S.A.E. must be provided for the return of transparencies or arrangements made to collect them personally.
8. The NTBC can accept no responsibility for any transparency and they are accepted on this condition.
9. The judge's decision will be final.
For the overseas class the above general conditions will also apply and the photographs must have been taken during 1988.

Entries should be made by post to Ian Kerr, 27 Eddrington Grove, Chapel House, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 1JG or handed to Ian at any club meeting.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM

OCT 1988 - SEPT 1989

Please renew my JUNIOR / ORDINARY / FAMILY / INSTITUTIONAL membership

NAME

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.....

.....

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Current subscription rates Junior £5 : Ordinary £11
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Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to
Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club (NTBC) and should be sent to
J.C. Day, 2, Grange Ave., Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 9PN

If you DO NOT already COVENANT your subscription and now wish to
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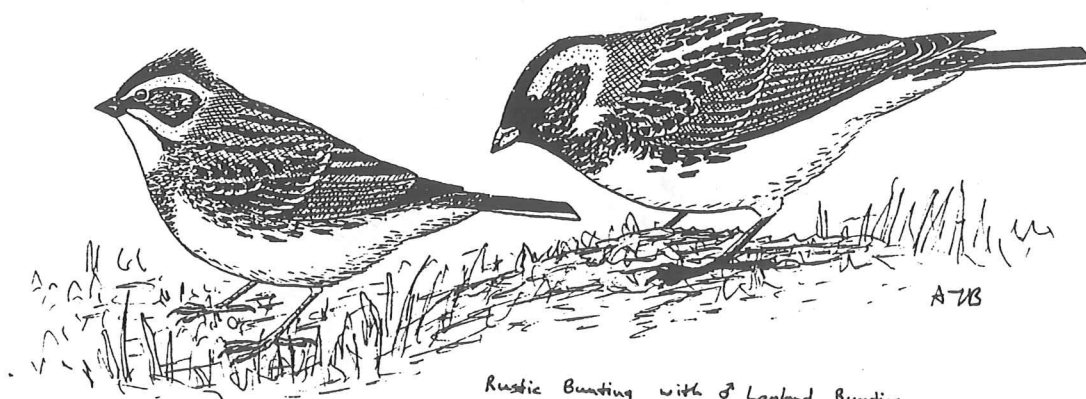
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - OCTOBER 1988

Although October was a mild month it was wetter than normal, Newcastle for example receiving 148% of average rainfall. Sunshine totals were close to normal but still the dullist October since 1982. Strong W. winds occurred between 6th-9th but from 11th onwards easterlies prevailed with particularly strong ESE winds on 18th/19th. Associated with the wind pattern was a good deal of mist, fog and low cloud, conditions which provoked some spectacular falls of migrants.

The month started with an astonishing record when a Red-eyed Vireo was discovered on Holy Island on 5th, the first American land bird in the county. Being such a celebrity it attracted a reasonable amount of media coverage!

Winter visitors such as Whooper Swans continued to arrive and geese were still conspicuous, particularly Barnacles, and Brents at Lindisfarne built up to 1,600. A Ruddy Duck was at Druridge on 9th and a drake Red-crested Pochard at Hadston from 12th. Single Bitterns were at Cresswell and Castron. Will the latter remain to winter again? Passage wader numbers tailed off but two Pectoral Sandpipers were seen together at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Jack Snipe and Woodcock began to arrive and probably three different Grey Phalaropes were noted. Several more Long-tailed Skuas were seen during the first fortnight including another bird inland.



Rustic Bunting with ♂ Lapland Bunting

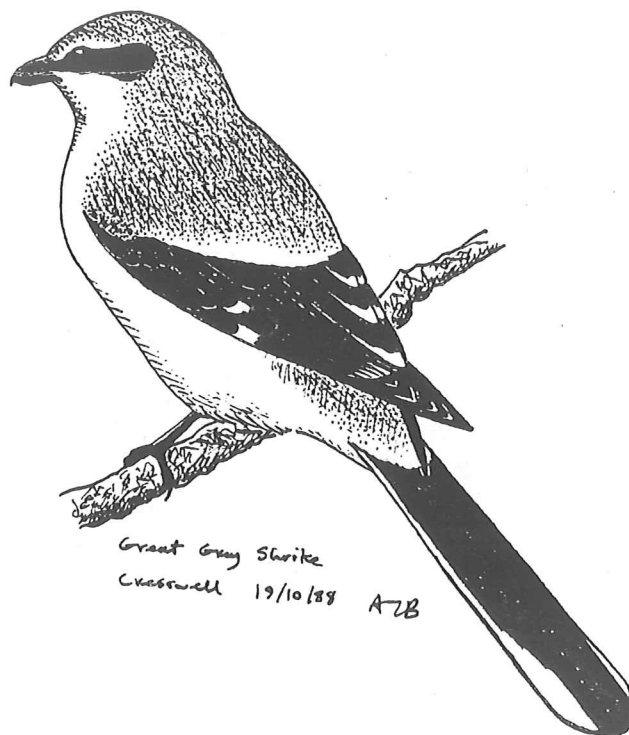
20/10/88 Druridge Bay

The easterly weather conditions from 11th produced the first heavy influx of small migrants. There were very large numbers of Goldcrests, Robins and thrushes along the coast on 12th when rarities included a Pallas's Warbler at St. Mary's Island and a Hoopoe at Cresswell.

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.

Fresh arrivals occurred on a number of days during the next two weeks sometimes involving thousands of birds. Particularly heavy falls of thrushes occurred on 12th/13th, 21st and 25th, these movements also being noted well inland. Rare and scarce species included a Radde's Warbler trapped at Tynemouth on 15th, a further four Pallas's Warblers, a Rustic Bunting seen by many observers at Druridge between 20th-22nd, a Little Bunting at Hauxley on 24th, six Red-breasted Flycatchers and a good scattering of Yellow-browed Warblers. The total of nine Great Grey Shrikes is the best for several autumns, a Barred Warbler was on Holy Island on 24th and Black Redstarts and Reed Warblers were noted. Several Great Spotted Woodpeckers were with other migrants and one at least was of the northern race. Birds of prey included two Rough-legged and five Common Buzzards. Waxwings began to make an appearance from 26th. Just to prove that rare birds don't always appear on the coast a Crane arrived at Grindon Lough on 28th. Areas of origin for some of the migrants was indicated by several ringing 'controls', Goldcrests from Denmark, Finland and Russia, and a Reed Bunting from Sweden. Other interesting records included Little Auks, Turtle Dove, Shore Lark, Water Pipit, 'Siberian' Lesser Whitethroats and Chiffchaffs, Firecrests and Mealy Redpolls.

With 115 contributors and an unprecedented number of record cards it has been difficult to do justice in this bulletin to a very exciting month.



Great Grey Shrike
Cresswell 19/10/89 AZB

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

30-35 were in Druridge Bay on 2nd, several of these in full wing moult, and 30 were at Holy Island on 8th (BG/IK). Between 1st-8th a total of 30 flew N. and 17 S. at Seaton Sluice and seven N. and 20 S. at Cullercoats (SSWT/KW). One-ten were seen in another five localities.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were at Druridge Bay on 5th (AJB), Seaton Sluice on 8th (SSWT), Holy Island on 9th (NRG), and flying S. at St.Mary's Island on 11th (JDP).

Great Northern Diver

Two were in Druridge Bay on 5th (AJB) and one -two at Holy Island from 8th (NRG/IK). On 29th singles flew N. at Cullercoats (KW) and Hauxley (HRS).

Little Grebe

11 at Seaton Burn on 2nd (AJJ), ten at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 17th (AT) and eight at Corbridge on 29th (MR) were the largest gatherings. One-seven were noted on a further 12 waters.

Great Crested Grebe

One-four were at Seaton Burn, Whittle Dene, Hadston Lake and the River Tyne at Close House. Offshore one-two were in six localities.

Red-necked Grebe

Three were at Holy Island from 1st with four present on 28th (BNR/BG et al). One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT), singles were on Hadston Lake on 12th and Cresswell Pond on 30th (DBNR/RD) and three were at Ross on 27th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe

One was at Holy Island on 1st increasing to five by 14th (KR et al). Singles were at Druridge Bay on 5th (AJB). St.Mary's Island on 9th (MPF/ATR) and on Cresswell Pond on 26th (DBNR).

Sooty Shearwater

On 1st one-two moved N. at Seaton Sluice and Hauxley (SSWT/HRS). Three flew N. at Cullercoats on 2nd (KW), singles S. at Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 8th/9th with three N. at the latter locality on 10th (MRS/GPB). Two N. at St.Mary's Island on 11th were the last (JDP).

Manx Shearwater

One-five were noted at six localities between 1st-11th although 12 flew N. at Holy Island and 21 at Hauxley on 10th (MW/GPB/ et al). One N. at Cullercoats on 30th was the only other record (KW).

Gannet

N. passage was noted on several days between 1st-11th with a maximum of 400 per hour at Newbiggin on 2nd (BG/IK).

Cormorant

93 were at Blyth harbour on 9th (LJM), 43 at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 11th (AT) and 30 off Hauxley on 8th (HRS). Inland 18 were in one beech tree at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (CJ).

Shag

75 were off Ross on 27th (BRS).

Bittern

Singles were at Cresswell on 1st (ADM/MGA) and Caistron on 23rd (MR).

Grey Heron

31 were near Berwick on 5th (JDL), 14 at Hallington on 16th (RW) and ten at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 6th (AT). One-seven were noted at a further 23 widespread localities. One arrived from the E. at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Mute Swan

396 were at Berwick harbour on 31st (JDL) and 24 at Killingworth Lake from 28th (L&KR).

Bewick's Swan

Two were at Rayburn Lake on 3rd (JMA).

Whooper Swan

11-12 were at Holy Island from 5th onwards (ASJ/TJT et al). There were no further reports until 22nd when eight were at Cresswell Pond (AGH). 18 were at Warkworth Lane from 28th (DBNR) and 100 at Linton on 29th increasing to 160 on 30th/31st (ADMc/RJ). Two were at Gosforth Park on 23rd (ISD), three at Grindon Lough on 28th (BNR) when nine at Holywell Pond (JRT) and 34 at Rayburn Lake on 29th (RKS).

Pink-footed Goose

70 were in the Fenham/Ross area on 8th/28th (LH/MLC). 75 flew NW at St.Mary's Island on 27th (SP). Seven were at Hallington on 22nd, ten at Broomlee on 28th (BNR) and nine flew NW at Seaton Burn on 30th (BG et al). One-four were also at Seaton Sluice, Holywell Pond, Druridge Pool, Hauxley and Castron.

White-fronted Goose

Seven were at Cresswell and Warkworth Lane on 28th and then at Linton on 29th/30th (DBNR/ADMc).

Grey Lag Goose

Numbers in the Lindisfarne/Ross/Budle Bay area rose steadily to a peak of 4,000 by the end of the month (DC et al). 99 at Castron on 16th increased to 470 by 30th (MR). 121 were at Colt Crag on 16th (RW) and 158 at Hallington on 22nd (BNR). 86 flew S. at Hauxley on 27th (HRS) 11-45 were at five other localities.

Canada Goose

125 were at Hallington on 16th (RW). Along the River Tyne 19 flew W. at Cvingham on 9th (GAB) and 110 S. at Newburn on 27th (STR).

Barnacle Goose

Passage through the county was still prominent, particularly during the early part of the month. 450 were at Budle Bay on 1st and 300 on 8th (ISD/JGB). An all white bird was present on both dates. Birds were present at Lindisfarne virtually every day with a maximum count of 156 on 14th although numbers declined to about 70 between 22nd-28th (KR/IK et al). Further S. along the coast parties of up to 21 were seen at seven other localities. 11 and eight were at Holburn Moss and six at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 8th (ISD/MPF), 22 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th, two-three at Castron between 16th-30th, eight at Hallington on 22nd (BNR/MR) and ten flew SW at Corbridge on 30th (L&KR).

Brent Goose

Numbers at Lindisfarne built up steadily to a maximum of 1,600 by the end of the month (DC). 18 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT), and 31 N. at Hadston on 11th (DBNR). One-two were at Hadston Lake, St.Mary's Island, Hauxley and Blyth beach (the last found dead). Reports of dark-bellied birds involved two at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS), eight at Cresswell-Druridge on 23rd/24th (RD/DBNR) and four N. at Bamburgh on 26th (BRS).

Shelduck

N. passage was noted offshore on several dates with a maximum of 73 at Cullercoats on 3rd (KW et al). 45 were at Holy Island causeway on 8th (BG), 16 at Hadston Lake on 26th (DBNR) when 280 in Budle Bay (BRS). Inland seven were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (CJ/RKS) and two-five at Whittle Dene, Castron, Bothal, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Seaton Burn between 19th-30th.

Wigeon

Between 1st-4th a total of 524 flew N. at Cullercoats (KW), this movement also noted at Seaton Sluice and Hauxley. Up to 3,000 were at Fenham Flats (ISD et al). Cther large gatherings were 650 at Cresswell Pond on 28th (DBNR), 500 in Budle Bay on 27th (BRS), 428 at Hartburn on 26th (MLC) and 250 at Holburn Moss on 8th (ISD).

Gadwall

Cne-two were at Seaton Burn during the month (AJJ/AT).

Teal

The largest gatherings involved 650 at Holburn Moss on 8th (ISD), 340 at Castron on 9th (MR), 232 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (L&KR), 220 at Newton Pool on 30th (JDL) and 120 at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS). 30-100 were on a further seven waters. A total of 229 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st/2nd and 517 N. at Cullercoats on 2nd/3rd (SSWT/KW).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 364 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (CJ), 276 at Harburn on 26th (MLC) 250 at Corbridge on 1st (MR), 218 at Colt Crag on 16th (RW), 180 at Pawston on 3rd (ISD), 177 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (L&KR), and 170 at Budle Bay and Cresswell Pond on 8th (JRT/MSH).

Pintail

Eight were on Fenham Flats on 7th (LH), five at Seaton Burn on 2nd (GB/AJJ) and one-two at Budle Bay, Hauxley, Cresswell, Castron, Hartburn and Corbridge. Cne flew N. at Newbiggin on 2nd (BG).

Shoveler

20 were at Seaton Burn on 7th (AT) and 13 at Grindon Lough on 28th (BNR). Cne-two were on five other waters.

Red-crested Pochard

A drake was at Hadstone Lake between 12th-15th (DBNR).

Pochard

Numbers at Hadston Lake increased from 22 on 1st to 270 on 27th (DBNR). Cther large gatherings included 151 at Seaton Burn on 12th (GB), 90 at Killingworth Lake on 31st (LJM), and 83 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (CJ). Cffshore movement involved seven N. at Seaton Sluice and 15 S. at Newbiggin on 2nd (SSWT/TRC), six N. at Hauxley on 4th (HRS) and 13 N. at Bamburgh on 25th (DGB).

Tufted Duck

115 were at Hadston Lake on 13th (DBNR), 96 at Belsay on 16th (JS), 65 at Bothal on 29th (JRT), and 17-50 at seven other localities.

Scaup

14 were at Hadston Lake on 26th (DBNR), and seven at Cresswell Pond on 1st and Fenham Flats on 7th (PCL/LH). Cne-two were at four other coastal localities. Eight flew N. at Cullercoats on 30th (KW).

Eider

1,200 were in the Ross area on 2nd (ISD).

Long-tailed Duck

One S. at Hauxley on 3rd was the first (HRS). From 8th onwards small numbers appeared in the Bamburgh-Holy Island area with a maximum of ten at Stag Rocks on 28th (WGJ). Coastal pools attracted several birds from 11th when two were at Druridge where five present on 28th. Six were at Hauxley Pool on 29th (DBNR) and one-three at Newton Pool, Hadston and Cresswell Pond. Four were at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 30th (AT). Further inland singles were at Bothal from 26th (TJT) and Caistron on 30th (MR). Offshore passage included 19 N. at Cullercoats on 29th/30th (KW).

Common Scoter

Up to 250 were in Druridge Bay (AGH) and 110 at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (JRT). 61 flew N. at Cullercoats on 30th (KW).

Velvet Scoter

Six were off Cresswell on 26th (AJB) and four at Holy Island on 24th (IK). N. passage included nine at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT), three at Hauxley on 8th (HRS), four at Tynemouth on 11th (CB) and six at Cullercoats on 29th/30th (KW).

Goldeneye

Numbers increased from mid-month although 61 were at Hadston Lake on 12th (DBNR). Other large gatherings included 45 at Druridge Pool on 20th (AJB), 34 at Colt Crag on 16th (RW), 32 at Newburn on 31st (STR), 29 at Bolam Lake on 26th (MLC) when 25 at Castle Island, River Wansbeck (AT). 34 were in Berwick Harbour by 31st (JDL). 10-21 were on three other waters. 55 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 11th (ASJ) and 70 N. at Cullercoats on 29th/30th (KW).

Red-breasted Merganser

35 were in Druridge Bay on 2nd and 30 off Holy Island on 8th (BG). Eight were at Ross on 1st (BNR) and one-five at three other coastal localities. 21 were at Hadston Lake on 18th (DBNR). Offshore passage included 19 N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st/2nd (SSWT). Inland one was at Seaton Burn between 4th-9th (GB), another at Caistron on 23rd where a pair present on 30th (MR).

Goosander

11 were at Whittle Dene on 29th (JSB), eight at Wylam on 23rd (JD), and two-six at three other inland localities. Along the coast three were at Hadston on 21st/28th (DBNR), and Holywell on 25th (SP) and four at Foxton on 29th (MSH). One was off Hauxley on 3rd where three N. on 16th (HRS) and one S. at Boulmer on 23rd (BG).

Ruddy Duck

One was on Druridge Pool on 9th (MGA).

Hen Harrier

An immature male was at Holy Island from 16th (IK/ADM et al). Other ringtails, possibly the same individual, were at Seaton Burn on 16th (per AJJ), Holywell Dene on 25th (SP) and Earsdon on 31st (RD).

Sparrowhawk

One-three were in at least 13 widespread localities. An indication of immigration was given when a first year male landed on a fishing boat 14 miles off the River Tyne on 16th. After being kept overnight it was released the following day at Tynemouth (TJT). Also noted in six inland localities including a pair apparently hunting together at Belsay on 15th (KR).

Buzzard

Two flew W. over Bradford Kaims on 24th (BRS) and three moved S. over Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (L&KR).

Rough-legged Buzzard

One flew SW over Holy Island on 25th (per IK). Another arrived from the E. at Newton Pool on 27th (MSH).

Kestrel

One-two were in 20 widespread localities. A corpse was found on Blyth beach on 24th (TJT).

Merlin

Up to three were on Holy Island. Singles were noted in a further nine coastal localities.

Peregrine

Singles were at Holy Island, Ross, Druridge, Cresswell and Tynemouth during the month.

Black Grouse

22 were in one locality on the West Allen on 30th (BNR).

Grey Partridge

Larger coveys included 30 at High Hauxley on 22nd (HRS), 29 at Horton on 16th (LJM) and 24 at Newton Point on 8th (RKS).

Water Rail

A maximum of three was at Holy Island lough on 23rd (IK et al). One-two were also noted at Bamburgh, Howick Haven, Newton Pool, Hauxley and Marden Quarry. One at Hauxley on 15th was found with both legs smashed and died in care (MRS). Inland two were at Gosforth Park and one at Castron (ISD/MR).

Moorhen

27 were at Holy Island lough on 8th (LJM) and 26 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (L&KR).

Coot

211 at Seaton Burn on 3rd (L&KR) and 253 at Hartburn on 26th (MLC) were the largest gatherings.

Crane

An adult arrived from the SE at Grindon Lough on 28th (BNR).

WADER COUNT - 16th OCTOBER

The following stretches were counted: Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW/LC), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WTL), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Blyth-Hartley (KVB), St. Mary's Island (IDM), Tyne Estuary (MIT).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,140 was noted during the wader count. 350 at Guile Point on 2nd (ISD).

Ringed Plover

A total of 279 was noted during the wader count.

Golden Plover

Large gatherings along the coast included 2,000 at Newton Links on 26th (MF), 1,500 at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (IDM), 800 at Embleton on 5th (ISD), 600 at Boulmer on 23rd (BG), and 500 at N.Seaton on 27th (AT). Inland 1,000 were at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR), 500 at Seghill on 21st (LJM), and 70-300 at four other localities.

Grey Plover

A total of 51 was noted during the wader count. In addition 20 roosted at Hauxley Pool on 27th (DBNR) and 11 were at the Blyth Estuary on 30th (AT). Noted as exceptionally plentiful in the Holy Island area including birds feeding on the fields and dunes (BG/IK et al). Inland birds were still present at Whittle Dene with a maximum of six on 11th and two remaining on 29th (RW et al). One was at Holywell Pond on 13th and 15th (SY/JGB).

Lapwing

1,000 were at Ross on 1st (ISD) and Budle Bay on 26th (BRS). Gatherings of 500 were at Caistron on 9th (MR) and Seghill on 21st (LJM). 100-350 were in eight other localities. S. passage was noted over Cullercoats on 22nd (KW).

Knot

A total of only 150 noted during the wader count. In addition 450-500 were at Holy Island on 15th (RKS).

Sanderling

Only 122 noted during the wader count. In addition 80 were at Holy Island on 8th/9th (NRG), 37 at Berwick on 28th (JDL), 25 at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS) and St.Mary's Island on 10th (L&KR).

Little Stint

Singles were at Holy Island Lough on 1st (N & TBC trip) and St.Mary's Island on 10th (L&KR).

Pectoral Sandpiper

Two were together at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th/6th, one remaining until 10th. One was also present between 25th-27th (JGB/AC et al).

Curlew Sandpiper

Between 3rd-8th one-three were at Berwick, Budle Bay and Wallsend Swallow Pond. The last were singles at Wallsend Swallow on 19th (L&KR) and Hadston Lake on 21st (RJ).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 209 was noted during the wader count. 18 flew N. at Hauxley on 9th (HRS).

Dunlin

A total of 567 noted during the wader count. In addition 450 were at Budle Bay on 30th (JDL), 210 at Holy Island on 1st (RKS), and 150 at Guile Point on 2nd (ISD). Inland 30 were still at Hallington on 22nd (BNR), a maximum of 27 at Whittle Dene on 19th (RGW) and up to nine at Wallsend Swallow Pond (CDH).

Ruff

Six were at Newton Pool on 2nd (MF), five at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 26th (L&KR) and one-two at Warkworth Lane, Druridge, Hauxley and Budle Bay.

Jack Snipe

One at Warkworth Lane on 4th was the first arrival (DBNR). Further singles were at Seaton Burn on 5th (AJJ/GB), Hauxley on 8th (HRS), St.Mary's Island on 10th (SY), Holy Island on 16th (ADM), Prior's Park on 26th (PPRS) and inland at Whittle Dene on 29th (JSB).

Snipe

70 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (JRT), 37 at Holy Island Lough on 23rd (JDL) and 33 at Whittle Dene on 29th (JSB). Birds seen arriving from the E. along the coast included three at Holy Island on 1st (N&TBC trip), two "in" a flock of Fieldfares at Bamburgh on 16th (BRS) and 13 at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Woodcock

Coastal arrivals occurred from 11th when singles were at Tynemouth, Cullercoats and Hauxley. Between 12th-19th one-three were seen in four coastal localities and from 20th onwards there were almost daily reports with one-five in 19 widespread areas. Some of these birds were reported as exhausted in gardens including one crashing into a window at Kenton on 27th.

Black-tailed Godwit

One was at Holy Island between 5th-14th (DPA). Other singles were at Budle Bay on 8th (JRT) and flying N. at Blyth harbour on 24th (TJT).

Bar-tailed Godwit

137 were noted during the wader count. 1,000 were at Holy Island on 8th/9th (NRG).

Whimbrel

One was at Holy Island on 8th (BRG) and the last were two at St. Mary's Island on 10th (L&KR).

Curlew

A total of 160 was noted during the wader count. In addition 170 were at Fenham Le Moor on 9th (ISD) and 150 at Monk's House on 15th (BRS). Inland they were heard moving NW, after dark, at Ordley on 3rd (BNR) and 79 roosted at Castron on 30th (MR).

Spotted Redshank

Birds were present at Wallsend Swallow Pond throughout the month with a maximum of five on 2nd (KR et al). One-two were at Seaton Burn, Druridge Pool and Fenham Flats between 2nd-7th and one at Cresswell Pond on 21st/28th.

Redshank

A total of 699 was noted during the wader count. 460 were at Berwick Little Beach on 28th (JDL).

Greenshank

Three were at Holy Island on 22nd (IK). Singles were also noted at Beadnell, Hauxley, River Wansbeck, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Seaton Burn up to 28th. Inland one was at Castron on 9th (MR).

Green Sandpiper

Singles were at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR) and flying W. at Seaton Burn on 27th (AJJ/DM).

Common Sandpiper

Singles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 11th (JGB), Marden Quarry on 15th (KW) and Holywell Dene on 20th/21st (SY/RD).

Turnstone

A total of 814 was noted during the wader count. 96 were at St. Mary's Island on 26th (L&KR) and 80 at Holy Island on 8th (NRG).

Grey Phalarope

One was on the River Tyne at Wylam on 12th (per BG) and others at Fenham Mill on 16th and off Holy Island on 23rd (JMA/IK).

Pomarine Skua

Between 1st-11th one-three were seen at Tynemouth, Cullercoats, St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Druridge and Hauxley. Singles flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 19th (SY) and Cullercoats on 29th (KW).

Arctic Skua

A total of 36 flew N. and 19 S. at Seaton Sluice between 1st-9th (SSWT). 13 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 11th (JDP) and 15 N. at Tynemouth on 18th (AH). Smaller numbers were noted in several localities up to 20th.

Long-tailed Skua

An adult was at Tynemouth on 1st (JRT/KWY) when three flew N. and two S. at Seaton Sluice where two N. and one S. on 2nd (SSWT). Also on 2nd a juvenile flew N. at Newbiggin (TRC/TMM). Another juvenile flew N. at Cresswell on 4th (AJB), and adult flew SW over Holy Island on 9th (AJJ/BG/IK) and another moved N. at Hauxley on 19th (HRS). The county's second inland record was provided by a sick juvenile picked up at Seaton Burn on 16th, released at St. Mary's Island but taken back into care and eventually died (GB/LH).

Great Skua

Between 1st-11th a total of 12 flew N. at Hauxley (HRS/DBNR) and five N. and three S. at Cullercoats (KW). One-two were noted at six localities up to 30th.

Mediterranean Gull

The Craster bird was present on 9th and 30th. Single adults, perhaps the same individual, were at Seaton Burn on 1st (AJJ), Seaton Sluice on 2nd (TRC) and North Shields Fish Quay on 6th/7th (RH).

Little Gull

Ten flew N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT). 31 flew N. at Cullercoats between 3rd-9th and heavy passage on 29th/30th produced a total of 243 N. (KW).

Black-headed Gull

4,500 roost at Budle Bay on 1st and 10,000 at Fenham Flats on 9th. Inland roosts included 920 at Scotswood on 14th, 3,600 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th, 370 at Hallington on 22nd, 2,200 at Colt Crag on 23rd and 800 at Broomlee on 28th (BNR).

Common Gull

13,000 roosted at Budle Bay on 1st and inland counts included 9,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th, 4,900 at Sweethope on 16th, 9,000 at Colt Crag on 23rd and 1,400 at Broomlee on 28th (BNR). 500 were at Harburn on 26th (MLC).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

450 roosted at Castron on 9th declining to 26 by 30th (MR). One-seven were in seven other localities.

Herring Gull

A yellow legged individual was at Castron on 9th (MR).

Clauous Gull

An adult flew S. at Cullercoats on 3rd (KW). Further singles were at Holy Island on 8th (NRG), St. Mary's Island on 23rd (JRT) and Bamburgh on 24th (BRS).

Great Black-backed Gull

119 flew S. in 30 minutes at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Kittiwake

200 flew N. at Hauxley on 10th where heavy passage was noted on 11th (HRS). Three adults roosted at Sweethope on 16th (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

Small numbers were noted in nine localities up to 23rd and the last were one S. at Hauxley and two S. at Cresswell on 26th (DBNR).

Roseate Tern

An adult at Hauxley on 5th where an adult and a juvenile were present on 8th (HRS). The last was one at Blyth harbour on 9th (LJM).

'Commic' Tern

One-six were in three localities up to 20th and the last flew N. at Druridge on 23rd (AT).

Common Tern

Small numbers were in seven localities up to 10th. The last were two at Craster on 22nd (RKS) and one at Stag Rocks on 27th (MSH).

Arctic Tern

One-three were at Hauxley, St. Mary's Island and Seaton Sluice up to 10th. The last were two at Tynemouth on 16th (CB).

Little Tern

The last flew S. at Cullercoats on 7th (KW).

Auks (Sp)

On 2nd 1,000 per hour were moving N. at Hauxley and Newbiggin (HRS/BG/IK).

Guillemot

30 were off Holy Island on 8th/9th (NRG) and 50 flew N. at Hauxley on 11th (HRS).

Razorbill

Three were at Holy Island on 8th/9th (NRG).

Little Auk

One flew N. at Hauxley on 11th (HRS). Further singles flew N. at St. Mary's Island and Ross on 30th (JECM/ADMCRD).

Puffin

One-three were at Cresswell and Holy Island.

Collared Dove

135 were at Brunton Lane on 22nd (AT/GB) when 54 at Newburn (L&KR). Two young fledged from a nest at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

Turtle Dove

One was at Hadston on 21st (RJ).

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Budle Bay, Fenham le Moor, Rennington, Alnwick and Horton. More unusual was one on Holy Island on 5th (DPa/KR).

Tawny Owl

One-two were at Seaton Burn, Walbottle, Jesmond Dene and Ridley Park.

Long-eared Owl

Singles were at St. Mary's Island on 12th (MPF) and Holy Island on 13th (KR). An influx from 20th brought a total of three to Prior's Park, two at Hauxley and singles at Holy Island, Bamburgh, Cullercoats and St. Mary's Island, the last flying in off the sea.

Short-eared Owl

Well reported during the month. Five were at Ross Links on 9th (MH) when eight were together over Holywell Dene (TRC). Five were on Holy Island on 27th (IK). One-four were also seen in a further 17 coastal or near coastal localities. Singles were noted arriving from the E. at Holy Island on 9th and Hauxley on 19th.

Kingfisher

One-two were noted at Morpeth, Warkworth, Castron, Newburn, Wylam, Hexham, Seaton Burn and Jesmond Dene. More unusual was one trapped at Hauxley wood on 29th (HRS).

Hoopoe

One was in the Cresswell/Druridge area between 12th-14th (SY/DBNR).

Wryneck

One was on Holy Island on 16th (MJS).

Green Woodpecker

Noted at Close House and the Harthope Valley.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

A bird of the 'northern' race was trapped at Hauxley on 25th (HRS). Other coastal records, almost certainly immigrants also, included four individuals on Holy Island on 12th/13th, 26th and 28th/29th (ASJ/IK et al), Budle Bay and Hadston on 8th/9th and 14th and Warkworth Gut on 24th (MJS). One-two were also noted at six typical inland localities.

Skylark

Small numbers were in several coastal areas during the early part of the month with a maximum of 150 at Holy Island on 8th and 200 moving S. at Hauxley on 15th (NRG). From 22nd-28th much stronger S. passage was noted, in several localities.

Shore Lark

One was at Warkworth Gut on 22nd (GPB).

Sand Martin

Five were at Newton Pool on 4th (MF).

Swallow

38 were at Matfen on 1st (RW), 70 at Swinoe on 3rd and 60 at Hoppen Kiln on 6th (ISD). One-four were seen in another 18 localities up to 27th and the last this month were two at Hauxley and singles at Druridge and St.Mary's Island on 29th (DBNR/JECM/JRT).

House Martin

Young still present in nests at Cresswell Village on 1st and Amble on 11th (KIB/HRS). 20 flew S. at Hexhamshire on 2nd (BNR) and 16 were at Corbridge on 20th (BG). One-six noted in eight other localities up to 21st. Two at Morpeth on 25th were the last (ADMc).

Meadow Pipit

About 40 were on Holy Island on 8th/9th (NRG) and small numbers passed through Bamburgh on several dates.

Rock Pipit

32 were counted on Holy Island on 1st (N&TBC trip). 15 were at St.Mary's Island on 10th (L&KR), 14 at Amble on 26th (HRS) and 11 at Newton Point on 7th (ISD).

Water Pipit

One was at Corbridge on 29th (MR).

Yellow Wagtail

Three were at Hadston on 1st (WAK) and the last was one at St.Mary's Island on 14th (AH).

Grey Wagtail

Singles were noted in five coastal localities between 5th-30th.

Pied Wagtail

20 were at Amble on 4th (JMA). 60 roosting at Castron on 9th decreased to only four by 30th (MR).

Waxwing

The first were three arriving from the E. at Hauxley on 26th (HRS). On 29th two were at Craster (MSH) and Elwick (DGB) and singles at Holy Island and Bradford Kains. Eight were at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS) when five were on Holy Island (TRC), three at Craster (IC) and one-two at Seaton Burn (BG).

Dipper

Groups of five were at W. Woodburn on 2nd (J&MH) and Felton on 8th (ETN/JRN).

Wren

Small numbers moved through Bamburgh and Hauxley during the month.

Dunnock

Only small numbers noted in coastal localities.

Robin

A large fall on 12th brought 450-500 to Prior's Park and Hauxley (PPRS/HRS), 150 at St. Mary's Island/Whitley Bay Cemetery (JDP) and 30-70 at Blyth Cemetery and Ridley Park (MSH). On 13th there were 'hundreds' on Holy Island (JDM/JS) 150-200 at Tynemouth and Hauxley, 130 at Bamburgh (BRS) and smaller numbers in several other localities. A further influx occurred from 21st onwards when 50 at Tynemouth, 60 at Druridge (TRC), a maximum of 100 on Holy Island (IK) and 20-30 at Bamburgh, Craster and St. Mary's Island.

Black Redstart

On 12th four were on Holy Island (ASJ) and in the St. Mary's Island/Whitley Bay Cemetery area (MPF), two at Prior's Park (PPRS) and Hadston (DBNR) and one at Ridley Park (MSH). From 14th onwards birds were reported almost daily along the coast with one-four at 18 localities. One was inland at Seaton Burn on 22nd (MPF).

Redstart

Between 5th-8th singles were at Holy Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth. An influx on 12th brought 30 to Holy Island (ASJ/TJT), ten at Hauxley (HRS), seven at Prior's Park (PPRS) and one-four at five other localities. Small numbers were in about 14 localities from 13th-24th. The last were singles at Marden Quarry and Alnmouth on 30th (AH/MSH).

Whinchat

Singles were at Holy Island, Hauxley and Druridge between 5th-9th. Singles were also in nine coastal localities between 12th-21st although six were on Holy Island on 13th (JS). The last were singles at Budle, Bamburgh, Newton Pool and Druridge on 22nd.

Stonechat

A large increase in reports particularly after mid-month. A maximum of six was at Druridge on 27th and three at Hauxley on 31st (DBNR). One-two were also at Holy Island, Budle Bay, Bamburgh, Football Hole, Newton Pool Longhoughton Steel, Warkworth Gut, Hadston, Cresswell and St. Mary's Island. A male was inland at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th/27th (AC).

Wheatear

Three were still inland at Belsay on 6th (JS). Between 4th-9th one-three were in seven coastal localities. Ten were on Holy Island on 12th (ASJ) and from then until 28th one-five were seen in 15 localities.

Ring Cusel

One at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) was the only record until 12th when five were on Holy Island (JDM), three at Hauxley (DBNR) and one at Whitley Bay Cemetery (MPF). They were reported almost daily along the coast up to 26th with one-two in 14 localities although five were at Marden Quarry on 19th (AH), six at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS) when four-five were on Holy Island. Four were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th where one, the last, was present on 27th (JGB/RGW).

Blackbird

Small numbers arrived at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS). A much larger arrival occurred between 11th-13th when up to 1,000 were at Prior's Park (PPRS). About 1,200 roosted at Marden Quarry on 14th/15th (AH) when 400 were at Whitley Bay (KW). Heavy W. passage after dark was noted inland at Westerhope on 20th (BG). Strong arrivals were a feature of the next few days, particularly on 25th when an estimated 6,000 were grounded on Holy Island (IK), 'hundreds' arrived from the E. at Cocklawburn (MSH) and 400 at Prior's Park (PPRS).

Fieldfare

50 at Holy Island on 1st (N&TBC trip) and inland at Windyhaugh were the largest numbers reported during the first ten days. The first large scale arrival commenced on 11th/12th when several hundreds passed over Cullercoats (KW), 400 were at Prior's Park (PPRS), 300 at Hauxley (HRS), an estimated 5,000 were on Holy Island (ASJ) and over 1,500 moved W. inland at Ladycross. On 13th, at the last locality, some 8,000-10,000 flew W. in eight hours (JS), and 400-800 were at Horton, Matfen and Milbourne. Arrivals continued daily along the coast particularly on 16th when 800 were also at Castron (MR). 700 roosted at Marden Quarry on 19th (AH). On 21st 1,000 were at Bamburgh and St. Mary's Island (BRS/IDM). About 600 were at Seaton Burn on 22nd (GB). 2,500 were on Holy Island on 23rd (IK) and 1,500 at Prior's Park on 25th (PPRS) when one flock of 800-1,000 thrushes, mainly Fieldfares, passed SSE over Chapel House (MH). Strong movement to the S. and W. was noted over Slaley on 26th/27th (RMH/CJ).

Song Thrush

There were arrivals on many days during the month particularly on 11th at Cullercoats (KW) and 12th when 100 at Prior's Park (PPRS).

Redwing

Arrivals occurred throughout the month with other thrushes. 160 were at Holy Island on 1st (N&TBC trip) and 50 at Windyhaugh on 2nd (JMA). Small numbers were reported during the next few days but a larger influx was noted from 11th when hundreds arrived at Cullercoats, and 500 were at Prior's Park. Inland 670 moved W. over Ladycross. About 3,000 were on Holy Island on 12th (ASJ) when numbers at Prior's Park reached 2,000 during the afternoon (CB). 1,000 passed W. over Ladycross on 13th (CJ) and up to 1,000 roosted at Marden Quarry between 15th-21st (AH). Another strong movement was noted on the coast on 16th when 400 were inland at Castron. This was eclipsed however on 21st with huge numbers. At Hauxley 'many thousands' were in the fields around the village and 3,500-4,000 arrived off the sea at St. Mary's Island (HRS/JDP). Between 22nd-26th up to 2,000 were on Holy Island (IK) and there were numerous reports again of birds moving W. both inland and on the coast.

Mistle Thrush

20 were at Hauxley on 4th (HRS), 30 at Priors Park on 12th (PPRS) and five on Holy Island on 25th (IK). Inland 20 flew SW at Sweethope on 6th (MLC) and 32 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 11th (L&KR).

Reed Warbler

Singles were at Marden Quarry on 12th (KW), Hauxley on 12th and 21st (HRS), Prior's Park between 13th-21st (CB), Bamburgh on 13th and 21st (BRS), and Holy Island on 14th (KR). Inland one was trapped at Gosforth Park on 16th (ISD). Single unstreaked acrocephalus warblers were at Hauxley on 10th and Bamburgh on 13th.

Barred Warbler

Cne was on Holy Island on 24th (MJS).

Lesser Whitethroat

One was at Hauxley on 11th and two on 12th (HRS). Between 12th-24th singles were at Tynemouth, Cresswell, Hauxley, Craster, Bamburgh and Holy Island. A bird trapped at Tynemouth between 14th-16th showed the characteristics of the Siberian race (TRC/PPRS) as did another at Craster on 23rd (RD).

Whitethroat

Singles were at Bamburgh on 1st and Prior's Park on 12th (BRS/PPRS).

Garden Warbler

Two were at Prior's Park on 5th (PPRS). Between 12th-27th singles were at Bamburgh, Craster, Hauxley, Ridley Park, Marden Quarry and Prior's Park. The last was one at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (DBNR).

Blackcap

One at Allenbanks on 2nd was the only inland record (RKS). Two three were at Prior's Park, Hauxley and Bamburgh between 2nd-11th. A larger influx took place from 12th with two-fourteen in eight coastal localities. On 13th 20-30 were on Holy Island (JS), 25 at Hauxley (HRS) and ten at Bamburgh and Prior's Park (BRS/PPRS). One-six were reported from a further 12 widespread areas.

Pallas's Warbler

One was at St. Mary's Island on 12th/13th (JDP/JRT/KWY et al). Further singles were at Craster on 13th (WGS/MSH), Hauxley on 14th (HRS), Lower Holywell Dene on 20th (SY) and at Prior's Park between 21st-25th (CB/PPRS). These will represent the 21st-25th records for the county.

Yellow-browed Warbler

One on Holy Island on 5th was the first of the month (ASJ/TJT). One was at Cullercoats on 11th (KW) when another was at Prior's Park. This locality recorded one-three up to 18th and a single on 25th. A minimum of six individuals was thought to be involved (PPRS/CB/AH et al). One was at Holy Island between 12th-14th, 16th two on 17th and a further single on 23rd/25th (ASJ/JRT/IK). One was at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 13th (SY) when two were at Hauxley with another at the latter locality on 23rd (HRS/DBNR). Further singles were at Newbiggin Golf Course on 16th (MGA), found dead at Beadnell on 17th (WGJ), and at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Radde's Warbler

One was trapped at Prior's Park on 15th (PPRS). This will be the 5th record for the county and the first since 1982.

Chiffchaff

Singles were at Matfen on 1st and 5th (RW) and Seaton Burn on 2nd (GB). On the coast one-two were at Holy Island, Newton and Hauxley. An influx on 12th brought ten to Holy Island, eight at Marden Quarry (KW), and two-four at Tynemouth and St. Mary's Island. From 13th onwards one-six were noted in eleven coastal localities although Marden Quarry held about 15 on 15th. A bird showing the characteristics of the Siberian race was trapped at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) and another was at Howick Haven on 30th (IC/MSH).

Willow Warbler

One was still inland at Castron on 9th (MR). One was at Howick on 1st (ISD), and others at Hauxley between 5th-10th (HRS) and Holy Island on 6th. Five were on Holy Island on 12th and singles were at Whitley Bay Cemetery, Hauxley, Bamburgh and Holy Island up to 19th. The last were singles at Druridge on 22nd (JRT) and Holy Island on 23rd (AGH).

Goldcrest

Only small numbers were noted during the first ten days. A massive influx occurred on 12th with birds all along the coast. Estimated numbers included between 1,000-3,000 on Holy Island (ASJ/TJT), 500 at Prior's Park (CB), 300 at Hauxley (HRS), 200 at Blyth Cemetery and 100 at Ridley Park, St. Mary's Island and Whitley Bay Cemetery (JDP/MSH/WGS). 200 were at Bamburgh on 13th (BRS) when 100-200 were at Craster. Inevitably they remained conspicuous in many coastal localities as further, smaller, influxes occurred during the next two weeks particularly between 20th-23rd when 150 were at Prior's Park and up to 100 at Holy Island, Hauxley and St. Mary's Island. A Danish ringed bird was controlled at Tynemouth on 21st, a Finnish ringed bird at Hauxley on 22nd where a Russian bird was trapped on 25th (PPRS/HRS).

Firecrest

Two were at Prior's Park on 18th and one on 19th (CB/PPRS). Another was at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Spotted Flycatcher

One was still inland at Allenbanks on 2nd (RKS) when another was at Hauxley (HRS). Singles were on Holy Island on 1st and 8th/9th where two were present on 12th (ASJ et al).

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Two were on Holy Island on 12th/13th (ASJ/TJT/KR) when singles were at Hauxley, Marden Quarry and Prior's Park (HRS/KW/PPRS). Another was at Hauxley between 20th-22nd.

Pied Flycatcher

Two were at Prior's Park on 5th (CB). Singles were at Holy Island on 8th/9th and 12th and Marden Quarry on 12th (NRG/KW).

Long-tailed Tit

15 were at Milbourne on 13th (WGJ) and three-eleven at nine other inland localities. On the coast two were at Craster on 9th (RKS) where eight present on 30th (KR), 17 at Lower Holywell Dene on 22nd (SP when three arrived at Bamburgh (BRS).

Marsh Tit

Three were at Mitford on 9th(GB) and more unusual was one at Newton Pool from 22nd (MF).

Willow Tit

Singles were at Caistron and Walbottle.

Coal Tit

Birds were still moving on the coast with a maximum of 11 at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and eight at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS). One-six were also noted at Prior's Park, Lesbury, Craster, Newton Point and Holy Island. Birds were also noted in Newcastle gardens on 13th/16th (KIB/MRS).

Blue Tit

60 were at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS), 100 at Prior's Park on 13th (CB), 30 moved S. at Hauxley on 14th (HRS), and 20 were at Craster on 29th (MSH).

Great Tit

Six were on Holy Island on 8th/9th (NRG) and eight at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS).

Nuthatch

One-four were at Letah Wood, Cvingham, Wallington and Belsay.

Treecreeper

On the coast singles were at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 12th and Bamburgh on 16th and 23rd (MSH/BRS).

Red-backed Shrike

The Hauxley bird reported last month remained until 2nd.

Great Grey Shrike

Singles were at Hauxley on 12th (HRS), Holy Island on 13th and Budle Bay on 14th (KR). Two were on Holy Island between 17th-19th (per IK). Further singles were at Warkworth Lane on 19th (DBNR), Prior's Park between 21st-25th (TRC/PPRS), Wallsend Swallow Pond between 21st-24th (MH et al) and Old Hazelrigg on 25th (MSH).

Jackdaw

260 flew W. over Lower Heddon on 1st (L&KR).

Rook

800 were at a pre-roost gathering at Stamfordham on 30th (L&KR).

Hooded Crow

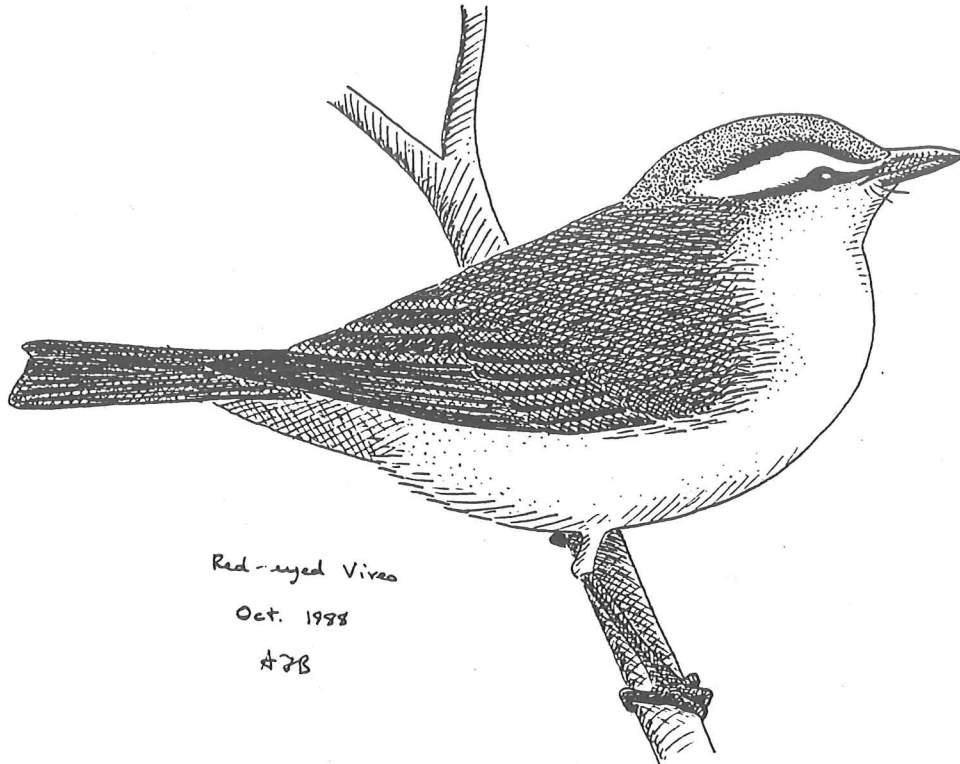
Singles were at Radcliffe on 21st (HRS), Lesbury on 22nd (FM), Cresswell from 23rd (NF) and Bamburgh on 25th (DGB).

Tree Sparrow

One-six were in six coastal localities.

Red-eyed Vireo

An amazing record was one found on Holy Island on 5th (ASJ/DS/TJT et al). Despite extensive searches on following days it was not relocated. This will be the first record of an American land bird in the county.



Red-eyed Vireo

Oct. 1988

AJB

Chaffinch

Small numbers were noted in several coastal localities after 8th. 40 flying S. at Hauxley on 22nd was the largest number reported (HRS).

Brambling

One at Prior's Park on 1st was the first arrival (CB). 25 were at Holy Island on 5th and 20-30 on 8th (TJT/BG). Inland three were at Ladycross on 5th (CJ) and one at Caistron on 9th (MR). Further arrivals occurred from 11th when ten at Cullercoats (KW). On 13th about 200 were on Holy Island (ASJ) and 30 at Prior's Park (PPRS). Small numbers were reported in several coastal localities almost daily thereafter with a maximum of 25 at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS).

Greenfinch

150 were at Druridge Links on 16th (BDG).

Goldfinch

Numbers at Whitley Bay increased to 100 by 2nd (IDM). Other large charms included 50 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS), 40 at Linbriggs on 1st (MLC) and St.Mary's Island on 5th (DM) and 35 at Newton Pool on 2nd (JDL).

Siskin

One-ten were noted in eight coastal localities between 3rd-30th although 20 were on Holy Island on 26th (IK).

Linnet

200 were at Budle Bay on 8th (GSR). 60-80 were in three other coastal localities. Inland flocks of 43 and 17 flew S. over Ladycross on 26th (CJ).

Twite

Six were at Holy Island on 15th (SP). A flock of 30 moved S. at Hauxley on 29th (HRS).

Redpoll

20 were at Hauxley on 11th (HRS) and one-nine in four other coastal localities.

Mearly Redpoll

Singles were at Prior' Park on 23rd and Hauxley on 24th (PPRS/HRS).

Crossbill

Three flew S. at Ordley on 22nd (BNR). More unusual were two on Holy Island on 23rd/24th (IK).

Bullfinch

Two-six were noted in seven widespread localities.

Lapland Bunting

One at St.Mary's Island from 5th was the first arrival (MR/HES). Another was on Holy Island on 9th (BG) and three at Hauxley on 10th (HRS). One-five were seen in six coastal localities from 14th although up to 12 were on Holy Island between 22nd-28th (IK).

Snow Bunting

Singles were at Newton Pool and Holy Island on 1st (MF/BNR) and Cresswell on 5th (AJB). No more were reported until 15th when one arrived at Hauxley (HRS). Thereafter one-five were noted in eight coastal localities, with larger flocks of 13 on Holy Island and 20 at Ross Sands on 28th (IK/TAC).

Rustic Bunting

One was found at Druridge on 20th and remained until 22nd (MGA/AJB). This will be the 7th record for the county and the second this year.

Little Bunting

One was at Hauxley on 24th, but unfortunately was in poor condition and later died (HRS).

Reed Bunting

20 were at Druridge on 15th (PCL) and one-ten were in four other coastal localities, a Swedish ringed bird at Hauxley on 21st indicating some immigration (HRS).

Corn Bunting

One was at Monk's House on 15th (BRS).

Please send all November records, in Voous order, to Mike.S.Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay NE25 8QX by 8th December 1988 at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| J M Almond | A G Hetherington | K Robson |
| M G Anderson | M S Hodgson | M Robson |
| R H Armitage | R M Holmes | B N Rossiter |
| C Auld | J & M Howat | G S Rushbrooke |
| A M Bankier | A Hutt | L & K Russell |
| A H Banks | K Huxley | S T Rutherford |
| K I Barratt | A S Jack | J W Rutter |
| D G Bell | A Janes | H E Saunderson |
| J G Bell | C Jewitt | W G Savage |
| G A Bentley | W G Johnson | D R Shannon |
| A J Booth | A J Johnston | M J Sharp |
| J S Booth | R Jordan | M B Shaw |
| G Bowman | W A Kelly | D Short |
| C Bradshaw | I Kerr | E Slack |
| J P Brogdon | P Knowles | M R Smith |
| K V Brooks | D Lockwood | R K Stephenson |
| G P Bull | W T Logan | A Stimpson |
| M L & T A Cadwallender | J D Lough | J Stott |
| L Carpenter | P C Lowry | M Styles |
| I Chadwick | L J McDougall | T J Tams |
| T R Cleeves | J D McElwee | A Tilmouth |
| A Curry | F McIntyre | M I Thomas |
| I S Davidson | D McKeown | J R Todd |
| W Dickson | A D McLevy (ADMc) | K Walton |
| G R Dudley | J & JEC Malloy | R Walton |
| R Dunn | G W Moon | T P M Watson |
| J Dutton | I D Moorhouse | R G Waugh |
| J E Fergusson | A D Mould | P R Weighill |
| N Foggo | G Nicholson | P W West |
| M P Frankis | ET & JR Norris | M Winter |
| M Freeman | D C' Connor | A Woodhall |
| B Galloway | S Parnaby | K W York |
| B D Green | J D Parrack | D & S Younger |
| L Hall | D Patterson | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| C D Hampton | K W Regan | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| A Heavisides | M Richardson | Prior's Park Ringing Station |
| M Henry | A T Richeard | Druridge Bay Nature Reserves |
| R Henson | K Rideout | Northumbria Ringing Group |
| | | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |

INDCCR MEETING THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER 1988

Our next meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on 8th December at 7.00 pm. One of our members Peter Garson will give his talk 'Forests in thin air - what prospects for Himalayan Pheasants?'

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1988/89

These are now long overdue. Subscriptions outstanding should be paid to our Treasurer, John Day as soon as possible. Failure to pay your sub. will mean that this is the last bulletin you will receive.

BACK ISSUES OF BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA

If members have any unwanted copies of back numbers of Birds in Northumbria - particularly issues from the 1970's which are now very rare - they are asked to contact Club Librarian, Mike Henry (Tel: 2674957). They are required both to supplement existing library stock and to meet occasional requests from other organisations or institutions for back issues.

M. HENRY

CAMERA FOR SALE

Pentax K1000 S.L.R. camera in excellent condition. F2 lens, skylight filter, manual, and case. Price £90.00

Contact Alec Lee on Cramlington (0670) 717777 after 6.30.p.m.

CLUB COMMITTEE 1988/89

The club committee have appointed the following officers for 1988/89.

M.S.Hodgson (Chairman & County Recorder)
45 Elmtree Gardens
WHITLEY BAY
NE25 8QX
(Tel: 2520511)

I Kerr (Secretary)
27 Eddrington Grove
Westerhope, NEWCASTLE
NE5 1JG
(Tel: 2676974)

J.C.Day (Treasurer)
2 Grange Avenue
Benton, Newcastle
NE12 9PN
(Tel: 2663071)

A J Johnston (Asst.Secretary)
27 Park View
Wideopen, Newcastle
NE13 6LH
(Tel: 2365263)

M.L.Cadwallender (Sales Office)
32 Manners Gardens
SEATON DELEVAL
NE25 ODW
(Tel: 2371145)

A M Bankier (Bulletin Production Officer)
12 Lartington Gardens
S.Gosforth, NEWCASTLE
NE3 1SX
(Tel: 2854201)

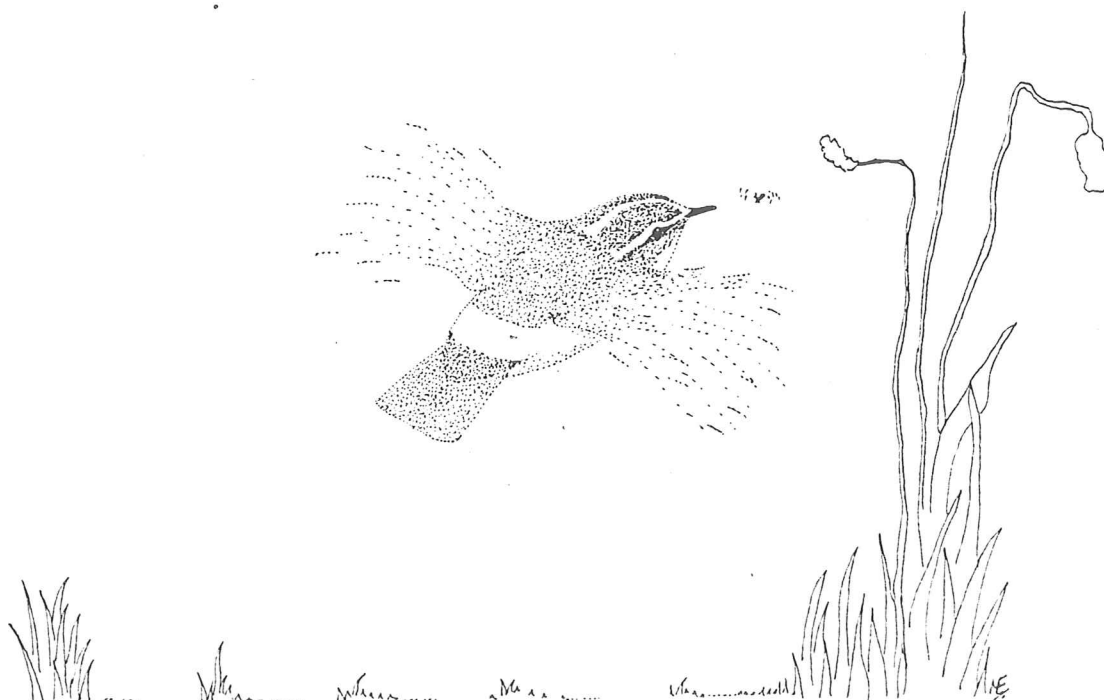
M Henry
15 Bedford Place
NEWCASTLE
NE5 1BL
(Tel: 2674957)

C Bradshaw (Field Cutting Sec.)
9 Tynemouth Place
Tynemouth
NORTH SHIELDS
(Tel: 2572389)

B.N.Rossiter (Indoor Meeting Sec & Surveys Officer)
West Barn, Lee Grange
Crdley, HEXHAM
TE46 1SX
(Tel: (043 473) 509)

RECORDS COMMITTEE

Following the retirement of both Bryan Galloway and Brian Little, the club committee have elected Colin Bradshaw and Ian Kerr to join the Recorder to form the Records Committee.



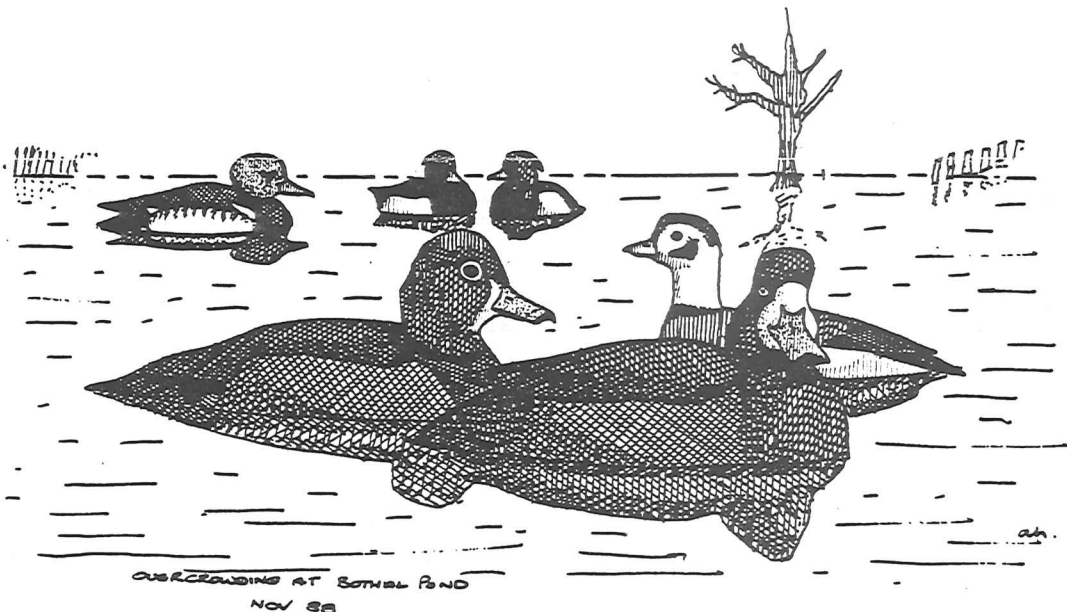


Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 1988

The highlight of November was, for most, the large scale irruption of Waxwings into the county. The largest gatherings of up to 240 were in just two localities, but there were many reports of smaller groups in many widespread localities including some in the W. of the county. Wildfowl remained conspicuous with a large build up of Long-tailed Ducks in the north, and a good scattering on coastal ponds, but few grebes offshore as yet. Bothal Pond attracted a drake Red-crested Pochard and a Ring-necked Duck and several other species as our cover sketch shows.

Four Smew appeared on 26th-27th and Hadston Lake continued to attract good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers. A Snow Goose was at Budle Bay. North-north westerly winds between 18th-21st produced some good seawatching with Little Auks, several Skuas and duck moving N. A Red Kite was at Slaley on 3rd and Hen Harriers were conspicuous with perhaps nine different individuals being seen.



OVERCROWDING AT BOTHAL POND
NOV 88

Late or lingering waders included single Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper. A single Sandwich and two 'Commic' terns were reported. Several Swallows were seen but one at Dunstanburgh on 13th was accompanied by a Red-rumped Swallow which obligingly circled the observer before departing S. Several Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were not unexpected but the late records of Lesser Whitethroat and Garden Warbler were more unusual. Good numbers of Twite and Snow Buntings were seen and a Great Grey Shrike lingered for 15 days inland. Perhaps most surprising was a recently fledged Blackbird at Killingworth on 9th. Other interesting records included Bewick's Swans, Mediterranean Gulls, three Water Pipits, Hooded Crows and Mealy Redpolls.

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

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver/Diver (Sp)

28 were off Ross Back Sands on 15th (BNR), 17 at Druridge on 13th (DBG) when 11 at Stag Rocks (BRS) and two-nine in nine other localities. A total of 39 flew N. and 16 S. at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-20th (SSWT), 30 N. at Tynemouth on 19th (CB) when 25 N. in 1 1/2 hours at Newbiggin (JRS/KWY) and 59 flew N. and 11 S. at Cullercoats on 20th (KW).

Black-throated Diver

Two were at Ross Back Sands on 2nd (TJT), and Newbiggin on 21st (AP), and singles at Seaton Sluice, Cresswell and Hauxley.

Great Northern Diver

Cne flew N. at Hauxley on 5th (HRS). Another was at Newbiggin on 21st (AP).

Little Grebe

18 were at Castle Island on 5th (AT) and seven at Whittle Dene on 26th (JSB). Cne-five were at a further ten localities including Berwick Harbour the Long Nanny Burn and along the River Tyne.

Great Crested Grebe

Three were at Whittle Dene on 26th (JSB) and one at Seaton Burn on 2nd/13th (DM). Along the coast one-three were at Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin, Druridge Bay and Boulmer.

Red-necked Grebe

Three were at Stag Rocks on 13th (BRS) when one at Chevington Burn (EC/MRS) and one at Holy Island on 26th (ES/DRS).

Slavonian Grebe

Three were off Druridge on 16th (AJB) and eight at Holy Island on 20th (JDL). Singles were also at Berwick harbour on 14th and Stag Rocks on 24th (MH).

Manx Shearwater

Cne flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT) and two at Cullercoats on 20th (KW).

Gannet

A total of 60 flew N. at Cullercoats on 18th/20th (KW).

Cormorant

88 were at Blyth harbour on 27th (TRC/MHp) and 26 at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 5th (AT). Inland 22 roosted at Corbridge on 3rd (MR), 12 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (RKS) and two-six were at six other localities.

Grey Heron

The largest gatherings were 21 at Berwick on 7th (JDL) nine at Bakethin on 19th (MD) and eight at Warkworth on 26th (KWY). Cne-six were in eight other localities.

Mute Swan

479 were at Berwick harbour on 4th (JDL). 81 were at Queen Elizabeth Park on 26th (JRT/KWY), 25 at Killingworth Lake on 2nd (L&KR) and 22 at Seaton Burn on 19th (AT).

Bewick's Swan

Two were in the Linton/Druridge area from 2nd (AJB et al). Two were also at Castron on 13th (MR) and Holywell on 20th (IC) and one was at Hallington on 12th (BNR).

Whooper Swan

235 were at Carham on 13th (RD) and numbers in the Druridge/Linton/Bothel area increased to 180 by 6th (ADMc). Other large gatherings included 120 at Holy Island on 20th (JDL), 78 at Holywell Pond on 27th (CA), 35 at Rayburn Lake on 19th and 26 at Grindon on 27th. Two-twelve were in six other localities.

Pink-footed Goose

44 flew S. at Langley on 15th (SJH) and six S. at Hoppen Kiln on 13th (BRS). One-four were also noted at Berwick, Budle, Druridge, Holywell and Seaton Burn.

White-fronted Goose

Four were in the Cresswell/Linton area on 5th/6th (ES/AJB).

Grey Lag Goose

Up to 2,000 were in Budle Bay during the month (JGB/ES). Other large gatherings included 800 at Molesdon on 2nd (BRG), 600 roosting at Castron on 13th (MR) 289 at Holywell on 26th (TRC) 230 N. at Heddon on 19th (L&KR) and 230 S. at Crdley on 26th (BNR). 10-70 were in further nine localities.

Snow Goose

One was with Grey Lags on Budle Bay on 19th and 26th (ES/DRS).

Canada Goose

15 were at Hallington on 16th when 29 at Colt Crag (RW). Five flew NW at Cramlington on 20th (BG). One-three were at Berwick, Cresswell and Tynemouth.

Barnacle Goose

Seven were at Grindon Lough on 1st (per BNR), three at Castron between 6th-13th (MR) and singles at Backworth and Corbridge (MLC/KD). 16 were still at Budle Bay on 19th (ES/DRS).

Brent Goose

800 were at Holy Island causeway on 25th (JDL). Two were at the Long Nanny on 27th (RKS).

Shelduck

415 were at Budle Bay on 27th (JDL). 12 were at Bothal Pond on 12th (IF) and one at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 27th-30th (JGB).

Wigeon

A maximum of 612 was at Cresswell Pond on 6th (DBNR). Other large gatherings included 500 at Budle Bay on 5th (JGB), 197 at Grindon on 6th (RKS), 180 at Hartburn on 13th (MLC/TAC), 156 at Hallington on 12th and 125 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR).

Gadwall

Up to three were noted at Arcot Pond, Cresswell and Grindon Lough during the month and one at Seaton Burn on 13th.

Teal

Up to 350 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month (AH et al). 240 were at Castron on 6th (MR), 222 at Druridge on 14th (DBNR), 145 at Grindon, and 117 at Newton Pool on 19th (RKS). 20-80 were at 11 other waters.

Mallard

330 were at Colt Crag on 16th (RW), and 300 at Castron on 6th (MR), Seaton Burn on 20th (DM) and Grindon Lough on 27th (IC), 210 were at Holywell on 22nd and Derwent Reservoir on 26th (RKS). Offshore 400 were at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (GWM) and 311 in Druridge Bay on 26th (JRT).

Pintail

One-two were at Cresswell, Druridge and Hadston between 2nd-14th (DBNR). Three flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSW T).

Shoveler

20 were at Grindon Lough on 6th (RKS) and Arcot Pond on 23rd (LJM). Two-nine were also at Cresswell, Seaton Burn and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Red-crested Pochard

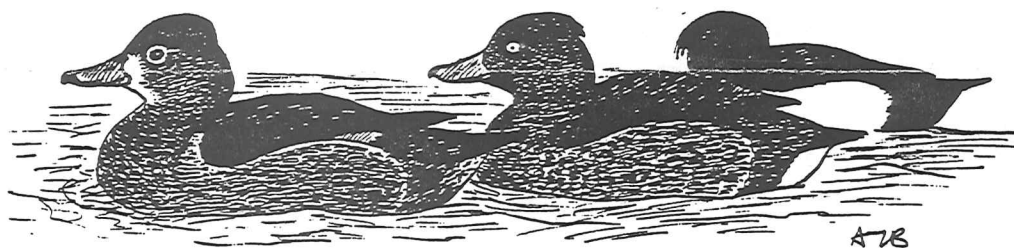
A drake was at Bothal Pond from 3rd-12th (AJB/MJS et al). On 18th/19th it visited Cresswell Pond, on 27th it was back at Bothal and on 29th at Druridge Pool.

Pochard

166 were at Bothal Pond on 12th (JRT/KWY), 154 at Hadston Lake on 13th and 116 at Killingworth Lake on 22nd (LJM). 80 were at Druridge Pool on 13th (IC) and 30-50 at five other localities.

Ringed-necked Duck

A female was at Bothal Pond between 4th-12th (AJB/MJS et al). Between 15th-29th the same bird was in the Cresswell Pond/Druridge Pool area.



Ring-necked Duck with Tufted Ducks

Cresswell Nov. '88

Tufted Duck

250 were at Bothal Pond on 12th (IF) and 230 at Cresswell Pond on 24th (ETN/JRN). 73 were at Seaton Burn on 26th (AT), 66 at Bolam on 1st (L&KR) and Killingworth on 22nd (LJM) and 20-60 at Druridge and Holywell.

Scaup

Coastal ponds continued to attract birds with 16 at Hadston Lake on 2nd, 15 at Hauxley on 18th (DBNR) and one-eight at Druridge Pool, Cresswell Pond, Bothal, River Wansbeck and Holywell Pond. Five were at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (GWM) and two at Holy Island on 12th (MH). Seven flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 19th /20th (SSW T).

Long-tailed Duck

Good numbers were reported. 100 at Stag Rocks on 13th increased to at least 213 by 24th (BRS/MH et al). Up to 12 were at Druridge Bay and 13 at Tynemouth (AP/CB) and smaller numbers in four other offshore localities. One-five were on coastal ponds at Hauxley, Hadston, Druridge, Cresswell and Bothal and on the River Wansbeck at Castle Island. 44 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 19th/20th when 74 N. at Cullercoats (SSWT/KW). Further inland one remained at Castron until 20th (MR) and another was at Rayburn Lake on 19th (ADMc).

Common Scoter

700 were in Druridge Bay on 19th/26th (JRT/KWY). 450 were off Stag Rocks on 27th (JDL). A total of 450 flew N. and 12 S. at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-20th (SSWT) and 493 N. at Cullercoats on 20th (KW). One was on Druridge Pool on 2nd (DBNR) and another on the River Wansbeck on 28th (AT).

Velvet Scoter

Up to 11 were in Druridge Bay during the month (AP/DBNR). One-three were also at Berwick, Stag Rocks, St.Mary's Island and Tynemouth. A total of 15 flew N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice on 19th/20th (SSWT) and four N. and eight S. at Newbiggin on 21st (AP).

Goldeneye

A maximum of 379 was at Berwick Harbour by 21st (JDL). Along the River Tyne 150 were at Newburn and 35 at Wylam on 28th (BG). 77 were at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on this date (AT). 40 were at Castron on 13th/20th (MR) and 15-24 on three other waters. 35 were off St.Mary's Island on 3rd (L&KR), 26 at Football Hole on 27th (RKS) and 25 in Druridge Bay on 19th (KWY). N. passage was noted at Seaton Sluice on 19th/20th with a total of 233 (SSWT) and 136 off Cullercoats on 20th (KW).

Smew

Two 'readheads' were at Hadston Lake and Druridge Pool on 26th/27th (JRT/KWY et al). Another 'redhead' was on the Northumbrian Loughs on 26th (KD) and a drake at Whittle Dene on 27th (IC/MSH et al).

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 28 was at Hadston Lake on 19th (JRT/KWY), some of these birds no doubt accounting for gatherings in Druridge Bay and one-two on Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pool. 28 were at Holy Island on 20th (JDL) and up to 13 in the Stag Rocks - Budle area. Inland a female was on the River Tyne at Wylam on 28th (BG).

Goosander

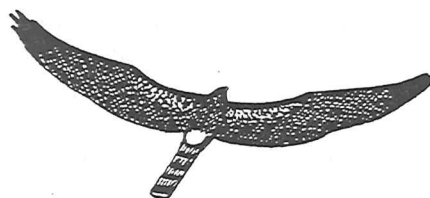
25 were at Bolam Lake on 9th (BRG), 24 at Colt Crag on 13th (BNR), 21 at Berwick harbour on 22nd (JDL), 11 at Whittle Dene on 26th (JSB), ten at Castron on 6th (MR) and one-eight at ten other localities. Seven flew N. at Cullercoats on 20th (KW).

Red Kite

One was at Slaley on 4th (CJ).

Hen Harrier

At least two 'ring-tails' were noted on Holy Island between 4th-26th (AP/CB/ et al). Another was at Holywell Pond on 5th/6th (JEF) and possibly the same bird at Seaton Burn on 13th and 24th (GB/FH). From 12th onwards at least two 'ring-tails' were in the Druridge Bay area between Hauxley-Cresswell (JGB/MPF/DBNR) and a male flew inland at Hadston Lake on 16th (IF). Singles were also reported from three inland localities.



Hen Harriers Druridge Bay
Nov. '99 ATB

Sparrowhawk

One-three were noted in 12 coastal localities. Two were attending a Starling roost at Colt Crag on 5th (BNR) and one killed a Fieldfare at Caistron on 20th (MR).

Kestrel

One-four were in 17 widespread localities.

Merlin

One-two were in eight coastal localities. Singles were also in three inland areas.

Peregrine

Singles were at Holy Island between 5th-20th (IK) and Budle Bay on 14th (MJS).

Red Grouse

37 were counted in three miles along the Simonsides on 13th (MPF) and 24 were at Ladycross on 23rd (CJ).

Black Grouse

26 were at the West Allen, although a different locality to that reported last month, on 6th (BNR) and 20 were at Plenmeller on 9th (PJG). Singles were also at Carrshield, Harwood and Threestoneburn.

Grey Partridge

31 were at Walbottle on 9th (L&KR), 25 at Low Newton on 6th (JDL) and 22 at Ladycross on 22nd (CJ).

Water Rail

Singles were noted at Caistron, Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell Dene, Warkworth Lane, Cresswell, and Hauxley.

Spotted Crake

A crake flushed at Fenham Flats on 2nd was probably this species. (ASJ/TJT).

Coot

166 were at Hartburn on 13th (MLC) and 84 at Seaton Burn on 9th (L&KR).

WADER COUNT - 13th NOVEMBER

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (AGH), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/TAC/AS), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL/MBS), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (BDG/EC/ISD/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S.Pier-Hartley (KVB).

Cystercatcher

A total of 457 was noted during the wader count. 283 were at Holy Island on 20th (JDL). Details of a wing-tagged bird seen at Budle Bay on 21st July have just been received. It was marked on its farmland breeding area near Banchary, Kincardineshire, 1986 and noted at Budle in August 1986 and February 1987 (AHB).

Ringed Plover

A total of 216 was noted during the wader count. 84 were at Berwick Little Beach on 19th (JDL) and 51 at Budle Bay on 13th (RKS).

Golden Plover

The largest gatherings were 2,600 at Low Newton on 27th (JDL), 2,000 at Druridge on 13th (IC/BDG) and St.Mary's Island on 19th (APu) and 1,000 near Bolam on 9th (BRG).

Grey Plover

A total of 44 was noted during the wader count. 61 were at Holy Island causeway on 20th (JDL) and nine at Football Hole on 19th (RKS) when six flew N. at Newbiggin (KWY). Inland three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (AH).

Lapwing

900 were near Bolam on 9th (BRG), 700 at Blaydon on 8th, 600 at Hallington on 12th (BNR) and 200-500 at six other localities. a leucistic bird was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 19th (MH).

Knot

A total of 207 was noted during the wader count although 160 were at St.Mary's Island on 3rd (L&KR).

Sanderling

A total of 58 was noted during the wader count. In addition 250 were at Fenham Flats on 2nd (TJT), 78 at Berwick Little Beach on 19th (JDL), 61 at Blyth Beach on 27th (TRC), 46 at St.Mary's Island on 3rd (L&KR) and 30 at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Little Stint

A very late bird was at Cresswell Pond on 19th (MGA/ADMc).

Curlew Sandpiper

A late bird was at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 6th (SJH).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 260 was noted during the wader count, including 120 at Stag Rocks where numbers increased to 240 by 21st (JDM). In addition 50 were at Newbiggin on 19th (JRT/KWY).

Dunlin

A total of 589 was noted during the wader count. 494 were at Holy Island causeway on 20th and 250 at Berwick Little Beach on 9th (JDL). Inland 18 were still at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR) and singles at Hallington, Grindon and Seaton Burn up to 20th.

Ruff

One was at Cresswell Pond on 1st (DBNR).

Jack Snipe

Five were at Whittle Dene on 5th (JSB) when singles at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Hauxley (ES/HRS). Further singles were noted at Warkworth Gut and Catton (AH/MB).

Snipe

60 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th (JGB) and 22 at Seaton Burn on 20th (GB).

Woodcock

Singles were noted at Hauxley, Warkworth Lane and Jesmond Dene between 2nd-23rd and further inland at the Beamish Valley on 5th.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were at Budle Bay on 19th (ES/DRS) and one at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 24th (MH).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 50 during the wader count included 46 between Beadnell-Seahouses 1,370 were at Holy Island on 20th (JDL).

Curlew

A total of only 61 was noted during the wader count. 102 were on Holy Island on 20th (JDL) and 58 at St.Mary's Island on 22nd (L&KR). Inland 12 were at Allenheads on 17th.

Redshank

A total of 459 was noted during the wader count. 200 were at Berwick Little Beach on 9th (JDL) and 77 at the Tyne Estuary on 11th (DM).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Mitford Steads on 15th (ADMc).

Common Sandpiper

A very late bird was at Wylam on 28th (BG).

Turnstone

A total of 499 was noted during the wader count. In addition 76 were at St.Mary's Island on 3rd (L&KR).

Pomarine Skua

16 flew N. at Cresswell on 2nd (AJB). One-four were noted at Tynemouth, Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin and Druridge between 18th-21st although 22 moved S. at Cullercoats on 20th (KW).

Arctic Skua

Four were at Newbiggin on 12th (WTL/MBS) and one-two off Seaton Sluice and Low Newton between 18th-20th (SSWT/MH).

Great Skua

Two flew N. at Cresswell on 2nd (AJB). Between 18th-20th one-four moved N. at Cullercoats, Seaton Sluice and Druridge. On 20th one flew W. over Druridge Pool and continued inland (WGS/MSH).

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult remained at Craster. Another ringed adult was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th (RMH/GWM/JGB).

Little Gull

Between 18th-20th two-three flew N. at Seaton Sluice and Cullercoats.

Black-headed Gull

Inland roost counts included 6,000 at Hallington on 12th, 800 at Colt Crag on 13th, 5,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th, and 1,600 at Scotswood on 18th. 1,000 roosted in Budle Bay on 15th (BNR).

Common Gull

11,000 roosted at Hallington on 12th, 8,000 at Colt Crag on 13th, 9,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th, 550 at Broomlee on 17th and 4,700 at Budle Bay on 15th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

31 roosted at Castron on 6th declining to seven by 13th (MR). Singles were also noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Seaton Burn, Wylam and Broomlee.

Herring Gull

430 roosted at Hallington on 12th and 310 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (BNR).

Iceland Gull

Singles were at Druridge Pool on 18th (DBNR) and Tynemouth on 21st (IF).

Glaucous Gull

First-winter birds were at Hadston Lake on 9th (DBNR), flying N. at Seaton sluice on 18th/20th (SSWT), Newbiggin on 19th (JRT), Druridge Pool on 20th and a second winter was at the Coquet Estuary on 26th (KWY). A sub-adult was at Monk's House Pool on 20th (MH).

Sandwich Tern

One flew S. at Newbiggin on 12th (ES/DRS).

'Commic' Tern

Single late birds were at St. Mary's Island on 5th (DMT) and flying N. at Tynemouth on 18th (CB).

Auks (Sp)

Up to 1,000 per hour moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 3rd and 120 per hour on 19th (SSWT), when 300 N. at Newbiggin (JRT/KWY).

Guillemot

Four were in Blyth harbour on 24th (RHA).

Little Auk

Five flew N. at Cresswell on 2nd, where 42 moved N. in 30 minutes on 18th (AJB). N. passage continued over the next few days with 587 in 1 1/2 hours at Newbiggin on 19th (JRT/KWY) when 37 at Tynemouth (CB). 286 moved N. at Seaton Sluice on 20th and 129 at Cullercoats (SSWT/KW). 25 passed Newbiggin on 21st (AP), ten were at Stag Rocks on 24th (MH), 17 off Holy Island on 26th (ES) when 30 per hour passed Berwick (JDL). An oiled bird landed in a garage at Rothbury on 19th (JS).

Woodpigeon

500 were near Hartburn Bridge on 9th (BRG).

Collared Dove

120 were at Rising Sun Farm, Wallsend on 5th (AJB).

Barn Owl

Singles were at Ellington and Druridge.

Little Owl

Cne-two were at Kirkley Hall, Backworth and Druridge.

Tawny Owl

Birds were heard at Bywell, Holywell and Easington.

Long-eared Owl

Cne was at Holywell Pond on 5th and one-three near Backworth between 6th-27th (JEF/TRC). A tired bird was at Hauxley on 20th (HRS). Another was flying around a bonfire at Wallsend on 5th ! (MSH).

Short-eared Owl

Still well reported during the month. Up to eight were at Wallsend Swallow Pond. Four were on Holy Island on 5th (IK) and Warkworth Gut on 12th (JRT/KWY) and one-three were in a further 20 coastal or near coastal localities. Further inland one was at Allenheads on 6th (BNR).

Kingfisher

Cne-two were at Jesmond Dene, Tyne Green, Castron and Mitford.

Green Woodpecker

Cne was at Lower Heddon on 7th (L&KR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

At least five fed on fat at Ladycross on 21st/23rd (CJ). Cne-two were in seven other localities including singles on the coast at Druridge on 3rd (WAK) and Bamburgh on 5th (BRS).

Swallow

Cne flew S. at Berwick on 4th (JDL) and further singles were at Druridge Pool on 8th (AP), and flying N. there on 13th (NF) when another arrived from E. at Dunstanburgh (JCD).

Red-rumped Swallow

Cne arrived from the E. at Dunstanburgh on 13th, circled around for two minutes and then departed S. (JCD). This will be the 5th record for the county and the second in November.

House Martin

Cne was at Amble on 1st (HRS).

Water Pipit

Two were at Corbridge on 3rd (MR). One was at Cresswell Pond between 6th-19th (ADM/DBNR et al).



Water Pipit Cresswell
Nov '88

Rock Pipit

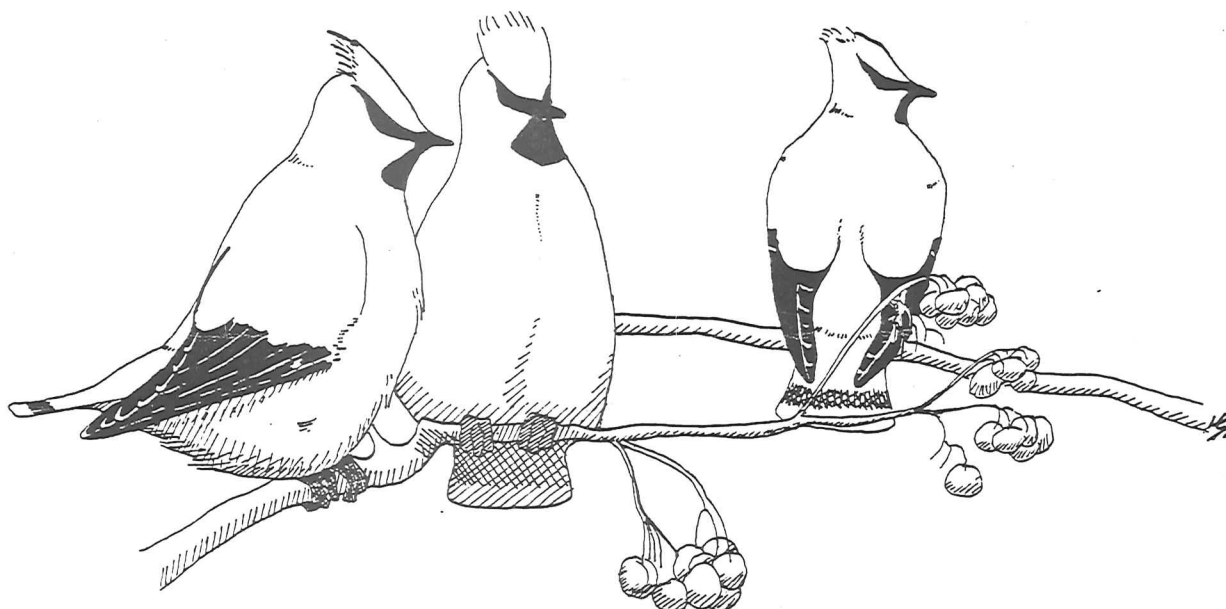
Up to three were at Cresswell Pond between 8th-11th (DBNR).

Grey Wagtail

Two were at Matfen on 2nd (RW) and singles in four coastal localities.

Waxwing

Following last month's arrivals some large numbers were reported and many smaller groups in widespread areas. The largest gatherings were in two localities. About 100 were at the Bay Horse Pub area in Cramlington by 6th (DM/TRC) but numbers increased in the town with some 230-240 near Brockwell Middle School on 20th (BG/IK). The birds were obviously moving around the area and exact numbers may have been much higher. Large numbers were also seen in the Sandy Lane/Gosforth Park area peaking at 237 on 13th (BRG et al). Two groups of 60 and 37 were at Morpeth Golf Course on 10th (ETN/JRN) and on subsequent days. 35 were at Benton on 9th (ATR) and 20 at Sheepwash and Seaton Burn on 6th and 8th and flying S. over Wallsend on 3rd. Groups of 3-13 were seen in a further 17 mainly lowland localities. Further W. five were at Fourstones on 5th, 13 flew SW at Ladycross on 11th and ten E. on 17th and 14 at Kielder Castle on 19th. Several were found as road casualties and others taken as prey by Sparrow hawks.

Dipper

Three were at Allenbanks on 6th, including one in full song (RKS).

Black Redstart

Cne was at Hauxley on 2nd (DBNR) and another, trapped, well inland at Threestoneburn on 10th (AMB).

Stonechat

A maximum of six was between Cresswell-Druridge on 8th and 14th (AP/DBNR) and one-two at Hadston and Hauxley.

Blackbird

A recently fledged youngster was still being fed by adults at Killingworth on 9th (LJM). A white bird was at Exhibition Park, Newcastle on 2nd (DM).

Fieldfare

350 at Prestwick Carr on 9th (BRG) and 300 at Caistron on 6th (MR) were the largest gatherings. Flocks of 100-200 were noted at Plessey Woods, Belsay, Colt Crag, Calder and Bothal.

Redwing

15 arrived at Hauxley on 4th (HRS). 500 were at Belsay Hall on 1st (L&KR) 200 at Gosforth Park on 20th (ADM) and 130 at Prestwick Carr on 9th (BRG).

Mistle Thrush

24 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 11th (AH).

Lesser Whitethroat

A late bird was at Marden Quarry on 5th (KW).

Garden Warbler

A surprising find was one inland at Allenbanks on 6th (BKS).

Blackcap

Between 1st-16th one-two were in five coastal localities. Singles were also noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Jesmond Dene, Arcot, W.Denton and Corbridge up to 28th.

Chiffchaff

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (RGW), two-three at Marden Quarry on 5th/6th one remaining until 26th (KW/JDM), and one on Holy Island on the last date (ES). Further inland singles were at Morpeth on 15th (PW W) and Ryton on 29th (MD).

Goldcrest

Birds were still present in several lowland localities during the month including 30 at Seaton Burn on 2nd (DM). Also noted as plentiful at Lilburn Burn and Threestoneburn (AMB).

Long-tailed Tit

Flocks of 20 were at Fourstones and Barrasford (KD) and 4-13 at three other localities.

Marsh Tit

Singles were noted at Lilburn Pond, Felton and W.Thirston (ETN/JRN).

Willow Tit

One-two were noted at Holywell Dene, Backworth and Belsay Hall (TRC/L&KR).

Coal Tit

Along the coast two were at North Shields Fish Quay on 5th (AH), one at Cullercoats on 12th (JDM) and another at Bamburgh on 13th (RKS). Inland they were noted in many localities including 19 trapped at Matfen on 6th-27th (RW).

Blue Tit

A total of 114 was trapped at Matfen on 6th and 27th (RW). 24 were at Belsay on 12th (L&KR) and 40 at Caistron on 20th (MR).

Great Tit

A total of 32 was trapped at Matfen on 6th and 27th (RW).

Nuthatch

At least three pairs were at Bywell (JH) and one-two at Riding Mill, Beltingham, Minsteracres, Belsay, Gosforth Park and Jesmond Dene.

Treecreeper

Six were at Lilburn Burn on 26th (AMB).

Great Grey Shrike

One was at Ladycross between 4th-18th (CJ).

Jackdaw

800 roosted at Colt Crag on 5th (BNR).

Rook

1,300 roosted at Colt Crag on 5th (BNR).

Carrion Crow

107 roosted at Sweethope on 13th (BNR).

Hooded Crow

Two were at Fenham Flats on 2nd (TJT/ASJ) and singles at Widdrington on 3rd (NF) and Linton on 6th (AJB).

Starling

An estimated 130,000 roosted at Colt Crag on 5th (BNR). Large feeding flocks included 7,000 near Hartburn Bridge and 5,000 at Gallow Hill on 2nd (BRG).

Tree Sparrow

45 were at Bavington on 30th (BRG), 30 at Holywell Pond on 4th (L&KR) and Beal Road Ends on 26th (ES) and 20 at Bothal on 12th.

Chaffinch

350 were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RMH), 250 at Matfen on 23rd (RW) and 100 at Ross Village on 15th (BNR).

Brambling

30 at Hexham on 19th (CJ) when 25 at Holmewood (ES) and 20 at Hallington on 16th (RW) were the largest gatherings. 5-10 were at three other localities.

Greenfinch

50 were at Holywell Pond on 15th (L&KR).

Goldfinch

30 were at Crag End on 26th (KD). 18 were at the Holly tree roost at Matfen on 27th (RW).

Siskin

On the coast 20 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th (AH), 27 at Holywell Dene on 5th (TRC) and two-three at Marden Quarry and Hauxley. Up to 32 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond and further inland 69 at Hartburn Bridge on 2nd (BRG) and 24 at Caistron on 20th (MR).

Twite

60 at Warkworth Gut on 6th increased to 70 by 26th (AJB et al). Up to 50 were in the Cresswell/Druridge area from 5th and 30 at Ross on 26th (ES/DBNR et al).

Mealy Redpoll

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DBNR).

Crossbill

Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th and four on 15th (PT/MW). Inland ten were at the Wark Forest on 26th (MD) and three-six in three other localities.

Bullfinch

Eight were at Great Whittington on 9th (BRG) and Hexhamshire on 27th (BNR). One-five were in 12 other localities.

Hawfinch

Two were at Hulne Park on 13th (MSH) and one at Fourstone on 30th (PJG).

Lapland Bunting

A maximum of six was on Holy Island on 26th (ES et al). One-four were also seen at Alnmouth, Hauxley, Druridge and Cresswell.

Snow Bunting

A group of 85 flew N. at Berwick on 26th (JDL). 70-80 were apparently arriving from the E. at Holy Island on 12th and 45 were flying N. over the sea, about 1/2 mile out, from Stag Rocks on 24th (MH). 41 were at Druridge on 13th (BDG et al), 30 at Ross on 6th (AHa) and Lynemouth on 12th (MGA). Inland 12 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 19th (AH) and three on Hexhamshire Common on 27th (BNR).

Yellowhammer

50 were at Fourstones on 17th/18th (PJG) and 30-35 in three other localities.

Corn Bunting

Three were at Swinhoe on 6th (JDL).

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| M G Anderson | B D Green | M Richardson |
| R M Armitage | C D Hampton | A T Rikeard |
| C Auld | J Harrison | R Roddam |
| A M Bankier | A Hart | B N Rossiter |
| A H Banks | M Henry | G S Rushbrooke |
| K I Barratt | M Hepple (MHP) | L & K Russell |
| J G Bell | A G Hetherington | W G Savage |
| M Bentley | S J Hingston | D R Shannon |
| D H W Blair | M S Hodgson | M J Sharp |
| A J Booth | R M Holmes | M B Shaw |
| J S Booth | F Hopkin | E Slack |
| G Bowman | A Hutt | M R Smith |
| C Bradshaw | A S Jack | J Steele |
| K V Brooks | A Janes | R K Stephenson |
| ML & TA Cadwallender | C Jewitt | A Stimpson |
| I Chadwick | W A Kelly | T J Tams |
| T R Cleeves | I Kerr | P Tankard |
| E Crabtree | W T Logan | A Tilmouth |
| A Curry | J D Lough | J R Todd |
| I S Davidson | L J McDougall | D M Turner |
| P W Davidson | J D McElwee | K Walton |
| K Dawson | D McKeown | R Walton |
| R Dunn | A D McLevy (ADMc) | R G Waugh |
| J E Fergusson | T M Melling | P R Weighill |
| I Fisher | G W Moon | P W West |
| N Foggo | A D Mould | M Winter |
| C E Foister | M & J Natrass | K W York |
| M P Frankis | ET & JR Norris | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| B R Gadus | S Parnaby | Hauxley Ringing Station |
| B Galloway | A Priest | Druridge Bay Nature Reserves |
| P J Garson | A Purvis (APu) | Seaton Sluice Watchtower |

INDCOR MEETING - 12TH JANUARY 1989

Our next meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on Thursday 12th January 1989, at 7.00pm. Our speaker will be Bryan Galloway who will tell us about 'Sparrowhawks and Kestrels in Northumberland'.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR

Members are reminded that the closing date for this club competition is 31st January 1989. Full details and rules were published in the September bulletin.

THE COMMITTEE WISH ALL MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GCCD BIRDING IN A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

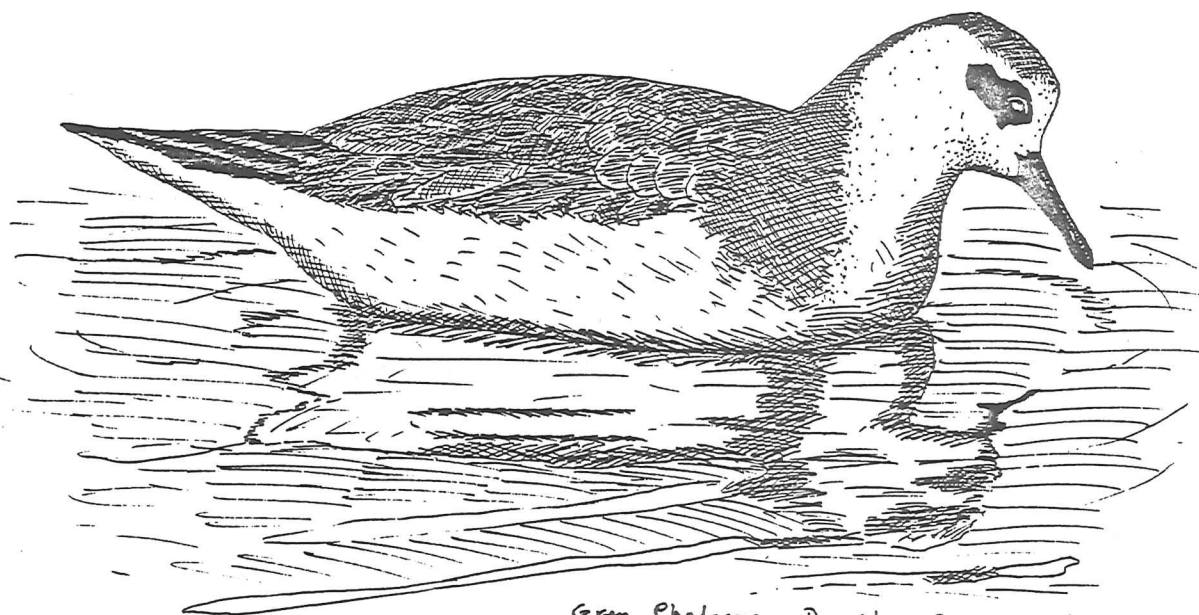


Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - DECEMBER 1988

It was a very mild month throughout the North East region with above average daytime temperatures and some above average night minimum temperatures. High pressure over the continent and low pressure to the north of the British Isles resulted in mainly W. to S.W. winds and hence mild weather. Western parts of the region received more rainfall than the coastal areas. Sunshine totals were between one and one and a half the December average.

December was a relatively quiet month. A Bittern appears to be wintering again at Caistron but another at Gosforth Park came to an untimely end. Two drake Mandarins were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd and the Red-crested Pochard and Ring-necked Duck lingered at Druridge Bay as did Smews at Hadston and Whittle Dene. About six Hen Harriers were still present. Purple Sandpiper numbers increased as did those of Dunlin. A Grey Phalarope was noted on the coast and inland a wintering Green Sandpiper was seen.



Grey Phalarope Druridge Dec. '88 AJB

Only three Glaucous Gulls were present and no Iceland Gulls were reported. Two Water Pipits were at Whittle Dene on 31st. After the large influx of Waxwings reported last month numbers appeared to decline or perhaps flocks have broken down to exploit food sources. Two Chiffchaffs were seen but suprisingly no Blackcaps. Inland areas produced two Great Grey Shrikes and interesting records of 'northern' Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Twite were very conspicuous in a number of coastal localities and 17 Crossbills appeared at Hadston. Finally the mild weather seems to have provoked a lot of bird song and Rooks started nest-building. Should we be starting the 1989 Breeding atlas work in January!!

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

Seven in Druridge Bay on 27th (MH) was the largest number reported. One-four were in nine other localities. More unusual records included one upstream at Warkworth between 11th-21st (MSH/WGS), another in Tweed Dock on 18th (RMH), two in Blyth harbour on 24th (RH), and Amble harbour on 27th and one at Queen Elizabeth Park on 29th (L&KR).

Black-throated Diver

One was at Stag Rocks on 17th and 29th (MPF/AJH).

Great Northern Diver

One was at Blyth harbour on 25th (LJM).

Little Grebe

Up to eight were at Whittle Dene between 10th-30th (RGW/GAB) and six at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 18th (AT). One-three were on another five rivers or ponds.

Great Crested Grebe

Up to three at Whittle Dene during the month (L&KR). Singles were also at Seaton Burn and Bothal and on the sea at Cresswell.

Red-necked Grebe

One-three were noted at Stag Rocks, Ross and Holy Island. One was at Boulmer on 5th/18th (WD/IK).

Slavonian Grebe

A maximum of six was at Stag Rocks on 25th (JGB). Two were at Hadston Lake on 19th (LJM).

Fulmar

About 60, including some on ledges, were at Cullernose Point on 9th (WD).

Cormorant

74 flew out of the Tyne Estuary and then S. on evening of 8th (BNR). 64 roosted at Amble harbour on 27th (L&KR) and 50 at Blyth harbour on 11th (LJM). Inland 27 were at the Corbridge roost on 4th (MR), 14 at Castle Island, River Wansbeck on 3rd (AT) and one-seven at six other localities.

Shag

300 were off Stag Rocks-Budle Point on 11th (BRS).

Bittern

One was at Castron on 10th/11th (MR/WD). Another at Gosforth Park on 11th was found dead on 17th (AJD/ISD).

Grey Heron

Seven were at St. Mary's Island on 24th (IDM) and one-six at a further 12 localities. More unusual was one perched on the roof of a bungalow at S. Gosforth on 22nd (AMB).

Mute Swan

37 were at Killingworth Lake on 21st, 35 at Warkworth Lane on 29th (L&KR) 30 at Queen Elizabeth Park on 19th (PRW) and up to 25 at Seaton Burn (GB).

Bewick's Swan

Two were near Queen Elizabeth Park on 11th (MSH/WGS).

Whooper Swan

183 were near Cornhill on 27th (AMB/GC). The herd in the Druridge/Linton/Bothal area still held 175 on 18th but numbers declined during the rest of the month. Herds of 38 were at Hartburn on 26th (ADMc) and Holy Island on 29th (JGB). 2-18 were at five other localities.

Pink-footed Goose

20 were at Budle Bay on 7th (IK) and 30-40 at Ross on 15th (IF). A small party flew W. at Blaydon after dark on 29th (BL).

Grey Lag Goose

The largest gatherings were 750 at Ross on 15th (IF), 400 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (BNR), 350 at Castron on 10th (MR) and 100-290 at Grindon and Whittle Dene. A total of 194 flew S. off Seaton Sluice on 13th (L&KR).

Canada Goose

63 were at Hallington on 18th (RW).

Barnacle Goose

Four were at the Emblestones on 4th (RKS), two at Cresswell Pond between 6th-18th (DBNR), 15 at Ross on 15th (IF) and one at Warkworth Lane on 27th (JRT/MH).

Brent Goose

2,000 were at Lindisfarne on 10th (BL). Two remained at the Long Nanny until 11th (RKS), six were at Boulmer on 18th (IK) and 30 S. at Druridge on 27th (PCL).

Shelduck

A maximum of 448 was at Budle Bay on 11th (JDL). Inland one was at Holywell Pond on 4th-10th (JRT) and two at Colwell on 4th (MD).

Mandarin

Two drakes were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (NBC).

Wigeon

700 were at Budle Bay on 30th (JGB), up to 360 in the Cresswell area (DBNR), 130 at Whittle Dene on 31st (MR) and 120 at Hartburn and Grindon Lough.

Gadwall

Three were at Cresswell Pond throughout the month (DBNR) and one-two also at Grindon Lough, Seaton Burn, Arcot and Druridge Pool.

Teal

The largest gatherings were 358 at Druridge Pool on 4th, 210 at Cresswell Pond on 5th (DBNR), 220 at Castron on 10th (MR), 278 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (JRT) and 126-160 at Seaton Burn and Grindon Lough. 68 were on the sea at Boulmer on 22nd (WD).

Mallard

The largest gatherings were 424 at Colt Crag on 18th (RW), 410 at Seaton Burn on 11th (AJJ), 350 at Hartburn on 21st (L&KR), 221 at Cresswell on 4th (DBNR), 215 at Grindon Lough on 10th (RKS) and 100-160 at five other localities. 98 were on the sea at Briardene on 25th (IDM).

Pintail

Three were at Colt Crag on 18th (RW). One-two were also at Bolam, Seaton Burn, Arcot, Wallsend Swallow, Cresswell and Warkworth Lane during the month.

Shoveler

Up to nine were at Arcot Pond and Seaton Burn and one-seven at three other waters.

Red-crested Pochard

The drake noted last month was at Druridge on 4th, Cresswell on 11th and 18th and at Hadston Lake on ten dates from 14th (DBNR).

Pochard

The largest gatherings were 150 at Hadston Lake on 21st (TAC), 135 at Seaton Burn on 31st (AT), and 105 at Killingworth on 6th (L&KR). 25-46 were on six other waters.

Ringed-necked Duck

The bird noted last month was at Cresswell Pond on 14th (DBNR).

Tufted Duck

138 were at Seaton Burn on 31st (AT), 107 at Cresswell Pond on 11th (DBNR), and 68 at Killingworth on 14th (L&KR). 35-50 were at five other waters.

Scaup

17 were at Hauxley Pool on 3rd, up to nine on Cresswell Pond and one-two at nearby Hadston Lake and Druridge Pool on various dates. Three-seven were at Whitley Bay, Blyth Estuary and Newton Point between 18th-29th. Inland two were at Seaton Burn on 3rd/4th (AJJ).

Eider

375 were at Cambois on 27th (TT) when 135 in Amble harbour (L&KR).

Long-tailed Duck

80-90 were at Stag Rocks/Ross during the month (BRS/ADMc). Five were off Tynemouth on 5th and ten on 24th (IF/JRT). One-three visited coastal ponds at Hauxley, Hadston, Druridge and Cresswell. Singles were also at Holywell Pond on 26th and at Whittle Dene up to 31st.

Common Scoter

400 at Stag Rocks on 11th increased to 700 by 26th (BRS/JGB) and a maximum of 300 was in Druridge Bay on 3rd (MH). One was on the Chevington Burn on 3rd and perhaps the same bird at Druridge Pool on 11th/12th.

Velvet Scoter

Up to five were at Tynemouth from 4th including one upstream at North Shields Fish Quay (RD/IF et al). A maximum of 14 was at Druridge Bay on 17th (JRT) when one at Ross (GB).

Goldeneye

A maximum of 118 was on the River Tyne between Newburn-Wylam on 10th (L&KR). Other large gatherings were 74 at Whittle Dene on 31st (JSB), 40 at Bolam Lake on 25th (AMB), 30 at Capheaton on 3rd (ES/DRS) and 26 at Castron on 10th (MR). Up to ten were at 13 other localities.

Smew

Two 'readheads' were at Hadston Lake all month, although a third bird was also present on 21st (DBNR/TAC et al). A drake was still at Whittle Dene on 10th (JSB).

Red-breasted Merganser

Birds were present all month at Hadston Lake with a maximum count of 40 on 3rd (DBNR et al) and others in Druridge Bay. One-seven were in four other coastal localities and one was at Holywell Pond from 4th.

Goosander

About 30 at Wylam Bridge on 4th included some diving in spate conditions on the river (IK/BG). 15 were at Whittle Dene on 10th (RGW) when ten at Castron (MR). One-eight were in 14 other localities including some in breeding areas.

Hen Harrier

The two 'ring-tails' remained in the Druridge Bay area during the month (DBNR et al). At least one 'ring-tail' was in the Holy Island/Ross/Budle area and others in three inland localities.

Sparrowhawk

One-two were seen in 25 widespread localities including one killing a Collared Dove at W Thirston on 15th (ETN).

Kestrel

One-two were in 14 widespread localities.

Merlin

At least two were in the Druridge area during the month and singles in another seven, mainly coastal, localities.

Black Grouse

One was at Threestoneburn on 28th (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

One was at Beacon Hill on 11th (ADMc).

Grey Partridge

19 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st was the largest covey reported (L&KR).

Water Rail

Two were at Newton Pool throughout the month (MF) and one at Gosforth Park on 29th (ISD).

Moorhen

32 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (JRT), and 23 at Hauxley Pool on 17th (DBNR).

Coot

The largest gatherings were 230 at Hartburn on 18th (MLC/TAC), 132 at Seaton Burn on 21st (L&KR) and 126 at Cresswell Pond on 29th (DBNR).

WADER COUNT - 11th DECEMBER

The following stretches were counted:- Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC), Beadnell-Howick(AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn - Cresswell (MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S.Pier-Hartley (KVB), St.Mary's Island (IDM), Tyne Estuary (MIT).

Oystercatcher

A total of 977 was noted during the wader count.

Ringed Plover

A total of 266 was noted during the wader count. 66 were at Berwick Little Beach on 19th (JDL).

Golden Plover

2,100 were at St.Mary's Island on 24th (IDM), up to 2,000 in the Cresswell area (DBNR) and 1,000 - 1,500 at Budle Bay, Newton Links and Woodhorn.

Grey Plover

A total of 56 were noted during the wader count. Six visited Cresswell Pond on 6th (DBNR).

Lapwing

Up to 2,000 were at Cresswell during the month (DBNR) and at Seaton Burn on 26th (DM). Gatherings of 1,000/1,100 were at Holywell Pond, Woodhorn and Budle Bay and 200-800 were in seven other localities.

Knot

A total of 452 was noted during the wader count although 500 were at Stag Rocks from this date (BRS).

Sanderling

A total of only 105 noted during the water count although 90 were at St. Mary's Island on 4th (JGB), 32 at Berwick on 19th and 50 at Budle Bay on 30th.

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 314 noted during the wader count. In addition 390 were at Stag Rocks by 24th (JGB).

Dunlin

A total of 1,596 noted during the water count represents a very large increase since November.

Ruff

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (ES).

Snipe

80 were at Alnmouth on 27th (JRT) and 50 at Cresswell Pond on 12th (DBNR).

Woodcock

Three were at Kielder on 4th (MD) and singles at Ross, Bamburgh, Warkworth Lane and Gosforth Park.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were at Hoppen Kiln Pool on 3rd when one in Budle Bay (JRT).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 67 was noted during the wader count.

Curlew

A total of 274 was noted during the wader count, although 185 were at the Long Nanny on 29th (RKS). 12 were inland at Brandon on 28th (AMB).

Redshank

A total of 587 was noted during the wader count. 200 were at Druridge on 21st (DBNR).

Green Sandpiper

A wintering bird was on the River Beamish at Brandon on 3rd and 28th (JC/AMB).

Turnstone

A total of 649 was noted during the wader count. 95 were at Stag Rocks on 24th (JGB).

Grey Phalarope

One was at Druridge on 7th and 19th (AP/DBNR).

Mediterranean Gull

The ringed adult was at Craster throughout the month. Another adult was at Red Row on 26th (BL), when yet another at North Shields (DMT).

Black-headed Gull

Roost count inland 6,500 at Hallington on 10th, 2,600 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th, and 6,400 at Scotswood on 18th (BNR). A bird in summer plumage was at St. Mary's Island on 17th (AJ).

Common Gull

Inland roosts included 15,000 at Hallington on 10th, 700 at Colt Crag on 11th and 11,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th. On the coast 820 roosted off Tynemouth on 1st and numbers at Budle Bay declined to 1,400 by 22nd (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

One-two were noted at Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Scotswood.

Herring Gull

530 roosted at Hallington on 10th and 690 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (BNR). Birds also visited bird-tables at Cramlington and Wideopen (LJM/DM). A Scandinavian race bird was at North Shields Fish Quay on 7th (RD).

Glaucous Gull

An adult was at North Shields Fish Quay throughout the month where a first winter present on 17th and a third winter on 25th (ES/DMT).

Great Black-backed Gull

85 roosted at Hallington on 10th and 150 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (BNR) 140 were at Blyth harbour on 27th (DMT).

Kittiwake

53 were at North Shields on 22nd (DMT).

Guillemot

20 were off Tynemouth Pier on 24th and 11 at Cresswell on 22nd (JRT/AT). Eight were in Tweed Dock on 18th (RMH), and one-two at North Shields Fish Quay and Amble Harbour.

Razorbill

Five were in Druridge Bay on 27th (MH).

Little Auk

Four were at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (JEF), one at Druridge on 3rd (MH), two at Bamburgh on 5th/17th (WD/MPF) and one S. at Cresswell on 17th (WAK).

Collared Dove

57 were at Hauxley on 22nd (IOK).

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Woodhorn and Alnmouth.

Little Owl

One was at Kirkley Hall on 4th (AHB).

Tawny Owl

Singles were at Earsdon, Benton and Lesbury.

Short-eared Owl

Seven were at Backworth on 3rd (ES/DRS) and up to four at Wallsend Swallow Pond. One-three were in a further 16 lowland or coastal localities and one-two well inland at Grindon and Threestoneburn.

Kingfisher

Singles were at Jesmond Dene, Close House, Mitford, Caistron and more unusual, Hadston Lake.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were noted at Close House and Wallington.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Seven different birds fed on fat at Ladycross during the month where four were trapped including two showing the characteristics of the 'northern' race (CJ et al). One-two were in eight other localities including several visiting gardens.

Skylark

One was singing at Horton on 8th (LJM). 40 were at Budle Bay on 25th (JGB).

Water Pipit

Two were at Whittle Dene on 31st (MR).

Rock Pipit

Four were at Cresswell Pond on 7th (DBNR).

Grey Wagtail

One-two were seen in ten widespread localities.

Waxwing

The number of reports declined rapidly since last month although 60 were present at Cramlington on 3rd when 66, possibly the same, were near Weetslade (ES/WAK). Further inland 28 were at Ladycross on 9th but only one on 13th (CJ). One-three were in another eight localities.

Dipper

Seven were between Allenbanks-Plankey Mill on 17th, including five in song (RKS). One-two were in six other localities.

Wren

Wintering individuals were noted in the S.Cheviots at 1,000 feet a.s.l. (BG/IK).

Dunnock

One was singing at Horton on 30th (LJM).

Robin

One was singing at 0200 hrs at the Tyne Tunnel on 20th (CB).

Stonechat

Probably eight individuals present in Druridge Bay between Cresswell-Hauxley during the month (DBNR). Three were at S.Alnmouth on 11th (ETN/JRN).

Blackbird

Two were singing at 0200 hrs at the Tyne Tunnel on 20th (CB). An almost all-white bird was at Backworth on 26th (ES).

Fieldfare

About 1,000 in the Slaley area between 28th-31st and 500 at Rochester on 29th were the largest gatherings (RMH). 90-140 were in three other localities.

Song Thrush

Singing birds were noted in several areas from 20th.

Redwing

80 at Juniper on 10th (CJ) and 64 at Brenkley on 29th (AT) were the largest gatherings. 10-25 noted in only three other localities.

Mistle Thrush

Singing birds were noted at Ladycross on 12th and Leazes Park on 27th (CJ/LJM).

Chiffchaff

Singles were at North Shields on 9th (AB) and Hauxley beach on 26th (IF).

Long-tailed Tit

Flocks of 15 were at Seaton Burn, Gosforth Park and Hulne Park and 4-12 at eight other localities.

Marsh Tit

One-four were at Wallington, Allenbanks, Hulne Park and Warkworth Lane.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Bolam, Arcot, Gosforth Park, and Warkworth.

Nuthatch

Seven were at Wallington on 25th (AMB). One-two were at Jesmond Dene, Bolam, Stocksfield, and Bywell.

Treecreeper

One-three were in five typical localities.

Great Grey Shrike

One remained at Ladycross throughout the month (CJ). Another was at Harwood on 3rd (ES/DRS).

Magpie

Four were on the Ottercops on 29th (RMH).

Jackdaw

Large pre-roost gatherings were 1,700 at Lower Heddon on 23rd and 500 at Halton on 31st (L&KR).

Rook

2,200 were with Jackdaws at Lower Heddon on 23rd. Nest building was noted at Hexham and Ponteland on 28th (L&KR).

Carrion Crow

32 roosted at Grindon Hill on 11th (BNR).

Hooded Crow

One-two were in the Ross area during the month.

Tree Sparrow

About 50 at Holywell Dene on 10th (AIP). 5-25 were at Mitford, Brunton Lane and Warkworth Lane.

Chaffinch

250 roosted at Halton on 31st (L&KR). 100 at Capheaton on 3rd (ES) was the only other large flock reported.

Brambling

12 at Ordley on 4th (CJ) and one at Threestoneburn on 28th (AMB) were the only reports.

Greenfinch

150 were at Arcot on 17th (JRT).

Goldfinch

30-50 regularly roosted in the Holly tree at Matfen during the month (RW). 27 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th (DBNR).

Siskin

30 were at Hadston Lake on 29th (DBNR), 25 at Hulne Park on 24th (ES), 18 at Newburn on 6th (AJ) and one-four at Waren Mill and Threestoneburn. Two-three used nut-feeders at Monkseaton, Wideopen and Bedlington.

Linnet

150 were at Seaton Burn on 17th (AJJ) and flocks of 50 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell and Hauxley.

Twite

A maximum of 80 was in the Amble Braid/Warkworth Gut area (PWW), 45 at Alnmouth on 27th (JRT), up to 40 at Druridge Links, 20 at Warkworth Lane on 25th (ADMc) and 12 at Bamburgh on 11th (BRS).

Mealy Redpoll

One was at Cresswell Pond on 8th (DBNR) and two at Druridge on 20th (AP).

Crossbill

Up to 17 were at Hadston Lake from 28th (KR/DBNR). Two were at Threestoneburn on 31st (AMB).

Bullfinch

Up to ten were at Threestoneburn (AMB) and two-seven in ten other localities.

Hawfinch

Six were at Hulne Park on 11th/17th (WAK/WD) and one at Close House on 3rd (JSB).

Lapland Bunting

Singles were at Holy Island and St.Mary's Island on 10th (BL/IDM) and, more unusual, two at Prestwick Carr on 20th (BRG).

Snow Bunting

Up to 50 were in the Hauxley area (IOK) and 35 at Bamburgh (JGB/GB). 17 were at Ross on 27th (ADM) and singles at Holy Island, Long Nanny and Druridge.

Yellowhammer

50 were at Bellasis Bridge on 29th (GB) and 30 at Arcot and Holywell.

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

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| M G Anderson | J E Fergusson | I O Kerton | W G Savage |
| A M Bankier | I Fisher | B Little | G Scott |
| A H Banks | M P Frankis | W T Logan | D R Shannon |
| K I Barrett | M Feeman | J D Lough | M J Sharp |
| J G Bell | B R Gadjus | P C Lowry | M B Shaw |
| G A Bentley | B Galloway | LJMcDougall | E Slack |
| A Blackett | B D Green | D McKeown | M R Smith |
| J S Booth | C D Hampton | A D McLevy | R K Stephenson |
| AI & G Bowman | J Harrison | JEC Malloy | T Thain |
| C Bradshaw | A Hart | I D Moorhouse | A Tilmouth |
| K V Brooks | M Henry | ET&JR Norris | JR Todd |
| ML&TA Cadwallender | R Henson | S Parnaby | R Walton |
| J Carr-Ellison | A J Hewitt | A Priest | RG Waugh |
| I Chadwick | MS Hodgson | AI Parnaby | PR Weighill |
| G Christer | RM Holmes | CF Redfern | PW West |
| NB Cox | K Huxley | K Reid | A Woodhall |
| IS Davidson | A Janes | M Richardson | Bamburgh Ringing Station |
| A Davis | C Jewitt | AT Rickeard | |
| M Davison | AJ Johnston | BN Rossiter | Druridge Bay Nature Reserves |
| W Dickson | WA Kelly | G S Rushbrooke | |
| R Duell | I Kerr | L&KR Russell | |

INDOOR MEETING - 9TH FEB 1989

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th February at Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm. Our speaker will be John Day who takes us to West Coast North America with his talk "Wagon Trains and Lumberjacks"..

ARTICLES FOR SALE

1) Bushnell Discoverer Telescope 15 to 60 zoom complete with camera adaptor and in mint condition. Price £125.00 o.n.o.

Contact Bill Savage (091) 2512639

2) Vivitar Series 1 450mm f4.5 lens with matched multiplier. Superb quality. Very fast and bright. Ideal for bird photography. Interchangeable mounts. Rubber amoured.

Contact Colin Bradshaw (091) 2572389

MEMBERS NIGHT 13th APRIL

We are still looking for three or four members who would be willing to give short presentations on Members Night. Slides are available for loan if you require them. If you are interested please Contact Nick Rossiter now on (043 473) 509.

ST.MARY'S ISLAND HIDE

We still have a few keys left for sale, price £5, for North Tyneside Council's excellent hide on St.Mary's Island. If you require a key please contact Mike Henry on (091) 2674957 or at any club meeting.

BIRD RACE IN AID OF THE BREEDING ATLAS

We are organising a Sponsored Bird Race on 11th March 1989 to raise funds towards the publication of our Breeding Atlas. We hope that all members will support this event either by participating in a team or raising sponsorship. A sponsor form is enclosed with this bulletin.

We are offering book tokens, to the value of £10 per team member, for the winning team.

The full rules are as follows:

1. The bird race will take place on Saturday 11th March 1989.
2. A team must consist of no more than four members and no less than three.
3. An entry fee of £2 per team must be paid and teams must be registered with the Atlas Committee (contact Muriel Cadwallander).
4. No species shall be included in the totals list unless it seen or heard by all team members.
5. Admitted species for totals shall be those on the British List. Rarities must be accepted by the County Records Committee.
6. Escapes, sick or injured/oiled birds shall not be admitted.
7. Tape luring shall not be allowed.
8. Species must be seen/heard within the club's recording area (see Birds in Northumbria for definition).
9. Species list for each team must be lodged with the Atlas Committee (i.e. Muriel Cadwallander) by 31st March 1989 at the latest, together with all sponsor monies collected.
10. The Atlas Committee's decisions will be final.

ACCOUNTS 1987/88

A set of audited accounts for the year ended 30th September 1988 are attached to this bulletin.

"LOCAL SITES" FIELD TRIP 5th NOVEMBER 1988

The day started at Wallsend Swallow Pond where the small party joining in on the outing met, eleven in total. The pond proved relatively fruitless with only 3 Redshank amongst the many Gulls and Ducks, notably Mallard and Teal with a few Wigeon and Shoveler. Goldcrest and Goldfinch were also noted.

Next stop was Arcot Pond, which held a stack of wildfowl, no doubt many of them seeking refuge away from the "overshot" Big Waters. Amongst the many mallard, Pochard and Tufted ducks were a teal, 10 + Wigeon 2 male Shoveler and a Drake Gadwall, Siskins noted overhead whilst a G.S. Woodpecker gave good views on a dead tree and a Jay called loudly.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was a stop, at Bothal Pond where a drake Red-Crested Pochard (coming out of eclipse/1st winter) and a female ring necked duck showed well. Amongst the other wildfowl was a notable Long-tailed Duck and a couple of Goldeneye and several Shelduck. Lunch was spent at Craster, where the trip leader, Alan Johnston soon found the near resident Med Gull, Purple Sandpipers showed well but a marsh/willow tit caused some slight confusion in the Willows as the same bird was also claimed to be a Coal Tit! Unfortunately the reported Waxwings could not be found and may have moved on further down where 100 were present at Cramlington next day.

A short stop at Boulmer beach added a few more waders to the days list and another lone male Siskin. Goosander noted at Foxton beach, whilst its counterpart Red-breasted Merganser was watched on Hadston Lake along with 4 + Scaup and 2 Goldeneye.

Druridge pool held a L.T. Duck and a pair of Stonechats gave excellent views in the dunes as did a SE Owl. The calm sea produced an impressive raft of C. Scoter (1000+) and everyone managed to see at least one V. Scoter 5+ were counted by MPF Several R T Divers were close inshore and a few Sanderling on the beach.

The final stop at Cresswell Pond did not reveal much except for another LT Duck and a number of Wigeon. All in all, though a very good days birding with around 84 species being seen 18 of those being Ducks, but as on most club trips, sadly, under - attended.

G BOWMAN

NORTHUMBERLAND AND TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 1988

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME

| | | | |
|---|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Members' Subscriptions (286 members) | | | 3,006.50 |
| Sales - Birds in Northumbria | | | |
| - to N.H.S.) 1987 | 348.00 | | |
| - other sales) | 757.00 | | |
| - previous years | 43.03 | | |
| - Access Guides | 459.00 | | |
| - Lindisfarne's Birds | 107.60 | | |
| - Greeting Cards | 62.85 | | |
| - Miscellaneous | <u>106.25</u> | | |
| Refund of Income Tax (Covenanted Subscriptions) | | | 1,883.73 |
| Deposit Account Interest | | | 523.03 |
| | | | <u>61.72</u> |
| | | | <u>5,474.98</u> |

EXPENDITURE

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Subscriptions | | 41.50 | |
| Indoor Meetings | | 559.50 | |
| Monthly Bulletins | | 1,075.75 | |
| Birds in Northumbria 1987 | £ | 1,543.00 | |
| Officers' Expenses (inc. Postages) | | 254.93 | |
| Printing - Atlas stationery | 127.65 | | |
| - Record Cards | 53.00 | | |
| - Access Guides | 128.00 | | |
| - Greeting Cards | 78.77 | | |
| - Misc. | <u>124.04</u> | | |
| Typewriter Repairs | | 511.46 | |
| Misc. | | 58.00 | |
| | | <u>138.88</u> | |
| | | | <u>4,183.02</u> |

PROFIT FOR YEAR 1,291.96

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| <u>less</u> Depreciation - Typewriter | 75.00 | | |
| - Stock | <u>275.27</u> | | |
| | | | <u>350.27</u> |

ADJUSTED PROFIT FOR YEAR 941.69

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 1988

| | £ | £ |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u> | | |
| Balance as at 1st October 1987 | | 3,162.05 |
| + profit per Income & Expenditure Account | | 941.69 |
| | | <u>4,103.74</u> |

Represented By:-

ASSETS

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Stocks - Birds in Northumbria, etc. (at cost or less) | | 940.00 |
| Debtors - N.H.S. (Birds in Northumbria 1987) | | 348.00 |
| Cash - In Hand | 65.34 | |
| - Current Account | 881.96 | |
| - Deposit Account | <u>2,151.44</u> | <u>3,098.74</u> |
| | | 4,386.74 |

less LIABILITIES

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Creditors - Subscriptions for 1988/89 - In Advance | | <u>283.00</u> |
| | | <u>4,103.74</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.

14th December, 1988

