

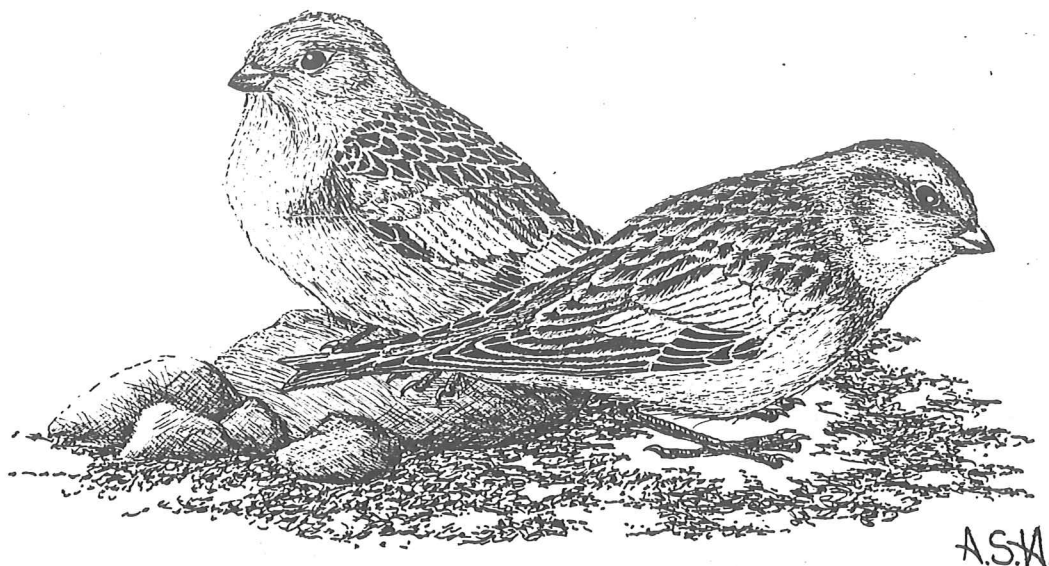


Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY - JANUARY 1990

The first month of the year was dominated by almost constant west or south-west winds with several days of very strong or gale force conditions. A reasonably mild mid-winter month although there were a few colder spells. Snow lay on high ground on several dates but the light falls in lower areas quickly disappeared.

Up to six Smew were present, with Druridge Bay CP playing host to five with good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers and several Goosanders also on the lake. The Ring-necked Duck was still present and a Ruddy Duck was at Holywell and Big Waters. Several Bean Geese were at Druridge Bay from 20th and Barnacle Geese were in several localities. Number of Dunlin remained high and interesting wintering waders included Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper and more unusual Common Sandpiper. The highlight for many, however, was the re-appearance of the Terek Sandpiper at North Blyth.



A Black Guillemot was a good find on New Year's Day at Low Newton. Reasonable numbers of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were reported and also at least five Mediterranean. The Shore Larks at Ross Back Sands remained and others were at Bamburgh and Cambois. Four Water Pipits during the last few days perhaps indicated a small influx. Small numbers of Waxwings were in widespread localities. Another local rarity, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen at Bolam Lake and further north numbers of Hawfinches at Hulne Park rose to an amazing 45. At least nine Blackcaps and a Chiffchaff were noted but much more unexpected was a Ring Ousel at Whitley Bay on 5th.

Other interesting records involved Black-necked Grebe, Hen Harriers, Hooded Crown and Mealy Redpoll.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

At least 26 were off Stag Rocks on 8th (JGB), 19 in Skate Road on 4th (MH), four in Druridge Bay and singles in four other localities. One was also on Druridge Pool on 6th and up river near Tweed Dock on 14th (TRC/RMH).

Black-throated Diver

Singles noted at Druridge on 6th, at Monkhouse on 8th and one-two in the Ross-Stag Rocks area between 21st-27th.

Great Northern Diver

Singles were in Skate Road off Ross Back Sands on 4th (MH) and in Budle Bay on 27th (JGB).

Little Grebe

17 were at Castle Island on 6th (AT) and nine on Cresswell Pond on 13th (DCJ). One-four were on another eight rivers or ponds.

Great-Crested Grebe

Two at Big Waters, Seaton Burn on 1st were noted performing the reed dance. One was also at North Shields Fish Quay (IF/JDH).

Red-necked Grebe

Twelve were in the Stag Rocks-Ross area on 27th (MPF).

Slavonian Grebe

Eleven were off Ross Back Sands on 4th (MH), five off Stag Rocks between 9th-27th, and a single in Druridge Bay on 3rd.

Black-necked Grebe

One was at Stag Rocks on 27th (TRC/MHp).

Fulmar

At least 25 noted off Stag Rocks on 8th (JGB) while 15 were noted back on breeding cliffs at Howick on 20th (MGA) and at Tynemouth Priory on 25th (ES et al).

Gannet

One-six noted off Stag Rocks, Hauxley, Annstead and Cambois.

Cormorant

The largest counts involved 84 at Corbirdge on 6th (MR), 110 at Blyth Harbour and 58 at N.Shields Fish Quay on 13th (TRC/DMT).

Shag

Around 400 were off Stag Rocks between 4th-12th (JGB).

Grey Heron

14 were noted south of Seahouses on 27th (TRC), eight at Newton Pool on 27th (RKS), seven at Castle Island on 20th (AT) and five at Gosforth Park on 14th (ISD).

Mute Swan

370 were at Berwick on 14th (RMH) and 36 at Killingworth Lake on 9th (L&KR).

Whooper Swan

The largest herds involved 50 at Rayburn Lake on 1st, 30 at Grindon Lough on 2nd and 37 at Hartburn on 7th (RKS.RD). One-14 were at another 12 localities.

Bean Goose

Two at Druridge Bay CP on 20th were also at Hauxley on 20th-22nd. Three were at Druridge Pools between 24th-28th (DBNR).

Pink-footed Goose

136 were near Holburn on 27th (JRT), 80 flew SW over Hipsburn and Warkworth on 13th (TA + MLC/WD). Singles were also noted at Derwent Reservoir, Broomlee Lough, Druridge, Castron and Holywell Pond.

White-fronted Goose

One of the Greenland race was at Holywell Pond on 14th and 24th (MT).

Greylag Goose

1,600 flew into roost in Budle Bay on 13th (BNR), 800-900 roosted at Castron throughout the month (MR). 835 were near Holburn on 27th (JRT), 300 at Whittle Dene on 6th and 230 at Grindon Lough on 28th 50-180 were also at Holywell Pond, near Thropton, Hallington and Derwent Reservoirs.

Canada Goose

64 were at Capheaton on 20th (MLC), 43 at Hallington Res. on 27th and 21 at Colt Crag on 13th (L&KR). One-two were also at Whittle Dene, Rayburn Lake and on the R. Tweed at Berwick.

Barnacle Goose

50 were near Budle Bay on 28th (IDM), seven at Cresswell Pond on 17th (DBNR), three at Grindon Lough on 1st (DCJ) and two at Bothal Pond on 12th (ET + JR Norris).

Brent Goose

Peak numbers at Lindisfarne involved 980 on 27th (TRC/MHp). Singles were also recorded at St. Marys Island between 1st-22nd, at Druridge Pool from 1st-7th, Hauxley on 6th-8th, Warkworth Gut 5th-21st and Newton Links on 6th. 7 dark bellied birds were at Lindisfarne NNR on 27th (TRC/MHp).

Shelduck

230 were in Budle Bay on 4th (JGB), 348 at Fenham Flats on 27th (JRT) and 23 at Warkworth Gut on 14th (ASH). One-eight were also at Swallow Pond, Low Newton, Druridge Bay CP, Hauxley, Bolam Lake, Big Waters, Cresswell and AIn estuary.

Wigeon

At least 700 were in Budle Bay on 4th (JGB) 240 at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS) 229 at Cresswell Pond on 7th (DBNR) 150 at Derwent Reservoir (BNR) and 135 at Hartburn Lake on 14th (JRT).

Gadwall

One-two were at Druridge, Cresswell and Hauxley Pools on various dates (DBNR).

Teal

240 were on the sea at Low Newton on 6th (RKS), 200 at Swallow Pond on 31st (JGB), 184 at Druridge Pool on 13th (JRT/KWY), 160 at Castron on 7th (MR) 114 at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS) and 110 at Gosforth Park on 5th (ISD) 30-97 were at a further seven localities.

Mallard

The largest flocks were of 300 in Budle Bay on 4th (JGB) 264 at Gosforth Park on 5th (ISD) 259 at Whittle Dene on 6th (L&KR), 226 at Colt Crag on 13th (RW), 220 at Castron on 28th (MR) and 200 on the sea off Whitley Bay on 14th (IDM).

Pintail

Four were at Fenham Flats on 20th (JRT/KWY) and singles at Big Waters on various dates and at Castron on 21st.

Shoveler

Seven were at Big Waters on 20th (AJJ) with one-four at Swallow Pond, Arcot Pond, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pool and Budle Bay.

Pochard

62 were on Ladyburn Lake, Druridge Bay CP on 14th (LJM) 61 at Holywell Pond on 31st (L&KR) 40 at Whittle Dene on 6th and 32 at Bolam Lake and Castron.

Ring-necked Duck

A single duck was at Cresswell Pond on 6th (ADM) and at Marden Quarry on 28th and 30th (AH et al).

Tufted Duck

69 were at Killingworth Lake on 15th (LJM), 64 at Big Water on 20th (AJJ) and 40 at Holywell Pond and Broomlee Lough. 14-35 were at another seven localities.

Scaup

Four were near Coquet Island on 5th and 21st (MPF) and at Druridge Bay CP on 16th (DBNR). Singles were off Brierdene, Whitley Bay on 3rd and on Holywell Pond between 16th-20th.

Long-tailed Duck

150 were at Stag Rocks-Ross Sands on 27th (MPF).

Common Scoter

200 were in Druridge Bay on 3rd (ES/WTL), 35 off Monkhouse on 8th and 34 off Stag Rocks on 13th (RKS).

Velvet Scoter

A maximum of six drakes and one duck were off Ross on 27th (MPF).

Goldeneye

Peak coastal counts involved 300 at Berwick Harbour on 14th (RMH) 120 at Cambois on 21st which possibly could account for a count of 119 at Holywell Pond on 20th (TRC). Further inland 73 were at Whittle Dene on 20th (L&KR) 36 at Castron (MR) and 26 at Broomlee Lough (BNR).

Smew

Three redheads on Laydburn Lake, Druridge Bay CP on 1st increased to four on 19th and increased to a peak of five on 31st (DBNR/JEF et al). One-two were considered immature drakes. An adult drake was at Colt Crag on 7th (BNR).

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 62 were at Druridge Bay C.P. on 25th (DBNR). More unusual was a single inland at Grindon Lough on 28th (BNR).

Goosander

42 roosted at Castron on 1st (MR) and 20 at Colt Crag on 20th (BNR) Two-16 were at another 20 localities.

Ruddy Duck

One was at Holywell Pond between 3rd-21st and at Big Waters on 31st.

Hen Harrier

A ringtail was at Elwick on 4th (MH). While the immature male with the white outertail reported last month was noted in Budle Bay on 27th. An adult male was at Cresswell on 8th (DBNR).

Sparrowhawk

Noted in many widespread localities often attending bird tables in gardens.

Kestrel

18 were noted between Hipsburn and Guidepost on 1st (TA + MLC) and 14 noted on 6th between Tynemouth-Amble (ES/DRS).

Merlin

Singles noted in 15 coastal and three inland localities.

Peregrine

Singles noted at St. Marys Island (taking a Knot), Ross Back Sands (chasing a Merlin), Budle Bay, Druridge, Cresswell and Linton Pond. There were also sightings at three inland localities.

Grey Partridge

22 were at St. Mary's Island on 25th (ES/WLT) and 20 at Alnmouth Dunes on 13th (WD). Coveys of five - 14 noted in a further five localities.

Water Rail

Two were calling at Gosforth Park on 7th (ISD). Singles noted at Holywell Pond on 1st & 20th (JRT/TRC) and at Big Waters on 12th and 27th (AMB/GB).

Moorhen

A maximum of 48 fed in field adjacent to Holywell Pond (MHP), 26 were at Castle Island on 14th (AMB) and 15 at Marden Quarry (AH).

Coot

208 were at Big Waters on 3rd (L&KR), 145 at Broomlee Lough (BNR) and 102 at Caistron on 28th (MR).

WADER COUNT - 14th JANUARY 1990

Very good coverage was again achieved with the following stretches being counted:- Tweed Estuary (SRN), Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC), Beadnell-Howick (AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), S. Alnmouth (ETN.JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington (TPMW), Chevington-Cresswell (EC/ISD/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Newbiggin-Cambois (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S. Pier-Hartley (KVB).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,105 was noted during the wader count. 50 were at St. Mary's Island on 21st (IDM).

Ringed Plover

A total of 229 was noted during the wader count. In addition 165 were at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL) and a maximum of 56 at Stag Rocks on 9th (JGB).

Golden Plover

A maximum of 3,200 were at St. Mary's Island on 21st (IDM). 1,100 were at Cresswell on 15th (AMB), 750 at North Seaton on 7th (MSH) and Boulmer on 22nd (ES), 700 at Stag Rocks on 16th and the Emblestones on 6th (JGB/RKS) and 120-330 at four other localities.

Grey Plover

A total of 101 noted during the wader count.

Lapwing

Large coastal gatherings included 2,000 between Howick-Boulmer on 13th (IK), 1,500 at Cresswell on 15th (AMB), 840 at Low Newton on 6th (RKS), 800 at the Coquet Estuary (JMA), 750 near Seahouses (MLC) and 300-650 in six other localities. Widespread reports inland, indicating an early return, involved 1,300 at Callerton on 14th (L&KR) when 700 at Caistron (MR) and 95-375 at six other areas.

Knot

Only 280 were noted during the wader count. 800 were at N. Blyth on 14th and St. Mary's Island on 21st (IDM) and 120 at Budle Bay on 20th (KWY).

Sanderling

Only 83 were noted during the wader count although 62 were at Blyth Beach on 13th (AT) and 60 at Tynemouth on 2nd (ES). 40 were at Budle Bay on 4th (JGB) and 30 at Berwick Little Beach (RMH).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 381 noted during the wader count. In addition 200 roosted at Blyth N.Pier on 6th (JMA).

Dunlin

Numbers remained high with 1,503 noted during the wader count. 600 were at Blyth on 11th (IF), 550 at Holy Island causeway on 21st, 425 at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL), 180 at the Coquet Estuary (JMA) and 140 at St.Mary's Island (IDM). One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th.

Ruff

The wintering bird at N.Blyth was present all month.

Jack Snipe

One-three were present at Cresswell Pond during the month and singles at Warkworth Gut on 2nd and Druridge Pools on 9th (DBNR/MJS).

Snipe

20 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 4th (AMB) and one-ten at six other localities.

Woodcock

One-two were in six widespread localities.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 88 was noted during the wader count. 650 were at Holy Island causeway on 21st (JDL), 160 at Budle Bay on 9th (JGB) and 61 at Warkworth Gut on 14th (ASH).

Curlew

A total of 252 was noted during the wader count. 260 were at Annstead on 21st (MLC), and 230 flew into Budle Bay on 12th (JGB). Inland 32 were at Caistron on 1st (MR) and one-seven in five other localities.

Spotted Redshank

One was near Ross Back Sands on 27th.

Redshank

A total of 878 noted during the wader count. Up to 370 roosted at N.Blyth (IF). One-four were noted at Arcot and Wallsend Swallow Ponds.

Greenshank

One was still at Newburn on 1st (KR/PWD).

Green Sandpiper

One was on the River Glen near Wooler on 21st (WMR).

Terek Sandpiper

The bird found at N. Blyth during December re-appeared on 11th and remained throughout the month. It was also seen further upstream and on the S. side of the river on several dates.

Common Sandpiper

One, presumably wintering in the area, was at the Tweed Estuary on 19th (SRN).

Turnstone

A total of 1,011 noted during the wader count. A maximum of 234 roosted at N. Blyth on 27th (IDM).

Mediterranean Gull

Single adults were at Craster and North Shields Fish Quay during the month and another at N.Blyth on 13th and Blaydon Station on 1st (DMT/RKS/PWD/TRC). A second winter was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th (AH).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roost counts included 2,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th, 4,000 at Hallington on 6th, 2,800 at Scotswood on 10th increasing to 10,000 by 29th, and 1,000 at Colt Crag on 21st (BNR). 2,400 were at Blyth on 11th (IF), 1,300 at Budle Bay on 13th and 800 at Holywell Pond on 4th (L&KR).

Common Gull

Inland roosts involved 12,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th, 7,500 at Hallington on 6th, 1,900 at Colt Crag on 7th increasing to 11,000 on 21st, and 1,700 at Broomlee on 12th. On the coast 1,050 roosted at Budle Bay/Fenham Flats on 13th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Singles were noted at Seaton Burn, West Denton, High Heaton, along the R.Tyne, and at Druridge Bay CP.

Herring Gull

Inland roost counts included 2,300 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th declining to 1,100 on 27th, 530 at Hallington on 6th, 200 at Colt Crag on 21st and 480 at Scotswood on 29th (BNR). 1,300 were at Holywell Pond on 4th (L&KR) and a maximum of 1,000 at the Tyne Estuary on 7th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

At least five individuals were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month, involving two first-winters and single adult, third-winter and second winter birds. An adult and a second winter visited Holywell Pond on 31st (MHp).

Glaucous Gull

At least two adults and one first winter bird were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month. Also present was the second winter hybrid noted last month. A third winter bird remained at Seahouses and a first winter visited Holywell Pond on 8th (JGB/MT).

Great Black-backed Gull

260 roosting at Derwent Reservoir on 5th declined to 125 on 27th and 77 roosted at Hallington on 6th (BNR). 150 were at Holywell Pond on 4th (L&KR) and 134 at North Shields Fish Quay on 1st (DMT).

Kittiwake

Inland two adults roosted at Hallington on 20th (BNR). 26 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 27th (DMT).

Razorbill

13 were off Stag Rocks on 8th (JGB) and six at Craster on 20th (ES).

Black Guillemot

One was at Low Newton on 1st (ALA).

Little Auk

One was off Stag Rocks on 4th (JGB). Single dead birds were found at Newbiggin on 11th (IF), and Buston Links and Warkworth Beach on 14th (MHp/AJD).

Stock Dove

Nine were at Gosforth Park on 20th (ISD) and six at Whittle Dene on 27th (EB).

Woodpigeon

1,100 were near Blyth on 14th, 1,300 at Alnmouth on 28th (IDM). 1,000 near Fenham Flats on 21st (MLC) and 150-600 at six other localities.

Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Lanton, Kemping Moss, Akeld, Hipsburn, Radcliffe, Druridge, near Ellington and Cramlington.

Little Owl

One-two were at Backworth, West Brunton, Druridge, Red Row and West Chevington.

Tawny Owl

One-two were seen or heard in ten widespread localities.

Short-eared Owl

Up to four were at Druridge and one-two in another nine mainly coastal localities. Further inland two were at Stamfordham on 20th (EB).

Kingfisher

Two were at Jesmond Dene during the month (MPF) and singles at Whittle Dene, R. North Tyne, Mitford, Caistron and Low Alwinton.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were at Commonburn (JMA), Bywell (JH) and Wallington Hall (IC).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-three were seen in 13 widespread localities including one 'drumming' at Lesbury on 18th (WD).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

One was singing at Bolam on 2nd (MD/IF).

Skylark

High numbers were still present in the Ross/Fenham area with a maximum of 400 on 10th (IK et al). Smaller numbers were in several other coastal areas.

Shore Lark

Three were present at Ross Back Sands up to 20th but only two noted from 23rd. Singles were also found at Cambois from 7th (MDP/LH et al) and at Stag Rocks on 20th/21st (PK/DGB).

Meadow Pipit

Small numbers still noted inland including 18 at Whittle Dene on 27th (EB).

Water Pipit

One was at Cresswell Pond from 28th (GAS/DBNR) although this bird may have been present since 13th. Other singles were at Newton Pool on 27th (RKS), and S. Alnmouth and Whittle Dene on 28th (MJS/RGW).

Rock Pipit

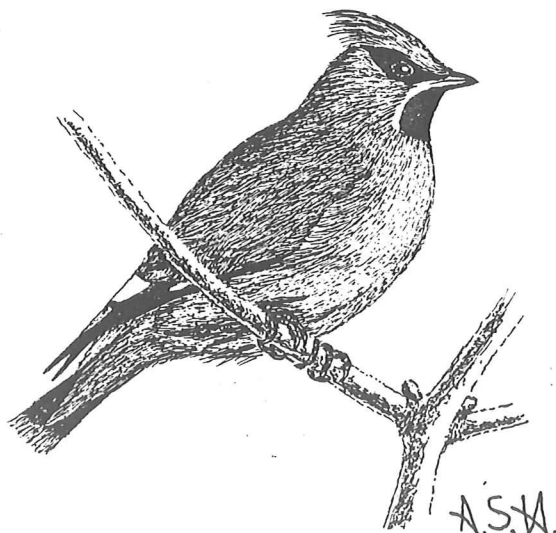
14 were at Low Newton on 28th (TRC), 13 at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (JDL), ten between Beadnell-Seahouses on 14th (MLC) and five between Boulmer-Howick on 1st (RKS).

Grey Wagtail

Singles were in eight mainly coastal localities and two further inland at Hexham on 19th (BNR).

Waxwing

Three were at Amble Braid from 1st (IF), up to four at Druridge Bay CP from 2nd (AT et al), 19 at Atlee Park from 19th (TRC et al), ten at Shilbottle on 26th (AJ), three at Wylam (KR) and one-two at Hulne Park, Craster, Bolam, Chapel House, Hexham and Warkworth Lane.

Dipper

One-five were noted in 13 widespread areas including some singing and displaying birds.

Wren

Birds noted still wintering on moorland in Upper Coquetdale.

Robin

Singing birds noted after dark at Amble and Wideopen on New Year's morning! (MLC/DM).

Stonechat

One-two noted at Monk's House, Newton, Chevington Burn and Druridge Pools.

Ring Ousel

An amazing record involved one at Marden Quarry on 5th (AH).

Blackbird

Up to 300 roosted at Marden Quarry during the month (AH).

Fieldfare

About 1,750 were in two groups near Otterburn on 27th (AT), 500 at Caistron on 21st (MR), and up to 400 at W.Woodburn and Slaley (IK/RMH). There were many other reports with flocks of 100-300 in another 21 widespread localities.

Song Thrush

Singing birds were at Ordley on 1st and Byker on 2nd (BNR/AJB).

Redwing

Few reports with the largest gathering of 60 at Hipsburn on 20th (MLC). 30-40 were at Hexhamshire, Allenbanks and Bywell and smaller numbers at four other localities.

Mistle Thrush

30 were at Kimmer Lough on 14th (ISD). One was singing at Horton on 6th (LJM).

Blackcap

Two visited a garden at Benton (GPB). Singles were noted, again mainly in gardens, at Alnwick, Morpeth, Bedlington, Amble Braid, Wylam, Stocksfield, and Ponteland.

Chiffchaff

One was near North Shields Fish Quay on 7th (AH).

Goldcrest

About 50 were at Hulne Park on 20th, 40 at Close House on 13th and 30 at Spindleston on 14th (ES/MSH/BRS). One was singing at Walbottle on 21st (L&KR).

Long-tailed Tit

Still well reported with 25 at Bedlington on 20th (MHP), 20 at Bolam on 14th (JRT), 24 trapped at Sandhoe (GWM), and 4-15 at a further 18 localities.

Marsh Tit

One-two were at Bolam, Craggside, Sandhoe, Wallington, Hulne Park and Spindleston.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Castron, Bedlington, Plessey Woods, Castle Island and Brunton Lane.

Coal Tit

20 were at Wallington on 21st (IC).

Blue Tit

243 were ringed at Sandhoe during the month (GMW) and a further 67 at Matfen (RW). 33 were at Walbottle Dene on 21st (L&KR).

Great Tit

47 were trapped at Sandhoe during the month (GWM).

Nuthatch

Up to eight were at Close House and Wallington (WGS/MSH), six ringed at Sandhoe (GWM), five at Jesmond Dene (MPF) and one-three at Heddon, Bywell, Riding Mill, Bolam, Mitford, Craggside and Hulne Park.

Treecreeper

One-four were noted in nine widespread localities.

Jay

One-three were at Close House, Plessey Woods, Warkworth and Debdon Lake.

Magpie

14 were at Arcot Hall on 6th (AHB) and 12 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th (DM).

Jackdaw

Large numbers moving daily over Chapel House/W Denton/Fenham probably to and from roost (MH).

Rook

Up to 1,000 with Jackdaws passing over Chapel House (see above). 700 at a pre-roost gathering at Throckley on 14th (L&KR). Nest-building was noted at North Brunton on 26th (DM).

Carrion Crow

Two visited a garden feeding station at Walbottle on 24th (L&KR).

Hooded Crow

One was at Guile Point on 27th (NTBC trip).

Starling

The Grindon Hill roost declined to 35,000 by 14th (BNR).

House Sparrow

One was carrying nesting material at Cramlington on 12th (LJM).

Tree Sparrow

Up to 30 were at Druridge Links (MLC) and 4-20 at eight other localities.

Chaffinch

300 were at Hesleyside on 12th (DCJ), 280 at Castron on 28th (MR) and 100-130 at Newton Links, Spindlestone, near Holburn Mill, and Farnham Moor.

Brambling

40 were at Hexham on 7th (KD), 25-30 at Heaton Park on 31st (SP), 20 at Hulne Park (TRC) and one-ten at eight other localities. Up to 15 fed in a garden at Stocksfield (CC).

Greenfinch

150 were near Holburn Mill on 27th (TRC) and 60 at Lowick on 29th (WMR).

Goldfinch

20 were at Cresswell on 27th (ES) and 19 at Arcot Hall on 11th (AHB).

Siskin

Up to 100 were at Castron (MR) and Happy Valley (MGA/ADMc) 60 were at Low Alwinton on 27th (AT), 50 at Bolam on 14th (JRT), and 20-30 at Spindlestone, Rothbury, Bedlington and Big Waters. Smaller numbers were in another nine localities including some gardens.

Linnet

350 were near Holburn Mill on 27th (TRC) and 100 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 11th (JGB).

Twite

Up to 50 were at Amble Braid/Warkworth Gut (JMA), 35 at Druridge Links (AT), 13 near Cresswell (CC) and 11 at the Alnmouth Estuary (MJS).

Redpoll

40 were at Grindon on 1st (DCJ).

Mealy Redpoll

One was at Colt Crag on 27th (L&KR).

Crossbill

53 were counted in 2 hours at the Redesdale Forest, including many singing birds, on 12th (DCJ). Two-four were in four other localities.

Bullfinch

15 were at Belsay Hall on 7th (RD), ten at W.Thirston on 29th (ETN) and one-eight in a further 17 localities.

Hawfinch

Numbers built up at Hulne Park to a peak of 43-45 on 13th (JP/KR et al), this probably being the largest gathering recorded in the county. Four were at Sandhoe on 17th (GWM) and one-two at Close House, Wallington and Hexham.

Lapland Bunting

Seven were on Holy Island on 27th (AH/TRC).

Snow Bunting

25-29 were present at Cambois from 7th (MDP/AMB). One-seven were also at Ross, Stag Rocks, Warkworth Gut and Newbiggin. Inland one was at Bellingham on 21st (per DJC) and two at Weldon Bridge on 27th (JMA).

Yellowhammer

60 were at Ordley and Chapel House (BNR/MH), 40 at Hexham on 28th (DCJ), and 18-30 at Slaley, Hipsburn, and Big Waters. Birds again noted in gardens at Walbottle and Lesbury.

Reed Bunting

20 were at Druridge Links on 1st (MLC). 15 were in conifers at the Irthing Valley on 8th (MH).

Corn Bunting

Eight were at South Linton on 14th (ADMc).

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

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K I Barratt	M Hepple (MHP)	K Robson
JG & DG Bell	M S Hodgson	B N Rossiter
A J Booth	J D Holding	W H Ruddock
J S Booth	R M Holmes	L & K Russell
G Bowman	J & M Howat	W G Savage
K V Brooks	A Hutt	D R Shannon
G P Bull	D Jacklin	M J Sharp
M E Burnley	A Janes	M B Shaw
TA & ML Cadwallender	D C Jardine	E Slack
I Chadwick	W A Kelly	M R Smith
T R Cleeves	I Kerr	G A Sorrie
C Cox	P Knowles	R K Stephenson
E Crabtree	R & J Lancaster	M Thomson
I S Davidson	W T Logan	A Tilmouth
P W Davidson	J D Lough	A Todd
A J Davis	L J McDougall	J R Todd
M Davison	D McKeown	D M Turner
K Dawson	A D McLevy	R Walton
W Dickson	G W Moon	TPM Watson
I R Douglas	I D Moorhouse	R G Waugh
R Dunn	K Nattress	P W West
J E Fergusson	S R Newman	A Woodhall
I Fisher	G Nicholson	K W York
M P Frankis	ET & JR Norris	Bamburgh Ringing Station
		Druridge Bay Nature Reserves

INDOOR MEETING - 8TH MARCH

Our next meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm on Thursday 8th March. Guest speaker will be John Day (but not 'our' John Day) giving a presentation on 'Marsh and Montagu's Harriers.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

Many planning schemes now require an environmental assessment before decisions are taken. The assessments are often made by environmental consultants who need to collect data on the flora and fauna of the site to present an accurate picture of its value from the conservation point of view.

Substantial fees are paid to the consultants for their reports. You should therefore be aware that if you are approached by a consultant for any data that you have personally collected (birds of estuaries enquiry, wildfowl counts, atlas work and other studies), that there is a price to be placed on it.

Whether a charge is actually made or not clearly depends on the nature of the consultants. Some are offshoots of bodies wholly committed to conservation and deserve our support. Others need to be treated in a more business-like manner. If you are approached for information and feel that you need some advice: contact a committee member of the Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club.

BTO/WWT/SOC MUTE SWAN SURVEY - SPRING 1990

The Mute Swan is one of our better censused birds. The results of the last survey in Northumberland in 1983 are reported in *Birds in Northumbria* 1984. This was part of a national survey made to assess the effects of lead poisoning in many coarse-fishing areas where lead weights were extensively used.

Following the welcome change by anglers to the use of non-toxic weights, it is thought that numbers of Mute Swans in Britain have started to recover. The main aim of the new national survey, organised by the British Trust for Ornithology in conjunction with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and the Scottish Ornithologists Club, is to quantify this recovery.

In Northumberland, we are aiming for a complete census of our Mute Swan population by building on a private study undertaken by a club member, Jon Coleman, on Mute Swan breeding sites. By combining his counts with our Atlas information, a record county population of over 50 pairs is indicated for 1989.

The survey is on the familiar 10-km square basis. It involves making as many visits as necessary to the square to cover all potential breeding habitat and to visit any sites where non-breeding birds congregate. Each site only needs to be visited once - ideally in April or May, although March or June records can also be used. The forms are straight-forward to complete, being virtually identical to those used in 1983.

If you would like to help with what promises to be an encouraging survey, please contact the undersigned as soon as possible. If Atlas workers, particularly in the north of the county, would like to accommodate this survey, their help will be very welcome. The survey does offer all members the opportunity to collect some useful supplementary records by checking the ponds and suitable rivers for interesting species.

NICK ROSSITER

NORFOLK FIELD TRIP 2-3 DECEMBER 1989

Eleven of us were at King's Lynn by first light after a 3am departure from Tyneside. After failing to locate Golden Pheasants at Sandringham, we managed to see Red-legged Partridge and Water Rail at Holkham. A half hour search for the Red breasted Nuthatch proved fruitless, though Jays, a Merlin and six species of geese were added to the list before a snap decision to make for Salthorne. There we watched 5 Shorelarks at very close range, c70 Snow Buntings and, on the sea, a Great Northern Diver. Prolonged watching of the Larks left only a few hours daylight, some of which was taken up in reaching Horsey, where a gas gun by the path to the reeds caused temporary panic among the birders. The long wait at dusk was rewarded with the sight of two Hen Harriers and two Marsh Harriers coming in to roost, but not the hoped for Cranes.

After a night's accommodation at various places in North Norfolk we were off at 6am to the Yare Valley in search of Bean Geese. Thick fog hampered any progress, so we returned to Holkham Pines in mid-morning, in time for the fleetest of foot amongst us to catch a 1 minutes sighting of the elusive Red-breasted Nuthatch. So on to Titchwell for Bearded Tit and reported Spoonbill, though neither species materialised, though compensation came in the form of a Chiffchaff with a bright Supercilium, Twites a Ringtail Hen Harrier.

A final attempt to bag Bean at Snettisham was again foiled by fog, so we headed home, through fog all the way being ripped off at a Little Chef. The weekend total was 99 species and well worth the price of about £35 as almost everyone got at least one tick. Thanks to the two drivers Les Hall and Keith Regan who got us home safely by 10pm.

TRIP TO STAG ROCKS AND ROSS SANDS 27th JANUARY 1990

A bright but chilly day greeted us at the 9am start at Seahouses, with a promise of an escape from the storms affecting the rest of the country and the hope that the sea would not be too rough to see anything. The usual lookout from Seahouses pier found a very close trio of Long-tailed Duck, a pair of Mergansers on a rock pool just north of the pier, and the usual Grey Plover with the other waders on the mud in the harbour.

At Stag Rocks a sea apparently empty of birds greeted us, but as usual, closer inspection proved this wrong as Long-tailed Duck after Long-tailed Duck was picked out, and a very close, but puzzling diver swam past. This was large (though not massive) and dark, but lacked the 'traditional' white flank patch we had all come to believe was the essential character of Black-throated Diver. It obviously was not a Red-throated, as it was far too dark and thick in its neck and had a straight bill and peaked forehead, yet was not massive enough for a Great Northern. Mike Hodgson came to the rescue with the information that Black-throated does not invariably have that white flank patch, and this individual was one of these. A few Red-throated Divers were also found, making a useful comparison. Grebes also started to appear, with first one, then two, and eventually five or six Red-necked Grebes being picked out, these being a 'lifer' for at least one member on the trip, ex-Sheffield student Sean Gauton. They never get these things in these dreary inland places down south!.

Scoter were conspicuous by their absence, with only one small group seen a very long way away, and Auks were also few, with a scattering of Razorbills and no Guillemots. Nearer to hand, the usual flock of Purple Sandpipers was on the rocks, and some people heard a couple of Twite fly past.

Buddle Bay held all of the expected waders and duck, and one solitary Greylag Goose, perhaps an injured bird. The big surprise came when Mike Smith picked out a large raptor, not in the air as might be expected, but walking around in the seaweed on the tide-line! All 'scopes rapidly swung round to it, and talk of Buzzard was soon corrected to Hen Harrier as the length of its legs and lightweight body structure were noted. Eventually, it flushed out a small bird, probably a Meadow Pipit, which it had obviously chased into the weed and was trying to re-find for lunch. As it flew into the air, we had a more 'usual' view of it and could see that it was a immature male, with a most interesting partly-white tail, white on the right side, and grading through pale brown to the normal colour on the left half. This easily recognised individual had been reported earlier from Ross Sands by our resident Harrier expert Mike Henry. It missed the pipit again and sat down to sulk on a log in clear view for a good long time.

On towards Ross, we stopped at the 'Goose Layby', to see a large but distant flock of about 100-150 Greylags, joined by at least 26 Barnacle Geese, an unusual sight in the county at this time of year, presumably an early return east by the Solway birds with the mild weather.

Lunch was rapidly devoured at Ross Farm, with everyone keen to get out to look for the Shore Larks which had been present for the last two months. On reaching the coast the first stop though was another search for diverse divers, grebes and seaducks; here an even larger number of Long-tailed Ducks - at least 80 - accompanied four Slavonian Grebes, six or seven Red-necked Grebes and another Black-throated Diver, this time with the classic white flank patch. Bobby Cox found four drake Velvet Scoter close in, but they swam off south before most could find them, but a nearby group of 20 Common Scoter was seen by everyone.

The long trek up the sand proved successful, and after only a few minutes in the Gut at Ross Point, four larks flew up ahead of us. Two gave ordinary Skylark calls, but the other two gave an unfamiliar high pitched short whistle and appeared to be a bit smaller. We saw where they went down and crept up on them to have excellent views of an adult male and an immature Shore Lark, a new species for many. Moving on, Mike Hodgson had a brief view of a Spotted Redshank as it flew past on its way to roost, but it was not relocated despite a search; a Hooded Crow also flew past. Returning back along the beach, three more Velvet Scoter flew in from the south, this time two drakes and a duck, which stayed for everyone to see; another 'lifer' for Sean and ending an excellent day's birding.

MICHAEL FRANKIS

Report on Atlas Coverage 1988-89

by Nick Rossiter, Tom & Muriel Cadwallender and Margaret Macfarlane

The status of the Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club Atlas Project for Breeding Birds is summarised in the table below:

area of county	no. of tetrads	no. low priority	no. to cover	total no. covered 88+89 (88)	% covered	total hours	no. with signif. supps.
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
NT (NW)	261	12	249	196 (108)	79	445	36
NU (NE)	289	18	271	205 (135)	76	473	78
NY (SW)	540	22	518	331 (112)	64	732	132
NZ (SE)	334	15	319	269 (190)	84	598	63
Total	1424	67	1357	1001 (545)	74	2248	309

A comparison with last year's report shows that the number of tetrads to be covered has apparently increased during the year! This is the result of a much more complete assessment of the boundaries of Northumberland, both inland and on the coast, to identify all tetrads with any area at all in the county (column A). Some of these tetrads have such a small area in the county that they are in general being assigned a low priority (column B). Column C, obtained by subtracting Column B from A, therefore shows the number of tetrads of high priority.

Column D shows the number of tetrads which have received timed visits in the atlas so far with, in brackets, the number of timed visits in 1988 alone. Column E shows the percentage coverage of priority tetrads to date. Column F shows the number of hours spent in timed visits and column G gives the number of tetrads for which a significant number of supplementary records (minimum of 4 species, typically) have been obtained.

The map shows the number of priority tetrads left to be covered in each 10-km square. Where there are 4 or fewer tetrads outstanding, these are itemised.

The overall picture is very encouraging with 1,001 visits providing 2,248 hours of timed fieldwork and overall coverage of 74% of priority tetrads. The general momentum has been maintained in the NT, NU and NZ areas and a tremendous effort in the South-West (NY) now enables us to claim a consistent picture of high coverage throughout the county. There is thus a real hope that we shall virtually complete the field work for the atlas in 1990.

There are a number of strategies available for completing coverage of the outstanding tetrads:

- 1) Where there are 5 or more tetrads outstanding in a square, the observer(s) who covered the area in 1989 could continue their studies there;
- 2) Where there are between 1 and 4 tetrads outstanding, the observer(s) who covered the area in 1989 could, firstly, visit the tetrads listed on the map and, secondly, visit a few tetrads in another square.

- 3) Where a square has been completely covered, the observer(s) responsible might like to help out in another square.
- 4) New atlas field workers are very much welcome either to help in the poorly-covered areas or to consolidate coverage in other squares.
- 5) Anyone in the club can help by entering interesting breeding records on the normal club record cards and sending them to the recorder in the usual way. Please specify the location as accurately as possible so that we can obtain a map reference without too much difficulty.

In addition, two other types of record are particularly sought this year:

- a) Mute Swan records - both breeding and non-breeding. See the Mute Swan Survey announcement in this bulletin.
- b) Atlas supplementary records - we need many more of these to be confident that we have reasonable coverage of the more elusive or localised species. Please try and record these wherever you are in the county for species that you think might be missed in a timed visit. The BTO will be providing us with lists of species found in each 10-km square to date and we will make copies of these available to observers.

Negotiation is clearly required between the co-ordinators and field workers to plan the work this year. For existing atlas workers, your co-ordinator will be in touch soon. However, If you want to establish quickly your preferred course of action or are a newcomer to atlas work, please contact one of the co-ordinators now:

South-East of County (NZ):

Tom & Muriel Cadwallender, 22 South View, Hipsburn, Lesbury, Alnwick
NE66 3PZ (0665-830884)

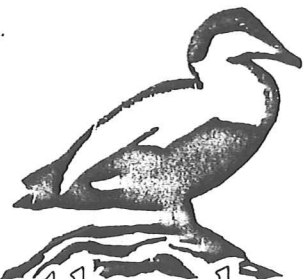
South-West of County (NY):

Margaret Macfarlane, 7 Wildshaw Close, Cramlington NE23 6LH (0670-715399)

North of County (NT,NU):

Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX (0434-673509)



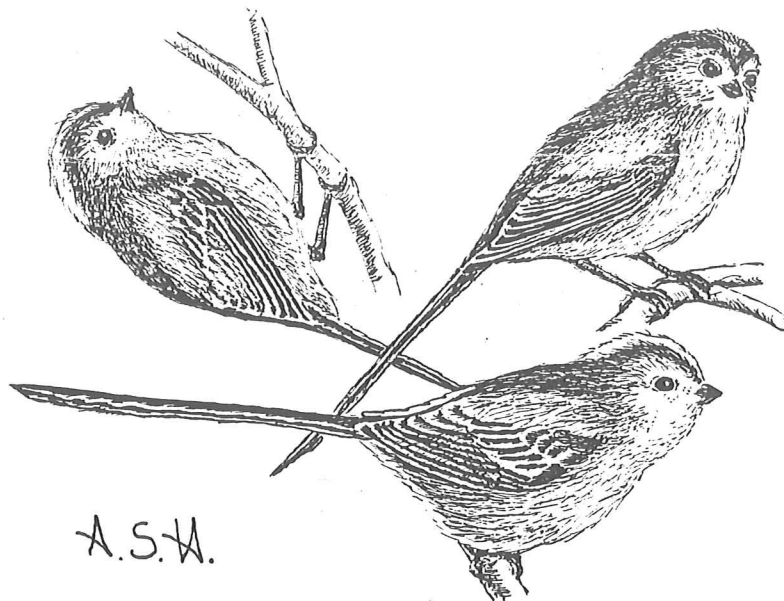


Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY FEBRUARY 1990

The weather during February was again dominated by an almost constant westerly airflow with many days of strong, blustery winds from the SW. This airflow maintained the mild conditions although again there were some short spells of colder weather with snow falling mainly on higher ground. This snow did not linger even on the hills.

A Black-throated Diver was in the unusual locality of Holywell Pond on 3rd/4th, only the 11th recorded at an inland site in the county. Another unusual record involved a Manx Shearwater at Druridge Bay on 17th and 24th. Spring passage of Gannets commenced and typically Cormorants showing characteristics of the continental race began to appear. There was an increase in the numbers of Shelduck along the coast and a scattering of inland records. The Ring-necked Duck lingered at Marden Quarry until 18th and Smew were still present at Druridge Bay Country Park and Colt Crag. Only one Hen Harrier was reported.



The monthly wader count detected yet another increase in the numbers of Dunlin. Another wintering Green Sandpiper was seen and a Black-tailed Godwit was in Budle Bay. The Terek Sandpiper continued to reside on the Blyth Estuary, and nearby at Cambois two out-of-season Little Gulls were found. Other species lingering from earlier in the year included Short Larks, Water Pipits and Waxwings.

The regular counts at inland gull roosts revealed a large increase in Common Gulls indicating an early start to spring passage through the county.

The mild winter conditions continued to be beneficial to birds in general and there were a number of pleasing reports of diverse species such as Barn Owls, Kingfisher and Long-tailed Tits. The highlight of the month for many was the discovery of a Pine Bunting at Big Waters Reserve. This bird attracted the attention of many hundreds of visitors as it lingered into March. Despite the immense pressure on the reserve by so many people, the vast majority acted in a sensible and responsible manner during their visit. An excellent example to birders everywhere.

CLASSIFIED LIST

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Red-throated Diver

Eleven were at Holy Island on 3rd (ES), eight at Stag Rocks on 20th (DH), seven in Druridge Bay on 28th and one-four at Alnmouth, Hauxley and Beadnell Bay.

Black-throated Diver

A single was on Holywell Pond on 3rd-4th.

Little Grebe

A maximum of 18 were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (PAB), 12 were at Castle Island on 16th (AT) and seven at Warkworth on 10th (AMB). One-four were noted at a further 12 localities with trilling noted from 24th.

Great crested Grebe

One-two noted at Big Waters, Holywell Pond, Arcot Pond and Hallington. Two were on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 19th (DH) and at Druridge on 28th (ES).

Red-necked Grebe

A single was in Druridge Bay on 17th (ADM), three off Stag Rocks on 20th (GB) and other singles in Beadnell Bay on 24th (RKS) and off Lindisfarne on 25th (JDL).

Slavonian Grebe

Two were off St.Cuthberts Island, Holy Island on 3rd (ES) three at Ross Back Sands on 18th (DH) and singles at Stag Rocks on 17th/20th.

Fulmar

Thirty were noted at Bamburgh Castle on 16th (WMR), 11 at Coquet Island on 20th (DM) and seven at Howick Haven and St Mary's Island on 24th-25th.

Manx Shearwater

An exceptionally early record involved one between Hauxley and Coquet Island on 17th (JB/MA). It or another was in Druridge Bay on 24th (SEB et al).

Gannet

Passage N. involved 120 per hour at Berwick on 10th (JDL) and 20 off Stag Rocks on 17th (JGB). On 26th 25-30 were off Emmanuel Head, Holy Island (IK).

Cormorant

Maximum concentrations included 66 at Corbridge on 10th (MR), 63 at Blyth on 11th (LJM), 58 at North Shields Fish Quay on 10th (DMT) and 35 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (L&KR). Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race were noted at Big Waters on 18th and North Shields on 25th (DM/KR).

Grey Heron

One-four noted at six widespread localities. Six were at Ladyburn Lake, D.B.C.P. on 5th (TAC).

Mute Swan

307 were in Berwick Harbour on 18th (DM) and 35 at Killingworth Lake on 17th (LJM). Pairs noted at Big Waters, Hauxley, Ladyburn Lake, Chibburn Mouth, Holywell Pond and Gosforth Park.

Whooper Swan

The largest herds were of 33 at Rayburn Lake on 10th (RKS) 39 at Wark on 11th (JDL) and 34 at Bothal Pond on 14th (ES). Two-three noted at Grindon, Lesbury, Cresswell and Druridge.

Bean Goose

Three were at Druridge Pool between 3rd-10th (DBNR).

Pink-footed Goose

Twenty flew N. at Amble Braid on 4th (MSH/IC), 12 flew N. at Ordley on 6th (BNR) and 17 were at Rayburn Lake on 24th (TRC). Singles were at Holywell Pond between 11th-20th, Whittle Dene on 10th and Castron on 4th/11th.

White-fronted Goose

One was at Holywell Pond on 11th-18th (MT/PAB) and at Druridge Pool on 27th (DBNR).

Greylag Goose

The largest concentrations included 800 at Castron throughout the month (MR), 750 in Budle Bay on 18th (DH) 600 at Hazelrigg, near Holburn Moss on 27th (AMB) and 520 at Wark on 11th (JDL) 109-340 were also at Derwent Reservoir, Holywell Pond, Stamfordham and Grindon Lough.

Canada Goose

24 were at Capheaton on 14th (ES/WTL) and 32 at Colt Crag on 18th (WGJ). One-two were also at Big Waters, Whittle Dene and Castle Island.

Barnacle Goose

On 25th nine were at Castron and three at Grindon Lough (MR/RKS). Twelve were at Budle Bay on 20th (DM) and one-two at Hauxley, Whittle Dene, and Druridge Pool.

Brent Goose

About 500 were at Fenham Flats on 14th (DM).

Shelduck

Well reported with maximum counts involving 240-250 in the Budle Bay - Fenham Flats area. 40 in Amble harbour on 20th (DM), 14 at Hauxley on 7th, Castle Island on 23rd and Cresswell Pond on 25th. One-nine were at a further eight coastal localities while inland one-three were at Swallow Pond, Whittle Dene, Castron, Grindon Lough and Derwent Reservoir.

Wigeon

500 were at Grindon Lough on 17th (ES.DRS), 230 at Colt Crag on 11th (RW), 218 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (KR), 138 in the Cresswell/Druridge area on 4th (DBNR) and 120 at Whittle Dene on 7th (RGW).

Gadwall

Five were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (DBNR) with one-two at Hauxley, Druridge Pool, Castron, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Ladyburn Lake, D.B.C.P.

Teal

260 were at Swallow Pond on 5th (AMB), 187 at Druridge Pool on 22nd (DBNR), 165 at Grindon Lough on 25th (RKS) and 139 at Newton Pool on 10th. 70-82 were also at Derwent Reservoir and Castle Island with 34-51 at a further five localities.

Mallard

A maximum of 256 were at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (BNR), 230 at Gosforth Park on 4th (ISD), 200 at Hauxley on 11th (DBNR) 160-193 were at Whittle Dene, Swallow Pond and Colt Crag Reservoir.

Pintail

Two pairs were at Grindon Lough on 17th-25th (RKS et al), one pair was at Druridge Pool on 5th and Cresswell Pond on 10th when a duck was at Big Waters.

Shoveler

Eleven were at Big Waters on 26th (AMB), seven at Arcot Pond on 11th (AT) and one-three at Hauxley, Cresswell, Druridge, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Grindon Lough.

Pochard

78 were at Holywell Pond on 3rd when 60 were at Ladyburn Lake, D.B. Country Park (JRT.TAC), 91 at Bolam Lake on 11th (RKS) and 72 at Big Waters on 17th (AJJ). 12-35 were at a further eight waters.

Ring-necked Duck

A duck was present at Marden Quarry, Whitley Bay between 6th-18th (AJD et al).

Tufted Duck

The largest flocks were of 46 at Big Waters on 10th (AJJ), 43 at Castron on 25th (MR), 41 at Holywell Pond on 6th (TRC) and 40 at Killingworth Lake on 20th (L&KR).

Scaup

Three drakes were near Coquet Island on 3rd and on Ladyburn Lake, DBCP on 4th-7th, with four drakes at the latter locality on 6th. Singles were also at Holywell Pond between 3rd-6th and 10th-11th.

Long-tailed Duck

Only two record cards submitted with records of 35 at Stag Rocks on 20th and one-three at Berwick Harbour, Ross Back Sands and St. Mary's Island on 17th-18th (DCJ/DH).

Common Scoter

Again only two record cards with reports of 100-120 in Druridge Bay on 4th and 23rd (DM/CDH).

Velvet Scoter

Three noted off Ross Back Sands and Stag Rocks.

Goldeneye

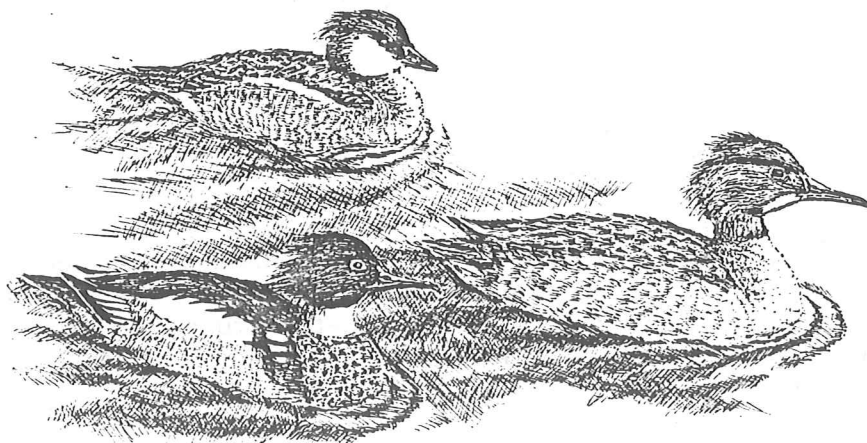
The highest coastal counts were of 387 in Berwick Harbour on 18th (DH), 123 at Castle Island on 20th (ES/WLT) 83 at Cambois on 16th and 48 at Football Hole on 10th. Inland 100 were on R. Tyne at Newburn on 6th (ES/WLT) and ten-25 at Castron, Holywell Pond, Corbridge, Whittle Dene, Hallington and Capheaton.

Smew

Four remained at Ladybury Lake, DB Country Park throughout the month, one was an immature drake. While an adult drake remained at Colt Crag until at least 11th (TAC/RW).

Red-breasted Merganser

Around 20-30 were on Ladyburn Lake DBCP all month with a maximum of 40 on 6th (TAC et al). 12 were at Alnmouth on 23rd (WD) with nine at Holy Island on 18th (RKS). One-two were also at Hauxley, Druridge, Stag Rocks, Budle Bay and in the mouth of the Tyne.



A.S.H.

Goosander

19 were at Whittle Dene on 17th L&KR) 12 at Caistron on 11th with 11 at Colt Crag, on R.Coquet at Warkworth and on R.Aln at Foxton. Pairs were noted back at a number of breeding sites with two-nine at a further 12 localities.

Hen Harrier

A ringtail was near Throckley on 10th (GB/AT).

Sparrowhawk

One-two noted at 16 widespread localities.

Kestrel

Pairs or singles noted in seven areas.

Merlin

Singles or pairs noted in five inland localities while coastal records involved singles at Ross, Holy Island, Druridge Pool and Newbiggin.

Peregrine

Singles were in Druridge Bay on 25th and at Cresswell on 17th. Others were noted at five inland localities.

Red Grouse

20-30 were at Ridley Common on 10th (GB).

Black Grouse

Two males were at Threestoneburn on 10th and seven males at Kingswood Burn on 17th (AMB/ES/DRS).

Red-legged Partridge

Four were at Netherwitton on 24th (MHp/TRC).

Grey Partridge

18 were at Holywell Pond on 6th (TRC).

Pheasant

21 were at Holywell Pond on 10th (KWY).

Water Rail

A single fed for long periods in the feeding station at Big Waters throughout the month (AJJ et al). One was at Caistron on 11th (MR).

Moorhen

A maximum of 52 continued to feed in a field near Holywell Pond on 16th (RD). 19 were at Castle Island on 16th (AT).

Coot

133 were at Caistron on 25th (MR), 45 at Ladyburn Lake on 8th, 41 at Holywell Pond on 7th (L&KR) and 38 at Big Waters on 11th (DM).

WADER COUNT - 11th FEBRUARY

The following stretches of coastline were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS/WD), Beadnell-Howick (AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), S.Alnmouth (ETC/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Newbiggin-Cambois (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJM), St.Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,088 noted during the wader count. A return to inland localities was evident with nine at Caistron on 4th increasing to 350 by 25th (MR). 4-16 were also at Milfield, River Irthing and Corbridge.

Ringed Plover

Only 152 were noted during the wader count. Inland four were at Caistron on 11th (MR).

Golden Plover

The largest flocks involved 4,500 near Woodhorn Colliery on 10th (TRC), 3,000 at Holy Island on 3rd (ES), 1,700 at Cresswell on 4th (IDM) and 1,500 at St.Mary's Island on 9th (L&KR). 200-700 were in five other localities. Inland 250 were at Caistron on 25th (MR) and much smaller numbers in six other areas.

Grey Plover

Only 18 were noted during the wader count.

Lapwing

On the coast 4,400 were near Woodhorn Colliery on 10th (TRC), 800 at Cresswell on 4th (IDM) and 100-700 at nine other localities. Inland a steady SW movement noted over Ordley on 6th, 800 at Caistron on 4th and Derwent Reservoir on 16th (BNR/MR), and 200-430 at six other sites.

Knot

A total of 613 noted during the wader count 800 were at Budle Bay on 17th (JGB) and 400 at Holy Island on 3rd (RKS).

Sanderling

Only 28 were noted during the wader count although 200 were at Whitley Bay Beach on 14th (DM), 45 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL) and 35 at Hauxley on 2nd (DBNR).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 367 noted during the wader count. 26 were at Hauxley on 23rd (DBNR).

Dunlin

Another increase in numbers noted during the wader count when 2,207 were seen. In addition 163 were at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL). One was at flood water at Holywell on 10th (JGB).

Ruff

One still present at N.Blyth may have been the bird seen occasionally at Cresswell and Druridge. Another was at Fenham Flats (DM/AT).

Jack Snipe

One-two were at Cresswell up to 18th (MHP/MT) and another at Big Waters on 27th (LJM).

Snipe

40 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (JFB), 24 at Holy Island on 5th (JRT) and 8-12 at Hipsburn, Cresswell and Castle Island. Singles were noted in three inland breeding areas.

Woodcock

Singles were noted at Kielder, Hulne Park and Gosforth Park.

Black-tailed Godwit

One was in Budle Bay on 5th (JRT).

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 130 noted during the wader count. 83 were in Sandon Bay, Holy Island on 18th (RKS) and 17 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL).

Curlew

A total of 508 noted during the wader count. 210 were at Holy Island on 25th (JDL), when 85 at St. Mary's Island (IDM) and 51 at Hauxley on 21st (DBNR). Two-six were in three inland localities.

Redshank

A total of 926 noted during the wader count. 102 were at Hauxley N.R. on 3rd when 31 at Cresswell (DBNR). Two-three were inland at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Arcot Pond and Castron.

Green Sandpiper

One was at Colt Crag on 25th (RD).

Terek Sandpiper

One still present on the River Blyth at N.Blyth/Kitty Brewster during the month.

Turnstone

A total of 1,164 noted during the wader count. 35 were at Hauxley on 27th.

Mediterranean Gull

The regular adult at Craster was present until at least 24th. Other adults were at N.Blyth on 2nd and 11th and North Shields Fish Quay and nearby West Chirton (AMB/DMT/PAB).

Little Gull

At Cambois a second winter was present on 18th and an adult on 20th (MDP/LH).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roost counts included 5,000 at Hallington on 10th, 900 at Colt Crag on 11th, 2,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th, 6,000 at Scotswood on 19th declining to 1,250 on 22nd. A steady W. movement was noted at Ordley on 22nd (BNR). 1,200 were at Whittle Dene on 24th (L&KR).

Common Gull

7,000 roosted at Hallington on 10th, 19,000 at Colt Crag on 11th, 8,700 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th and 1,100 at Broomlee on 17th (BNR). 500 were at Budle Bay on 3rd (ES) and 1,000 at Whittle Dene on 24th (L&KR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

One-two were in six widespread localities.

Herring Gull

470 roosted at Hallington on 10th and 850 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (BNR). 650 were at the Tyne Estuary on 4th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

An adult and a first winter were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (DMT et al). First winter birds were also noted at St.Mary's Island on 3rd (JEF) and Cresswell Pond on 24th (MGA).

Glaucous Gull

Probably five different individuals noted at North Shields Fish Quay during the month and others at Seaton Sluice, Holywell Pond, Seahouses and Holy Island. The second winter hybrid noted at North Shields during December/January was still present.

Great Black-backed Gull

28 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (BNR).

Kittiwake

One was at Broomlee on 17th (BNR) and three at Caistron on 25th (MR).

Guillemot

Ten were at St.Mary's Island on 11th (MT) and an oiled bird at Hauxley on 16th (DBNR).

Razorbill

12-14 were at Stag Rocks and Druridge Bay (GB/CDH), seven at Beadnell Bay (RKS) and five in the Tyne Estuary (JP).

Little Auk

One flew S. at St.Mary's Island on 17th (DCJ).

Puffin

One was at Stag Rocks on 17th/20th (GB).

Stock Dove

Six were at Holywell Pond on 25th (JGB) and two-three at Mitford and Big Waters.

Woodpigeon

2,000 were at Whittle Dene on 24th (L&KR). 200-500 were at Big Waters, Newton and Waren Mill.

Collared Dove

61 were at Brunton Lane on 9th (AT) and 26 at Druridge Bay CP on 7th (ES). One was nest-building at Walkergate on 8th (LJM).

Barn Owl

A pleasing number of reports received including two at Ewart, near Wooler and singles in another 13 widespread localities.

Little Owl

One-two were at Brunton Lane, Druridge, W.Chevington and Red Row.

Tawny Owl

One-two were in nine widespread localities. A road casualty was found at Lowick on 22nd (WMR).

Long-eared Owl

Singles were at Kielder on 13th (per DCJ) and Arcot on 25th (MJS).

Short-eared Owl

Up to four were at Hauxley and one-three in a further six, mainly coastal, localities.

Kingfisher

One-two were at Mitford, E.Linden, Felton, Thropton, Devil's Water, Stamfordham, Dalton, Newburn and Jesmond Dene during the month.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were seen or heard at Hipsburn, Mitford, Bolam, Bywell, Broomley and Swallowship Woods.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were seen in ten widespread localities with 'drumming' birds heard on 3rd and 18th.

Skylark

Birds were noted moving back into many inland areas from 6th with singing and displaying seen in widespread localities. 200 were at Holy Island harbour on 3rd (ES/MBS).

Shore Lark

Two were still at Ross Back Sands on 5th and one remained at Cambois throughout the month.

Water Pipit

Singles remained at Cresswell Pond to 17th and Whittle Dene to 7th. The bird at Newton Pool was joined by a second individual on 10th/24th (RKS).

Rock Pipit

20 were at St.Mary's Island on 9th (L&KR). A bird at Cresswell Pond was almost certainly of the Scandinavian race (AMB/DCJ).

Grey Wagtail

Singles were seen at Marden Quarry, Cresswell Pond and at Corbridge.

Pied Wagtail

32 roosted at Alnwick Bus Station on 6th (KN).

Waxwing

17 were at North Seaton between 4th-9th (MGA), three at Jesmond on 9th (MHP), and Wylam on 19th (ES) and 13 flew W at Backworth on 23rd (RD).

Dipper

Pairs and singles were noted in ten typical localities.

Stonechat

Five were on Holy Island on 25th (ADMc), up to three in Druridge Bay (MPF et al), two at Newton (ES) and one at S.Alnmouth.

Fieldfare

The largest gatherings were 2,000 at Wallington on 3rd (J&MH), three flocks totalling 1,700 in the Kirkley/Milbourne area on 15th (WGJ), 1,000 at Capheaton on 10th/14th (ES), 500 at the Wark Forest and Haltwhistle, and 200-400 in eight other localities.

Song Thrush

Singing birds were noted from 10th.

Redwing

250 were at Stamfordham on 7th (EB). 10-35 were noted in six other localities.

Mistle Thrush

25 were at Plessey Woods on 6th (PAB).

Blackcap

At Hipsburn a female was present on 7th and a pair on 17th (TA + MLC).

Goldcrest

20 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (ES).

Long-tailed Tit

50 were at Plessey Woods on 10th (ASH), when 30 at Lower Heddon (L&KR), 20 at Hulne Park on 14th (DM) and 8-10 at Mitford and Wark.

Marsh Tit

Three-four were at Bolam, Kingswood Burn, Hartburn and Felton.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Ponds, Bolam, Gosforth Park, and Hulne Park.

Coal Tit

23 were trapped at Sandhoe during the month (GWM).

Blue Tit

120 were trapped at Sandhoe during the month (GWM) and 54 at Matfen on 25th (RW).

Great Tit

24 were trapped at Sandhoe during the month (GWM).

Nuthatch

One-five were at Wallington, Bywell, Sandhoe, Bolam, Gosforth Park, Mitford, Hartburn, Belsay, Matfen, Bothal and Hulne Park.

Treecreeper

One-five noted in nine typical localities.

Jay

Four were at Gosforth Park on 23rd (AJD) and singles at Plessey Woods and Hexham.

Magpie

24 were at Castle Island on 16th (AT). More unusual records were singles in Newcastle City Centre on 21st (SP) and on Holy Island on 26th (IK).

Jackdaw

350 were at Holywell Pond on 22nd (L&KR).

Rook

About 1,000 were near Hoppen Kiln on 3rd (ES) and 600 at Charlton Mires on 5th (WMR). Nest-building was noted at several sites from 9th (DM).

Carrion Crow

92 roosted at Sweethope on 18th (BNR). Two again visited a garden feeding station at Walbottle (L&KR).

Starling

About 100,000 were flying over the roost at Grindon Hill on 24th (BNR). 5,000 roosted at Blyth Harbour on 11th (LJM).

House Sparrow

An all-white bird was at Blyth on 9th (MHP).

Tree Sparrow

75 were at Beal on 25th (JDL), when 40 near Kirkharle (RD), 55 at Cresswell on 3rd (MT) and 50 near Boulmer on 4th (MSH). 2-11 noted in four other localities.

Chaffinch

100 were at Wark on 10th (DCJ).

Brambling

45 were at Bolam on 3rd (IC), 20 at Hulne Park on 1st (WD), and at Beacon Hill on 18th (RD) and one-eight at four other localities.

Greenfinch

150 roosted at Manors, Newcastle from 22nd (JP). 65 were at Calder on 10th (AMB).

Goldfinch

30 were at Matfen on 6th (RW), 10-12 at Wallington, Arcot and Harwood and smaller numbers moving into several other forest areas.

Siskin

20 were at Bolam on 11th (ASH) and smaller numbers in eight other localities including birds visiting nut-bags.

Linnet

210 were at Holy Island on 25th (JDL).

Twite

40 were at Buston Links on 11th (KR).

Redpoll

90 were at Colt Crag on 3rd (L&KR) and 20 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th (JGB).

Crossbill

Small numbers were noted in several forest areas including some singing and displaying birds.

Bullfinch

One-five seen in eight widespread localities.

Hawfinch

A maximum of 25 was at Hulne Park on 11th (ADM et al). One-four also seen at Hexham and Sandhoe.

Lapland Bunting

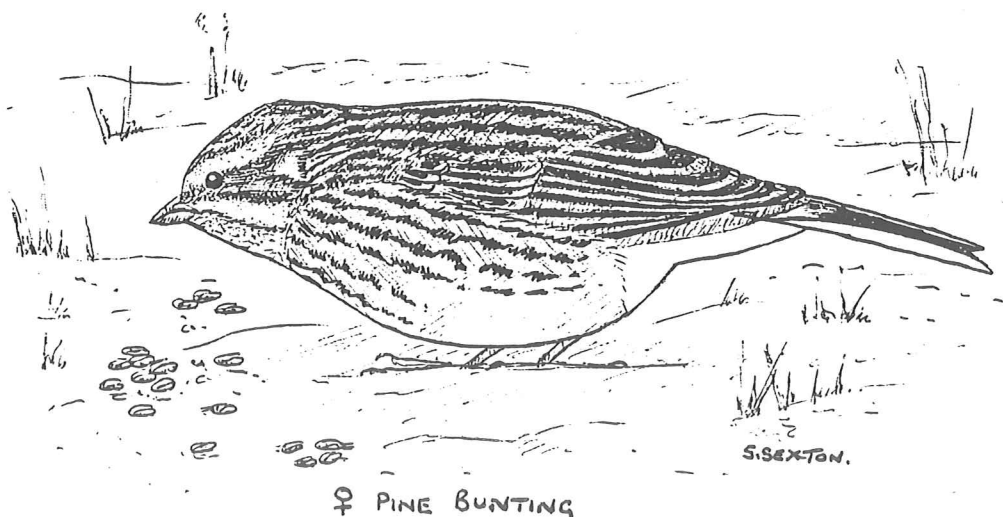
Five remained on Holy Island to at least 26th (IK/ADM). One was at Cresswell on 10th (KWY/JRT) and more unusual two inland at Longframlington Moor on 18th (RD).

Snow Bunting

Birds were present at Cambois all month with a maximum of 46 on 14th. A total of 30 were trapped and ringed (AMB/DM et al). On 17th 17 were at Druridge (DBNR) and 12 at Stag Rocks (WD).

Pine Bunting

A bird identified at Big Waters on 24th had been present since at least 17th and remained into early March. Many hundreds of observers visited the reserve and most were rewarded with good views. If accepted this will be the first record for the county (CB et al).

Yellowhammer

140 were at Mitford on 22nd (ASH), 70 at Big Waters on 17th increased to 110 by the end of the month (AJJ), and 40 at Horton between 20th-28th (LJM).

Reed Bunting

One visited a garden in Wideopen (GB).

Corn Bunting

Three were at South Linton on 24th (ADMc).

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

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D H Howey
D C Jardine
W G Johnson
A J Johnston
W A Kelly

M Richardson
A T Rickeard
B Robson
K Robson
B N Rossiter
W M Ruddock
G S Rushbrooke
L&K Russell
W G Savage
D R Shannon
M J Sharp
M B Shaw

ML & T A Cadwallender
 I Chadwick
 T R Cleeves
 I S Davidson
 A J Davis
 K Dawson
 W Dickson
 I R Douglas
 R Dunn
 J E Fergusson
 M P Frankis
 S Gaulton
 L Hall

I Kerr
 W T Logan
 J D Lough
 L J McDougall
 D McKeown
 A D McLevy (ADMc)
 G W Moon
 K Nattress
 G Nicholson
 ET & JR Norris
 S Parnaby
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 R K Stephenson
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 Druridge Bay Nature Reserve

INDOOR MEETING - 12TH APRIL 1990

This will be the last meeting of our current programme and, of course, is Member's Night. The results of our 'Bird Photograph of the Year' competition will be presented by Peter West and several members will be giving short talks. Meeting as usual in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University starting at 7.00pm.

PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED - A REQUEST

The Northumberland Wildlife Trust needs some good prints of birds on Druridge Bay for an exhibition at our Garden Festival site. Because it is being sponsored by British Coal we can offer £30 for each print used. We are after birds typical at each site, preferably with the site in the background. Birds that come to mind (but do try me on anything else) are:

Cresswell:	groups of waders, Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Redshank, rare visitors.
Druridge Pools:	groups of wildfowl, Wigeon, Teal (in flight?) Pintail, Hen Harrier, S.E. Owl
Hauxley:	groups of Terns and individuals, Oystercatcher, Kittiwake, Ringed Plover
D.B.C.P.:	groups of diving ducks/sawbills, Pochard, Red-breasted Merganser
Chevington Reed Beds:	Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Beaded Tit, Reed Bunting, all with reeds in picture if possible

We need these quickly so if you can help please contact me at Hauxley Nature Reserve, Amble (0665) 711578 (reserve No) or 712143 (home No).

NICK SCOTT

FOUND AT HOLYWELL POND

Ken Russell has found a pair of binoculars at the above site on 22nd February. Will the owner please ring Ken on 2255566 (daytime only).



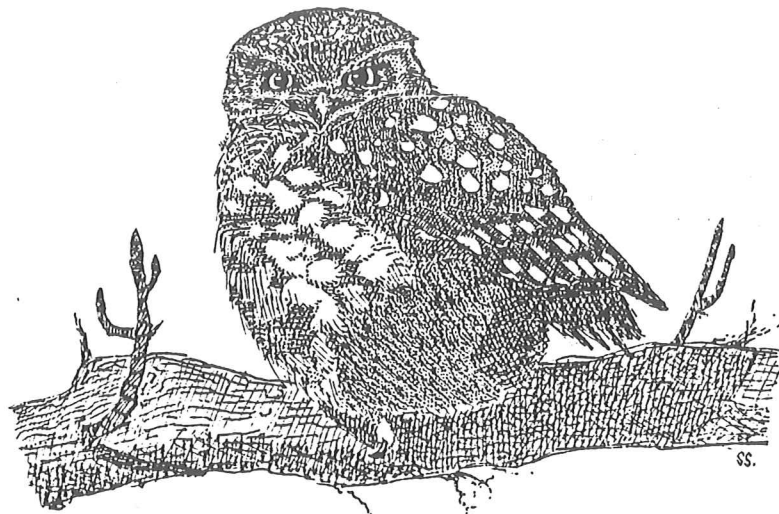
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY MARCH 1990

The weather during March was variable with, once again, periods of strong winds from the west. There were several mild spells of spring-like conditions and other short periods of colder weather. Snow was again reported on several dates, mainly on high ground. A warm S. to SW. airflow on 18th prompted the arrival of several summer visitors.

Wildfowl numbers continued to decline although there were a good number of reports of Pink-footed Geese. A pair of Garganey appeared at Arcot Pond on 22nd, our female Ring-necked Duck moved to Holywell Pond and up to seven Smew were present in the county. Black-necked Grebes had returned to their regular breeding haunt by 25th. A fine male Hen Harrier was seen at the Blyth Estuary and Linton Pond. There were three reports of Chukars, all from release.

Coastal wader numbers showed a sharp decline except for Turnstones. Passage species included Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit and Spotted Redshanks and Common Sandpiper inland on 17th and Little Ringed Plover on 24th. The Terek Sandpiper at Blyth remained throughout the month.



LITTLE OWL.

Common Gull passage peaked during the month with a massive roost of 42,000 at Hallington on 3rd. The first Sandwich Tern was seen on 20th and they were widespread along the coast by the last week.

A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was singing at Ordley on 25th. Passerine summer visitors included Wheatear, Ring Ousel, and Sand Martin on 17th, House Martin and Willow Warbler on 18th. Although two Chiffchaffs were noted on 11th they were obviously distributed widely through the area between 18th-31st. There was a general return to breeding territories by species such as Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit and Redpoll. Finally the Pine Bunting at Big Waters lingered until 16th.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

Ten were off Stag Rocks on 3rd, 13 between Alnmouth and High Buston on 18th (JGB/JGS), seven in Druridge Bay on 7th (ES/WTL) and one-five at Holy Island, Newbiggin, Beadnell Bay, Howick and Amble.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were off Bamburgh on 10th (MH) and in Druridge Bay on 16th (DM).

Little Grebe

Thirteen were at Castle Island on 9th (AT), six at Big Waters on 17th (AJJ) and five at Arcot Pond (LJM). One-three were on a further 12 rivers or ponds.

Great-crested Grebe

Pairs noted displaying at eleven widespread localities with peak counts of six at Holywell Pond and Big Waters (JRT/PAB).

Red-necked Grebe

One was off Ross on 10th (MH) and two at Holy Island on 17th (RKS).

Slavonian Grebe

Two-three were off Stag Rocks on 30th (DM) and a single at Lindisfarne NNR on 10th (ET/JRN).

Black-necked Grebe

Five had returned to the regular breeding site by 25th.

Fulmar

Twelve were at Cullernose on 11th, 55 at Holy Island quarry and 22 at Holy Island Castle on 17th (RKS). Ten pairs were on coastal craggs at Bamburgh and 18 pairs on Bamburgh castle on 30th (DM).

Gannet

300 flew N. in 11/2 hours at Newbiggin on 25th (JGS) and 300 flew N. at Stag Rocks on 26th (JGB).

Cormorant

72 were at Amble Harbour on 12th, 52 at Blyth harbour on 4th, 47 at Corbridge on 12th and 33 at N.Shields fish quay on 2nd. Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race include 18 at Amble harbour on 12th (L&KR), six at N.Shields fish quay on 10th (DMT) and one-two at Cambois, Foxton, Boulmer and on the R.Tyne at Ryton.

Grey Heron

Six were at Castle Island on 28th (AT) and one-two at seven widespread localities.

Mute Swan

Peak counts involved 375 at Berwick on 14th (JDL), 25 at the Blyth Estuary on 11th (LJM) and 19 at Killingworth Lake on 28th (PAB). Pairs noted at Big Waters, Holywell Pond, Wark on Tweed, Catclough Reservoir and Ladyburn Lake.

Whooper Swan

On 14th 35 were at Warkworth Lane, on 18th 17 flew N. over Ordley, 35 were at Hartburn Lake and 28 on the Tweed at Berwick. 17 were at Sweethope Lough on 19th and 28 at Cresswell on 27th.

Pink-footed Goose

A flock of 93 were at Grindon on 10th (JSB), 42 at Colt Crag on 25th (PAB), 18 at Caistron on 10th (MR) and 13 at Holywell Pond on 11th (JGB). One-six were also at Whittle Dene, Colwell, Cresswell-Druridge, Derwent R. and Stag Rocks.

White-fronted Goose

Two were at Warkworth Lane on 15th (DBNR).

Greylag Goose

The largest counts involved 1,500 at Holburn Grange on 11th (A+LB), 1,400 at Caistron on 10th (MR), 1,100 at Budle Bay on 30th (DM), 340 were at Grindon Lough on 27th 260 at Whittle Dene on 25th and 182 at Holywell Pond on 29th.

Canada Goose

28 were at Colt Crag on 11th (RW), 13 at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ) and seven at Caistron on 17th (MR). One-four also noted at Arcot, Berwick, Castle Island, Whittle Dene and Cresswell.

Barnacle Goose

One was at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (BNR).

Brent Goose

52 were at Beal Sands on 4th and a single at Longhoughton Steel on 24th (JDL/RKS).

Shelduck

150 were in Budle Bay and at Beal Sands on 3rd-4th (JGB/JDL), 21 in the Blyth Estuary on 25th (LJM) 20 at Ladyburn Lake D.B.C.P. on 26th and 58 at Hauxley on 28th (TAC/DBNR). Inland one was at Grindon Lough on 10th, two at Ryton on 15th and three at Caistron on 25th.

Wigeon

310 were at Grindon Lough on 4th when 70 at Derwent R. (RKS) 32 at Caistron (MR) and 108 at Cresswell Pond (DBNR). 190 were at Colt Crag on 11th (RW).

Gadwall

Pairs noted at Warkworth Lane, Druridge Pool, Hauxley, Caistron and Swallow Pond. One was at Ladyburn Lake on 20th.

Teal

150 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (JGB), 100 at Budle Bay on 3rd-4th, 80 at Beal on 4th (JDL) and 88 at Grindon Lough on 25th 30-65 were also at Caistron Newton Pool, Holy Island Lough, Derwent R. and Castle Island.

Mallard

292 were at Colt Crag on 11th (RW), 83 at Holywell Pond on 18th (JRT) and 75 at Castle Island on 4th 20-48 were at a further seven localities.

Pintail

Two pairs noted at Grindon Lough on 4th and at Hauxley on 15th (RKS/DBNR). Singles noted at Budle Bay on 30th-31st (DM/RKS) and at High Buston on 11th (JGS).

Garganey

A pair was at Arcot Pond on 22nd (AHB).

Shoveler

25 were at Swallow Pond on 27th (PAB) and 14 at Big Waters on 30th (AJJ). Two-four were also at Arcot Pond. Laydburn Lake, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond and Caistron.

Pochard

61 were at Big Waters on 10th (AJJ), 58 at Colt Crag on 11th (RW), 40 at Bolam Lake on 3rd (L&KR), 29 at Caistron on 10th (MR) and 21 at Holywell Pond on 4th (TRC).

Ring-necked Duck

A female was at Holywell Pond on 10th-11th and 18th (JRT/KWY).

Tufted Duck

85 were at Caistron on 25th (MR), 50 at Holywell on 18th (JRT) and 61 at Hartburn Lake on 11th (MW). 30-35 were also at Killingworth Lake, Rayburn Lake, Big Waters and Bolam Lake.

Scaup

Four were in the Coquet Estuary on 4th (JMA) and three on the sea in Druridge Bay on 19th (TAC).

Eider

440 were between Newbiggin and R.Wansbeck on 4th (JGS), 210 were at Holy Island on 3rd (RKS). A leucistic bird noted at Holy Island on 18th may be the same individual noted at this locality in August and September last year.

Long-tailed Duck

45 were at Stag Rocks on 3th-4th (JGB), three at Beadnell Bay on 10th, Holy Island on 17th and at Seahouses harbour on 30th (RKS/DM).

Common Scoter

150 were in Druridge Bay on 3rd (ES/MBS). Two-six were at Stag Rocks, St.Mary's and Holy Island.

Velvet Scoter

Two drakes were off Druridge on 7th (ES/WLT) and a pair off Newbiggin on 23rd (AT).

Goldeneye

The highest inland concentrations involved 103 at R.Tyne between Newburn and Clara Vale on 12th (STR). 93 at Whittle Dene on 28th (L&KR) and 31 at Caistron on 25th (MR). Coastal counts included 65 at Castle Island on 9th (AT) 50-60 on the sea at Sleekburn on 11th (IC/MSH), 33 at Berwick on 14th (JDL) and 25 at Football Hole on 10th (RKS).

Smew

Four remained at Ladyburn Lake D.B.C.P. until 12th, the immature male remaining until 15th (TAC). The same individual was presumably the single present at Druridge Pool on 17th (MGA). An adult male and a 'redhead' were at Holywell Pond on 26th (TRC). At Colt Crag the adult male present since December 1989 was still present on 11th (RW).

Red-breasted Merganser

Up to 24 were at Ladyburn Lake DBCP until at least 13th (TAC), 20 were in the Alnmouth estuary on 16th and ten in Budle Bay on 10th (MH). One-three were in a further seven localities.

Goosander

Ten were on the Wansbeck at Warkworth on 2nd (TAC) and at Foxton on 3rd (WD), 11 roosted at Colt Crag on 4th (BNR), 16 were on R.Tyne between Newburn and Wylam on 12th (STR) and 14 at Whittle Dene on 28th (L&KR). Singles and pairs noted on a number of breeding territories on the Tyne and Breamish (MH/AMB).

Hen Harrier

A male was in the Blyth estuary on 11th (LJM) and at Linton Pond on 18th (NF).

Sparrowhawk

Singles and pairs noted in 21 widespread localities from suburban gardens to mature woodland.

Buzzard

One was noted in the SW of the county on 17th.

Kestrel

Five were between Druridge Pool and Ladyburn Lake on 12th. Pairs noted back in upland breeding areas on 27th (IK).

Merlin

Inland breeding territories were occupied by mid month. (Coastal records include singles at Ross Links, Druridge, Red Row and the Blyth Estuary. A male was seen to kill a Snow Bunting at Cambois on 12th. Singles were also noted at Big Waters, Colt Crag, Castron and Gosforth Park.

Peregrine

Noted at six inland localities. Singles also reported from Druridge, Beal Sands, Hauxley and Castron.

Black Grouse

Five males were at Plenmeller Common on 10th (TRC/MHp) when a single male at Threestoneburn (AMB). Two females were at Ridley Common on 17th (JRT/KWY).

Chukar

Two were at Holystone on 11th (MJS), four at Netherwitton on 18th (JRT/KWY) and a single at North Middleton on 21st (ES/WLT).

Red-legged Partridge

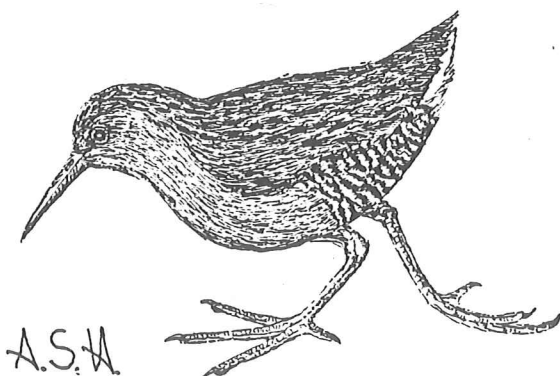
One-two noted at Netherwitton.

Grey Partridge

12 were near Gosforth Park on 11th (ATR).

Water Rail

A single continued to feed in the Big Waters feeding station until the 15th (AJJ et al). One was found dead, a road casualty, in a suburban street in Whitley Bay on 27th (VL).

Moorhen

At Castle Island 26 were present on 4th (AT) and 28 were at Holywell Pond on 30th (L&KR).

Coot

62 were at Grindon Lough on 25th (RKS), 41 at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ), 39 at Bolam Lake on 11th (MW) and 31-33 at Ladyburn Lake DBCP, Bothal Lake and Angerton Lake. More unusual was one on the sea with mallard at Howick on 24th (RKS).

WADER COUNT - 11th MARCH

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses- Beadnell (MLC.AS.WD), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington Burn (TW), Chevington Burn - Newbiggin (EC/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S.Beach-Hartley Point (KVB), St.Mary's Island (IDM), Tyne Estuary (AIP).

Oystercatcher

A total of 658 noted during the wader count. Inland passage continued with numbers at Caistron peaking at 450 on 10th (MR). 22 were at Big Waters on 16th (AT) and 2-14 were at nine other waters or rivers.

Little Ringed Plover

One was at Cresswell Pond on 24th (MGA).

Ringed Plover

Only 28 were noted during the wader count. 44 were at the Long Nanny on 31st (RKS). Inland 19 were at Caistron on 4th (MR) and singles at Corbridge and Derwent Reservoir.

Golden Plover

1,000 were at Edlingham on 31st (JMA), 600 at Holy Island on 17th (RKS), and 100-300 at five other localities. Small numbers were also noted on breeding areas.

Grey Plover

A total of 91 noted during the wader count.

Lapwing

156 at Grindon Lough on 4th was the largest flock reported (RKS) as birds occupied breeding territories. 12 pairs were displaying at Yarridge on 31st (BNR).

Knot

Only 30 noted during the wader count although 110 were at Holy Island on 3rd (RKS) and 250 at St.Mary's Island on 6th (DM).

Sanderling

Numbers remained low with 23 noted during the wader count. 76 were at Seaton Sluice on 20th (IDM), and 20-31 at Beadnell Bay, Low Newton and Tynemouth.

Purple Sandpiper

186 were noted during the wader count. In addition 95 were at Seaton Sluice on 18th (MT).

Dunlin

Numbers declined with 727 noted during the wader count. 440 were in Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS) and 168 at the Wansbeck Estuary on 3rd (AT). Inland two were at Caistron and Grindon Lough. More unusual was one flying around the Metro Station car park at Longbenton on 20th (ATR).

Ruff

Two at Druridge Pools on 10th increased to eight on 17th (JRT/ES et al). Singles were also at Cresswell Pond on 16th (DM) and Grindon Lough on 18th (RKS).

Jack Snipe

One was at Gosforth Park on 31st (IDM).

Snipe

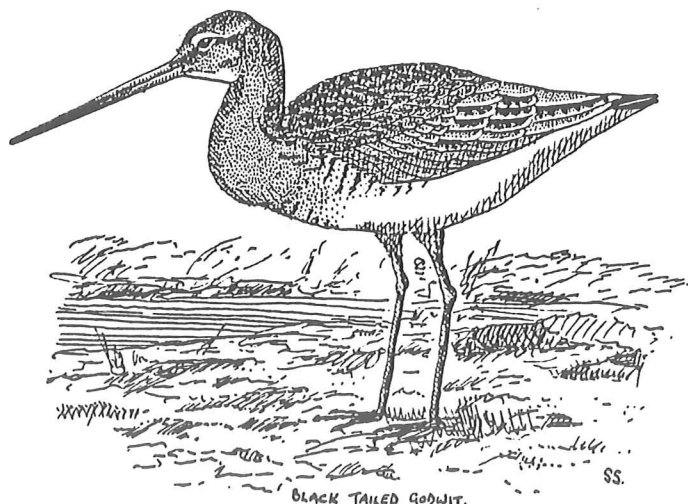
31 were at Caistron on 4th (MR) and 18 at Big Waters on 25th (DM). Smaller numbers noted in several other typical localities and 'drumming' was noted from 18th. One flew in off the sea at St.Mary's Island on 11th (JGB).

Woodcock

Two were 'roding' at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (BNR) and one-two were in another six inland localities. Singles were also seen at Newcastle Town Moor, Howick, High Newton and Holy Island between 13th-18th.

Black-tailed Godwit

One-two were at Budle Bay between 3rd-11th (JGB) and another at Arcot Pond on 17th (LJM).



BLACK TAILED GODWIT.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 44 noted during the wader count. 1,200 were at Beal Sands on 4th (JDL).

Curlew

A total of 255 noted during the wader count. 226 were at the Long Nanny on 10th (RKS). Numbers inland increased with 150 at Castron on 10th (MR) when 100 at the Kingswood Burn (TRC), 40 at Hepple on 11th (DM) and 8-24 in six other localities.

Spotted Redshank

Two were at Holy Island on 4th (JDL/JGB) and one at the Blyth Estuary on 18th (SP).

Redshank

A total of 800 noted during the wader count. Also noted in eight inland areas.

Terek Sandpiper

The bird at the Blyth Estuary was still present on 31st.

Common Sandpiper

One was at Langleeford on 17th (KW).

Turnstone

Numbers remained high with 1,136 noted during the wader count.

Arctic Skua

One flew S. at St. Mary's Island on 25th (JRT/AIP).

Mediterranean Gull

Single adults were at North Shields on 3rd (JGS) and Druridge Pools between 10th-21st (DBNR). A first winter was at Cresswell Pond on 11th (MGA).

Little Gull

A second winter was at Cambois/Castle Island on 4th (AHB/AT) and adults at North Shields on 24th and Newbiggin on 25th (JGS).

Black-headed Gull

3,500 roosted at Scotswood on 2nd, 12,000 at Hallington on 3rd declining to 3,000 by 17th, 10,000 at Derwent Reservoir declining to 2,500 by 24th, 4,800 at Grindon Lough on 27th when 600 at Broomlee (BNR). 500 had returned to the Newton Pool colony early in the month (MF).

Common Gull

Passage peaked during the month with roost counts including 42,000 at Hallington on 3rd, 12,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th increasing to 15,000 by 24th and 1,450 at Broomlee on 27th. Light N-NE movement noted at Ordley between 13th-18th and Sweethope on 31st (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

11 roosting at Broomlee on 9th increased to 23 by 27th. Three pairs were back in territory in Newcastle on 19th (BNR). Small numbers noted in eight other localities.

Herring Gull

190 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (BNR). 450 were in the Tyne Estuary on 24th/26th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

At least four individuals (adult, 3rd winter, two 1st winter) were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month. A second winter was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on three dates (MT) and perhaps the same flying SSW at Jesmond Dene on 14th (MPF).

Glaucous Gull

At least two birds were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month and the hybrid type was present on 9 dates (DMT).

Great Black-backed Gull

Up to 137 were at Blyth harbour and North Shields Fish Quay.

Kittiwake

Passage at Newbiggin involved, 1,500 per hour S. and 300 per hour N. on 25th (JGS). 115 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th (DMT) and 140 had re-occupied breeding ledges at Cullernose on 24th (RKS). Two adults were at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

The first was one S. at St. Mary's Island on 20th (IDM). Numbers increased from 24th onwards with one-eleven in eight other localities.

Razorbill

12 were off Cambois on 6th (DM).

Puffin

200 were at Coquet Island on 17th (ES/MBS).

Stock Dove

One-five were at Big Waters, Jesmond Dene, Beltingham and Calder.

Barn Owl

One-two were at Lynemouth, Hadston, Acklington and near Milfield.

Little Owl

One was at Backworth on 28th.

Tawny Owl

Singles were at Horton and Brunton Lane. A nest with three eggs was found at Angerton on 18th (TAC).

Long-eared Owl

One was at Big Waters on 2nd, 3rd and 24th (GAS et al), and another at Druridge Bay C.P. on 10th (MT/PAB).

Short-eared Owl

Three were at Lindisfarne on 4th (JDL) and one-two in another nine coastal localities and one further inland at Longhorsley.

Kingfisher

Pairs and singles were noted at Jesmond Dene, Big Waters, Medburn, Stamfordham, Newburn, Morpeth, Mitford, Bothal, and Castron.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were seen or heard at Close House, Linnels, Dipton, Stotsfold and Eslington Park.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were noted in ten widespread localities.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

A male was singing at Ordley on 25th (BNR).

Skylark

Light NW passage was noted at Lindisfarne and inland at Upper Coquetdale on 4th (JDL/IK). A flock of 120 was at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (BNR).

Shore Lark

Two at Ross Back Sands remained until 4th and the single at Cambois until 12th.

Sand Martin

Two at Wooler on 17th were the first (KW). A widespread influx occurred from 18th and between then and the end of the month one-six were in 17 localities and 12 were at Whittle Dene on 24th.

House Martin

A very early bird was at Belsay Hall on 18th (L&KR).

Meadow Pipit

Strong N.NW. passage was noted in both inland and coastal areas on several days particularly from 25th. A flock of 300 was at Skirl Naked on 27th and others of 100 at Bamburgh and Castron.

Water Pipit

Two remained at Newton Pool until 24th (RKS).

Rock Pipit

12 were between Boulmer-Cullernose on 11th (RKS).

Grey Wagtail

Pairs were noted in many typical breeding areas during the month. Up to six were in Jesmond Dene (SP). One-three in seven coastal localities indicated passage.

Pied Wagtail

Many breeding areas were re-occupied during the month and coastal passage was evident from 18th. 16 were at Whittle Dene on 30th (L&KR).

White Wagtail

One was at Druridge Pools on 17th (MGA). Others were at Hauxley, Longhoughton Steel and inland at Whittle Dene on 24th/25th (RKS/MJS).

Waxwing

14 were at Lancaster Park, Morpeth on 17th (JW). Up to 22 were in the Newcastle Civic Centre area between 25th-30th (MT et al).

Dipper

Noted in about seven breeding areas. Nest building was seen at Hallington on 11th (RW) and Threestoneburn on 4th where the first egg was laid on 31st (AMB).

Robin

A high population noted in forest edge breeding areas in Upper Coquetdale where nest building noted on 27th (IK).

Stonechat

One-two were at Cresswell, Druridge, Seahouses and Ross. Inland a pair were at Whittle Dene on 4th (RGW) when a male was at the Irthing Valley (MH). Another was at Rayburn Lake on 10th (RKS).

Wheatear

The first arrivals were noted on 17th with singles at Cresswell Pond (MGA) and inland at Alwinton and Earlehead (P&PM/KW). On 18th one-two were at six localities and from then until the end of the month there were widespread reports from 19 areas both coastal and inland.

Ring Ousel

The first was one at Broadstruther Burn on 17th. Two were at the Carey Burn on 27th, four at Muggleswick Common on 31st when as many as 17 in the Wooler area (KW/AMB/JSB).

Blackbird

An influx was noted inland at Threestoneburn on 14th (AMB).

Fieldfare

The largest flocks involved 800 at Kirkheaton on 20th (RW), 520 at Whittle Dene on 17th (L&KR), 500 at Ordley on 8th (BNR) and 100-250 at a further eight localities.

Song Thrush

Birds were back in Forest areas at Kielder by 7th (DCJ). Nest building was noted at Kenton on 30th (MRS).

Redwing

80 moved NE at Ordley on 3rd (BNR) when 42 were at Morpeth (KWY), 30 at Wark on 2nd (DCJ) and 2-17 in five other localities.

Blackcap

Singles were at Spindleston on 3rd (JGB), Alnwick between 6th-10th (JMA), Bedlington on 11th (MGA) and two in Jesmond Dene between 17th-31st (MPF).

Chiffchaff

Two were at Mitford on 11th (GB/DM). On 17th singles were at Arcot Hall (AHB), Bothal (NF), Castron (MR) and Wooler (KW). A widespread influx on 18th brought five along the River Tweed (AIP), and singles in seven other localities. Between 19th-31st they were seen or heard in 17 widespread areas.

Willow Warbler

Two very early arrivals were seen and heard singing at Morpeth on 18th (IRD). Another was at Wooler on 31st (KW).

Goldcrest

Coastal passage was indicated by 12 on Holy Island on 31st when six at Bamburgh (RKS/BRS). One was in a garden at Kenton on 4th (MRS).

Long-tailed Tit

One-ten were in fifteen widespread localities. In addition nest-building was seen at Medburn on 4th, Corbridge on 21st, and Wark on 31st. More unusual was up to six coming to a peanut feeder at Ponteland (EC).

Marsh Tit

Pairs were at Langleeford, Lilburn Pond, Mitford and Cupola Bridge.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Seaton Burn, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Bolam, Caistron and Minsteracres.

Coal Tit

18 were at Hulne Park on 2nd (WD).

Blue Tit

A flock of 53 was at Bolam on 23rd (L&KR).

Nuthatch

Five were at Close House on 24th (GCP). One-three were at Hesleyside, Beaconhill, Howick Dene, Morpeth, Mitford, Nunykirk, Felton and Newton-on-the-Moor.

Treecreeper

12 were in the Mitford area on 6th (DM) and five at Bolam on 23rd (L&KR). One-three were in ten other localities.

Jay

Five were at Gosforth Park on 28th (MT) and pairs at Close House and Horsley (JSB).

Magpie

38 were at Castle Island on 24th (AT), 34 at Lower Heddon on 10th (L&KR) and 20 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (JGB). 2-18 were in four other areas and one was still at Holy Island on 18th.

Jackdaw

600 were in a pre-roost gathering at Callerton on 3rd (L&KR).

Rook

400 were at Callerton on 3rd (L&KR). Colony counts included 107 nests at Cramlington Hall (LJM), 52 at Delaval Hall (KWY) and smaller numbers at N. Brunton, Woodhorn, Ellington, Hepple and Elsdon.

Hooded Crow

One was at Ross on 4th (MJS).

Starling

Large numbers were still roosting at Grindon Hill on 27th (BNR) and 5,000 still at Blyth Harbour on 24th (LJM).

Tree Sparrow

60 were at Cresswell on 25th (GB), 40 at Beal on 4th (JDL), and 5-30 at six other localities.

Chaffinch

150 were at Spindlestone on 11th (BRS) and 50 at Mitford on 3rd (A&LB).

Brambling

20 were at Mitford on 3rd (A&LB) and one-three at Whittingham, Ordley, Morpeth and Walbottle.

Greenfinch

82 were ringed in a garden at Lesbury during the month (WD). 40 were at Spindlestone on 11th (BRS).

Goldfinch

20 were at Netherwitton on 11th (DM) and 12 at Morpeth on 3rd (A&LB).

Siskin

100 were at Falstone on 7th (DCJ), 10-12 at Bolam, Thrunton, Harthope Valley and Threestoneburn and one-eight in seven other localities including birds at garden feeders.

Linnet

Flocks of 100 were at Holy Island and Wallsend Swallow Pond (RKS/PAB) and 20-50 at Calder and Longhoughton Steel.

Twite

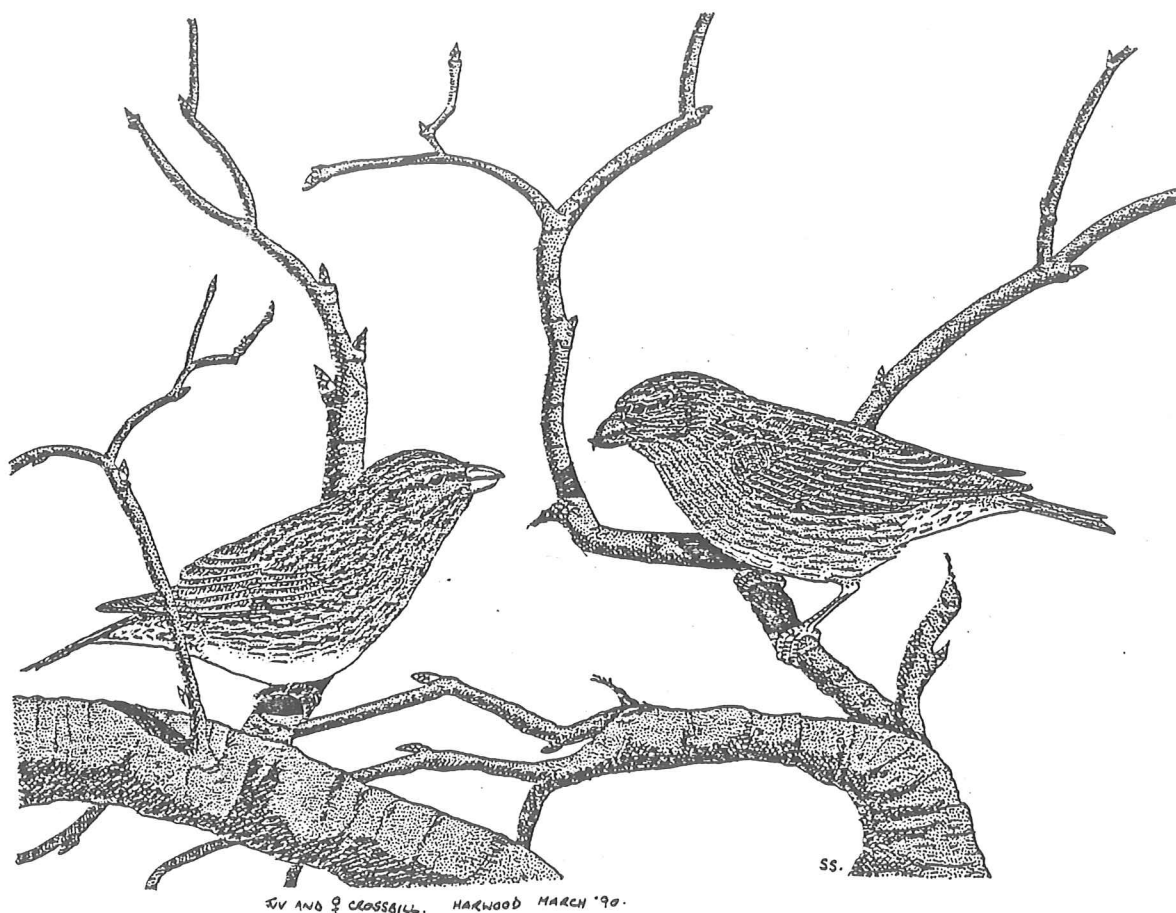
37 were at High Buston on 18th (JGS) and up to 21 in Druridge/Cresswell area during the last week (DBNR). More unusual was one inland at Caistron on 17th (MR).

Redpoll

Many were displaying and singing in breeding habitats in Upper Coquetdale on 4th (IK) and small numbers at Thrunton (KWY) and Threestoneburn where a Belgian ringed bird trapped on 31st (AMB).

Crossbill

2-20 were noted in forest areas at Kielder, Thrunton, Redesdale and Harwood with at least two family parties at the last locality (SS/MGA et al).



JUV AND ♀ CROSSBILL. HARWOOD MARCH '90.

Bullfinch

A flock of 20 was in Upper Coquetdale on 4th (IK) and two-five in five other areas.

Hawfinch

Five were at Hulne Park on 20th (GCP).

Lapland Bunting

Four were at Longhoughton Steel on 11th (RKS).

Snow Bunting

The flock at Cambois still held 25 on 2nd declining gradually until they had all departed by 17th (AMB). Four-ten were at Druridge Pools, Hauxley and Bamburgh.

Pine Bunting

The bird at Big Waters remained until at least 16th.

Yellow Hammer

200 were at Morpeth on 3rd (A&LB) and up to 85 at Big Waters. Four visited a garden feeding station at Walbottle (L&KR).

Reed Bunting

20 were at Big Waters on 1st (L&KR).

Corn Bunting

Two-five were noted at Cresswell, Druridge, Warkworth Lane, Ellington, N.Seaton, Guide Post and Swinhoe.

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

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M Henry

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M S Hodgson
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V Laws
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J D Lough
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P & P McEwan
D McKeown
I D Moorhouse
A D Mould
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B N Rossiter
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D M Turner
K Walton
R Walton
T Watson
R G Waugh
J Welbury
P W West
M Winter
A Woodhall
K W York
Bamburgh Ringing Station
Druridge Bay Nature Reserves

INDOOR MEETINGS

Members are reminded that there will be no further indoor meetings until September.

HELP WANTED1) GOOSANDERS:

The Northumbria Ringing Group has been monitoring this heavily persecuted species for many years. It would be extremely useful if any member who finds a brood of Goosanders during this breeding season could contact Brian Little.

2) BADGERS:

A request has been received from the Northumberland Badger Group for reports of Badger setts located by observers this summer. Any information would be useful to the Badger Group in updating their database of sett locations and of course will be treated in confidence. A slip of paper with a six figure map reference of the sett is all that is required and can be sent to Mike Hodgson with normal bird record cards. If you require any further information please contact John Patrick (0670 714804).



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY APRIL 1990

The month started with a cold spell during the first few days with snow falling, sometimes heavily, in several areas. From about the 7th temperatures began to rise and by the end of the month it was quite warm. Despite this periods of cooler winds occurred mid month and again around 20th.

Black-necked Grebe numbers at the regular site increased to 32 and others were noted in another three localities. An unusual record was a Red-necked Grebe well inland at Grindon Lough on 24th. The female Ring-necked Duck remained at Holywell Pond and the regular spring drake made his appearance here yet again. Two Mandarins were at Lesbury, three pairs of Garganey were reported and probably seven Ruddy Ducks appeared. Sea passage during N. winds on 20th/21st involved movements of Scaup, Manx Shearwaters, Fulmers, Gannets and other species.

An Osprey was over Kielder Water on 3rd and three Marsh Harriers passed through the county between 20th-24th. The Terek Sandpiper lingered on at Blyth and among passage waders were, as usual, number of 'northern' race birds in Golden Plover flocks and a splendid Avocet at Beal Sands on 26th. An influx of Little Ringed Plovers from 14th onwards involved ten birds.



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.

SS. '90

Numbers of winter visitors continued to dwindle as expected and many summer visitors made their appearance with Swallow on 2nd, Swift and Common Tern on 6th, Yellow Wagtail on 16th, Pied Flycatcher and Lesser Whitethroat on 25th, Grasshopper Warbler on 26th, Garden Warbler and Redstart on 27th, Wood Warbler on 28th, Little Tern, Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat on 29th and Cuckoo on 30th. Species such as Sand Martin, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler were widespread, although the last only increasing from 15th, while others such as House Martin and Tree Pipit were scarce.

Other interesting species included Water Pipit, 'Scandinavian' Rock Pipit, Hooded Crow, Twite and Black Redstart.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver

33 were in Druridge Bay on 16th (JP) with 12 N. and 2 S. in three hours at Newbiggin on 20th (JGS). One-four were at five other localities.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were at St. Marys Island on 4th (SP) and in Druridge Bay on 16th (JP).

Great Northern Diver

One flew N. at Newbiggin on 20th (MH).

Little Grebe

At least three pairs present at Arcot Pond during the month. 15 were at Castle Island on 21st (AT), 9 at Holywell Pond on 24th and Gosforth Park on 27th (ISD) and one-five at a further eleven localities.

Great-crested Grebe

Eight were at Holywell Pond on 3rd (RD) where a nest noted on 6th. A nest at Killingworth Lake on 25th was predated by Coots (LJM). Four-five noted on the sea at Cresswell-Druridge and three were at Big Waters. One-two noted at another six localities.

Red-necked Grebe

A single was at Holy Island on 22nd (ADM) where two were present on 28th (AJD). More unusual was one in summer plumage at Grindon Lough on 24th (ADM/MGA).

Black-necked Grebe

Numbers increased at the regular breeding site to a peak of 32 on 25th. Singles were at Druridge Pools on 26th/27th (DBNR), at Grindon Lough on 28th (RKS) and at Whittle Dene on 29th (ALT/MR).

Fulmar

Breeding colony counts include 82 pairs between Cullernose Point and Howick Haven, 33 pairs at Dunstanburgh, 15 pairs at Craster Quarry and 14 pairs at Tynemouth Priory (DM). 160 per hour flew N. at Newbiggin on 20th where at 'blue phase' individual was noted (JGS/GB).

Manx Shearwater

One flew N. in Druridge Bay on 5th (DBNR). On 20th 13 flew N. at Newbiggin with smaller numbers at Holy Island and Seaton Sluice. 16 flew N. and two S. at Newbiggin on 21st in three hours (JGS et al).

Gannet

N. passage noted on several dates with peaks of 400 per hour at Newbiggin on 20th (MH) and 600 per hour at Hauxley on 21st (DBNR).

Cormorant

42 were at Blyth Harbour on 13th, 27 at Castle Island on 29th and 16 at Hallington Reservoir. One-14 noted at another six localities.

Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race included eight at Hallington on 7th (L&KR) and singles at Whittle Dene, Cresswell Pond and Stag Rocks.

Shag

Seven were in the Aln estuary on 6th (WD), four at N. Shields Fish Quay on 12th and two at Blyth Harbour on 13th (DMT).

Grey Heron

Five were at Castle Island on 20th (AT) and one-three at a further five localities. One at Lesbury on 23rd had recently fledged (WD). While three breeding pairs noted at a site in the S. of the county.

Mute Swan

142 were at Berwick on 5th (JDL), 41 at Castle Island on 25th (AT) 14 at Killingworth Lake on 26th (LHM) and 19 at Backworth on 13th (JRT) Pairs noted at eleven sites.

Whooper Swan

19 were at Greenlee Lough on 8th (BNR) nine at Crag Lough on 12th and 13 at Grindon Lough on 20th (DCJ). Eight were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (KIB) and at Capheaton Lake on 1st (AJD) and one-five at another seven localities.

Pink-footed Goose

95 were at Grindon Lough on 17th (KD). at Holywell Pond seven were noted between 1st-6th (JRT et al) and nine were present on 8th (SP). Singles were also at Alnmouth on 16th and the Long Nanny on 26th.

Greylag Goose

Peak counts involved 600 at Castron on 1st (MR), 410 at Grindon Lough on 5th, 340 at Budle Bay on 22nd and 161 at Holywell Pond, 62 at Hallington Reservoir and 32 at Derwent Reservoir.

Canada Goose

A pair at Castle Island attempted to breed but may have been robbed by egg collectors (AT). 17 were at Capheaton on 1st (MT) and 12 at Castron on 8th (MR). One-seven noted at another seven localities.

Barnacle Goose

Singles noted at Berwick on 5th (JDL) and the Long Nanny on 22nd (RKS).

Shelduck

32 were in Amble Harbour on 20th (DM) and 50 in Budle Bay on 25th (ES). Five-16 were at the Long Nanny, Castle Island, Foxton and Ladyburn Lake DBCP. Inland pairs noted at Castron and Whittle Dene.

Mandarin Duck

Two males were on the River at Lesbury on 29th (MLC/WD).

Wigeon

116 at Grindon Lough on 1st declined to six by 30th (GB/RKS). Movement into breeding sites noted during the month with two pairs at the regular breeding site and at least five pairs at the second breeding site.

Gadwall

Two pairs were at Grindon Lough on 29th (MJS) and one-two at Druridge Pool, Hauxley and Castron.

Teal

139 at Grindon Lough on 7th declined to 26 on 30th (RKS) 56 were at Gosforth Park on 2nd and 52 at Castle Island on 4th (ISD/AT). Two-18 noted at another 11 localities.

Mallard

Broods noted from 25th at Threestoneburn, Killingworth Lake, Druridge Pool, Grindon Lough and near Rochester.

Pintail

Two pairs were at Grindon Lough on 1st with one pair still present on 20th. A pair at Hauxley Pool were also noted on the sea off Hadston Carrs on 7th. Another pair was at Holy Island Lough on 13th and a duck in Budle Bay between 14th-28th.

Garganey

The pair reported at Arcot Pond last month remained until at least 22nd (AHB et al). Other pairs noted at Castle Island on 6th (AT) and Newton Pool (ABW).

Shoveler

17 were at Big Waters on 11th (BRG) nine at Capheaton on 8th and Swallow Pond on 14th (DM) and seven at Grindon Lough. One-six noted at eight localities.

Pochard

13 were at Holywell Pond, 10 at Big Waters and one-five at Ladyburn Lake DBCP, Gosforth Park, Grindon Lough, Rayburn Lake, Arcot Pond and Druridge Pools.

Ring-necked Duck

The female reported last month was at Holywell Pond on at least eight dates between 1st-29th. On 8th and 10th a male was also present (SP/RD/DM).

Tufted Duck

92 were at Castron on 15th (MR), 42 at Big Waters on 4th (AJJ), 35 at Holywell Pond on 3rd (ISD) and 30 at Killingworth Lake on 7th and Capheaton on 8th. Eight-28 were at a further nine localities.

Scaup

Eleven on the sea S. of Hauxley on 22nd was the largest concentration (AJD). A male was on Ladyburn Lake DBCP between 3rd-8th (TAC) and pair on Druridge Pool on 22nd. At Newbiggin seven hours of seawatching on 20th-22nd resulted in a total of 128 N. (JGS).

Eider

32 were in the Tyne Estuary on 4th (MSH) and a female at Castle Island on 20th (AT).

Long-tailed Duck

Three-nine noted at Druridge Bay, Stag Rocks and Holy Island.

Common Scoter

24 flew N. at Newbiggin on 21st (JGS), 20 were at Holy Island on 29th (RKS) and ten at Stag Rocks on 14th (BRS).

Velvet Scoter

One flew N. at Hauxley on 2nd (DBNR).

Goldeneye

The highest concentrations were of 27 at Castron and 25 at Capheaton on 1st, 18 at Druridge Pools on 26th and 16 at Hallington Reservoir on 7th.

Red-breasted Merganser

30 at Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 6th reduced to a single female by 30th (TAC). One-ten noted at eight coastal localities.

Goosander

Eight were at Foxton on 1st (MSH), 17 at R Tyne at Wylam on 21st (L&KR) and 19 on R Tyne between Riding Mill-Ovingham on 27th (BNR). Pairs continue to be noted in breeding areas with the first young at Mitford on 18th (JEF).

Ruddy Duck

A single male at Capheaton on 1st increased to two pairs by 30th (MT/JS). One male was at Holywell Pond on 18th/28th and two on 25th (MT et al). A female was on Druridge Pool on 29th (MCA et al).

Marsh Harrier

A female was at Druridge Pools on 20th (DBNR), another was at Arcot Hall on 21st (AHB) and a male at Big Waters on 24th (AJD).

Sparrowhawk

One-two noted in about 20 localities.

Buzzard

A pair once again occupied at site in the S.W.

Osprey

A single was at Kielder Water on 3rd (Per DCJ).

Kestrel

Continue to be reported from several widespread localities.

Merlin

Single noted at Big Waters, Chapel Park Estate, Holy Island Grindon Lough and Druridge Pools.

Black Grouse

21 males were near Allenheads on 16th. One-three noted at Kielder Forest, Harwood Forest and Whitley Common.

Red-legged Partridge

A pair were near Middleton on 1st (SS).

Water Rail

Singles were at Gosforth Park on 8th and on 22nd Newton Pool on 22nd.

Moorhen

Eleven-18 were at Holy Island Lough, Grindon Lough, Hawick Hall and Castle Island.

Coot

50 were at Grindon Lough on 7th and 42 were at Big Waters on 20th. Nests noted at Grindon, Killingworth Lake and Wallington. A pair with one chick present at Seaton Burn on 27th (DM).

WADER COUNT - 8TH APRIL

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS, Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Amble-Chevington Burn (TW), Chevington Burn-Cresswell (EC/MRS/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S Beach-Hartley Point (KVB).

Oystercatcher

A total of 360 noted during the wader count. In addition 62 were at Longhoughton Steel (RKS). Inland 300 roosted at Caistron on 1st declining to 160 on 15th (MR), 62 were along the R.Tweed at Norham on 11th (BNR), and smaller numbers in eight other localities.

Avocet

One was at Beal Sands on 26th (JLD).

Little Ringed Plover

One was at Big Waters on 14th (DM). Two were at Derwent Reservoir between 16th-28th (RKS/MH), one at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd where two present on 30th (L&KR), further singles at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pool and Holywell Pond between 28th-30th (AHB/DBNR/JEF) and two at Whittle Dene on 29th (ALT).

Ringed Plover

Only 34 noted during the wader count, when 33 were at the Long Nanny (RKS). One-four were also at Derwent Reservoir and Whittle Dene.

Golden Plover

2,000 were at Prestwick Carr on 2nd where 1,500 still present on 17th, about 200 of these were 'northern' race (BRG). Other flocks, including at least some 'northern' birds included 200 at Grindon Lough, 120 at Bellingham and the Simonsides and 300 at Cullernose. 700 were at Longhoughton Steel on 8th (RKS).

Grey Plover

Only 25 noted during the wader count. 60 were at Beal Sands on 26th (JDL), 17 at Budle Bay on 14th and 12 at Longhoughton Steel on 13th (RKS).

Lapwing

30 pairs were located in three sq. kms of Whitley Common on 1st (BNR).

Knot

80 were at Beal Sands on 26th (JDL), 48 at St. Mary's Island on 1st (DMT), ten at Longhoughton Steel on 8th (RKS) and three at Cresswell Pond on 28th (AJD).

Sanderling

Only 22 noted during the wader count. 57 were at the Tyne Estuary on 12th/13th (DMT) when 39 at Berwick Little Beach (JDL), up to 22 at the Long Nanny (RKS) and 43 at Holy Island on 28th (AJD).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 250 noted during the wader count, when 21 between Boulmer-Howick. In addition 118 were at Newbiggin on 3rd (JGS), and 18 at Newton on 29th (AJD).

Dunlin

Numbers had dropped to only 126 during the wader count. 305 were at Beal Sands on 26th (JDL) and 120 at Budle Bay on 14th (RKS). Inland one-two were at Big Waters, Arcot, Grindon Lough, Caistron and Whittle Dene.

Ruff

Five were at Druridge Pools on 1st (RD), one at South Linton on 8th (AHB), two at Grindon Lough on 16th-29th (RKS) and one at Cresswell on 30th (MGA).

Jack Snipe

One was at Druridge Pools between 26th-28th (DBNR/ES).

Snipe

One-five were in ten breeding localities including some 'drumming' birds. More unusual were two flushed from the beach at Longhoughton Steel on 13th (RKS).

Woodcock

One was 'roding' near Brenkley on 12th (MF). Other singles were at Harthope Valley and Ridley Hall (RKS).

Black-tailed Godwit

Singles were at South Linton on 8th (AHB) and Whittle Dene on 19th (RGW). Two were at Budle Bay on 22nd. Inland one at Grindon Lough on 20th increased to five on 29th/30th (RKS/MJS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

15 were noted during the wader count. Four-five were also at Hauxley Reserve and Cresswell Pond.

Whimbrel

One-two were at Stobswood, St.Mary's Island, Beal Sands and Low Newton between 23rd-29th.

Curlew

Only 14 noted during the wader count when 65 were at Longhoughton Steel and 18 at Low Newton (RKS). 34 were at Beal Sands on 26th (JDL) were inland at Prestwick Carr on 9th (BRG) and two-four in three other areas.

Spotted Redshank

One was at Hipsburn on 13th/16th and a different bird at Alnmouth on the latter date (MLC) and another at Hauxley on 28th (KWY).

Redshank

A total of 407 noted during the wader count. 190 were at Budle Bay on 22nd (RKS), and 82 at St.Mary's Island on 6th (L&KR) when 72 at Castle Island (AT). Inland one-twelve were in ten widespread localities.

Greenshank

Singles were at Newton Pool on 6th (MF) and Backworth on 29th (RD).

Green Sandpiper

One was on the R.Blyth at East Hartford on 25th (MJS).

Terek Sandpiper

The bird at the R.Blyth remained until at least 21st.

Common Sandpiper

Despite last month's very early first arrival no more were reported until 15th when one at Druridge Bay CP (TAC). Further singles were at Big Waters on 16th (DM) and Arcot on 17th (AHB). Between 19th-29th up to six were at Whittle Dene and one-four at five inland and five coastal localities.

Turnstone

A total of 708 was noted during the wader count when 97 were between Boulmer-Howick (RKS). In addition 62 were at St.Mary's Island on 6th (L&KR), 49 at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (JDL), 120 at N. Blyth on 27th (LJM) and 40 at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (ES).

Arctic Skua

On 20th/21st two flew N. at Newbiggin (JGS) and one N. at Beadnell (GPB).

Great Skua

Four flew N. at Newbiggin on 21st (AT/JGS) when two N. at Beadnell (GPB).

Little Gull

On 1st an adult was at North Shields Fish Quay (DMT) and a first summer S. at St.Mary's Island (MPF/SP).

Black-headed Gull

550 roosted at Hallington on 1st, 3,200 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd declining to 710 by 22nd, 950 at Broomlee on 5th when 4,500 at Grindon Lough declining to 420 by 25th. Light N-NE passage noted at Kirkhaugh and Ordley on 1st (BNR).

Common Gull

Numbers declined at inland roosts during the month with 12,000 at Hallington on 1st and 4,400 on 11th, 7,600 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd and 1,660 on 13th, 800 at Colt Crag on 2nd and 1,250 at Broomlee on 5th. N. passage was noted in the Slaley/Ordley area on 1st and 8th (BNR). 400 were at Newbiggin on 3rd (JGS) and 100 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (ES) and Kimmer Lough on 8th (ISD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

50 roosted at Broomlee on 5th (BNR). 13 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (SP) and two-five in five other localities.

Herring Gull

470 were at the Tyne Estuary on 10th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

Three individuals were at North Shields Fish Quay between 2nd-19th (DMT et al) and a different bird at Seaton Sluice on 16th (RGW).

Glaucous Gull

At North Shields Fish Quay there was a first year on 2nd (DMT) and an adult on 6th (MT). Another flew N. at Hauxley on 6th (DBNR). The hybrid type was also noted at North Shields on seven dates.

Great Black-backed Gull

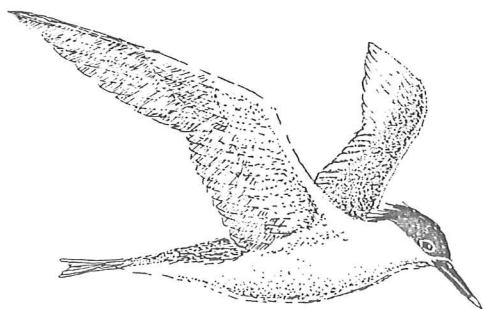
60 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 21st (DMT).

Kittiwake

N. passage involved 1,100 per hour at Berwick on 10th (JDL) and up to 300 per hour on 20th/21st (JGS). Counts at colonies included 30 pairs on cliffs at Seahouses on 8th (MLC), 325 pairs at Cullernose on 26th, 65 pairs at North Shields warehouse and four pairs at the P.T.A. building on 28th (DM). Inland one flew SE at Arcot on 9th (AHB).

Sandwich Tern

Birds were noted in many localities during the month with the largest gatherings involving 32 at the Emblestones on 11th (MD) and 113 at Beadnell on 26th (DM). 53 flew N. in two hours at Newbiggin on 20th (JGS).



A.S.W.

'Commic' Tern

One flew N. at Newbiggin on 20th (DM).

Common Tern

One N. at St. Mary's Island on 6th was the first (MT). On 28th one was at Druridge Pools and another at Killingworth Lake on 30th (LJM) when two had returned to Wallsedn Swallow Pond (L&KR).

Little Tern

One at Newton Haven on 28th was the first arrival (WD).

Guillemot

113 flew N. in two hours at Newbiggin on 20th (MH).

Razorbill

Two flew N. at Newbiggin on 20th (MH).

Little Auk

The remains of a long dead bird were found near Howick Haven on 7th (AJD).

Puffin

53 flew N. in three hours at Newbiggin on 20th (JGS).

Stock Dove

Two-three were at Holy Island and Cresswell Pond (DM/AJD).

Cuckoo

One was at Shankhouse on 30th (LJM).

Barn Owl

Singles were at South Linton, Pressen Hill and Midrum (AHB/APM).

Little Owl

Pairs were noted at Druridge and near Big Waters (MGA/AT).

Tawny Owl

At least four pairs were at Jesmond Dene (MPF). Pairs and singles were also at Howick, Benton, Gosforth Park and Colt Crag.

Long-eared Owl

Singles were at Warkworth Lane Pond on 7th and Holywell on 9th (K WY/JRT).

Short-eared Owl

One-two were in ten coastal or near coastal localities and six other areas well inland.

Swift

Two over Gosforth on 6th were the first and singles were at Meldon Park and Big Waters on 29th (BRG/SP).

Kingfisher

Pairs and singles were at Hartburn, Belsay, Castron, Plessey Woods, East Hartford and Mitford.

Greenwoodpecker

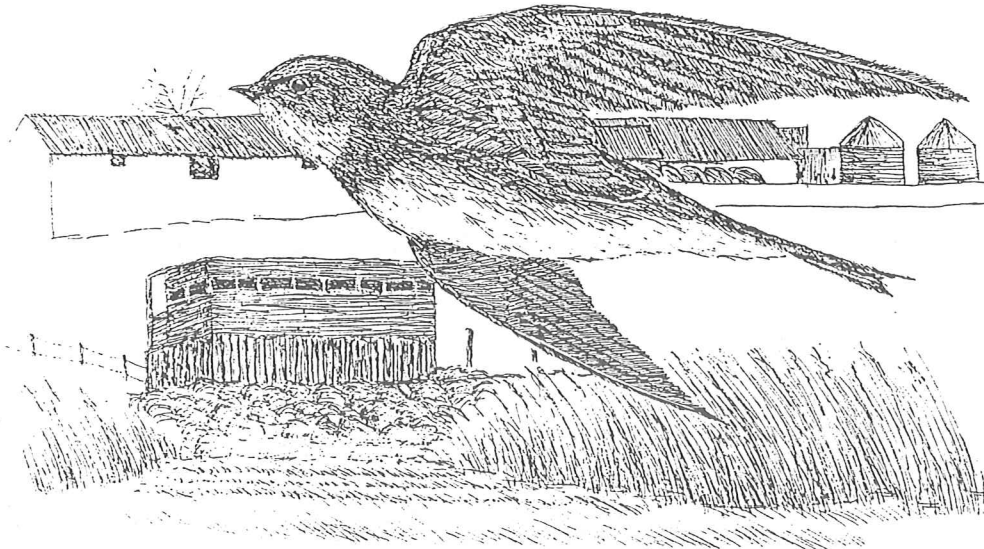
Singles were seen or heard at Mitford, Dipton, Riding Mill, Bolam, Cupola Bridge and Lilburn Burn.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Pairs and singles, including 'drumming' birds, were noted in 13 typical localities.

Sand Martin

Reported throughout the month. Numbers at Big Waters build up to 100 by 27th but the only other large gatherings were 40-50 at Arcot, Druridge Pools, and Whittle Dene (LJM/JSB). Much smaller numbers were in several other localities. W. passage was noted at Druridge on 28th (ES) and N. passage at Bamburgh on 29th (BRS).



A.S.W.

Swallow

One at Big Waters on 2nd was the first (AJJ) but no more until another here on 14th increasing to about 20 on 27th (ALT/DM). Another was at South Linton on 16th (AHB) and between 20th-30th they were in another 16 widespread localities. Steady N. passage was noted at the Simonsides and Bamburgh on 29th (IK/BRS).

House Martin

After last month's very early bird there were no more reports until one at Seaton Burn on 18th (BRG). Another was at Morpeth on 21st (MT) and between 26th-29th one-three were in only four other localities.

Tree Pipit

Two were at Wark on 1st (DCJ) and one at Allendale on 28th (MPF). The only coastal record was one at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS).

Meadow Pipit

150 were at Newbiggin on 1st (JGS) when steady N. passage noted at Bamburgh (BRS). 400-500 were at West Wylam on 5th (BRG).

Water Pipit

One was still at Newton Pool on 7th (MF).

Rock Pipit

One at Tynemouth on 15th showed the characteristics of the Scandinavian race (CB).

Yellow Wagtail

One at Alnmouth on 16th was the first arrival (WD/MLC). Eight were at Whittle Dene on 19th (L&KR/MJS) and between 20th-29th one-three were in a further nine localities.

Grey Wagtail

Pairs were noted in about 14 widespread breeding areas. A pair were nest-building at the College Valley on 25th (AMB) and early breeding indicated by four large young in a nest at Nunnykirk on 29th (IK/BG).

White Wagtail

Singles were inland at Matfen on 9th (RW) and Hexham on 11th (KD). Passage between 14th-30th brought a maximum of 11 to Holy Island (RKS) and nine at Druridge Pools (SS) with one-four at four other coastal localities. Inland two at Whittle Dene on 19th increased to ten on 29th (L&KR/MR).

Dipper

Pairs and singles were noted in nine typical localities with young in nests at Threestoneburn and Lilburn Burn on 21st but a clutch of eggs in a nest at Iderton Dod on 28th (AMB).

Wren

Noted as a high population at Allenbanks during the month and counts of singing males included 18 in the Harthope Valley and 20 at Thrunton (RKS/L&KR). On the SW moors birds were singing in areas up to 1,600 feet a.s.l. (BNR).

Robin

Fledged young were noted at Cramlington Garden Centre on 29th (LJM). An almost all-white bird was at Alnwick on 14th (WD).

Black Redstart

On 22nd singles were at Holy Island and Whitley Bay Cemetery (ADMc/KWY).

Redstart

The first arrival was one at Ordley on 27th (BNR). On 29th three were inland at Mitford and one at Nunnykirk (MPF/JWR) and on the coast singles at Holy Island and Newton Point and three at Bamburgh.

Stonechat

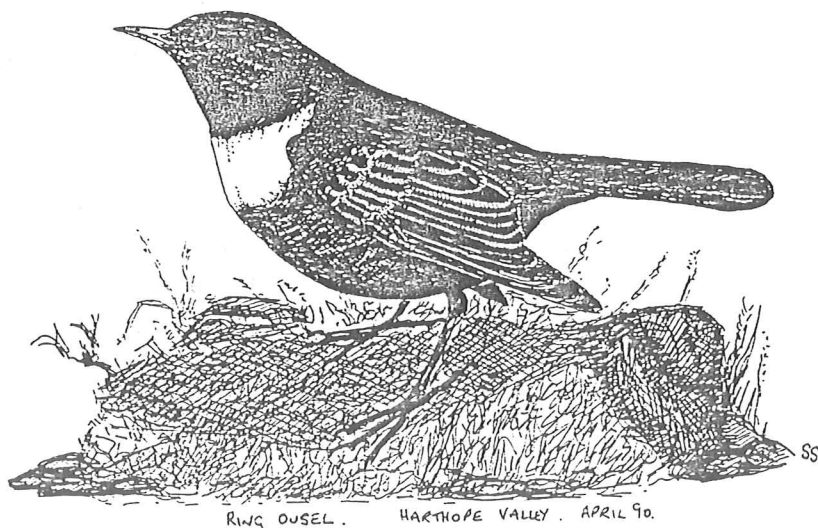
Singles were at Druridge Pools, Hauxley and Holy Island between 22nd-27th. Inland a male was at Plenmeller Common on 22nd (ALT).

Wheatear

Well distributed in the N.Cheviots and on the Simonsides on 1st (RKS/IK). They were also seen in about 17 other localities during the month. On the coast the largest counts were 13 at Newbiggin on 1st (JGS), 15 on Holy Island on 39th (RKS) and 17 between Cresswell-Druridge on 30th (MGA). One showing the characteristics of the Greenland race was at Newbiggin on 23rd.

Ring Ousel

One-four were noted in five typical inland localities during the month. Passage on the coast included three at Football Hole on 13th (RKS), and between 20th-29th up to five at Holy Island and Newbiggin (MJS/AT) and singles at Alnmouth, Druridge Bay C.P., Bothal Pond, Holywell and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Fieldfare

Large gatherings early in the month included 800-1,000 at Kingswood Burn on 1st (GB) when 500 at Cawfields (KD), 1,000 at Bellingham on 4th (DCJ) and 1,200 at Grindon Lough on 7th (RKS). There was a huge roost of several thousands in sitka spruces at the Irthing Valley on 3rd. Flocks of 200-500 were also noted in a further seven localities but numbers declined towards the end of the month.

Song Thrush

19 in one field on Holy Island on 20th indicated passage (DM). Seven nests were located in one wood at Matfen (RW).

Redwing

Few reports. Four were in the Harthope Valley on 1st (RKS), singles at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th and Mitford on 14th (ES/DM), six on Holy Island on 22nd and one at Holywell on 29th (RD).

Mistle Thrush

Six nests were found in one wood at Matfen where one pair already had a second brood (RW).

Grasshopper Warbler

The first were singles at Druridge Pools and Big Waters on 26th. Numbers at the latter locality increased to six by 29th (DBNR/AJJ). On 29th/30th one-two were also at Gosforth Park, Druridge Bay C.P., Warkworth Dunes, Newton Pool and Bamburgh.

Sedge Warbler

The first arrivals were two at Bamburgh and Whittle Dene (BRS/MR) and a single at Holywell Pond (MT) on 29th. Another was at Newton Pool on 30th (MF).

Lesser Whitethroat

The first were singles at Big Waters and near Arcot Pond on 25th and another in a suburban garden near Jesmond Dene on 27th (MPF).

Whitethroat

The first arrivals were on 29th when two at Bamburgh and singles at Mitford and Castle Island (BRS/MPF/AT).

Garden Warbler

The first was one at Allenbanks on 27th (CB).

Blackcap

Numbers increased during the month particularly after 14th. At Jesmond Dene there were 12 singing males by the end of the month (MPF). Elsewhere one-four were reported from 14 widespread localities but few from the coast.

Wood Warbler

The first was at Allenbanks on 28th increasing to five on 30th (RKS). Two were at Beacon Hill on 29th (ADMc).

Chiffchaff

Reported throughout the month. As many as 12 singing males were at Cragside on 25th (L&KR) and one-seven in a further 27 widespread localities.

Willow Warbler

Singles were at Jesmond Dene on 6th (MPF), Colt Crag on 7th (L&KR), and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 13th (JRT). Numbers increased from 15th and by the end of the month they were widespread with reports in over 30 localities. Coastal passage was evident on 29th when 30 passed through Bamburgh (BRS) and 18 on Holy Island (RKS).

Goldcrest

On 1st 15 were at Newbiggin (JGS) and 12 at Bamburgh (BRS). They were noted as very common at Allenbanks on 28th (RKS) when early breeding was proved by three recently fledged juveniles at Plessey Woods (LJM).

Pied Flycatcher

One on Holy Island on 25th was the first arrival (ES).

Long-tailed Tit

Pairs and singles were at Humford Mill, Close House and Holywell Dene.

Marsh Tit

One-two were noted at Mitford, Hartburn, Acomb, Allenbanks, and more unusual one singing at Newton Point on 17th (ABW).

Willow Tit

Two were near Throckley on 2nd and one at Castle Island (MH/AT). A pair were nest-building at Beacon Hill on 15th (RD).

Coal Tit

18 were at Thrunton Woods on 25th (L&KR).

Nuthatch

Noted at Hartburn, Cragside, Mitford, Cambo, Wallington, Allenbanks and Jesmond Dene. Nest building was noted at Hartburn on 8th (AT) and a pair were using a nest-box at Plessey Woods (LJM).

Treecreeper

One-three were in five localities.

Jay

One-six were at Nunriding, Dipton, Close House, Gosforth Park, Mitford and Thrunton Woods.

Maggie

One was still on Holy Island on 1st (RGW).

Jackdaw

90 pairs were counted at Crag Lough on 8th (BNR).

Rook

Nest counts at colonies included N. Brunton (14), Ellington (15), Gosforth Park (38), Beadnell (50), High Newton (80), Hallington (25), Cheeseburn Grange (100), Darras Hall (114), Loudside (41), and Killingworth (37), DM/L&KR).

Hooded Crow

Singles were at Holy Island on 22nd (MJS), and Cresswell Pond and Low Newton on 25th (DBNR/MF).

Starling

An all-white bird was at Cramlington on 30th (LJM).

House Sparrow

Fledged broods were noted at Jesmond by 22nd (ES). A leucistic bird was at Walbottle on 12th (L&KR).

Tree Sparrow

30 were at Cresswell on 14th (DRS) and 15 at Big Waters on 27th (BRG). One-four were in four other localities.

Chaffinch

140 were at Allenbanks on 15th (CB) and 100 at Harwood on 21st (ES/DRS).

Brambling

15 were at Mitford on 15th and two at Morpeth on 24th (ADMc).

Greenfinch

Flocks of 40 were at Spindlestone and Bradford on 13th/15th (BRS). A total of 83 were trapped in a garden at Lesbury during the month (WD).

Goldfinch

Nest-building was noted at Debdon Whitfield on 25th and Blanchland on 28th (L&KR/RKS). Small parties were coasting N. at Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS).

Siskin

50 were at Kielder on 8th (ADMc). One-ten were in another five breeding areas and on the coast one was at Warkworth Lane on 25th (DBNR).

Linnet

Flocks of 90-100 were at Whittle Dene, Foxton and Longhoughton Steel, Birds were coasting N. all day at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS).

Twite

Up to nine were at Druridge Pools early in the month (DBNR). One was inland near Whitfield on 29th (BNR).

Redpoll

Two-five were noted in five localities.

Crossbill

Still widespread at Kielder including several family parties. Three were at Threestoneburn on 28th.

Bullfinch

Six were at Castle Island on 12th (AT) and one-two noted in six other localities.

Hawfinch

One-two were at Hexham, Close House and Allenbanks.

Snow Bunting

One was on Holy Island on 8th and 28th (PWD/AJD).

Yellowhammer

Four were still visiting a garden at Walbottle during the month (L&KR).

Reed Bunting

One visited a suburban garden at Wideopen on four dates (DM).

Corn Bunting

A flock of 12-15 was at Warkworth Lane on 7th (MPF/MT). One-three were at N.Seaton, Ellington, Cresswell, Druridge Pools, Howick and Beadnell.

Please send all May records, in Voous ORDER, to Mike S Hodgson, 45 Elmtree Gardens, Whitley Bay, NE35 8QX by 8th June at the latest.

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MUTE SWAN SURVEY 1990

To ensure complete coverage could observers submit all Mute Swan breeding records on standard club record cards to the County Recorder. This will provide useful backup data for the main survey.

NICK ROSSITER

DISTURBANCE OF SCHEDULE 1 SPECIES AT KIELDER

I have recently received a request from the Forestry Commission to draw to all member's attention the following note:

"The Forestry Commission is most concerned to protect Schedule 1 species on their land and ask all birdwatchers not to take their cars on any forest roads other than the forest drive. Anyone walking in the forest or surrounding area should not stray from footpaths. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act to wilfully disturb Schedule 1 birds.

Many of you are involved with Atlas work and will know what the law is and we look to all club members to act responsibly. It should be pointed out that Forest Rangers have a busy time with security during the breeding season and they find it particularly frustrating to have to check and turn away cars when they could be spending their time more constructively on conservation work".

It would seem timely to remind all members that disturbance at any Schedule 1 species nest site requires a special licence issued by the N.C.C.

MIKE HODGSON

DISCOUNT

Members are reminded that Outdoor World, Ilfracombe Gardens, Whitley Bay offer a 10% discount from their goods on production of your membership card.

'BRITISH BIRDS' REDUCED SUBSCRIPTION SCHEME

The NTBC has once again been invited to take part in this scheme for the coming 12 months. It means that members will be able to get a 25% reduction on their annual subscription rates for the year starting in August.

A special leaflet should soon be available to secure this welcome saving and will be sent out with the bulletin.

Many members are already enjoying this reduced subscription rate for what remains the country's leading ornithological journal - despite more recent competition - but newer arrivals to the club may not be aware of the scheme.

IAN KERR



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

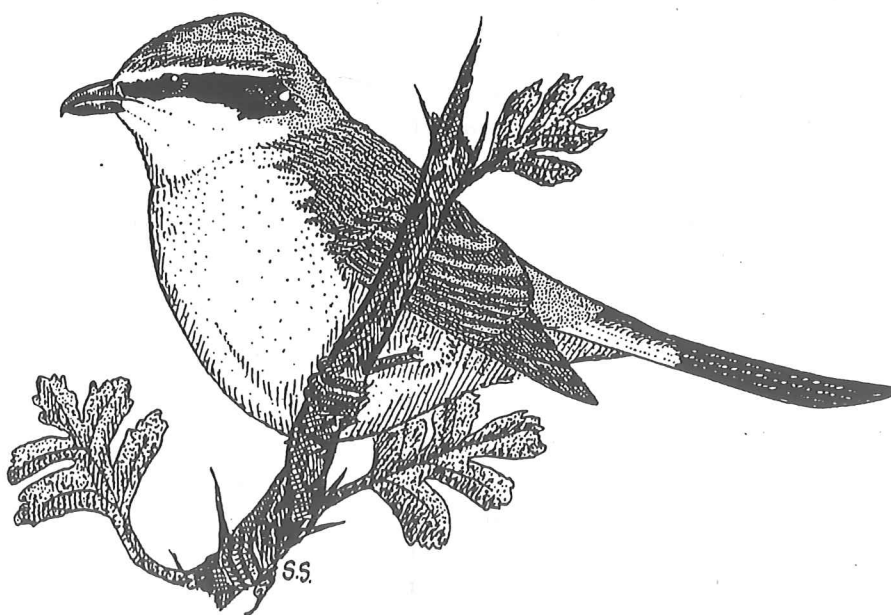
MONTHLY SUMMARY MAY 1990

Summer visitors continued to arrive throughout the month with many quickly moving into breeding areas. Welcome breeding success was reported for Black-necked Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Greylag Goose and Long Eared Owl.

Wildfowl continued to be represented by Garganey at six sites, Ruddy Duck at Holywell Pond, Druridge and Capheaton, Ring-necked Duck at Holywell where a Green-winged Teal was present between 8th-22nd. Migrant raptors provided excitement with up to six Ospreys two Hobbys, Hen Harrier and Buzzard. Marsh Harrier was noted at six sites. Quail were at Whittle Dene on 3rd and near Whitley Bay on 31st.

Wader passage continued with Little Ringed Plover being well reported, a Dotterel was on Holy Island on 18th with Little Stint, Whimbrel, Green and Wood Sandpiper noted. The Terek Sandpiper remained until at least 17th when it was at Shankhouse. Up to 10 Little Gulls visited Ladyburn Lake on 19th and 20 Black Terns were off Druridge on 2nd.

May as usual produced its share of rarities with Alpine Swift at Castle Island on 27th, Hoopoe near Shilbottle on 7th, Bluethroat at Cresswell on 23rd and a Red-backed Shrike at Hauxley between 19th-23rd. A Grey-headed Wagtail was at Druridge Pools on 19th-20th and a Scarlet Rosefinch sang at Backworth on 30th-31st. Other interesting species included Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Turtle Dove, Blue-headed Wagtail, Black Redstart, Reed Warbler and Twite.



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

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

One-two noted at Cresswell, Newbiggin, Craster and Druridge Bay.

Great Northern Diver

One in summer plumage was in Druridge Bay on 13th (MPF).

Little Grebe

Three pairs noted at Gosforth Park and Holywell Pond. Six were at Castle Island on 11th (AT) and one-four at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Hauxley, Ladyburn Lake D.B.C.P., Rayburn Lake and Grindon Lough. Nests noted at three localities the first young being seen at Gosforth Park on 22nd (ISD).

Great Crested Grebe

At Holywell Pond two pairs hatched broods of three and two young (TRC/ISD). At Killingworth Lake another nest had been built by 15th (LJM). One-four were also noted at Big Waters, Hauxley, Cresswell Pond, Arcot Pond, Hartburn Reservoir, Whittle Dene, Ladyburn Lake D.B.C.P. Derwent Reservoir and Rayburn Lake. 14 were on the sea at Druridge Bay on 2nd (ES).

Slavonian Grebe

One was at Capheaton Lake on 7th and 13th.

Black-necked Grebe

Up to 30 were present at the regular breeding site where two young noted on 13th. A pair were on Grindon Lough from 9th-20th.

Fulmar

343 occupied sites were counted between Berwick and the border (MTh). 71 were at Holy Island Quarry on 26th.

Manx Shearwater

North passage involved 30 N. at Newbiggin on 12th (JGS/GB) and 25 N. at St. Mary's Island on 24th (SP). Smaller numbers noted at these localities and the Long Nanny on various dates between 13th-24th.

Gannet

566 flew N. at Newbiggin in two hours on 12th (JGS) when 1,200 flew N. at Cullercoats (KW).

Cormorant

33 were at Castle Island on 28th (AT) and nine at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (RKS). One showing the characteristics of the continental race was at Cresswell Pond on 1st and 16th (DBNR).

Shag

Three occupied nests noted at Needles Eye, near Berwick on 28th (MT).

Grey Heron

14 were at Castle Island on 27th (AT) with one-three at seven other localities. Nested birds noted near N. Sunderland and near Otterburn. At the latter locality at least one young had fledged by 13th.

Mute Swan

Successful breeding noted at Hauxley (eight young), Big Waters (eight young), Ladyburn Lake DBCP (six young), Holywell Pond (four young), on R.Aln at Lesbury (four young), Long Nanny (seven and four young) and Bolam Lake (six young). Pairs noted at another four localities. 206 were at Berwick on 11th (JDL) and at Castle Island 71 were present on 18th (AT).

Pink-footed Goose

Singles were at the Long Nanny between 8th-19th (RKS) and at Castle Island on 26th-27th (JGS et al).

Greylag Goose

At Holywell Pond a brood of five noted on 4th (ISD) when a brood of two was at Castle Island (AT) One-ten noted at eight localities.

Canada Goose

A pair with four young was at Capheaton on 6th (DM) and another pair with five young was at Castron on 26th (LJM). 43 flew N. at Langleeford on 28th (KWY) when 12 at Cresswell Pond, 13 were at Hallington on 13th (BNR) and one-nine at a further nine localities.

Brent Goose

One was on Beadnell Bay Beach on 29th it then flew NW inland (AJW).

Shelduck

Broods noted at Hauxley Pool on 14th (six young) and Castron on 26th (ten young) (TRC/LJM). 68 were in Budle Bay on 6th (JRT), 29 at Hauxley on 22nd, 28 at Druridge Pools on 4th and 25 at Cresswell Pond.

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site eight pairs were present during the month. At the second breeding site seven pairs were noted and a female was seen on 29th with six small young. One-four were at nine widespread waters.

Gadwall

Pairs were present at Holywell Pond, Grindon Lough, Bothal Pond and Druridge Pool. Three were at Grindon Lough on 29th (RKS).

Teal

One-five noted at nine waters.

Green-winged Teal

A drake was at Holywell Pond between 8th-22nd (TJT/TRC/KWY et al) and was in close association with a female Teal.

Mallard

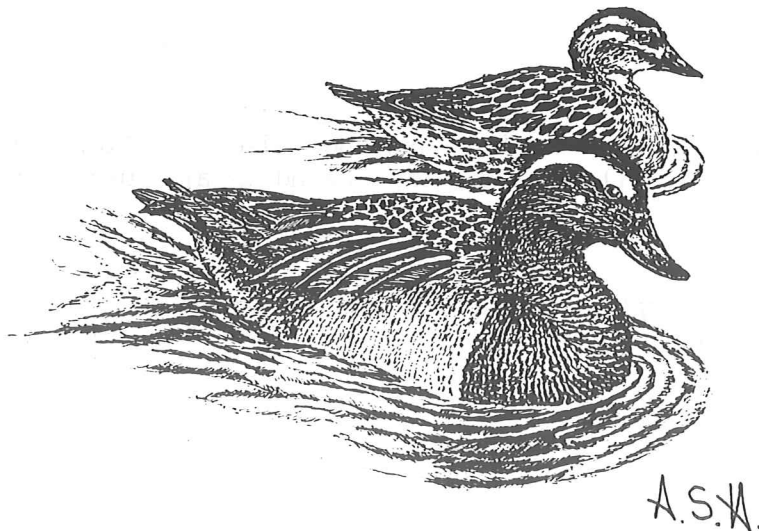
Broods noted at Holywell Pond, Gosforth Park, Ladyburn Lake D.B.C.P. Jesmond Dene, Big Waters, Grindon Lough, Holy Island Lough, Newton Pool, Wallington Hall, Castron, Whittle Dene, Castle Island and on R.Tyne at Prudhoe.

Pintail

A female was at Budle Bay on 8th (RKS).

Garganey

Single males were at Arcot Pond until 15th, at Big Waters on 5th (AJJ), at Capheaton on 7th (ADM) at Holywell Pond on 7th-8th (KWY/MHp), at Backworth on 8th (MHP). Two males were at Holywell Pond on 16th-17th (PAB et al) and a pair at Hauxley on 16th where a duck present on 19th (DBNR).

Shoveler

Seven were at Grindon Lough on 19th (RKS) with one-six at Big Waters, Holy Island, Caistron, Blagdon, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Gosforth Park and Holywell Pond.

Pochard

20 were at Holywell Pond on 27th (SP) with one-two at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Caistron, Druridge Pool and Grindon.

Ring-necked Duck

A male was at Holywell Pond on 1st with a female present on 2nd-3rd (PAB).

Tufted Duck

41 were at Holywell Pond on 16th (PAB), 40 at Caistron on 7th (JRT) 24 at Hauxley (DBNR) and 23 at Killingworth Lake (L&KR) were the largest concentrations.

Scaup

A pair was at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (RKS) and a male at Holywell Pond between 21st-31st (TRC et al).

Eider

91 were at Hauxley shore on 28th and 54 at St. Mary's Island on 30th (DBNR/IDM).

Long-tailed Duck

Two were at Stag Rocks on 5th-6th (GB) and in Beadnell Bay on 6th-9th (RKS/AJW).

Common Scoter

30 were off Holy Island N. Shore on 12th (RKS) with two-three near Coquet Island and Newbiggin.

Goldeneye

One-three reported at Arcot Pond, Whittle Dene, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Rayburn Lake and Ladyburn Lake D.B.C.P.

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 15 were at Lindisfarne NNR on 6th (DM) with seven in Druridge Bay on 13th, two in Beadnell Bay on 30th and a female was on Ladyburn Lake all month (TAC).

Goosander

Broods noted at Derwent Reservoir (RKS), Mitford (GB), Falstone (APM) and on R.Irthing (MH). 11 flew N. at Newbiggin on 13th (JGS) when seven were on R.Tyne at Riding Mill (DM). One-four were at another five localities.

Ruddy Duck

At Capheaton two pairs were present between 1st-14th with an extra male present on 13th. A single male was at Holywell Pond between 1st-22nd, when it was joined by a pair, the female also being recorded on 23rd and 29th. A female was at Druridge Pools on 2nd.

Marsh Harrier

Females/immatures were noted at Alnmouth on 2nd (ABW), Warkworth Lane on 3rd/31st (APM), Holywell Pond on 6th (TRC), Backworth and Hauxley on 30th (MHP/TJT) and Big Waters on 31st.

Hen Harrier

Single 'ringtails' were at Holy Island on 12th, Fenham Flats on 13th and at the Long Nanny on 25th. Single males were noted at two inland localities.

Sparrowhawk

One-two noted at eight localities.

Buzzard

A single was noted on 12th on moorland in the SW.

Osprey

One was at Tritlington near Morpeth on 4th (EMM), other singles were at Whittle Dene on 6th (DM), Colt Crag on 14th (EB), Newbiggin on 15th (JGG), Big Waters on 17th (Per AJJ) and Gosforth Park on 20th (CR).

Kestrel

Only two record cards of one-two at Druridge Bay CP at the Harthope Valley and on the Morpeth by pass.

Merlin

One was at the Long Nanny on 21st (AJW) and one-two at two inland localities.

Hobby

Singles were at Big Waters on 8th (APM) and Newbiggin on 19th (JGS).

Peregrine

Pairs noted at two inland localities.

Black Grouse

13 were present on the Otterburn Ranges on 6th, seven were near Carr Shield on 26th and 11 near Allenhead on 30th.

Chukar

Two were at Netherwhitton on 5th and in Harthope Valley on 21st.

Red-legged Partridge

Singles noted at Netherwhitton, West Falloden and near Wooler.

Quail

One was calling at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR) and another near Whitley Bay on 31st (IDM).

Water Rail

Heard at Gosforth Park on 3rd/6th (ISD/GB) and one seen at Newton Pool on 11th.

Coot

34 were at Big Waters on 7th where one-three broods noted by 31st (DM). 31 were at Grindon Lough where nine nests noted (RKS), two nested at Killingworth Lake and a brood of four was at Laverock Hall, Shankhouse on 17th (LJM).

Oystercatcher

70 were at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (RKS) and a maximum of 59 at Hauxley Reserve on 18th/20th (DBNR/JRT). One-four noted in five breeding areas.

Little Ringed Plover

A maximum of five were at Whittle Dene on 5th-7th where three still present on 12th (MR et al). Four were at Hallington on 13th (BNR), up to three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond and one-two at Big Waters, Backworth, Holywell Pond, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley, the Long Nanny and Derwent Reservoir. Breeding activity was noted at three sites.

Ringed Plover

473 were at Holy Island causeway on 12th, 77 at the Blyth Estuary on 20th (KWY/JRT), 110 at Hauxley on 23rd (DBNR) and 60 at Budle Bay on 17th (RKS). A pair were incubating eggs at Druridge Pools by 25th (DM). Inland up to 17 were at Whittle Dene (MR/RGW) and one-four at five other localities.

Dotterel

One was on Holy Island on 18th (MJS).

Golden Plover

14 pairs were found in five sq.kms. of moor at Gilderdale (BNR) and noted in three other breeding areas (MH).

Grey Plover

150 were at Fenham Flats on 6th (GB), 70 at Budle Bay on 19th (KWY) five at Longhoughton Steel and one-two at Hauxley, Newbiggin and Blyth. Inland two were at Whittle Dene on 5th/6th (MR/DM).

Lapwing

Broods were noted from 6th onwards with fledged young at Shankhouse by 17th (LJM). A pair hatched young again on the West Moor roundabout! (ISD).



Knot

16 were at Holy Island causeway on 12th (KWY) and one-four in three other localities.

Sanderling

34 were at Hauxley on 29th (DBNR), 18 at Holy Island on 19th (JRT), 16 at Newbiggin on 6th (JGS) and four-six at two other localities.

Little Stint

One was at the Long Nanny on 17th (AJW) and two at the Blyth Estuary on 22nd (MHP).

Curlew Sandpiper

One at the Blyth Estuary on 2nd with four between 18th-20th (MHP/AT el al). Singles were at the Long Nanny on 3rd (AJW) and Hauxley Reserve on 29th (DBNR). More unusual were four on a flooded field at West Moor on 16th (JEF).

Purple Sandpiper

On 6th 14 were at Newbiggin and Longhoughton Steel (JGS/RKS) and 12 at Amble (DM). One-eight were in four other localities.

Dunlin

300 were at Holy Island causeway on 12th, 180 at Budle Bay on 8th 104 between Boulmer-Howick on 6th, and 64 at the Blyth Estuary on 20th (KWY/JRT/RKS). Seven pairs were located in five sq.kms. of moorland at Gilderdale (BNR) and display noted at the Otterburn Ranges (MH). One-four were in six other inland localities.

Ruff

Eight were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (JP). One-four were also at Backworth, Bothal Pond, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Castle Island, Holy Island and Whittle Dene during the month.

Snipe

'Drumming' birds were noted in seven typical localities.

Woodcock

'Roding' birds were at Beacon Hill, Dipton Wood and Stobswood (ADM/DM/JWR).

Black-tailed Godwit

A maximum of four was at Hauxley Reserve on 22nd (DBNR) and three on Holy Island on 19th (SL). One-two were also at Grindon Lough, Castle Island, Bothal, Cresswell, Druridge Pools, Newton Pool, and the Long Nanny during the month.

Bar-tailed Godwit

82 were at Holy Island causeway on 31st (JDL), 11 at the Long Nanny on 7th (AJW) and eight at the Blyth Estuary on 3rd (JGS). One-four were in four other localities.

Whimbrel

They were noted throughout the month particularly along the coast. 14 flew N. at Newbiggin on 11th and seven on 12th (JGS), when eight were at Druridge Pools and seven at Cresswell Pond (TJT) and seven flew over Druridge Bay CP on 7th (TAC). One-five were also seen in a further 16 localities.

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (MSH) and Arcot Pond between 10th-13th (AHB).

Redshank

Broods were noted at Castron on 26th and Shankhouse and Holywell on 28th/29th (LJM/ISD).

Greenshank

A maximum of three at Cresswell Pond on 13th (SS/JWR). One-two were at Whittle Dene, Big Waters, Arcot, Castle Island, Blyth Estuary, Cresswell, Hauxley, Long Nanny, Budle Bay, Ross and Holy Island.

Green Sandpiper

One was at the Long Nanny on 3rd (AJW).

Wood Sandpiper

Between 1st-18th one-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Newton Pool and Holy Island. Others were inland at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR), Castron on 7th (JRT) and Derwent Reservoir on 29th/30th (RKS).

Terek Sandpiper

The bird at the R.Blyth was still present on 13th. On 9th it was seen at Castle Island (AT) and on 17th at Shankhouse (LJM).

Common Sandpiper

Six were at Hexham on 1st and eight at Prudhoe on 20th (L&KR) and one-four were in another six inland localities. One-four were also in about 14 coastal areas during the month.

Turnstone

102 were at Hauxley on 4th (DBNR), 80 at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (RKS), 73 at the Wansbeck Estuary on 19th (JGS) and 30-50 at five other localities.

Arctic Skua

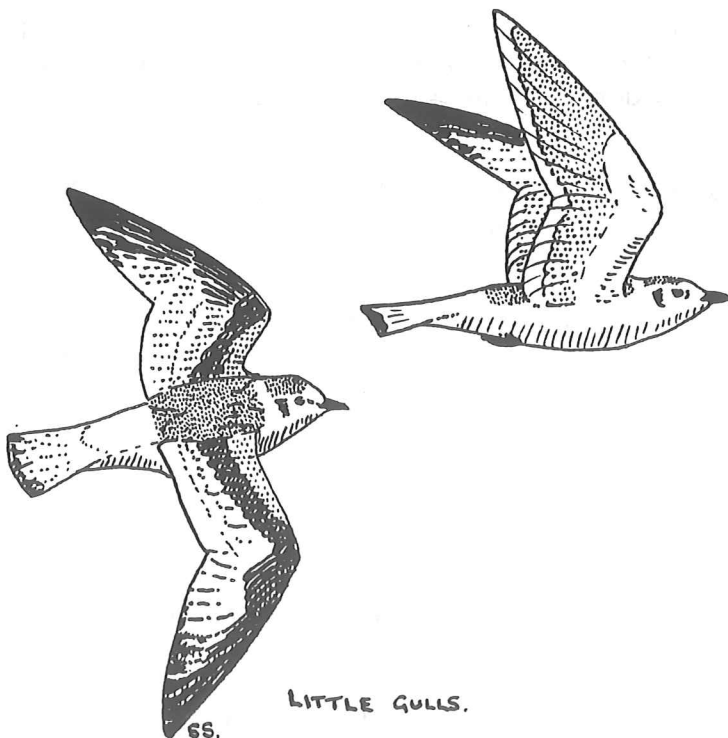
A slightly oiled bird was at the Long Nanny on 4th (AJW). One flew N. at Newbiggin on 12th (JGS).

Great Skua

One flew N. at Newbiggin on 12th (JGS).

Little Gull

Birds were present at Ladyburn Lake, D.B.C.P. on many days with a maximum of ten on 19th (TAC et al). One-four were also in a further eight coastal localities during the month.



LITTLE GULLS.

Black-headed Gull

Colony counts involved 300 pairs at Hexham Common, 60 pairs at Grindon and 1,100 at a moorland site in the SW (BNR). Only 22 nesting pairs noted at Newton Pool (MF).

Common Gull

None were present in the regular breeding site but three pairs were at a site on moorland in the S. and a further three pairs in two lowland working gravel pits (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

122 were at Budle Bay on 8th (RKS). 11 flew E. near Irthing Valley on 19th (MH). 45 roosted at Grindon Lough on 22nd. Ten pairs returned to the regular moorland site by 19th and a pair were in territory on a roof top in Alnwick (BNR/MSH).

Herring Gull

A pair were back at the moorland colony on 19th. 91 nests were counted on cliffs between Berwick-Marshall Meadows on 28th (MT).

Kittiwake

1,644 apparently occupied nests were counted between Berwick-Marshall Meadows on 28th (MT).

Sandwich Tern

200 were at Budle Point on 7th (BRS), 150 at Newbiggin on 3rd (JGS) and 85 at Cresswell on 4th (DM). A bizarre record involved 15 dead and one sick bird in a washed-up freezer on Annstead beach on 17th. Six B.I.O. rings were removed from these birds (MF).

Roseate Tern

One at Hauxley Reserve on 13th was the first (DM). One-two were also at this locality between 23rd-28th.

Common Tern

42 were at Hauxley Reserve on 26th (DBNR) and up to eight at Ladyburn Lake, D.B.C.P. (TAC). Eight appeared at Killingworth Lake in a rain shower on 15th (LJM). At Wallsend Swallow Pond numbers built up to 19 on 31st with at least five pairs breeding (PAB). Three were at Big Waters on 13th where a pair making a nest scrape by the end of the month (AJJ).

Arctic Tern

One at Hauxley Reserve on 8th was the first and numbers built up to 26 on 25th (DBNR). Steady N. passage was noted at Newbiggin on 12th when two at Castle Island (JGS/GB).

Little Tern

Two-five were noted at Newbiggin, Hadston, Embleton, Newton, the Long Nanny and Budle Bay from 4th onwards.

Black Tern

On 2nd about 20 were off Druridge (ES), and six at Holywell Pond departed to NE (MH/JEF) which may have been the six seen at Bothal Pond (ADM/MGA). One was also at Ladyburn Lake, D.B.C.P. (TAC). Singles were also at Holywell Pond on 15th (DM) and the Long Nanny on 23rd (AJW).

Guillemot

One was occupying an apparently suitable nesting ledge at Needles Eye, near Berwick on 28th (MT).

Razorbill

At Needles Eye, near Berwick 12 were occupying ledges including one with an egg and several others possibly incubating (MT).

Puffin

Up to four were investigating suitable breeding sites at Needles Eye on 28th (MT).

Stock Dove

Pairs were seen at Gosforth Park, Backworth, Cramlington, Riding Mill, Haltwhistle and Capheaton.

Turtle Dove

Singles were at Big Waters on 7th (AJJ), N.Sunderland on 13th (MSH), Holy Island on 15th (MJS) and Widdrington on 30th (APM).

Cuckoo

From 2nd onwards one-four were seen or heard in 28 widespread localities although they seem to be scarce in some areas.

Barn Owl

One was at Druridge on 22nd (MGA).

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Backworth, Horton, near Big Waters and near Brunswick.

Tawny Owl

A nest with young was found in the Harthope Valley on 7th (RKS). One-three were seen or heard in four other localities.

Long-eared Owl

Successful breeding was reported at one locality in the SE of the county.

Short-eared Owl

Singles were at Holywell Pond and Hauxley Reserve between 6th-8th and others inland at Cartington and near Whitfield.

Alpine Swift

One flew N. at Castle Island on 27th (AT).

Swift

Numbers increased from 2nd onwards and they had been recorded in many localities by the end of the month. Largest gatherings were 200 at Castle Island on 11th/17th and Big Waters on 12th (AT/AJJ), when 100 at Druridge Pools (MT), and 120 at Prudhoe on 20th (L&KR) and Holywell Pond on 29th (TRC). Light N. passage was noted along the coast at the Long Nanny, Stag Rocks and Holy Island early in the month.

Kingfisher

Two juveniles were at Morpeth on 17th (MGA). One-two were at Chipchase Mill and Prudhoe (MT/L&KR).

Hoopoe

One was near Shilbottle on 7th (JMA).

Green Woodpecker

One-three were at the Harthope Valley, Spindleston, Mitford, Dipton, Chipchase Mill, Wylam, Allenbanks and Howick.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Successful breeding noted at Prudhoe, Gosforth Park and Netherwitton. 'Drumming' birds noted in several other areas. One at Bedlington tried to take nestling Blue Tits from a nest box (LJM).

Sand Martin

The largest gatherings were 60 at Druridge Pools on 12th (MSH) and 150 at Prudhoe on 20th (L&KR). N. passage was noted at the Long Nanny between 1st-7th (AJW).

Swallow

200 were at Druridge Pools on 12th (MSH), 100 at Arcot Pond on 11th (LJM) and 80 at Whittle Dene on 18th (MR).

House Martin

Numbers built up during the month. 120 were at Arcot Pond on 11th (LJM) and 40 at Druridge Pools on 12th (MSH). Nest building was noted at Cresswell on 4th (DM) and Thropton on 5th (L&KR). Ten nests were on a derelict farmhouse in the Irthing Valley on 19th (MH).

Tree Pipit

Displaying and singing birds were noted in seven typical breeding areas from 5th. The only coastal record was one at Prior's Park on 1st (CB).

Yellow Wagtail

About 35 were at Whittle Dene on 3rd increasing to 50 on 12th and still 25 present on 16th (MR). These were evening counts and the birds were probably roosting nearby. 20 were at Newton Point on 4th (MF/ABW) and much smaller numbers were in 12 other localities during the month.

Blue-headed Wagtail

One was at Cresswell Pond on 1st and another at Druridge Pools on 7th/9th where two present on 12th (DBNR). Another was at Druridge Bay CP from 19th-31st (TAC).

Grey-headed Wagtail

A male was at Druridge Pools on 19th/20th (DBNR/IC/AHB).

Grey Wagtail

Probably ten pairs located in the Harthope Valley with fledged young at one site on 27th (RKS). Breeding also noted at Castron and Bedlington Country Park (LJM).

White Wagtail

Up to three were at Druridge Pools between 1st-6th (DBNR) and at Prudhoe on 20th (L&KR). Singles also noted at Whittle Dene, Hauxley Reserve, Holywell and Cresswell Pond.

Pied Wagtail

38 were at Prudhoe on 20th (L&KR).

Dipper

At least four pairs located between Langlee and Langleeford Hope in the Harthope Valley and three fledged broods seen (RKS). Breeding also noted at Allenbanks, Gilderdale and the Otterburn Ranges.

Wren

40 singing males were counted at the Kidland Forest on 26th (L&KR) and they were noted at 37 sites in the Harthope Valley (RKS).

Robin

30 were at the Kidland Forest on 26th (L&KR).

Bluethroat

A male (red-spotted) was at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DBNR).

Black Redstart

A male was in Whitley Bay Cemetery on 16th (TJT). More unusual was another male, in song, on the roof of Hexham Station on 14th! (BNR).

Redstart

They were noted in nine inland localities including pairs and singles at eight sites in the Harthope Valley (RKS), a pair occupying a nest box at Nunnykirk on 18th (RW) and a pair feeding young at Falstone by 28th (MRS). One-two were in four coastal localities between 4th-19th.

Whinchat

One at Holywell Pond on 2nd was the first (MHP/SP) and another was at Newbiggin on 3rd (JGS). Reports increased from 4th and by the end of the month small numbers had been seen in 14 widespread localities. However none were located in the Ponteland-Medburn area where there are normally 2-3 breeding pairs.

Wheatear

Noted in about four inland areas. Coastal passage was generally light although on 6th 30' were on Holy Island (MJS), 14 at Longhoughton Steel and 12 at Football Hole (RKS). One showing the characteristics of the Greenland race was at Newbiggin on 3rd/12th (JGS/GB).

Ring Ousel

Noted in four inland breeding areas. One was on Holy Island on 12th-14th (TRC).

Fieldfare

Three were on Holy Island on 15th (MJS), two at Brierdene on 24th (PAB) and one at Druridge Bay CP on 25th (TAC).

Mistle Thrush

Two family parties were at Druridge Bay CP on 1st (TAC).

Grasshopper Warbler

During the first week of the month at least ten were reeling in the Ponteland-Medburn area (EC). One-three were noted in another 15 localities. Four were at Druridge Bay CP and at Bamburgh on 13th (TAC/BRS). Six individuals were trapped and ringed at Big Waters (AJJ).

Sedge Warbler

Numbers increased with peak concentrations involving nine at Hauxley on 8th, eight at Bamburgh on 13th, 21 at Whittle Dene on 18th, 18 at Big Waters on 27th, 14 at Gosforth Park and 12 at Druridge Bay CP. One trapped at the latter locality on 25th was wearing a French ring (TAC).

Reed Warbler

One was singing at Gosforth Park on 2nd where four trapped by month end (MPF/ISD). One was singing at Big Waters on 13th where one trapped and ringed on 27th (AJJ).

Lesser Whitethroat

Widely reported from at least 11 localities from the 1st onwards. Three were at Pegswood on 9th and at Holy Island on 14th (SS/MJS).

Whitethroat

Noted in at least 26 widespread localities with concentrations of 11 at Backworth on 6th (SP) when 8 at Holywell Pond (PAB), 8 were at Druridge Bay CP on 17th (TAC), nine near Berwick on 18th (BNR) and 11 at Prudhoe on 20th (L&KR).

Garden Warbler

On 5th singles were at Allen Banks and Happy Valley and one was trapped at Gosforth Park (ES/MRS/ISD). Another was at Holywell Pond on 6th (PAB). From 10th 1-2 were reported from 12 localities.

Blackcap

Reported from eight localities with concentrations of six-seven at Jesmond Dene on 1st (SP), seven at Allenbanks on 5th (ES/DRS) and up to eight in Gosforth Park (ISD).

Wood Warbler

Eleven were singing between Allenbanks-Ridley Hall on 5th (RKS) five were singing in Harthope Valley on 7th when four pairs noted in Tasset Burn (WAK). Three were heard at Nunnykirk on 13th (RW) and four were at Plankey Mill on 29th.

Chiffchaff

Three were at Allenbanks on 5th and at Nunnykirk on 8th. Four were in the Ponteland-Medburn area with one-two in a further six localities.

Willow Warbler

Singing birds included seven in Holywell Dene on 2nd (SP), 11 at New Hartley on 6th (KWY), 24 in Harthope Valley on 13th (RKS), 44 at Kidland Forest on 26th (L&KR), ten at Big Waters on 27th (DM) and 24 at Gosforth Park (ISD).

Goldcrest

30 were singing in Kidland Forest on 26th (L&KR).

Spotted Flycatcher

Two at Ordley and three at Dipton on 5th were the first (MT/PAB). One was at Spindlestone on 6th (GB) and Holy Island on 12th (MHP/TRC). From 13th records become more widespread with five being at Kidland Forest on 26th, nine at Harthope Valley on 27th and five at Walbottle Dene on 28th. At Matfen a pair had laid five eggs by 22nd and seven pairs with eggs noted on 30th (RW).

Pied Flycatcher

On 5th 15 were at Dipton (PAB), two in the Harthope Valley (MRS) and one at Blanchland, by 8th 13 pairs had nests at Nunnykirk increasing to 21 pairs in boxes and two pairs in natural sites by 23rd (RW). One-three noted at a further nine localities.

Long-tailed Tit

Pairs noted at Bradford Kaims, Big Waters and Warkworth Lane. Confirmed breeding noted near Castle Island, at Allenbanks and in the Harthope Valley.

Marsh Tit

One-two noted at Allenbanks and Howick Woods.

Willow Tit

At Big Waters a pair hatched seven young in a nest box by 19th (AJJ).

Coal Tit

A pair were feeding young at Bedlington County Park on 21st (LJM).

Nuthatch

One was carrying food at Allenbanks on 11th (WAK), other singles noted at Riding Mill, Cupola Bridge and Plankey Mill.

Treecreeper

One-two noted at Wylam and Broomley Woods (KIB). Two fledged young were at Mitford on 31st (GB).

Red-backed Shrike

A male was at Hauxley between 19th to at least 23rd (SL et al).

Jay

Noted only at Broomley Woods (KIB).

Rook

Rookery counts include 56 nests at Lynnholm near Thropton, 175 at Thropton, 20 at Yetlington and 85 at Trew hitt Hall (L&KR).

House Sparrow

A leucistic bird was at Walbottle on 12th (L&KR).

Tree Sparrow

Four pairs were using nest boxes at Heddon Steads farm (LS & TPG). A pair using a nest box at Big Waters had hatched three young by 27th (AJJ).

Chaffinch

84 were in Kidland Forest on 26th (L&KR).

Goldfinch

A fledgling was being fed at the Hancock Museum on 31st (MRS) 12 were at Holywell on 1st (PAB) and one-two at three other localities.

Siskin

Up to 50 noted in the Kielder area on 22nd (JMA).

Twite

A pair were noted at Allendale Common on 20th (BNR).

Redpoll

Noted as abundant at Tarret Burn, N Tyne (MH). Nine were on Otterburn Ranges on 6th and 12 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 9th and in the Irthing Valley on 19th (MT/MH).

Crossbill

One-two noted at the Tarsset Burn, Redesdale Camp, Kielder and Tarret Burn. Family parties were on the Otterburn Ranges on 13th and at Dipton on 30th (MH/DM).

Scarlet Rosefinch

An adult male was singing at Backworth Pond on 30th-31st (MHp/PAB).

Bullfinch

One-two noted at Hartburn, Mitford, Prospect Hill, Walbottle Dene, Bothal, Wylam and Gosforth Park.

Hawfinch

Two were at Blagdon on 13th. However none have been noted in Jesmond Dene this spring, the first year this has happened since 1976 (MPF).

Corn Bunting

Singing birds noted at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley, near Hadston and Conundrum near Berwick.

Please send all June records, in Voous Order, to Mike S Hodgson, 31 Uplands, Monseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 9AG, by 8th July.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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I R Douglas
J E Ferguson
M P Frankis
M Freeman
LS & TP Goodwin

A S Hart
M Henry
M Hepple (MHP)
M S Hodgson
A Janes
A J Johnston
W A Kelly
J D Lough
S Lowe
L J McDougall
D McKeown
A D McLevy
I D Moorhouse
A P Mossop
S Parnaby
J Pattinson
A Priest
M Richardson
A T Rickeard
B N Rossiter
E Manners

L&K Russell
J W Rutter
S Sexton
D R Shannon
M J Sharp
E Slack
M R Smith
J G Steele
R K Stephenson
T J Tams
M Thomson
A Tilmouth
J R Todd
K Walton
R Walton
R G Waugh
A J Woodward
A B Woodfall
K W York
Bamburgh Ringing Station
Druridge Bay Nature Reserve

FOR SALE

1. West German Zeiss 10x40 Dialyt
Old but optically sound. Price £200

2. Vivitar Series 1 450mm lens F4.5
With matching 2 x converter. Brilliant Price £200

3. Tamron 500mm lens F8
Bent but optically sound. Price £65 o.n.o.

Contact Colin Bradshaw (091) 2572389

IMPORTANT - CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR RECORDER

Would all contributors please note that from 28th June 1990 my new address will be:
31 Uplands, Monseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 9AG.

Post will be redirected from my old address for a limited period only. My telephone number will remain unchanged at (091) 2520511.

MIKE HODGSON

WAREN MILL, BUDLE BAY - ANOTHER THREAT

Members may recall the threat to the Lindisfarne N.N.R. at Budle Bay posed by a proposed housing development at Waren Mill some four years ago. The club made representations at the time and after a Public Enquiry the Secretary of State turned down the application as being out of keeping with the area and a threat to the reserve.

An identical threat has now been posed as an application for planning permission, For 'alteration to and refurbishment of the mill and associated building to form several dwellings - 22, with associated garages', has been made by Mr W Wojcik of Hertfordshire.

The situation regarding Waren Mill and its development remain unchanged from four years ago and the committee shall again be writing to the Borough Planning Officer outlining our concern at the proposals.

It should be noted that no Environmental Impact Assessment has been prepared by the developer and the proposal includes disposal of foul sewage "via small sewage treatment works to tidal waters". It may be useful if members could write outlining their concerns about the planning application for Warren Mill. The address is Borough Planning Officer, Mr J M McDonald, Council Offices, Wallace Green, Berwick TD15 1ED (quote Planning Application 90/B/0377/P). Both the R.S.P.B. and the N.C.C. are aware and involved in the situation but we may all be able to help.

I am grateful for our friends in the North Northumberland Bird Club for drawing the committee's attention to this latest threat to one of our best ornithological areas.
MIKE HODGSON

ROSEATE TERNS

There is currently a co-ordinated colour ringing scheme for Roseate Terns in Europe and members are asked to check any birds they find for these colour marks. Reports should be entered onto a normal record card (giving colour of ring(s) and on which leg) and sent to the Recorder.

WADER COUNTERS WANTED

The annual appeal for wader counters who can make a regular monthly visit to a stretch of our coast between August 1990-May 1991! Existing counters who are going to continue with their stretch during this period should, as usual, let me know a.s.a.p. New counters are always welcome (especially for the Tweed Estuary which has been sadly neglected). Many counters will be pleased to know that the B.T.O. have agreed that our counts can be on their B.O.E.E. cards in future instead of their 'estuary' sheets for multiple counts.
MIKE HODGSON

NORFOLK FIELD TRIP 19th - 20th MAY 1990

After literally knocking Graeme Bowman out of bed at 12.20am 11 of us under the leadership of Richard Dunn headed for Norfolk. Arriving at Sandringham a stop for the beautiful but elusive Golden Pheasant was fruitless. However a coastal marsh was more rewarding with three Marsh Harriers prowling over the fenland. Other birds included Red-legged Partridge, Cuckoo, Reed Warbler and the weekends first Turtle Dove.

Our next stop gave us a pair of Montagu's Harriers hunting and displaying in the distance. A few minutes later the male flew right in front of everyone offering classic views of this rare raptor. (A first for many of us).

The plantations and heaths of Breckland beckoned us next. A popular wood produced two-three Golden Orioles loudly singing, most of the group managed to catch a glimpse of these colourful but frustrating birds. Equally as good were a pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers zapping in and out of their nest hole. Weeting Heath Nature Reserve was our next stop with Stone Curlew top of the list. We were told four pairs were present and we were not disappointed as quickly we found two.

Moving on we headed for Santon Downham following a tip from a local birder. Here we found a smart male Red-backed Shrike singing from the top of a hawthorn. A short walk added Tree Pipit, Siskin, Green Woodpecker and a family party of Crossbills, but no Woodlark.

Attempts at seeing Bluethroat (Well's Wood) and Red-throated Pipit (near Salthouse) both failed. But now we had arrived at the Clay Salthouse marshes. Two hours birdwatching produced over 40 Avocets, a Spoonbill, Egyptian Goose, Temmicks Stints, a Little Stint, 27 Black-tailed Godwits, Little Gull and three Garganey. To cap off an excellent day dusk was spent on Salthouse Heath. Soon the churning of Nightjar could be heard and it wasn't long before one two showed themselves to all bar yours truly!

An early start at 4-45 am found us back on Salthouse Heath hoping to see Nightingale. We had heard one briefly the evening before but it was obviously having a Sunday morning lay-in. Hickling Broad produced several Cuckoo's Sedge and Reed Warblers, Water Rail, Avocet, Little Tern and a distant booming Bittern. On the way back to the mini-bus patient listening gave us the brief reeling of a Savis Warbler.

A large heron-like bird flying above a windmill caught Michael Watsons attention. It was quickly identified as a Common Crane. Thirty minutes later young Cavin 'stumbled' on it or another trumpeting in a cereal field resulting in a dozen happy birders. Driving to Blackeney Point we hoped to see a male Subalpine Warbler but two hours of hunting produced nothing. We were however treated to a marvellous flypast by eight Black Terns. While nine of us moved on to Clay, patient Dunn, Watson and Bowman finally did get a glimpse of this mediterranean special.

Our second trip to Clay added Grey Plover, Greenshank and six Bearded Tits. Soon we had to make our way home but a call at Titchwell Reserve gave us mega-views of a female Red-backed Shrike (lets hope she heading to Santon Downham).

All in all a brilliant weekend with 132 species seen or heard. Our special thanks go to Richard Dunn for his entertaining leadership and all that driving.

DEE McKEOWN

PS Can I book my place for next year?



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY JUNE 1990

As usual June saw the reporting of many breeding records, some species having good success others having poorer fortunes.

Great Crested Grebe and Little Grebe continue to have little success. However broods were noted amongst the county's rarer breeding ducks with Wigeon (seven broods), Shoveler (four) and Pochard (three).

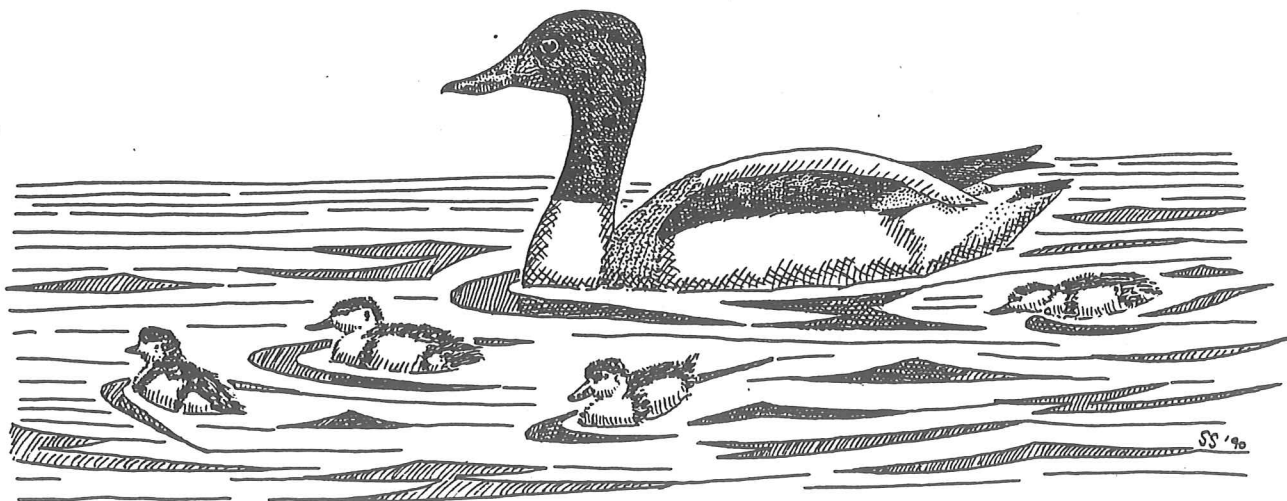
A comparative study with 1985 on the breeding density of waders on Hexham Common showed an increase in all species, except for Redshank. Little Ringed Plover bred near Brenkley.

A Blue-headed Wagtail carrying food at Druridge Bay CP indicated successful breeding, some species, for example Quail heard at two localities, will always remain difficult to prove.

Sea passage was quiet with only two records of Arctic and four of Great Skua. However Little Gulls increased to 17 at Druridge Bay CP.

Return wader passage began with Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Greenshank, Green and Wood Sandpiper moving through.

Rare or unusual species were few, a Little Egret was at Stag Rocks on 23rd and in Budle Bay on 24th. The Lesser Crested Tern once again returned to the Farne Islands while two Black Terns were noted. Other interesting species involved five Turtle Doves, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Garganey, Black-throated Diver, Glaucous Gull and Reed Warbler.



CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

One-two were at Stag Rocks, Beadnell Bay and Druridge Bay.

Black-throated Diver

One flew N. at Emmanuel Head on 24th (JDL).

Little Grebe

Two broods noted at Ladyburn Lake (TAC) and a pair was feeding a juvenile at Arcot Pond on 12th (LJM). A large juvenile at Big Waters on 10th-13th was almost certainly not hatched there (AJJ).

Great Crested Grebe

A third pair seen with two young at Holywell Pond on 5th were not seen again (ISD). Breeding attempts at Killingworth Lake and Whittle Dene were abandoned. Nine were at Cresswell Pond on 16th (ES/DRS) and 17 were in Druridge Bay on 26th (AP).

Black-necked Grebe

At the regular breeding site 20 were present on 17th when three juveniles noted. Three adults were at Holywell Pond on 19th (DM) and a single on 28th-30th (PAB).

Fulmar

Nine pairs were on the cliffs at Old Hartley (DM).

Manx Shearwater

Between 10th-13th six-35 were noted flying N. at St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin, Druridge Bay and Berwick with a peak of 30N. in 1/2 hour on 13th at Druridge.

Gannet

Fishing parties from Bass Rock resulted in 646 N. at Berwick on 8th and 250N. at Newbiggin on 13th.

Cormorant

21 were at Seahouses on 7th (DM) and 13 at N. Shields Fish Quay on 30th (DMT).

Little Egret

One flew N. at Stag Rocks on 23rd (GR) and was seen in Budle Bay near Waren Mill the following day (DM).

Grey Heron

At the well monitored site in the SE of the county at least nine young fledged from three nests.

Mute Swan

Further breeding success noted at Marden Park (six young), Annitsford Pond (three young), Weetslade Seaton Burn (three young), and three pairs on R. Aln between Lesbury and Bilton Mill (four, four and one young). At Holywell Pond a second pair was present on 24th with five young (PAB).

Pink-footed Goose

Three were at the Long Nanny on 2nd (RKS) with singles until 13th.

Greylag Goose

14 were at the Long Nanny on 1st (AJW).

Canada Goose

From 1st-24th one-20 were noted at 11 localities.

Barnacle Goose

One flew N. near Berwick on 15th (JDL).

Shelduck

Broods noted at Cresswell Pond (eight young), Ladyburn Lake (eight young), Low Newton (two young) and Holburn Moss (eight young). Two broods were also at Alnmouth. 64 were at Budle Bay on 16th and 71 at Fenham Flats on 20th, (ES/JDL). Three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 27th-30th (PAB).

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site a brood of two young was noted on 11th. At the second breeding site six broods of 29 young were noted by 27th. One-eight were at a further seven localities.

Gadwall

One-four noted at Holywell Pond, Druridge Pools and Grindon Lough.

Teal

21 were at Grindon Lough on 23rd (RKS) and one-nine at a further five localities.

Mallard

Three broods were on R.Aln between Lesbury and Bilton Mill and others at Mitford, Arcot Pond, Annitsford Pond and Howick Woods.

Pintail

A male was in Budle Bay on 3rd (APM).

Garganey

The male at Arcot Pond remained until 18th May (LJM). Two were at Holywell Pond on 1st (L&KR) and a single at Druridge Pools on 23rd (ADM).

Shoveler

Females with young were at Big Waters (two), Swallow Pond (four and 11) and Grindon Lough (six). Up to nine adults noted at seven localities.

Pochard

Broods of four and six young noted at Holywell Pond (ISD/PAB). A brood of five was at Big Waters (GB).

Ring-necked Duck

A male was at Marden Park on 4th (LJM) and at Holywell Pond on 9th and 19th (TRC/DM).

Tufted Duck

Two broods noted at Holywell Pond (nine and six young) and a single brood on Annitsford Pond (five young). 41 were at Whittle Dene on 24th (MR) and 37 at Holywell Pond on 30th (MT). One-27 were at a further eight localities.

Scaup

A male was on Holywell Pond on 1st (L&KR).

Eider

470 were off Holy Island N. shore on 10th (RKS). Broods noted at Howick Haven, Annstead and Beadnell. 20 young were between Dunstanburgh-Longhoughton Steel on 16th.

Long-tailed Duck

A male was at Hadston Carrs on 8th (MJS).

Common Scoter

40 flew N. at Beadnell on 25th (AJW), and 100 were off Chibburn Mouth on 30th (TAC).

Velvet Scoter

13 flew N. in Beadnell Bay on 26th (AJW).

Goldeneye

Singles were at Whittle Dene, Druridge Pools, Arcot Pond and Holywell Pond. Two were at Big Waters on 8th (L&KR).

Goosander

Further broods noted on R. Allen and on R Tyne at Ovingham.

Ruddy Duck

At Holywell Pond a male was present on 1st-5th and a maximum of three males and a female on 24th, with two males and a duck remaining until 30th (MT/PAB). A pair was at Capheaton on 17th (ADM) and a male at Arcot Pond on 30th (AHB).

Sparrowhawk

One-two noted at nine localities.

Peregrine

One was at Annstead Dunes on 17th (MF).

Red-legged Partridge

Two were at Swinhoe on 10th (WAK).

Grey Partridge

Broods noted at Druridge Bay CP and Derwent Reservoir.

Quail

One was calling at High Hauxley on 2nd (KE & WKS) and another at Slaley Hall on 11th (RMH).

Moorhen

Young noted at Big Waters, Arcot Pond and Shankhouse.

Coot

Broods noted at 13 localities.

Oystercatcher

70 were at Longhoughton Steel on 8th (IK), 30 at St. Mary's Island on 19th (DM), 76 at Hauxley Reserve on 21st (DBNR) and 40 at the Long Nanny on 30th (AJW). Three pairs were found in 16 sq. kms of Hexham Common where none had been present during 1985 (BNR). Breeding was also confirmed at Cullernose Point (ISD), Brenkley (LJM), Whittle Dene (MR) and probably at Elsdon at 800 feet a.s.l. (IK).

Little Ringed Plover

One-two were noted at Druridge Pools, Holywell, Backworth, Whittle Dene and Derwent Reservoir during the month. Two breeding pairs were also reported near Brenkley (per LJM).

Ringed Plover

55 were at Amble Braid on 7th (WAK). Successful breeding was noted at Chevington Burn (DM) and nests with eggs at Bamburgh and Holy Island (JGB).

Golden Plover

63 pairs were located in 16 sq.kms of Hexham Common, an increase of seven pairs since 1985 (BNR). Up to 20 were at Hauxley Reserve at the end of the month (ADMc).

Grey Plover

Four were at Budle Bay on 2nd (RKS) and singles at the Long Nanny on 4th/5th (AJW) and Holy Island on 24th (JDL).

Lapwing

104 pairs were located in 16 sq.kms of Hexham Common, an increase of 19 pairs since 1985 (BNR). Post-breeding flocks were noted from 20th, the largest being 250 at Whittle Dene on 29th (JSB).

Knot

One was at the Long Nanny on 15th (AJW), 15 flew S. at Holy Island on 24th (JDL) and four were at Hauxley Reserve on 30th (DBNR).

Sanderling

Between 5th-24th four-seven were noted at Beadnell Bay and Holy Island.

Little Stint

One was at Hadston beach on 23rd (WAK).

Curlew Sandpiper

Singles were at Hauxley Reserve between 1st-3rd and on 17th/18th (DBNR) when another was at the Long Nanny (AJW).

Dunlin

25 were at Budle Bay on 2nd (RKS), 20 at Boulmer on 8th (IK) and ten at the Long Nanny on 30th (ISD).

Ruff

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st (PAB).

Snipe

21 pairs were located in 16 sq.kms of Hexham Common, an increase of seven pairs since 1985 (BNR).

Woodcock

Two were 'roding' at Slaley Forest on 7th (BNR).

Black-tailed Godwit

One-two were at Hauxley Reserve between 1st-4th (DBNR) and singles at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS), Holywell Pond on 12th (TRC) and Druridge Pools on 23rd (ADMc).

Bar-tailed Godwit

One-two were at Hauxley between 12th-21st (DBNR) and 73 at Holy Island on 24th (JDL).

Curlew

148 pairs were located in 16 sq.kms of Hexham Common, an increase of 31 pairs since 1985 (BNR). Post-breeding flocks were noted late in the month and on the coast 189 were at Black Low on 20th (JDL) and 120 at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (DBNR).

Redshank

Five pairs located in 16 sq/kms of Hexham Common, a decrease of three pairs since 1985, the only wader species to suffer a decline at this locality (BNR). A third brood was noted at Shankhouse (LJM). 51 were at Black Low on 20th (JDL) and 53 at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (DBNR).

Greenshank

Singles were at the Long Nanny on 3rd (AJW), Wallsend Swallow Pond on 18th (JGB), Whittle Dene on 19th (RGW) and Newton Pool on 26th (MF).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (DBNR).

Wood Sandpiper

One was at Druridge Pools on 19th (AP).

Common Sandpiper

Successful breeding noted in several typical areas. One-three were seen in five coastal or near coastal localities.

Turnstone

30 were at Boulmer on 8th (IK), 32 at Holy Island on 10th (RKS), and a maximum of 106 at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (DBNR).

Arctic Skua

Two flew N. at Newbiggin on 13th (AP/ES).

Great Skua

Singles flew N. at Stag Rocks on 12th (JGB) and Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 13th (AP/SS/TRC).

Little Gull

Seven at Druridge Bay CP on 2nd increased to a maximum of 17 (all first summers) on 24th (TAC/DM). Up to seven were at Hauxley Reserve and one-two at Beadnell Bay, Newton Pool, Druridge Pools, Cresswell, Newbiggin, St. Mary's Island and Holywell Pond.

Black-headed Gull

12 pairs were breeding at Coalclough (BNR).

Common Gull

A further two pairs in territory at one of the gravel pit sites mentioned last month and two pairs noted on the Northumbrian Loughs. Inland roosts of first summer birds involved 19 at Colt Crag on 18th, 14 at Hallington on 21st and 28 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

40 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 13th (JGB) and 18 at Budle Bay included two showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race (ES/DRS).

Herring Gull

420 were at the Tyne Estuary on 10th (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

One was at Beadnell Bay on 13th (AJW).

Great black-backed Gull

83 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 12th (DMT).

Kittiwake

85 pairs noted at the North Shields warehouse colony and six pairs at Port of Tyne building N. passage was noted at St. Mary's Island on 12th (SP). Two adults were inland at Whittle Dene on 10th (MR).

Lesser Crested Tern

The returning bird from previous years was present on the Farne Islands during the month. On 18th it was seen in Beadnell Bay.

Roseate Tern

20 pairs were at Coquet Island (per TRC). Up to three were at Hauxley Reserve and singles at Druridge Bay and Beadnell Bay.

Common Tern

33 were at Hauxley Reserve on 26th (DBNR) when 42 were on the R. Tyne at Walker Riverside Park (PAB). Up to five breeding pairs noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond although some clutches were taken by humans (PAB), and three pairs were on eggs at Big Waters by 30th (AJJ). Seven were at Holywell Pond on 17th (SP) and one at Gosforth Park on 9th (ISD). A 'portlandica' type was at Hauxley Reserve on 17th (SS).

Arctic Tern

16 breeding pairs were at one mainland site. 20 were at Hauxley Reserve on 17th (DBNR).

Little Tern

32 breeding pairs were at one mainland site. One-two were noted at Hauxley.

Black Tern

One flew N. at Stag Rocks on 15th and another was at Druridge Pools on 19th (JGB).

Guillemot

30 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 12th (SP). Six were at Dunstanburgh on 16th (RKS).

Razorbill

13 were at Dunstanburgh on 16th including three on ledges (RKS).

Puffin

Large numbers were moving both N. and S. at St. Mary's Island on 10th (MPF).

Stock Dove

Six were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 8th (JGB).

Woodpigeon

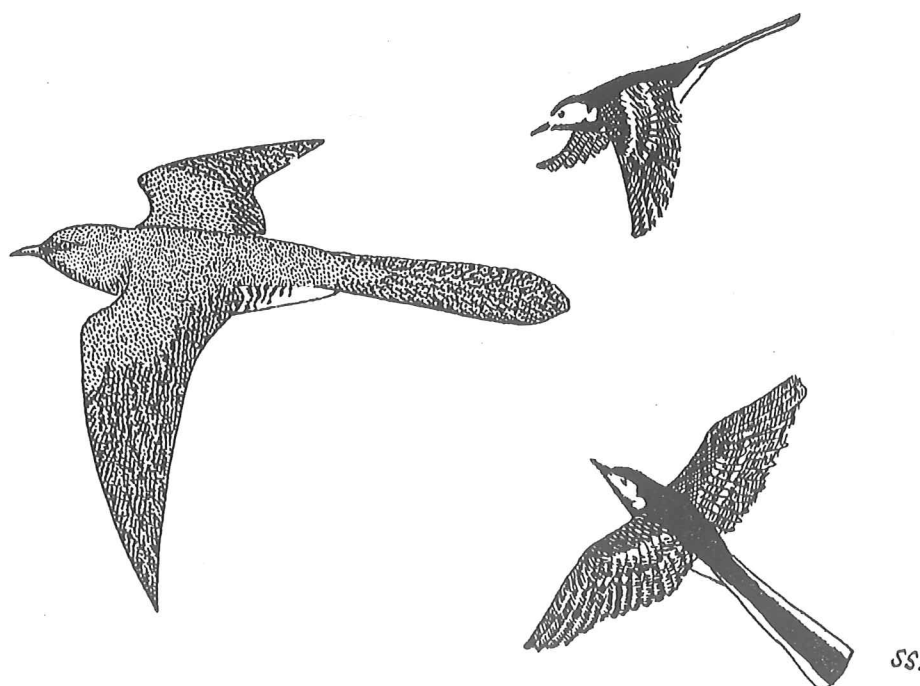
280 were in one field at Lucker on 12th (BNR).

Turtle Dove

One-two were at Backworth on 1st (MT/MPF), and singles at Jesmond Dene and Arcot on 15th (SP/HW) and another in a garden at Walbottle on 15th/16th (L&KR).

Cuckoo

One-two were noted in eight localities. A juvenile at Druridge Bay CP on 16th fed by a Chaffinch and a Yellowhammer (TAC).



Barn Owl

Singles were noted at Druridge and near Warkworth (TRC/KN). A breeding pair were near Craster (ISD).

Little Owl

Singles were noted at Backworth and Slaley (WAK/BNR).

Tawny Owl

One-two were seen or heard in five widespread localities.

Short-eared Owl

One was at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (RKS).

Swift

200 were at Big Waters on 8th (L&KR).

Kingfisher

One-three were at Mitford, Abbey Mills, Lesbury and Thropton.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were noted at Wylam and Craggside (JSB/L&KR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Successful breeding was reported from Beacon Hill, Holystone, Arcot, Walbottle and Craggside.

Sand Martin

Colony counts involved 124 nest holes at Togston Links, DBCP (TAC), 70 pairs at Etal (JDL), four nest holes at Howick Cliffs and a pair at Emmanuel Head, Holy Island (RKS).

Swallow

A pair were nesting underneath the A1 road bridge at Mitford (DM).

House Martin

50 were at Big Waters on 8th (L&KR). 21 nests were on an old railway bridge at Slaggyford (ES) and 15 nests at "Cresswell Ices" (DM).

Yellow Wagtail

Breeding was noted in several localities.

Blue-headed Wagtail

At Druridge Bay CP a male was holding territory, and seen carrying food from 24th onwards, indicating successful breeding (TAC/GB).

Grey Wagtail

Family parties were noted at Mitford and Allenbanks (DM/RKS).

Pied Wagtail

Fledged broods were seen in many localities including three on Holy Island (RKS).

Dipper

Breeding was confirmed at Whittle Dene and Beltingham (MR/JSB).

Wren

28 were counted at Thrunton on 16th (L&KR).

Robin

16 singing males were at Thrunton on 16th (L&KR).

Redstart

Seven young fledged from the nest-box at Nunnykirk (RW). Breeding was also noted at Allenbanks, Derwent Reservoir and the Harthope Valley (RKS).

Whinchat

Pairs and singles were located at 13 sites in the Harthope Valley (RKS) and family parties noted in Upper Coquetdale from 19th (IK). Probably four breeding pairs at S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN) while two nests with young at Druridge Bay CP were predated (TAC).

Wheatear

Seven broods were in the Harthope Valley on 17th (RKS) and fledged broods noted in Upper Coquetdale from 9th where they seem less plentiful this year (IK/BG). A pair was probably breeding at the Long Nanny (ISD) and a juvenile was at Cresswell Pond on 30th (ADMc).

Fieldfare

One was at Druridge Bay CP between 3rd-26th (TAC/JEF) and another at Annstead on 9th (MSH).

Mistle Thrush

Six family parties were at Wellhope Knowe on 16th (L&KR).

Grasshopper Warbler

Four were 'reeling' at Ponteland/Medburn during the month (ES) and one-two seen or heard in ten other localities. Breeding was confirmed at Newton Pool where a fledged youngest being fed by adult on 30th (ISD).

Reed Warbler

One was in dunes at Hauxley on 8th (DBNR/MJS) and two were at Gosforth Park on 29th (PAB).

Lesser Whitethroat

Successful breeding was confirmed at Medburn and Pegswood (EC/SS). One-three were at Holywell, Backworth, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Bellasis Bridge, Ellingham and Spindleston.



Whitethroat

Noted in eight widespread localities with family parties from 10th.

Garden Warbler

Up to eight were in the Wallsend Swallow Pond area (MT/PAB) and others at Mitford and Thrum Mill.

Blackcap

Family parties were at Allenbanks and Craster on 9th/16th (RKS). One-three were in four other areas.

Wood Warbler

Four were singing at Eals on 6th (ES) and one at Cragside on 16th (L&KR).

Chiffchaff

14 were singing in one tetrad at Cragside on 16th (L&KR).

Willow Warbler

Family parties were noted from 16th.

Spotted Flycatcher

Another two nests were found at Matfen bringing the total to nine at this locality (RW). One-two also noted at Howick, High Hauxley, Jesmond Dene and Backworth.

Pied Flycatcher

22 pairs laid 146 eggs in nest-boxes at Nunnykirk. 118 young hatched and 90 fledged (RW). Successful breeding was also confirmed at Blanchland, Beacon Hill and Holystone (RKS/ADMc).

Long-tailed Tit

Fledged young were noted at Howick and near Bilton (MLC/AS).

Willow Tit

Singles were at Seaton Sluice and Cresswell.

Coal Tit

Two pairs reared 17 young in nest-boxes at Spindlestone (BRS). Family parties were also noted at Druridge Bay CP., Thrunton Woods and Allenbanks.

Blue Tit

Nest-box studies provided results as follows:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>No of pairs</u>	<u>No of eggs</u>	<u>No of young</u>
Nunnykirk	10	93	91
Big Waters	6	54	42
Beacon Hill	6	-	57
Spindlestone	2	-	18

Great Tit

Nest-box studies provided the following results:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>No of pairs</u>	<u>No of eggs</u>	<u>No of young</u>
Nunnykirk	12	98	90
Big Waters	4	34	29
Spindlestone	3	-	20

Nuthatch

A pair fledged seven young from a nest-box at Letah Wood, Hexham where two further pairs bred in natural sites. (RMH). A pair successfully fledged young at Thropton (L&KR).

Treecreeper

Breeding was confirmed at Allenbanks and Langlee (RKS). One was on the coast at Newton Pool on 26th (MF).

Jay

Noted at Arcot and Gosforth Park.

House Sparrow

A leucistic bird was at Walbottle on 9th (L&KR).

Tree Sparrow

Breeding was confirmed at Boulmer and Alnmouth (MLC). Also noted at Druridge, Cresswell and Embleton.

Chaffinch

Small post-breeding flocks were feeding on heather seed at the Wanneys on 18th (IK).

Greenfinch

A flock of 40 was at Shankhouse on 9th-10th (LJM).

Goldfinch

They were widespread in many localities on Tyneside during the month (PAB/JSB). Family parties were noted at Pegswood on 9th (SS).

Linnet

80 were at Shankhouse on 9th-10th (LJM) and 50 at Newton Pool on 29th (MF).

Redpoll

Fledged young were at Druridge Bay CP on 23rd (TAC).

Crossbill

30 were at Swinhoe on 10th (WAK) and one-three at Mindrum, Harwood, Hexham and Slaley Hall. A family party was at Whittle Dene on 19th (RGW).

Bullfinch

Fledged young were at Waren Mill, Close House and Wallsend Swallow Pond (GB/PAB).

Hawfinch

One was at Holystone on 7th (MGA).

Yellowhammer

Birds still visiting a garden feeding station at Walbottle up to 17th (L&KR).

Corn Bunting

Noted at Swinhoe, Cullernose, Howick, Longhoughton Steel, Druridge Bay CP, Cresswell, Horton and further inland at Felton.

Please send all July records, in Vooos order, to Mike.S.Hodgson, 31 Uplands, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 9AG by 8th August at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

M G Anderson

A H Banks

K I Barratt

P Barron

J G Bell

J S Booth

G Bowman

P A Buskin

ML & TA Cadwallender

T R Cleaves

E Crabtree

KE & WK Gray

M S Hodgson

R M Holmes

A J Johnston

W A Kelly

I Kerr

W T Logan

J D Lough

L J McDougall

D McKeown

A D McLevy

M Richardson

B N Rossiter

G Russell

L&K Russell

S Sexton

D R Shannon

M J Sharp

E Slack

R K Stephenson

A Stimpson

M Thomson

I S Davidson	A P Mossop	D M Turner
W Dickson	K Nattrass	R Walton
J E Fergusson	ET & JR Norris	H Watson
M P Frankis	S Parnaby	R G Waugh
M Freeman	M D Plenty	A J Woodward
B Galloway	A Priest	Bamburgh Ringing Station
		Druridge Bay Nature Reserve

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 1990/91

Members are reminded that under the terms of the club constitution all nominations for election to your committee for 1990/91 must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary, Ian Kerr, at least 21 days before the A.G.M. on 11th October 1990. All members nominated must indicate their willingness to stand for election and must be proposed and seconded by two Club members. Nominations please to: Ian Kerr, 27 Eddrington Grove, Chapel House, Newcastle NE5 1JG.

WILDFOWL COUNTS SEPT 1990-MARCH 1991

Counters are needed for the next wildfowl count season at Hallington Reservoirs and Colt Crag Reservoir. Would anyone interested please contact Margaret Macfarlane, 7 Wildshaw Close, Southfield Lea, Cramlington NE23 6LH (Tel: (0670) 715399).

PELAGIC TRIPS

Two excursions have been organised by Matt Plenty. These will be on 18th and 25th August with the boat leaving North Shields (near the Ice Factory) at 7.00am and returning at 3.00pm. Cost will be £9. Please phone Matt on (0670) 351135 to book your place which will be allocated on 'first come first served' basis.

TERNS EGGS STOLEN

As noted in the classified list the Common Terns at Wallsend Swallow Pond tragically had their eggs stolen. Swallow Pond continues to face increased vandalism. In the past Mute Swan and Kestrel have lost eggs and in the winter of 89 Short-eared and Tawny Owls were shot. Next year I hope to try and organise a watch over the reserve. Any help would be appreciated. Please contact Paul Buskin Tel 2659119.

NORTHUMBRIAN BIRD RACES

The following list shows bird race results that I have currently to hand. If I have missed any that you feel should be included please drop me a line with the details. As you can see there are two counts of 138 species which is the current county record. Participants should note that for any entry in the 'Birdwatcher's Year Book' teams should only consist of four people. Congrats to all of the people concerned who have raised large amounts of sponsorship for the club and other worthy organisations.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>No. of Species</u>
18/5/83	M Carr/C Donald/A D Mould	109
30/5/83	D Hind/N J Watmough	115
21/9/85	Salutation Stringers	116
"	The 'A' Team	86
"	Bamburgh Bandits	87
"	Hauxley Mafia	86
"	Anabolic Adolescents	94
May 86	Ponteland WT Group	94
26/5/86	A J Booth/N Moores/A D Mould	119
May 87	Ponteland W T Group	115
16/5/87	I Fisher/A J Booth/M Davison	121
"	M P Frankis/J Sweeney/G Bowman/G Scott	119
7/5/88	T R Cleaves/M Hepple/T Melling/A Hutt	138
15/5/88	Cresswell Dippers	128
May 88	Ponteland WT Group	117
1/1/89	A J Davis/ A Baker	75
2/1/89	I Fisher/M Davison/A J Booth/N Moores	103

11/3/89	Bamburgh Bandits	97
"	Carry-On-Crows	95
"	A J Davis/A Baker/D Lockwood/A Scott	96
"	Haxley Mafia	95
6/5/89	M D Plenty/N Anderson/D Johnson/D Hirst	125
"	N B Cox/E Crabtree/A G Hetherington/P Lowry	127
13/5/89	M G Cubitt/J Aggleton/P Byle	132
14/5/89	Cresswell Dippers	123
13/5/90	Sergeant Franki's Barmy Army	138
"	The Big Dippers (Big Waters Wardens)	129

Best of luck to future racers!

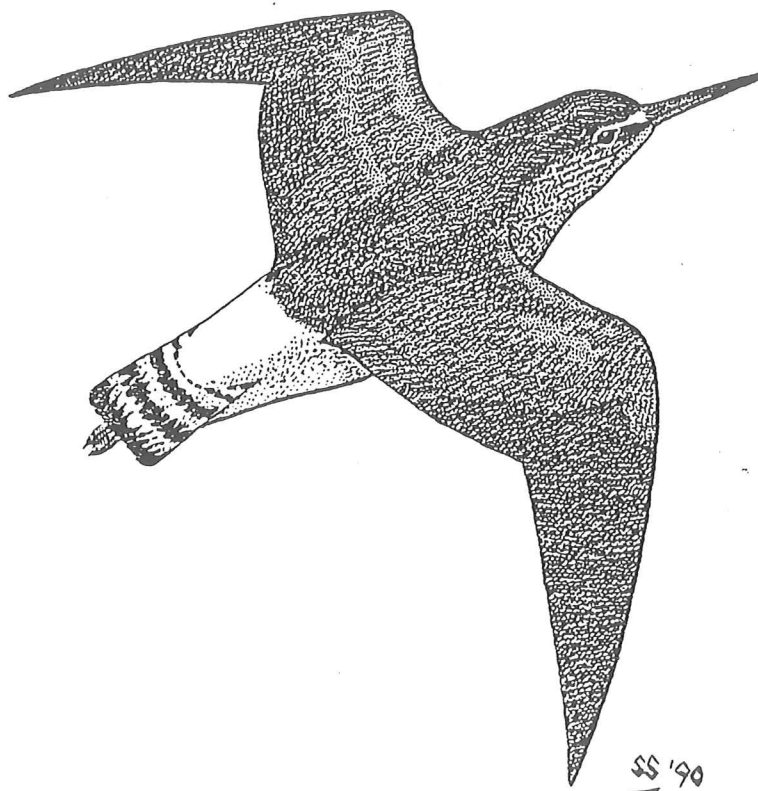
MIKE HODGSON



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY JULY 1990

July was a warm, dry month with winds mainly from the west or south-west. Breeding records continued to be received but species like Little and Great Crested Grebes showed no improvement in their success. Black-necked Grebes at the regular site only produced mediocre numbers of young when compared with previous years. However it was not all bad news as there were good results for Wigeon, Common Gulls and Little Terns, all rare but regular breeders. The presence of Buzzards in four localities is encouraging and young were hatched at the site used last year. Four young Fieldfares fledged at Druridge Bay C.P., only the second confirmed breeding record. Although three Twite were located in one moorland area there has been no indication of breeding. Reed Warblers continue to maintain their toehold as a breeding species and there were a number of reports of thinly distributed species, such as Lesser Whitethroat, successfully rearing young. Other passerines have had an excellent season and there was evidence of the usual post-breeding movements of species like Willow Warbler. Return wader passage commenced in earnest during the month with most of the regular species involved. The first Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers appeared and there was an influx of Green and Wood Sandpipers from 22nd.



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 LIST

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Seawatching produced reasonable numbers of Manx Shearwaters and the first few Sooty Shearwaters and Pomarine Skuas but Arctic and Great Skuas were not abundant. Breeding seabirds were dispersing from their nesting areas and 3,000 Sandwich Terns gathered at Newbiggin.

The Little Egret reported last month was seen again at Budle Bay and then apparently moved to Berwick where a Night Heron was found. It seems likely that the latter originated from Edinburgh Zoo but tracing its colour ring sequence will give us the answer! Two Hobbys were noted as were small numbers of Quail. Out of season records involved single Brent Goose and Glaucous Gull.

Red-throated Diver

Four flew N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice between 5th-21st (SSWT). Two were in Druridge Bay on 7th (ADMc).

Little Grebe

2 broods were at Howick Pond on 22nd (MLC) and another two at Grindon Lough between 14th-28th (RKS). One small young was also noted at Gosforth Park on 30th (ISD). Up to 12 were at Holywell Pond, ten at Castle Island and one-six in five other localities.

Great Crested Grebe

No breeding successes were reported. Up to seven were at Holywell Pond, six at Derwent Reservoir and Cresswell Pond and two-three at Whittle Dene, Big Waters, and Druridge Pools.

Black-necked Grebe

Nine young were at the regular breeding site on 17th. Singles were at Holywell Pond on 3rd and 22nd/23rd (DM/MT) and Grindon Lough on 22nd (RKS). Two were at Whittle Dene on 28th/29th (MR).

Fulmar

Colony counts made on 25th revealed 48 pairs (with 17 young) at Howick, five pairs at Dunstanburgh and four pairs at Seahouses (MF/AW).

Sooty Shearwater

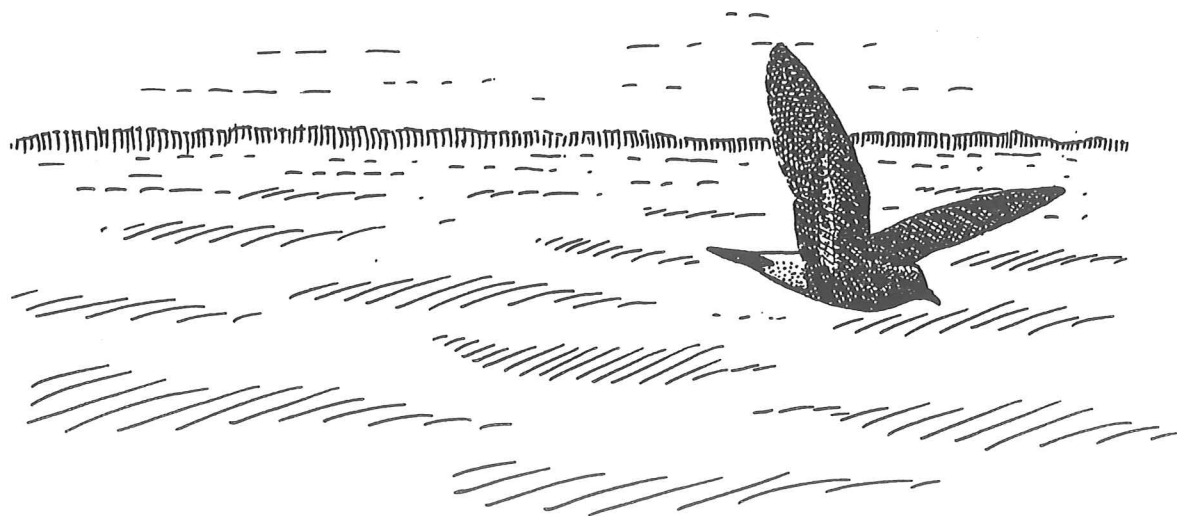
Singles flew N. at Hauxley on 6th (AJB/MJS) and Newbiggin on 23rd (AP).

Manx Shearwater

A total of 1,033 flew N. and 83 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with peak movements on 13th, 19th, 21st and 24th (SSWT). Movements were also noted at other seawatching points and included 85 N. at Hauxley on 6th (AJB), 52 N. at Newbiggin on 10th where 40 N. on 14th (AP/GB) and 80 N. at St. Mary's Island on 22nd (MPF/PAB). About 20 were 4 1/2 miles off Tynemouth on 21st.

Storm Petrel

One flew N. about 4 1/2 miles off Tynemouth on 21st (AJB).



Storm Petrel 4½ miles off Tynemouth 21.7.90 AJB

Gannet

200 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 13th and 20th and 300 per hour on 21st (SSWT).

Cormorant

34 were at the Tyne Estuary on 30th (DMT), 39 at Castle Island on 25th (AT) and 28 at Blyth Harbour on 9th. Inland one-three were at Derwent Reservoir on several dates.

Night Heron

A colour-ringed juvenile was reported from Berwick on 31st (CK).

Little Egret

One was still at Budle Bay on 1st (SS/ADMc) and probably the same bird at the Tweed Estuary on 18th (ES/WTL).

Grey Heron

34 were at Castle Island on 23rd (AT), 18 at the Tweed Estuary on 21st (ES/DRS) and nine at the Coquet Estuary (KEG). One-three were at Newton Pool, Hauxley Reserve and Budle Bay.

Flamingo

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SP).

Mute Swan

Further broods were noted at Pawston Lake (two young), Rothley Lake (three young), Capheaton (five young) and Annstead Burn (two young). The family party from Hauxley Reserve apparently walked to Druridge Bay C.P. and were returned to Hauxley in the back of a Countryside Warden's van! (TAC). 93 were at the Tweed Estuary on 21st (ES) when 15 were at Broomlee Lough (BNR).

Grey Lag Goose

Ten were at Druridge Pools on 1st (DBNR) and five at Castle Island on 18th/26th (DM). The brood at Holywell Pond has apparently been predated by a fox (ISD).

Canada Goose

64 roosted at Hallington on 24th (BNR). A pair escorted ten large young at Sweethope Lough on 11th (IK/BG).

Brent Goose

A dark-bellied bird was at the Coquet Estuary on 1st and 8th (ADMc).

Shelduck

Three broods (23 young) were reared at Castle Island (AT). Further broods were at Boulmer (two broods, six young), Druridge Bay CP (two broods, six young), Elwick (two broods, eight young) and Hauxley (three young). 90 at Budle Bay on 2nd declined to 15 by 21st (MSH/ES). Five adults and two juveniles were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st where seven adults present on 5th (PAB).

Wigeon

Final breeding results this season were five pairs fledging 15 young at the regular site and six pairs fledging 25 young at the second site (BNR). One-four were at six localities.

Gadwall

Two were at Druridge Pools and Hauxley Reserve between 11th-21st.

Teal

Up to 19 were at Grindon Lough and 12 at Gosforth Park and Druridge Pools.

Mallard

Further broods were noted at Norham, Yetlington, Newton Pool, Whittle Dene, Holywell, Big Waters and Newcastle Civic Centre. 162 were at Big Waters on 16th (GB), 142 at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (RKS) and 130 at Whittle Dene on 28th (JSB).

Pintail

Singles were at Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond.

Shoveler

The brood at Grindon Lough had been reduced to four by 14th (RKS).

Pochard

Four-five broods were at Holywell Pond where up to 30 adults present (TRC et al). A brood was still at Big Waters together with 20 adults (GB/AJJ).

Tufted Duck

Three broods totalling 20 young were at Big Waters (AJJ). Probably five different broods noted at Holywell Pond (TRC/ISD) and others at Capheaton, Colt Crag, Castle Island and Spindleston. 50 at Whittle Dene on 1st increased to 153 by 28th (MR).

Scaup

At least three were at Castle Island between 13th-26th (AT) and singles at Newbiggin and Druridge Pools (AP).

Common Scoter

A total of 172 flew N. and 53 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 110 were in Druridge Bay on 7th (ADMc).

Velvet Scoter

Singles few N. at Hauxley on 6th, St.Mary's Island on 17th and Newbiggin on 18th.

Goldeneye

One-four were at Hauxley Reserve, Druridge Pools, Castle Island and Whittle Dene.

Red-breasted Merganser

15 were in Druridge Bay on 7th (ADMc). Three flew N. at St.Mary's Island and Hauxley on 6th.

Goosander

18 were at the Tweed Estuary on 21st (ES/DRS).

Ruddy Duck

Up to three were at Holywell Pond during the month. A drake was at Capheaton on 7th (RGW).

Hen Harrier

A female was at Ross Links on 26th (PK).

Sparrowhawk

In the south central study area four pairs reared at least 15 young. Two of these nests were only one km. apart. In the Upper Coquetdale study area three pairs reared ten young, two of these nests also being only one km. apart (IK/BG). Successful breeding was also noted near Heddon (RGW). One-two were in nine other widespread localities.

Buzzard

Birds have been present in four localities during the breeding season and young hatched at a site occupied last year. A buzzard (sp) flew over Hulne Park on 14th (JEF).

Kestrel

In the N.W. study area four pairs fledged about 16 young and a fifth pair fledged an unknown number. Six young were also reared at a regular crag site in W. Northumberland and four young at a factory roof site at Westerhope (IK/BG). Other breeding records included three young reared in a church roof at North Shields (AB).

Merlin

In the Cheviots four young fledged from a tree nest and three young from a ground site. A third nest was predated by Carrion Crows (AMB). Singles were in three coastal localities from 3rd.

Hobby

One flew over Westerhope on 22nd (BG) and another was at the Long Nanny on 23rd (PK).

Quail

Birds were present throughout the month near Belsay with at least six-eight seen (JS). Singles were also heard at Swarland on 1st (KE & WKG), near Embleton on 3rd (per MF) and at West Lyham and North Lyham on 28th/29th (WMR).

Coot

Newly hatched broods were noted at several waters during the month. 142 were at Big Waters on 25th (L&KR), up to 68 at Holywell Pond and 57 at Druridge Pools (TRC).

Oystercatcher

83 were at Longhoughton Steel on 21st/28th (IK/RKS) and up to 74 at Hauxley Reserve (KWY). 30-60 were in six other coastal areas and smaller numbers in several inland localities.

Little Ringed Plover

One-two were noted at Backworth, Holywell, Bothal, Cresswell, Hauxley, Whittle Dene and Derwent Reservoir.

Ringed Plover

Seven pairs reared 14 young at the Long Nanny (MF). Probably four young reared at the Blyth Estuary (MDP). One was still incubating two eggs at Beadnell Bay on 29th (BG). 16 were between Cresswell-Newbiggin on 22nd (MGA).

Golden Plover

30 at Budle Bay on 7th increased to 400 by 29th (ES/BRS) when 360 were at ^LBack Low (JDL) and 200 at St. Mary's Island (SP).

Grey Plover

One-three were at Castle Island, Budle Point, and Black Low.

Lapwing

Inland, post-breeding flocks included 620 at Grindon Lough, 570 at Derwent Reservoir (RKS), 250 at Milfield and Whittle Dene and 150 at Holystone. 300 at Foxton on 22nd was the largest gathering at the coast (MSH).

Knot

110 were in Budle Bay on 28th/29th (RKS) and 11 at Cresswell Pond on 31st (AP). 90 flew S. at Newbiggin on 27th (JGS).

Sanderling

Seven at the Long Nanny on 12th (MF) was the only report early in the month. 55 were at Hauxley beach on 22nd (AJB), 20 at Beadnell Bay on 29th (IK) and nine at Warkworth beach on 28th (JGS).

Little Stint

One was at Druridge Pools on 20th (MGA) and another, well inland, at Grindon Lough on 22nd (RKS).

Curlew Sandpiper

One was at Druridge Pools on 1st (SS), and another at Cresswell Pond on 14th (ADMc). Between 17th-29th one-two were at Budle Bay, the Long Nanny, Newton Pool, Hauxley and Druridge.

Purple Sandpiper

One was at Newbiggin on 13th and three the next day (JGS). 15 were in the St. Mary's Island/Seaton Sluice area by 23rd (MT).

Dunlin

During the breeding season a total of 20 pairs was located on seven stretches of moorland in the S.W. (BNR). 152 at Budle Bay on 14th increased to 700 by 28th (RKS). 40-70 were also at Longhoughton Steel, Boulmer and the Long Nanny.

Ruff

One was at the Blyth Estuary on 5th (MDP). Between 22nd-31st one-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell Pond, Bothal and Newton Pool.

Snipe

'Drumming' Birds were noted at Low Trewhitt and Holy Island (KR).

Black-tailed Godwit

One was at St. Mary's Island on 6th/7th (SP), three at Cresswell Pond on 8th (SS) where eight present on 21st (ES), two at Newton Pool on 11th/15th (MF), and other singles at Castle Island, Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin and Budle Bay between 18th-31st.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Six were in Budle Bay on 1st where 250 present by 29th (SS/BNR). One-three also noted at Hartley, Newbiggin, Longhoughton Steel and the Long Nanny between 11th-21st.

Whimbrel

Passage was particularly evident from mid-month. A total of 42 flew S. at Seaton Sluice. A flock of 30 was at Hauxley Reserve on 14th (GB) when a total of 20 over Druridge (ES/MBS). One-eleven were noted in a further 15 mainly coastal localities. Singles were further inland at Whittle Dene on 14th and at Hallington on 24th (MR/BNR).

Curlew

120 were at Elwick on 2nd (MSH), 108 flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT), 200 in Budle Bay on 7th (ES/DRS), 158 at Longhoughton Steel on 21st (IK) when 60 at the Long Nanny (RKS). Small numbers were still inland late in the month.

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Elwick on 2nd (MSH), Ross beach on 8th (KR) and the Blyth Estuary on 26th/28th (MDP).

Redshank

350 were at Black Low on 29th (JDL), 144 at the Blyth Estuary on 26th (MDP) and 85 at Boulmer-Longhoughton on 21st (IK). 30-76 were in four other localities.

Greenshank

Singles were at Elwick on 2nd and Holywell Pond on 3rd and two at Druridge Pools on 8th (MSH/MT). Numbers began to increase from mid-month. 12 were at Black Low on 29th (JDL), four-five were at Budle Bay, Longhoughton Steel, Druridge, Castle Island and the Blyth Estuary and one-three in seven other coastal localities. Further inland singles were at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (RKS) and Whittle Dene on 29th (MR).

Green Sandpiper

Singles were at Warkworth Lane on 1st (SS), Cresswell Pond on 4th (AP) and Druridge Pools on 7th (DBNR). An influx from 22nd brought one-two to Football Hole, Hauxley, Cresswell, Castle Island, Holywell, Backworth and inland at Colt Crag.

Wood Sandpiper

Between 28th-31st one-two were at Arcot, Backworth, Cresswell and Alnmouth.

Common Sandpiper

12 were at Castle Island on 14th (AT), ten at Big Waters on 9th (GB) and six at Whittle Dene on 17th (MR). One-four were in 16 other, mainly coastal, localities.

Turnstone

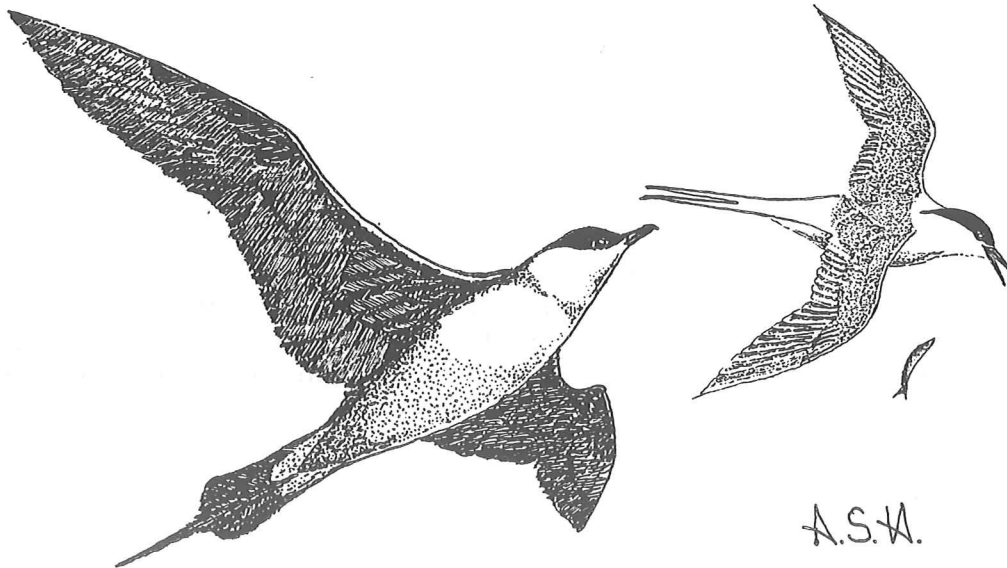
A maximum of 115 roosted at Hauxley Reserve on 8th (SS). 63-64 were at Bamburgh and Newbiggin-Cresswell on 21st/22nd (MGA/PK) and 20-40 at five other localities.

Pomarine Skua

Four flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT) and one N. at Newbiggin on 27th (JGS).

Arcit Skua

A total of 49 flew N. and 43 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 11-13 were at St. Mary's Island and Newbiggin and smaller numbers in several other localities.

Great Skua

A total of only eight N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). One-five also seen moving off St. Mary's Island, Newbiggin and Hauxley between 5th-27th.

Little Gull

Up to 12 were present at Druridge Bay C.P. during the month (TAC/ADMc) and one-two at Big Waters, Castle Island, Hauxley Reserve and Boulmer. Small numbers moved N. at Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice between 13th-29th.

Black-headed Gull

The colony at Capheaton is virtually gone with a decline from over 300 pairs some eight years ago (RW). Inland roost counts involved 470 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th, 330 at Broomlee on 21st, 520 at Hallington on 24th and 2,200 at Scotswood on 27th (BNR). On the coast up to 600 roosted at Castle Island (AT), 400 were at the Tyne Estuary on 25th (DMT) and 350 at Budle Bay.

Common Gull

Breeding success in the county involved one pair rearing one young on moorland in the S one pair rearing two young on Northumbrian Loughs and four pairs rearing eight young at three lowland gravel pit sites (BNR). 450 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 14th increasing to 1,500 by 25th. Other roosts involved 230 at Budle Bay on 16th, 980 at Hallington on 17th, 1,600 at Colt Crag on 19th and 125 at Broomlee on 21st.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Ten pairs fledged 20 young at the moorland colony, two pairs fledged three young on roof tops in W. Newcastle and about ten pairs bred in Newcastle City Centre (BNR/IK). 55 roosted at Broomlee on 21st and 60 at Scotswood on 27th.

Herring Gull

50-60 bred in Newcastle City Centre and 15 pairs on a factory roof at Westerhope (IK). One pair fledged two young at the moorland Lesser Black-backed Gull colony (BNR). Up to 500 were at the Tyne Estuary from 22nd (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

An adult was at Seahouses on 9th (KR).

Great Black-backed Gull

500 were at Newbiggin on 24th (JGS).

Kittiwake

Colony counts on 25th involved 408 nests at Cullernose/Howick and 612 at Dunstanburgh, most containing large young (MF/AW). Other breeding successes included 86 young reared at North Shields warehouse colony, six pairs with eight young at the Port of Tyne building and 27 young at the Tyne Commision Quay (DMT). 554 were at Newbiggin on 26th (DM) and up to 162 at North Shields Fish Quay. 600 per hour flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 15th (SSWT).

Lesser Crested Tern

A large, yellow-billed tern flying S. at Seaton Sluice on 4th was probably the Farnes bird (MDP).

Sandwich Tern

150 at Newbiggin on 14th increased to a massive 3,000 by 27th (JGS). 76 were at the Long Nanny on 12th (MF) and 66 at Longhoughton Steel increased to 225 by 28th (RKS). 230 per hour moved S. at Seaton Sluice on 15th and 200 per hour N. on 20th (SSWT). Three were at Holywell Pond on 24th (SP).

Roseate Tern

Four were at Hauxley Reserve on 8th (SS) and singles at Tynemouth and St.Mary's Island (MT).

Common Tern

Seven young hatched at Big Waters but were reduced to five by the end of the month (GB/AJJ). Up to nine visited Holywell Pond and two-four at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Gosforth Park. 17 were at Longhoughton Steel on 14th where 180 present on 28th (RKS), when 13 at Castle Island (AT).

Arctic Tern

24 pairs reared 29 young at one mainland site. 500 gathered at the Long Nanny on 29th (IK), and 60 were at Tynemouth Haven on 31st (MT). One was at Holywell Pond on 31st (DMT).

Little Tern

41 pairs reared 60-62 young at one mainland site. 17 were in Budle Bay on 29th (BNR).

Guillemot

60 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT).

Razorbill

Three were at St.Mary's Island on 1st and eight at Seaton Sluice on 24th (PAB).

Puffin

A total of 228 flew S. and 128 N. during the month at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Stock Dove

Two-eight were at Druridge, Hauxley and Gosforth Park.

Collared Dove

23 were at Bothal on 7th (SS).

Turtle Dove

One was at Waren Mill on 2nd (MSH) and two at Laverock Hall Farm on 21st (WAK).

Cuckoo

One-two were at Big Waters, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Druridge Bay C.P. up to 16th.

Barn Owl

Breeding was confirmed at three localities in the N. of the county and one site in Coquetdale.

Little Owl

At least one young reared at West Lyham (WMR). Singles noted at Doddington, Bingfield and Backworth.

Tawny Owl

Reported only from Walbottle.

Long-eared Owl

Two newly-fledged young were at a site in central Northumberland on 11th (IK/BG).

Short-eared Owl

One was at Druridge all month (TAC).

Swift

About 600 gathered over Walkergate where at least 40 pairs bred this year (PAB). 400 were at Middle Duddo on 31st (AJJ) and 200 at Earsdon/Backworth on 17th (WAK). Light S. passage noted at Bradford Kaims on 30th (BRS).

Kingfisher

A family party of eight was between Hexham-Corbridge on 25th (MR). One-three were at Whittle Dene, Morpeth, Mitford, S. Linton and Holywell Dene.

Green Woodpecker

An adult accompanied three juveniles at Cragside on 4th (KR). Singles were noted at Linton, Capheaton and Broomley Woods.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

At least one pair fledged young at Jesmond Dene (MPF), a family party visited a garden at Walbottle (L&KR), and a juvenile in a Throckley garden (AJ).

Sand Martin

Further colony counts involved 30 nest holes at Norham (BNR), 21 near Belsay (JS), and 20 at Featherstone Castle (RKS). The largest gatherings reported were 60 at Big Waters on 3rd (GB), and Cresswell Pond on 8th (MSH), 50 at Whittle Dene on 12th (MR) and 80 at Backworth on 30th (PAB).

Swallow

150 gathered at Wooperton on 18th (AMB) and 500 roosted at Big Waters on 31st (AJJ). A pair nested in Shiremoor Metro Station! (DM).

House Martin

78 nests were counted at the Cullernose cliff colony (MF) and a pair was nesting in a lime kiln at Beadnell harbour (IK). 100 were at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Tree Pipit

Birds were still in song at Simonside Forest on 1st (IK) and Cragside on 4th (KR). One was at Backworth on 28th (PAB).

Meadow Pipit

Very large numbers of fledged young in Coquetdale indicated an excellent breeding season (IK).

Rock Pipit

Pairs noted at Seahouses, Dunstanburgh and Seaton Sluice.

Yellow Wagtail

Family parties were seen in several localities. 20 were at Whittle Dene on 21st (MR).

Blue-headed Wagtail

The male at Druridge Bay C.P. was last seen on 29th (TAC).

Grey Wagtail

Family parties were at Heatherslaw, Threestoneburn, Baybridge, Featherstone Castle, Allenbanks, Devil's Water and Jesmond Dene. One visited a garden pool at Heddon-on-the-Wall (JSB).

Pied Wagtail

Large numbers of fledged young in Coquetdale indicates an excellent breeding season.

White Wagtail

One was at Elwick on 2nd (MSH).

Dipper

Fledged young were noted at Mitford (DM).

Wren

Family parties were noted up to 1,550 feet a.s.l. at Gilderdale (BNR).

Redstart

Small numbers were noted in several breeding localities. Movement towards the coast indicated by singles at Castle Island on 14th and Bamburgh on 30th (AT/BRS).

Whinchat

Family parties were seen in several inland localities and on the coast at Newton Links, Newton Pool and Druridge Links. 15 were in one meadow at Wooler Common on 12th (KR).

Stonechat

One was at Druridge on 3rd (JDP).

Wheatear

Coastal breeding records involved three broods at Longhoughton Steel, two broods at Cocklawburn and single broods at Football Hole and the Long Nanny (RKS/MSH).

Ring Ousel

A female was carrying food at Slaggyford on 25th (ES/WTL).

Fieldfare

Four young were seen at Druridge Bay C.P. on 16th (TAC).

Mistle Thrush

36 were on the Otterburn Ranges on 11th (IK) and 130 at Grasslees Burn on 22nd (MHP).

Grasshopper Warbler

One-two were 'reeling' in 12 widespread localities.

Sedge Warbler

Noted singing in several localities including three at Linshiels Lake. Passage was noted through Bamburgh during the last few days with a peak of 25 on 31st (BRS).

Reed Warbler

Two adults and two juveniles were trapped at Gosforth Park during the month (ISD). A juvenile was also trapped at Big Waters on 31st (BG).

Lesser Whitethroat

Birds carrying food were noted at Whittle Dene on 1st (MR), Big Waters on 3rd and Brunswick on 7th (GB). Singles were also noted at Threestoneburn, Arcot and Holywell Pond.

Whitethroat

Two pairs reared seven young at Castle Island (AT). Small numbers moved through Bamburgh from 22nd (BRS).

Garden Warbler

Noted inland at Baybridge and Threestoneburn (RKS/AMB). One was at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Wood Warbler h

Singles were at T_hreestoneburn on 20th (AMB) and Plessey Woods on 30th (A_h)^S.

Willow Warbler

Post-breeding dispersal evident during the month with 125 trapped at Big Waters, 50 trapped at Threestoneburn and up to 20 per day passing through Bambrugh (AJJ/AMB/BRS).

Goldcrest

Noted as common all month at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Spotted Flycatcher

Six pairs bred in a wind-blow area of a conifer plantation on the Otterburn Ranges (IK/BG). Two broods were raised in a nest box at Bradford House (JS) and breeding confirmed at Whittle Dene and Burnstones.

Long-tailed Tit

Post-breeding flocks involved 20 at Bothal on 7th (SS) and 10-12 at Castle Island, Mitford and Plessey Woods.

Willow Tit

Five were at Gosforth Park on 28th (PAB) and one-three at Big Waters, Arcot, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Castle Island.

Coal Tit

Family parties noted at Big Waters and Blanchland.

Nuthatch

A family party was at Jesmond Dene (MPF). A juvenile was at Whittle Dene on 17th (MR) and other singles at Warkworth Lane on 5th (DBNR) and Gosforth Park on 15th (CPFR).

Treecreeper

Fledged broods were noted at Featherstone Castle, Whittle Dene and Angerton.

Raven

One-two were seen in the Cheviots on two dates.

Starling

A flock of 6,000 was at Gilderdale on 20th (BNR) and another of 2,000 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (PAB).

House Sparrow

Large post-breeding flocks of 200 noted at N.Walbottle and Bamburgh.

Tree Sparrow

50 were at Whittle Dene between 8th-12th (MR). One-eight noted in three other localities.

Goldfinch

Up to 30 were at Bamburgh between 29th-31st (BRS).

Siskin

Noted as common at Threestoneburn (AMB) and a flock of 20 was at the Harthope Valley on 29th (RKS).

Linnet

Up to 200 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond (PAB) and 30-60 at Bamburgh the Long Nanny and Newton Pool.

Twite

Three were near Hope Cleugh on 8th (BNR).

Redpoll

Common at Threestoneburn all month (AMB). Eight were at the Harthope Valley and up to 15 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (KWY/ES).

Crossbill

A flock of 25 was at Holystone on 9th and they were very common in the Harbottle area on 15th (IK/BG). Small numbers also seen at Allenbanks and Threestoneburn.

Bullfinch

One-six noted in four widespread localities.

Hawfinch

One was at Close House on two dates (GB).

Corn Bunting

One-two noted at Howick, Lesbury, Cresswell and East Ord. Please send all August records, in Voous Order, to Mike S Hodgson, 31 Uplands, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 9AG by 8th September.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

M G Anderson	A Janes	S Sexton
A M Bankier	A J Johnston	D R Shannon
A H Banks	W A Kelly	M J Sharp
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ML & TA Cadwallender	A D McLevy	M Thomson
T R Cleeves	A P Mossop	A Tilmouth
I S Davidson	S Parnaby	D M Turner
W Dickson	J D Parrack	R Walton
J E Fergusson	M D Plenty	R G Waugh
M P Frankis	A Priest	A Woodhall
M Freeman	C P F Redfern	K W York
B Galloway	M Richardson	Bamburgh Ringing Station
K E & K W Gray	B N Rossiter	Druridge Bay Nature Reserve
A S Hart	W M Ruddock	Seaton Sluice Watchtower
M Hepple (MHP)	K Rush	
M S Hodgson	L & K Russell	

INDOOR MEETING - 13th September 1990

The first meeting of our 1990/91 season will be held on Thursday 13th September in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00pm.

Our speaker will be Colin Bradshaw whose talk is entitled 'The Sweet and Sour of Eastern Migration'.

WADER COUNTS 1990/91

I still require a volunteer who can carry out regular monthly counts at the Tweed Estuary. Any offers?

MIKE HODGSON

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The following proposed amendment to the club's constitution has been received and will be moved at the A.G.M. in October.

Clause 5B

The committee shall elect annually four people, who need not be club committee members, one of whom need not be a club member, to join the Recorder to form a Records Committee whose job is to consider all records for publication in the annual report. Each of the elected members shall not serve for more than four consecutive years. Each shall not be eligible for re-election until 12 months has elapsed since their last term of office on the Records Committee.

Proposer C Bradshaw

Seconder K W Regan 20.7.90

STORM PETRELS AT NIGHT

Many people have now seen Storm Petrels trapped for ringing at Tynemouth. The project will continue for the next two or three years as research into their poorly understood movements in the North Sea is continued. Visitors are welcome to join us for one of our outings in order to see these attractive birds close at hand. The 1991 season will start late in June and will last for about two months. Although we have caught well in excess of a hundred birds this year we can make no guarantees of success on a particular night! If you would like to come then you should arrange it beforehand by calling either Mark Cubitt (091 2848408) or Mary Carruthers (091 2574800). We have to insist that you DO NOT just turn up on the night.

MARK CUBITT



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY AUGUST 1990

The month started with very hot and humid conditions and temperatures remained high throughout. Winds were mainly from the south or south-west and although there were one or two spells of heavy rain it remained dry for much of the month.

It was rather disappointing for seawatching during August with only small numbers of Manx and Sooty Shearwaters although a Cory's Shearwater was seen on 19th (and probably two others on 7th) and tape-luring has again shown the presence of large numbers of Storm Petrels offshore. Wildfowl numbers began to increase and highlights included several Garganey, the Ring-necked Duck on 6th and a Red-crested Pochard on 23rd.

There were reports of, probably, three different Hobbys, two Ospreys, one sadly found dead, and a Marsh Harrier.



Wader passage continued throughout the month and a Temminck's Stint at Druridge Pools obliged many observers for several days. Curlew Sandpipers made a reasonable showing from 18th onwards but rather few Spotted Redshanks were reported. Three Mediterranean Gulls were seen and about eight Black Terns made an appearance.

There were a good number of reports of Kingfishers, a scarce species in the county and other records of small breeding species continued to indicate a good breeding season.

Dispersing summer visitors such as Sedge and Willow Warblers continued to move through the area and a light influx on the coast on 26th involved several typical species and single Wood and Icterine Warblers.

Finally the records of Crossbills in coastal areas from 21st no doubt relate to the large irruption reported further north from June onwards.

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-throated Diver

One was off Hauxley on 28th. Five flew N. and one S. at Seaton Sluice during the month.

Little Grebe

Two pairs were successful at Gosforth Park (ES) and a pair with young was at Big Waters on 2nd (GB). Peak concentrations involved 13 at Holywell Pond, 12 at Castle Island, 8 at Big Waters and seven at Cresswell Pond.

Great crested Grebe

Singles were at Whittle Dene on 1st and 19th-31st (MR) and others on the sea in Druridge Bay on 22nd (AP) and at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (RKS).

Black-necked Grebe

Two were at Whittle Dene on 1st with singles on 5th-7th (MR et al). One was on Linton Pond on 23rd-31st (DBNR).

Fulmar

29 young noted at Tynemouth Cliffs and eight at Hartley (DMT).

Cory's Shearwater

One flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 19th (MB et al) while two large Shearwaters passed Newbiggin on 7th (MGA).

Sooty Shearwater

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 6th where the monthly total was only 8N. and 2S. One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Seahouses on 18th (ES).

Manx Shearwater

A monthly total of 317 N. and 28 S. was noted at Seaton Sluice with a peak movement of 133N. and 1S. on 18th (SSWT). One-five also noted at Low Newton, Newbiggin, Seahouses and Hauxley.

Storm Petrel

The use of tape recordings have resulted in a total of 182 trapped at Tynemouth between June-August. The highest catch was of 50 on 18th (PPRS). Six were seen on a pelagic trip out of Seahouses on 18th (ES).

Gannet

350 flew N. in 1/2 hour at Dunstanburgh on 6th (SW).

Cormorant

59 were in Blyth estuary on 26th (LJM), 32 at Castle Island on 27th (AT), 148 on N. Shore of Holy Island on 28th (RKS) and 55 in the Tyne estuary on 30th (MT).

Grey Heron

45 were at Castle Island on 4th (AT), 19 at Yarrow Slake on 28th (MSH) and 13 at Alnmouth, Close House and Derwent Reservoir.

Greylag Goose

Nine were at Holywell Pond from 6th-31st (MT) and five at Sweethope and Castle Island (BNR/AT).

Snow Goose

One was at Bothal Pond on 13th (MGA) and five flew S at Craster on 26th (WD).

Canada Goose

On 12th 24 were at Killingworth Lake (PAB/MT), 28 were at Holywell Pond on 16th (TRC). On 17th 11 flew S. at Whitley Bay and 23 SW over Cramlington (MSH/LJM). One-15 were noted at a further seven localities.

Brent Goose

A pale bellied individual was on Fenham Flats on 26th (KWR).

Shelduck

Twelve flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 17th (SSWT). One-eight were noted at a further five localities. Inland one-two were at Big Waters and Derwent Reservoir.

Wigeon

33 flew N. at Newbiggin on 28th (AP), 27 flew N. at Longhoughton Steel on 25th when 24 at the Long Nanny (RKS) three-19 were at another five localities.

Gadwall

A single was at Big Waters on 3rd-4th with three between 27th-31st (GB/AJJ). Other singles were at Castle Island on 17th and Whittle Dene on 19th (JGS/MR).

Teal

Maximum concentrations were of 170 at Druridge Pools on 24th (DBNR) 146 at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ), 80 at Grindon Lough on 27th and 71 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (RKS). 40 - 60 were also at the Long Nanny, Castle Island, Holywell and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Mallard

A total of 280 were at Derwent Reservoir on 26th, 214 were at Big Waters on 21st (DM), 177 at Druridge Pools on 24th (DBNR) and 160 at Whittle Dene on 19th (MR) 55-100 were at Castle Island, Budle Bay, Holywell Pond and Swallow Pond.

Pintail

One-two were noted at Bothal Pond, Hauxley and Druridge Pools.

Garganey

One-two were at Druridge Pool between 5th-13th with three on 11th. A single was at Backworth on 8th and at Holywell Pond on 11th-25th where two present on 26th. One was at Swallow Pond on 24th-31st.

Shoveler

31 were at Big Waters on 26th (AJJ), 16 were at Grindon Lough on 30th (RKS) and ten at Druridge Pools on 29th (DBNR).

Red-crested Pochard

A female was at Holywell Pond on 23rd (MT/PAB).

Pochard

Sixteen were at Big Waters and six at Whittle Dene.

Ring necked Duck

A male was at Marden Quarry on 6th (MT).

Tufted Duck

Further broods noted at Whittle Dene (nine young) and at Castle Island (seven young), three broods noted on R.Till. A maximum of 164 was at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR), 60 at Druridge Pools on 23rd (DBNR) and 34 at Holywell Pond.

Scaup

One was at Arcot Pond on 5th and on Derwent Reservoir on 24th when two were on Druridge Pools.

Eider

200 gathered off Hauxley on 31st (DBNR).

Common Scoter

150 were in Druridge Bay on 4th (ES/DRS).

Goldeneye

A single remained on Whittle Dene throughout the month (MR). A maximum of five were at Druridge Pool on 24th (DBNR).

Red-breasted Merganser

Eleven flew N. at Newbiggin on 11th (ES). Two were in the Tyne Estuary on 19th (DMT).

Goosander

Five were on Holywell Pond on 6th (MHP) where two present on 30th (JRT). Eight were at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (RKS). One-three noted at West Woodburn and Threestoneburn.

Ruddy Duck

At Holywell Pond a female was present on 2nd/28th and a male on 20th (L&KR/DMT/MT).

Marsh Harrier

A female/immature flew over Swallow Pond on 24th (MT/PAB).

Hen Harrier

A ringtail was at Holywell on 12th (PAB).

Sparrowhawk

One-three noted in 22 localities. Four were at Castle Island on 19th.

Buzzard

Singles were seen at Milbourne on 25th (WGJ) and in Harthope Valley on 26th (RKS).

Osprey

A single flew S. at Newbiggin on 15th (AP). One was found dead at Football Hole on 27th (MT).

Kestrel

One-three noted at six localities.

Merlin

Inland singles were at Whittle Dene Grindon Lough and Castron. One-two were noted at eight coastal localities.

Hobby

One flew S. over Blyth power station on 4th. An adult was at Holywell Pond on 9th and at Holywell on 27th/31st (TRC).

Peregrine

Noted at two inland localities. Singles were also at Hauxley and Druridge Pools.

Grey Partridge

31 were at Calder on 6th (AMB), and 12-15 at Big Waters, Walbottle, Beal Sands and Holywell Dene.

Quail

One was calling at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (BNR).

Water Rail

One was at Backworth on 5th (PAB), two (including one juvenile) at Holywell on 27th (TRC).

Moorhen

On 3rd, 29 were at Castle Island (AT), 25 were at Big Waters on 15th (DM) and 17 at Arcot Pond on 23rd (LJM).

Coot

194 were at Big Waters on 26th (DM), 77 at Druridge Pools on 19th (MSH), 65 at Holywell Pond on 7th (TRC) and 60 at Ladyburn Lake on 26th (TAC).

WADER COUNT - AUGUST 1990

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (PK) Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Blyth Estuary (LJM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 558 was noted during the wader count. 227 were at St.Mary's Island on 18th (DMT), 142 at Cresswell Pond on 24th (DBNR), and 35-75 at eight other coastal localities.

Ringed Plover

A total of 180 was noted during the wader count. 103 were at the Wanbeck Estuary on 27th (DM), 100 at Holy Island causeway on 30th (MSH), 87 at Hauxley on 7th (DBNR), 83 at St.Mary's Island on 9th (DMT) and 20-70 at six other coastal localities. Inland 15 were at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (RKS). A pair were escorting week-old young at Holy Island on 12th (BG).

Golden Plover

Numbers increased on the coast with 1,200 at Longhoughton Steel on 25th (RKS) and 135-400 at Holy Island, Budle Bay, Annstead, Boulmer, Hauxley, Lynemouth and St.Marys Island. Inland 200 were at Caistron on 31st (RW) and 60 at Whittle Dene on 19th (MR).

Grey Plover

One-five were in six coastal localities.

Lapwing

500 were at Lynmouth on 26th (DM) and Budle Bay on 28th (RKS) and 80-200 in five other localities. Inland 500 were at Caistron on 31st (RW) and 200 at Whittle Dene and Grindon Lough.

Knot

Only 31 were noted during the wader count. 150 were at Holy Island on 5th (JDL), 50 at Cresswell on 2nd (DM) and 63 at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT).

Sanderling

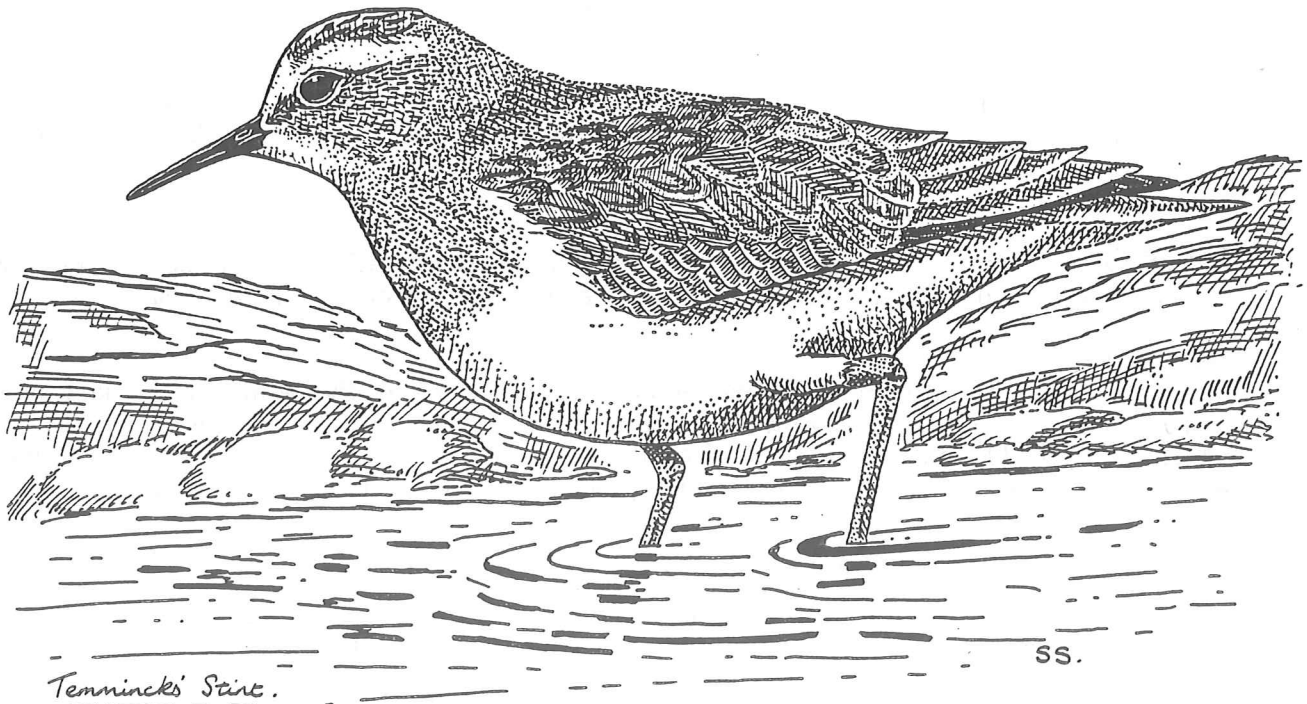
A total of 39 was noted during the wader count. A maximum of 50 was at St.Mary's Island on 3rd (DMT) and 1-12 were in five other localities.

Little Stint

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 2nd and 22nd (DM/DBNR) and at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Castle Island and Hauxley Reserve between 18th-21st.

Temminck's Stint

One was at Druridge Pools between 12th-17th (SS/DBNR et al).

Curlew Sandpiper

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 4th (ES) and Castle Island on 15th (AT). An influx was evident from 18th onwards with birds present at Wallsend Swallow Pond almost daily with a peak of 20 on 21st (MT/AJ et al). One-six were also seen at Holy Island, the Long Nanny, Longhoughton Steel, Boulmer, Hauxley, Cresswell, Castle Island and Holywell Pond up to 31st.

Purple Sandpiper

One-two were at St.Mary's Island and the Wansbeck Estuary. More unusual was one at Castle Island on 19th (SS/JRT).

Dunlin

A total of 255 was noted during the wader count. 600 were at Holy Island on 5th (JDL), 300 at St.Mary's Island on 7th (MT), 140 at Budle Bay on 28th (RKS), 131 at the Wansbeck Estuary on 27th (AT), 103 at Hauxley Reserve on 7th (DBNR) and 70-80 at four other localities. Inland two-six were at Whittle Dene, Grindon Lough and Derwent Reservoir.

Ruff

Birds were present in many coastal or near coastal localities with the largest gatherings being 14 at St.Mary's Island on 8th (DMT) and the Long Nanny on 27th (RKS) and nine-eleven at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Backworth, Holywell Pond, Castle Island and Druridge Pools. One-eight were at five other sites. Inland one was at Grindon Lough on 27th and two at Caistron on 31st (RW).

Snipe

57 were at Backworth on 8th (TRC) and up to 37 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (PAB).

Woodcock

One was at Allenbanks on 15th (SW).

Black-tailed Godwit

Eight were at Cresswell Pond on 19th (RGW) and four at Budle Bay on 28th (RKS), Holywell Pond on 30th (MHP) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 31st (PAB). One-three were also noted at Hauxley, Castle Island, Big Waters, and Backworth.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of only 11 noted during the wader count. 700 at Holy Island on 12th increased to 1,200 on 26th (BG/JDL). Ten-twelve were at St.Mary's Island and Hauxley and one-eight in four other localities.

Whimbrel

A total of 30 flew N. and 24 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). The largest gatherings were 18 at Holy Island on 28th (RKS) and 11 at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (DBNR). One-nine were in a further 11 localities including three SW over Ordley on 19th.

Curlew

A total of 97 noted during the wader count. In addition 221 were at the Long Nanny on 27th, 198 at Longhoughton Steel on 31st (RKS), 120 at Hauxley on 4th (DBNR) and 50-70 at Holy Island and St.Mary's Island.

Spotted Redshank

One-two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holywell Pond, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley Reserve and Budle Bay between 10th-27th.

Redshank

A total of 257 was noted during the wader count. In addition 630 were at Black Low on 12th (JDL), 300 at Warkworth Gut on 18th, 190 at Blyth Estuary on 4th (TRC), 134 at Castle Island on 19th (AT) and 100 at Yarrow Slake on 28th (MSH).

Greenshank

Reported throughout the month. The largest gatherings were 11 at Castle Island on 4th (AT), eight at Big Waters on 19th (BG) and Druridge Bay CP on 26th (TAC) and seven at Foxton on 12th (SS). One-five were noted at a further 22, mainly coastal, localities.

Green Sandpiper

Eleven were at Holywell Pond on 1st (MT) and a maximum of eight at Gosforth Park on 23rd (MPF). One-four were noted at other coastal or near coastal localities during the month. Inland one was at Whittle Dene between 14th-27th (MR) and three at Caistron on 31st (RW).

Wood Sandpiper

Three were at Backworth on 13th (FAB). One-two were in six other localities during the month.

Common Sandpiper

Birds were still moving through coastal areas during the month with nine at Castle Island on 2nd (AT), 11 at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (DBNR) and one-four in seven other localities. Inland singles were still at Derwent Reservoir and Whittle Dene between 26th-30th (MR/RKS).

Turnstone

A total of 475 was noted during the wader count. In addition 300 were at St.Mary's Island on 7th (MT), 160 at N.Blyth on 25th (AT) and 120 at Hauxley Reserve on 4th (DBNR).

Pomarine Skua

At Seaton Sluice one flew S. on 2nd, two N. on 18th and six S. on 20th (SSWT). Four flew S. at Newbiggin on 11th (ES) where singles also noted on 15th, 19th and 23rd. Further singles were seen on pelagic trips out of Seahouses on 18th and North Shields on 25th.

Arctic Skua

A total of 113 flew N. and 222 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of 100 S. on 20th (SSWT). Smaller numbers were noted in several other localities including two attacking a Kestrel over the sea at Holy Island on 12th (BG).

Great Skua

Only small numbers reported with one-four at six localities on about six dates.

Mediterranean Gull

A juvenile was at Druridge Pools on 11th and adults at Bothal Pond on 24th and Big Waters on 28th (MGA/AJJ).

Little Gull

Up to 11 were at Druridge Bay CP up to 12th where seven (including four juveniles) were present from 25th (TAC/ES). One-two were also at Hauxley, Druridge Pools, Seaton Sluice, Holywell Pond and North Shields Fish Quay.

Black-headed Gull

Inland roosts involved 1,020 at Hallington on 14th, 4,600 at Scotswood on 17th and 750 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th. 1,100 roosted at Budle Bay on 15th (BNR).

Common Gull

The usual autumn build-up at inland roosts involved 7,500 at Colt Crag on 13th, 1,800 at Hallington on 14th and 4,600 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th while on the coast 3,800 roosted at Budle Bay on 15th (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Over 100 were attracted to 'chum' on a pelagic trip out of Seahouses on 18th (ES/WTL). Inland roost counts involved 40 at Scotswood on 17th, 12 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th, 18 at Broomlee on 21st when 103 at Grindon Lough (BNR).

Herring Gull

350 roosted at Scotswood on 17th (BNR). 600 were at the Tyne Estuary on 1st and 31st where a bird showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race was present on 16th (DMT). 220 were at the Blyth Estuary on 26th (LJM).

Great Black-backed Gull

400 were at Newbiggin on 8th (JGS), 128 at the Tyne Estuary on 19th (DMT) and 106 at Blyth Harbour on 26th (LJM). An all-white bird was about four miles off the R.Tyne on 25th (MPF/TRC).

Kittiwake

40-86 were noted at Amble, St.Mary's Island and North Shields Fish Quay. An immature was at Holywell Pond on 13th (MT) and six adults flew S. at Sweethope Lough on 19th (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

180 per hour flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT). 650 were at Cresswell Pond on 11th (DBNR) but numbers at Newbiggin declined during the month with a peak of 400 on 8th (JGS). An adult and a juvenile were at Newcastle Quayside on 25th (BG).

Roseate Tern

Six were at Alnmouth on 8th (BG). One-four were also noted at Hauxley Reserve, Cresswell Pond, Newbiggin, Blyth Estuary and St.Mary's Island.

"Commic" Tern

200 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT). 84 were at the Blyth Estuary on 26th (LJM).

Common Tern

250 were at St. Mary's Island on 6th (MT), 220 at Cresswell Pond on 5th (DBNR), and 150 at Newbiggin on 15th (JGS). 30 were at Newcastle Quayside on 25th (BG) and one-nine at Castle Island, Backworth and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Arctic Tern

About 250 were at St. Mary's Island on 6th (MT), 150 at Newbiggin on 15th (JGS) and 80 at Hauxley Reserve and Tynemouth Haven. One was at Holywell Pond on 1st (DMT).

Little Tern

One was at Hauxley on 2nd where three present on 4th (DBNR/ES).

Black Tern

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT). Another flew S. at Newbiggin on 11th, three were at Druridge Bay on 15th (ES/MBS), with singles at that locality on 27th (GB) and Newbiggin on 30th (JGS). Inland one was at Whittle Dene on 26th (MR).

Guillemot

44 were noted on the pelagic trip off Tynemouth-Newbiggin on 25th (TRC). Several oiled birds were ashore at Newbiggin on 15th (DM).

Puffin

Light S. movement noted off Cresswell on 2nd (DM).

Stock Dove

One-two were at Hauxley, Holywell, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Holystone and Grindon Lough.

Collared Dove

55 were at Backworth on 23rd (PAB/MT).

Cuckoo

Singles were at Backworth on 3rd (DMT) and Holy Island on 26th (KWR).

Barn Owl

Noted at Druridge and near Ford.

Tawny Owl

Singles noted at Ellingham, Warkworth Lane, North Shields, Walbottle and Close House.

Short-eared Owl

Singles were at Druridge Pools between 9th-21st and Hauxley on 14th (DBNR).

Swift

S. passage was noted on several dates during the month and breeding territories were left by about 15th. Small numbers were in several areas during the second half with largest gathering being 30 at Bradford Kai ms on 27th.

Kingfisher

Two pairs reported to have bred on the upper Ouseburn and an adult and a juvenile were trapped in Jesmond Dene (MPF/JC). Up to four were between Morpeth-Mitford on 30th (DM) and one-two at W. Woodburn, Whittle Dene, Castron, Holystone, and Heddon. On the coast singles were at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Bay CP and perhaps more unusual, on the shore at Annstead.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were at Threestoneburn, Dipton, Walbottle, and Gosforth Park.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

One-two were at Arcot Pond, Pegswood, Castle Island and Walbottle.

Sand Martin

200 were at Druridge Bay CP on 11th (TAC) when 35 at Whittle Dene (MR) and 23 were at Druridge Pools on 15th (DMT). Smaller numbers were in several other localities and steady S. passage noted at Big Waters on 21st (DM).

Swallow

Second broods fledged at Horton on 24th, Benton on 25th and Threestoneburn on 28th (LJM/MW/AMB). S. passage was noted at Holy Island on 12th, Hauxley on 13th, and Druridge Bay CP on 26th (BG/MJS). 2,000 roosted at Big Waters on 14th and other large gatherings involved 500 at Matfen on 5th (RW), 300 at Whittle Dene on 23rd (MR) and at Castle Island on 31st (AT).

House Martin

40 occupied nests were at the Colt Crag boathouse colony (IK/BG). Large gatherings included 250 at Holywell on 1st (MT), 150 at Bamburgh on 12th (BRS) and 140 at Hipsburn on 9th (MLC).

Tree Pipit

Singles flew S. at Holywell Pond on 8th (MT) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd (MPF).

Meadow Pipit

200 were at Ilderton Dodd on 3rd when 100 at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Yellow Wagtail

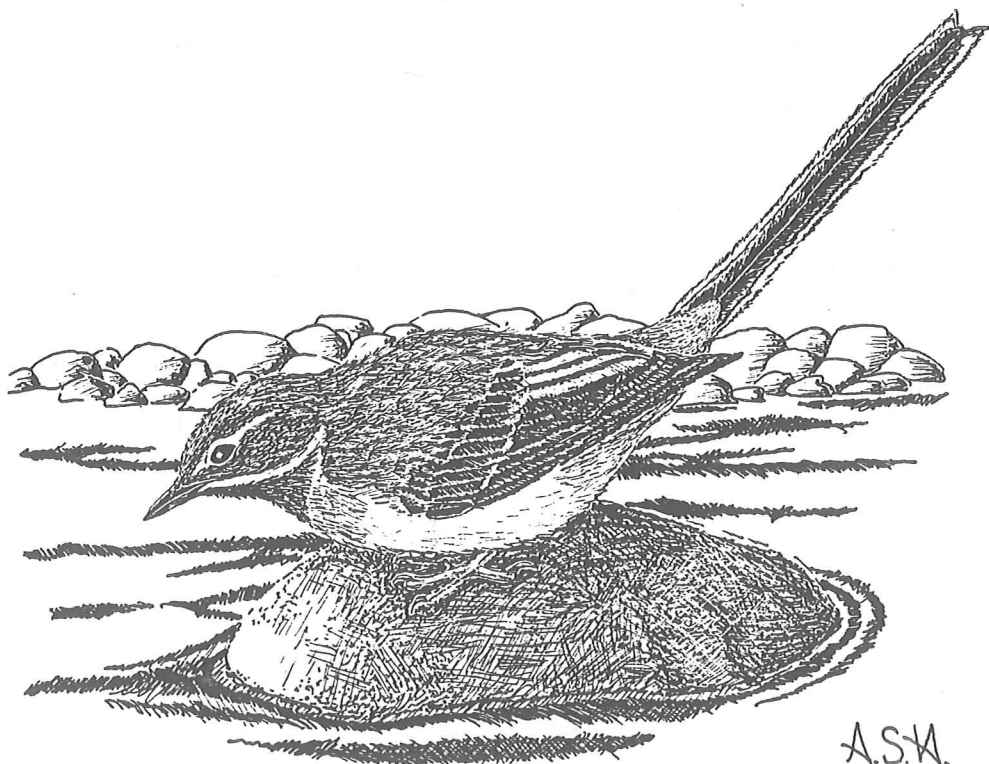
30 were at Druridge Bay CP on 11th (TAC) and 15 at St. Mary's Island on 7th (MT). One-eight were in six other lowland areas and one-two in five inland localities.

Blue-headed Wagtail

A male was still at Druridge Bay CP on 11th (TAC).

Grey Wagtail

At least 12 were at Whittle Dene on 24th (RGW). Singles were on the coast at Hauxley on 12th and Lucker Station on 26th and four at Castle Island on 17th (AT).



Pied Wagtail

78 were at Prudhoe Country Park on 13th (L&KR) and 19-34 at Boulmer, Holy Island, Big Waters and Calder. 70 roosted at Housesteads on 21st (BNR).

Dunnock

20 were trapped at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB).

Redstart

Belated breeding records included 19 young fledged from three nest-boxes at Belsay in June (WGJ). One-two were in five inland localities. On the coast singles were at Druridge Bay CP on 9th (TAC) and Bamburgh on 12th (BRS). On 26th four were at Druridge Bay CP (SS), two on Holy Island (KWR) and one at Hauxley (DBNR).

Whinchat

Small numbers were in three inland areas and ten coastal localities including up to 12 at Wallsend Swallow Pond. More unusual was one killed by a cat in a garden in Westerhope on 31st (IK).

Stonechat

A juvenile was at the Blyth Estuary on 4th (TRC).

Wheatear

Family parties and small numbers lingered in several inland localities during the month. Ten were on Holy Island on 5th and 26th (JDL.KWR) and 13 between Craster-Dunstanburgh on 14th (J&MH).

Mistle Thrush

37 were at Horton on 19th (LJM), 19 at Whittle Dene on 26th (MR) and 14 at Castle Island on 11th (AT).

Grasshopper Warbler

Singles were seen or heard at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Big Waters, and Druridge Pools up to 23rd.

Sedge Warbler

Passage continued through Bamburgh during the first 12 days with a peak of 20 on 3rd (BRS).

Reed Warbler

A single was at Gosforth Park on 21st/30th (PAB/MT).

Icterine Warbler

A single was at Prior's Park on 29th (PPRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

One was still present at Threestoneburn on 7th (AMB). Two were at Arcot on 11th (ES/MBS) and singles at Hadston and Budle Point on 26th (SS).

Whitethroat

Family parties were at Threestoneburn on 3rd (AMB) and Arcot Pond on 27th (LJM). On the coast singles were at Bamburgh on 12th, and Hauxley and Holy Island on 26th/27th.

Garden Warbler

Singles were at Whittle Dene, Bamburgh and Holy Island on 26th and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th.

Blackcap

One-four were at Threestoneburn, Matfen, Whittle Dene and Arcot Pond. Small numbers moved through Bamburgh between 12th-27th.

Wood Warbler

One was on Holy Island on 26th (KWR).

Chiffchaff

Small numbers were in coastal areas from 2nd.

Willow Warbler

72 were trapped at Druridge Bay CP during the month including 48 on 13th (TAC) and 54 were ringed at Threestoneburn. Passage also noted at Bamburgh between 2nd-12th with up to 20 per day (BRS). 41 were on Holy Island on 26th (KWR).

Goldcrest

59 were ringed at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB). Two were at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS) and ten on Holy Island on 26th (KWR).

Spotted Flycatcher

Family parties were seen in several widespread localities.

Pied Flycatcher

Belated breeding records involved 66 young fledged from 13 nest-boxes at Brinkburn and 6 young from a box at Belsay (WGJ). Singles were at Whittle Dene on 19th (MR) and Holy Island on 26th (KWR).

Long-tailed Tit

40 were at Whittle Dene on 11th (SW), 20 at Countess Park on 26th (J&MH) and 6-12 in three other localities.

Willow Tit

One-two were at Druridge Bay CP., Castle Island, Arcot Pond and Whittle Dene.

Coal Tit

Eight were at Druridge Bay CP on 13th (TAC).

Nuthatch

Four were at Close House on 18th (JSB) and one at Dipton on 27th (JRT).

Jay

Up to 12 were at Gosforth Park.

Magpie

21 were at Castle Island on 3rd (AT) and ten at Marden Quarry on 29th (MT).

Jackdaw

650 roosted at Housteads on 21st (BNR) and 70 were at Holywell Pond on 29th (DMT).

Rook

700 roosted at Housteads on 21st (BNR).

Carrion Crow

56 were in the Harthope Valley on 26th (RKS) and 30 at Yarrow Slake on 28th (MSH).

Tree Sparrow

40 were at Backworth and up to 20 at Big Waters and Brenkley (ES/LR).

Chaffinch

Very common at Threestoneburn all month (AMB) and a flock of 50 was in the Harthope Valley on 26th (RKS).

Greenfinch

150 were at Little Benton Farm on 15th (PAB).

Goldfinch

Large charms included 85 at Tynemouth Haven on 29th (MT), 60 at Arcot on 25th (ES) and 25-40 at Bamburgh, and St.Mary's Island.

Siskin

23 were ringed at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB) and 40 were in the Harthope Valley on 26th (RKS).

Linnet

250 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th (L&KR), 200 at Marden Quarry on 29th (MT), 100-150 at Newton and Boulmer and 40-80 at six other localities.

Redpoll

About 250 were in the Harthope Valley on 26th (RKS) and 113 were ringed at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB).

Crossbill

Small parties were noted as very common at Threestoneburn from 3rd (AMB). Along the coast 20 were in a garden at Amble on 21st where a family party present on 22nd/23rd (per MLC), one at Holywell Village on 25th (TRC), seven flew in off the sea at Fenham Flats on 26th (KWR) when one at Holywell Pond and ten at Wallsend Swallow Pond (JRT) and one found dead on Holy Island on 29th (per IK).

Corn Bunting

One was at Cresswell on 2nd (DM).

Please send all September records, in Vooous order, to Mike.S.Hodgson, 31 Uplands, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, NE25 9AG, by 8th October.

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P A Buskin	AD McLevy	J R Todd
ML & TA Cadwallender	E T & J R Norris	D M Turner
T R Cleeves	S Parnaby	R Walton
J Coleman	A G Pitches	R G Waugh
W Dickson	A Priest	P W West
M P Frankis	K W Regan	S Westerberg
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J & M Howat	S Sexton	Druridge Bay Nature Reserves
A Janes	D R Shannon	Seaton Sluice Watchtower

INDOOR MEETING A G M 11TH OCTOBER 1990

The club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 11th October 1990 in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00pm. After the formal business there will be 'A Review of the Eighties'.



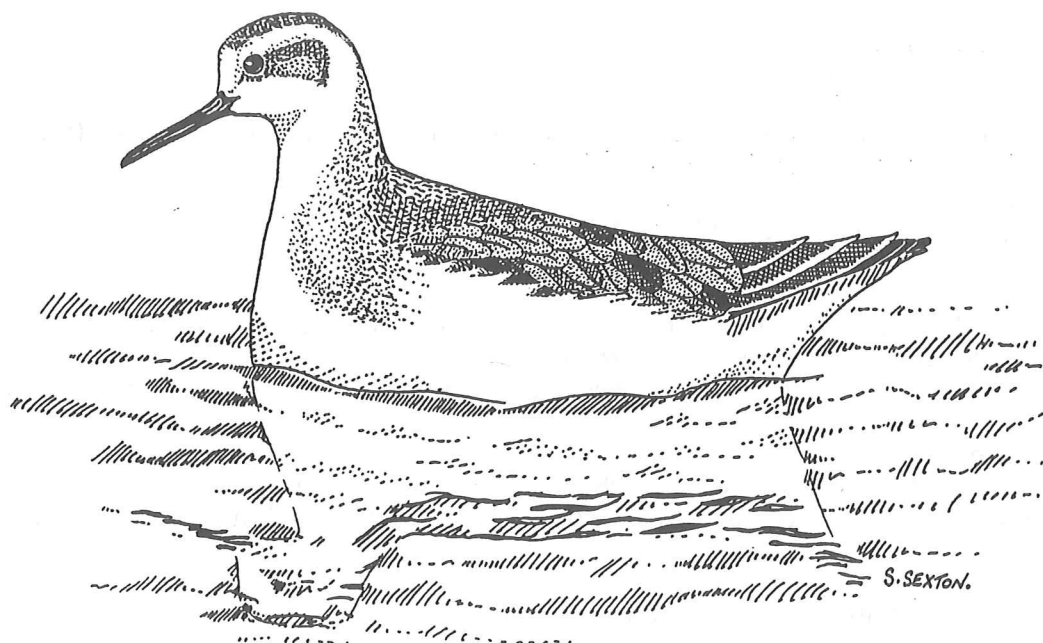
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 1990

September remained mild although there were spells of cooler weather and heavy rain on a few dates. Winds were predominantly from the west and a more northerly airstream later in the month produced small numbers of migrants on the coast.

September as usual saw the arrival of our winter visitors, Barnacle Geese were noted from 25th and Brent Geese from 16th. Wildfowl numbers began to increase. The male Ring-necked Duck was reported from Marden Quarry and Tynemouth Boating Lake. Seawatching produced a Cory's Shearwater on 10th and single Leach's and Storm Petrels. There were seven sightings of Long-tailed Skua and two of Sabine's Gull. Two Black Guillemot were found.

The pick of the waders was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper on 9th at Hadston Scars, possibly the same bird was at Hauxley on 24th. The first Jack Snipe were reported from 16th and other waders included Little Stint, Little Ringed Plover, and an obliging Grey Phalarope at Ladyburn Lake on 28th-30th.



The first Fieldfares were noted from 16th, Redwings from 25th and Bramblings from 29th. Other interesting passerines included Scarlet Rosefinch at Prior's Park on 11th, a Barred Warbler trapped at Bamburgh on 15th, three Yellow-browed Warblers and two Richard's Pipits.

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.

A passage Wood Warbler at Holy Island was of interest as were good numbers of Crossbills, Goldfinchs and Linnets.

Other interesting species were lingering Hobby and Quail, single Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Garganey, Buzzard and Ruddy Duck.

CLASSIFIED LIST

116

Red-throated Diver

A maximum of 62 were in Druridge Bay on 29th (TRC/MHp). Seven were off Ross on 26th (ISD) and one-five at eight localities. At Seaton Sluice a total of 41N. and 54 S. was noted during the month with a peak of 15 N. and 8 S. on 26th.

Little Grebe

Nine were at Big Waters on 20th (GB) and 12 at Cresswell Pond on 29th (TRC/JRT). One-eight were at a further 11 localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Four were at Whittle Dene on 26th (L&KR) and singles at Ladyburn Lake on 3rd and Derwent Reservoir on 11th (DM/RKS). Two were on the sea in Druridge Bay on 8th (ES).

Red-necked Grebe

Two were off Ross on 26th (ISD) and a single was at Howick on 29th (RKS).

Slavonian Grebe

Singles were on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT) and on Ladyburn Lake on 29th-30th (TAC).

Black-necked Grebe

One was on Linton Pond on 1st (ES).

Fulmar

600 per hour passed Hauxley on 8th when a blue phase individual was also noted (ES/DCJ).

Cory's Shearwater

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT).

Sooty Shearwater

The largest numbers were reported from pelagic trips; on 8th 80 were seen on a trip out of Tynemouth (JGS) and on 16th up to 30 were seen out of Blyth (DM/GB). Eleven flew N. at Seaton Sluice during the month with one-five N. at Hauxley Cresswell and Newbiggin.

Manx Shearwater

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 108 N. and 7 S. (SSWT), with a peak of 35 N. and 3 S. on 10th. Elsewhere 52 flew N. at Hauxley on 8th (DCJ) and 19 flew N. at Newbiggin on 25th (JGS).

Storm Petrel

One was seen on a pelagic trip off Tynemouth on 8th (JGS).

Leach's Petrel

One flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT).

Gannet

Up to 1,000 moved N. in one hour at Hauxley on 8th (ES). Other counts N. include 200 per hour at Newbiggin on 22nd (MH) and 150 per hour at Craster on 25th (BNR).

Cormorant

A maximum of 169 were at Blyth harbour on 7th (DMT). Seven were at Derwent Reservoir on 30th when four were at the Long Nanny Burn (RKS).

Shag

200 flew N. at Holy Island on 1st (JDL). One-two were also at Tynemouth and N.Shields Fish Quay (DMT).

Grey Heron

The largest gatherings involved 38 at Castle Island on 1st (TRC) 11 at Budle Bay, 10 at Arcot Pond and 13 at St.Mary's Island. One-eight were at a further 19 localities.

Mute Swan

265 were at Berwick on 7th (JDL) and 13 at Ladyburn Lake on 29th (TAC).

Pink-footed Goose

On 19th 32 flew N. at Craster and one NW at St.Marys Island (ISD/MSH). On 20th six were at Holy Island and 20 flew SE over Big Waters (GB). At the latter 15 flew W on 22nd (AJJ). Six were at Holywell Pond on 26th (MT), one at Castle Island on 29th when seven at Whittle Dene.

Greylag Goose

Five-nine were noted at Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley, Beal and Holywell Pond.

Canada Goose

120 were at Hallington on 1st when 12 at Colt Crag (RW), between 1st-6th five were at Druridge Pools (DBNR).

Barnacle Goose

Four flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 25th and 172 N. on 26th (SSWT), between 26th-29th five-17 were at Goswick, Longhoughton Steel and St.Marys Island. Inland six were at Big Waters on 27th (AJJ) and 40W. near Belsay on 30th (JS).

Brent Goose

20 were at Fenham Mill on 16th (SS), 70 flew past Beadnell on 26th (MF) when 10 flew N. at Seaton Sluice.

Shelduck

Eight were at Cresswell Pond on 19th (ISD).

Wigeon

1,000 were on Fenham Flats on 4th (ET/JRN), 110 were at Broomlee on 30th (BNR). At Seaton Sluice a total of 295N. and 2S. was noted with a maximum of 135N. on 26th (SSWT). 46-50 were also at Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond.

Gadwall

One-three were at Big Waters between 1st-9th (GB et al).

Teal

On 2nd 206 were at Big Waters (AJJ/DM) with 200 at Holburn Moss on 21st (ISD). Other concentrations included 99 at Druridge Pools. 92 at Newton Pool and Derwent Reservoir and 70-80 at Hartburn, Gosforth Park, Grindon Lough, Lilburn Pond and Arcot Pond.

Mallard

The largest concentrations were of 354 at Big Waters on 15th (AJJ), 348 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (RKS) and 322 at Whittle Dene on 26th (L&KR). 240-264 were also at Druridge Pools, Hauxley NR and Derwent Reservoir.

Pintail

Ten flew up river on S.Tyne at Melkridge on 16th (SJH), nine were at Druridge Pools on 29th (JRT). One-five were also at Big Waters, Hauxley NR., Whittle Dene, Grindon Lough, Derwent Reservoir, Castle Island and Holy Island.

Garganey

One remained at Swallow Pond until 3rd (MT). Other singles were at Castle Island on 1st and Bothal Pond on 10th (TRC/MJS).

Shoveler

14 were at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS) and 42 at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ). One-eight were at a further seven localities.

Pochard

23 were at Druridge Pools on 11th, 17 at Whittle Dene on 23rd, 19 at Hauxley NR on 26th and 49 at Big Waters on 29th.

Ring-necked Duck

A drake was on Tynemouth boating lake between 24th-29th (MSH). It was also reported from Marden Quarry.

Tufted Duck

The largest concentrations were of 90 at Hauxley NR on 23rd (DBNR), 88 at Whittle Dene on 1st (MR) and 72 at Ladyburn Lake on 12th/27th (TAC/ISD).

Scaup

One was at Whittle Dene on 1st (JSB), a male was on Druridge Pools on 11th (DBNR) and a female at Holywell Pond on 27th-29th (L&KR/TRC). Four were in Druridge Bay on 29th (GB). At Seaton Sluice one flew N. and four S. on 16th (SSWT).

Eider

1,000 were at Black Law on 26th (ISD).

Common Scoter

297 were in Druridge Bay on 29th (TRC). A total of 147 flew N. and four S. at Seaton Sluice during the month. Smaller numbers noted at Newbiggin and Blyth.

Velvet Scoter

Four flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 26th (SSWT). On 29th six were in Druridge Bay (GB) and a single flew N. at St.Mary's Island on 30th (IDM).

Goldeneye

One-five noted at Whittle Dene, Ladyburn Lake DBCP, and Druridge Pools.

Red-breasted Merganser

16 were off Cresswell on 16th (IC) when three were on Druridge Pools, two were on Ladyburn Lake between 23rd-30th (TAC) and one on Cresswell Pond on 25th.

Goosander

Singles noted on R.Tyne at Ovingham and Close House, and at Whittle Dene and Druridge Pools. Five were at Hallington on 1st (RW), six at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (RKS) and three at Felton on 30th (ET/JRN).

Ruddy Duck

Three were at Big Waters on 11th with one-two between 12th-23rd (AJJ). One was at Hartburn on 16th (MW).

Hen Harrier

A single ring-tail was at Hauxley NR on 10th (DBNR).

Sparrowhawk

One-four noted at 21 localities.

Buzzard

A single was at Gosforth Park on 8th (ES) and at Howick on 17th (ISD).

Kestrel

Seven were in the Irthing Valley on 23rd (MH).

Merlin

Singles noted in six coastal and two inland localities.

Hobby

The adult reported last month in the Holywell area was seen again on 1st-2nd (TRC).

Peregrine

Singles noted in four localities.

Grey Partridge

28 were at Horton on 21st (LJM). Five-13 were noted at a further seven localities.

Quail

Two were near Belsay on 12th (JS).

Water Rail

Singles noted at Holywell Pond, and Ladyburn Lake DBCP.

Moorhen

18 were at Big Waters on 23rd (AJJ) and 14 at Holywell Pond on 27th (L&KR).

Coot

245 were at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ) and 109 at Ladyburn Lake (ISD) and 42 at Whittle Dene (MR).

WADER COUNT - 23rd September 1990

The following stretches were counted:- Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL/DRS), S.Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Amble-Chevington Burn (TPMW), Chevington-Cresswell (EC/MRS/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Blyth S.Pier-Hartley Point (KVB), St.Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,121 was noted during the wader count. In addition 300 were at Black Law on 26th (ISD) and 105 in Budle Bay on 8th (RKS). Up to 147 roosted at Cresswell Pond (ASH). Inland five were still at Hallington on 6th (BNR).

Little Ringed Plover

Three were at Arcot Pond on 22nd (LJM).

Ringed Plover

A total of 176 was noted during the wader count. 90 were at the Blyth Estuary on 1st (TRC) and 108 at Berwick Little Beach on 14th (JDL). Inland seven flew W. at Whittle Dene on 1st (MR) when 11 were at Derwent Reservoir declining to four by 22nd (RKS).

Golden Plover

Along the coast large gatherings involved up to 1,500 at St.Mary's Island (IDM/ES), 900 at Longhoughton Steel on 1st, 700 at Low Newton on 29th, 600 at the Long Nanny on 30th (RKS), and 100-350 at eight other localities. Inland 600 were at Whittle Dene on 16th (MR).

Grey Plover

A total of 54 was noted during the wader count. 141 were at Holy Island on 23rd (JDL). More unusual was up to eight at Druridge Pools on 23rd (DBNR), four at Castle Island (JGS) one at Big Waters on 23rd (per AJJ) and three at Holywell Pond on 30th (JRT).

Lapwing

745 were at Budle Bay on 8th (RKS) and 130-330 at five other coastal localities. Inland 600 were at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR) and 336 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (RKS).

Knot

A total of only 116 noted during the wader count. Up to 34 at Cresswell Pond between 3rd-18th (DBNR) and 50 at St.Mary's Island on 27th (ES).

Sanderling

A total of 106 was noted during the wader count. 40 were at Hauxley beach on 11th (JRT).

Little Stint

One-three were at Fenham Mill, Newton Pool, Hauxley Reserve, Druridge Pools, Cresswell, Castle Island, Holywell Pond, Backworth, Gosforth Park and Big Waters during the month and five at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 27th-30th (MRS/SOB).

Curlew Sandpiper

Numbers were still high at Wallsend Swallow Pond early in the month with a peak of 22 on 3rd (MT et al). 11 were at Castle Island on 2nd (JGS) and one-eight at 11 other localities during the month.

Purple Sandpiper

Only 22 noted during the wader count. In addition 23 were at Blyth Harbour on 8th (DMT) and singles at Castle Island and Tynemouth (JGS/MT).

Dunlin

A total of 1,389 noted during the wader count. 360 at Budle Bay on 8th increased to 700 by 30th (RKS), 205 were at Black Low on 9th (JDL) when 130 at Hauxley beach (JRT) and 100 at St.Mary's Island on 7th (DMT). Inland 26 were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (RKS), and two-eight at five other waters and two were over the River Irthing on 23rd (MH).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One was located on the beach at Hadston Scars on 9th (SS/JWR/NF) and what was probably the same bird was photographed at Hauxley Reserve on 24th (SJH/AB).

Ruff

A maximum of 15 was at Cresswell Pond on 10th/11th (DBNR), nine at Castle Island and Newbiggin (JGS/TRC) and one-seven at ten other coastal localities. Inland 19 were at Whittle Dene on 29th increasing to 23 on 30th (JSD/MR) and one-two at Grindon Lough (DCJ/RKS).

Jack Snipe

The first was one at Goswick on 16th (SS/NF), and another was at Newbiggin on 23rd/24th (JGS/AJ). Six were at Whittle Dene on 29th (MR/JSB). Another was at Newton Pool on 30th (JWR).

Snipe

25 were at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS) and two-ten at seven other localities.

Black-tailed Godwit

A maximum of six was at Hauxley Reserve between 11th-14th (DBNR) and five at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (DM). One-three were also at Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, Cresswell Pond, Castle Island, Big Waters and Gosforth Park.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 96 was noted during the wader count. 1,000 were at Black Low on 9th (JDL) and up to 15 at St. Mary's Island (DMT). More unusual was one at Big Waters on 7th/8th (AJJ).

Whimbrel

12 flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT) and one-four noted at six other localities up to 18th.

Curlew

A total of 193 was noted during the wader count although up to 217 were at Longhoughton Steel and 211 at the Long Nanny (RKS). Inland one-four were still at Blanchland, Derwent Reservoir and Colt Crag.

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Hauxley Reserve on 4th (DBNR) and Holywell Pond on 12th (MT).

Redshank

A total of 540 was noted during the wader count. 46 were at Cresswell Pond on 1st (TRC).

Greenshank

Four were in Budle Bay on 1st (RKS) and one-two in another nine coastal or near-coastal localities during the month.

Green Sandpiper

Four were at Gosforth Park on 1st-2nd (ISD/DM) and one-two at Big Waters and Arcot Ponds up to 22nd.

Wood Sandpiper

One was at Castle Island on 1st/2nd (JGS/TRC).

Common Sandpiper

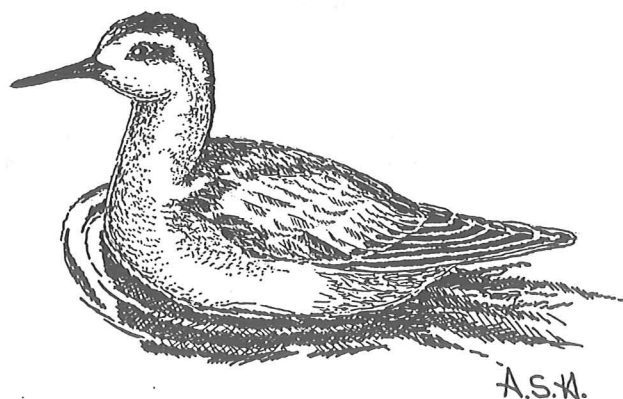
One was still inland at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (RKS) and others at Castle Island on 5th (JGS) and Big Waters between 1st-10th (AJJ).

Turnstone

A total of 963 was noted during the wader count. In addition 39 were at Tynemouth on 13th (DMT).

Grey Phalarope

One was present at Ladyburn Lake, D.B.C.P. between 28th-30th (TAC et al).



Pomarine Skua

A total of eight flew N. and two S. at Seaton Sluice on 7th, 10th and 25th (SSWT). At Tynemouth one flew S. on 2nd (DCJ) and two on 25th (CB). Four flew N. at Newbiggin on 15th and one S. on 16th (JGS) and another N. at Hauxley on 8th. One was also seen on a pelagic trip eight miles E. of Blyth on 16th (MPF/GB).

Arctic Skua

A total of 97 flew N. and 72 S. at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). At Newbiggin 15 flew N. on 15th and 17 on 25th (JGS) 12-16 were seen on the pelagic trip E. of Blyth on 16th (DM/MPF). One-six were also noted in eight other localities.

Long-tailed Skua

At Tynemouth single adults flew S. on 2nd and N. on 25th (DCJ/CB) and another was ten miles offshore here on 8th. Single adults also flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 10th and 26th (AH/MHp) and a juvenile moved N. at Newbiggin on 15th (JGS). Another was nine miles E. of Blyth on 16th (MPF/LJM).

Great Skua

A total of 41 flew N. and five S. at Seaton Sluice with a peak of 34 N. on 25th (SSWT) when 26 N. noted at Newbiggin (JGS). Ten were seen on the pelagic trip out of Blyth on 16th (DM/MPF) and one-four at Craster, Hauxley and Cresswell.

Little Gull

At Seaton Sluice one flew S. on 13th and seven N. on 25th (SSWT). Singles adults were at Castle Island on 1st (TRC) and North Shields Fish Quay on 13th (DMT). Two juveniles were at Newbiggin on 7th and one on 15th (JGS).

Sabine's Gull

A juvenile flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 24th (MDP/KWR) and it or another N. at Tynemouth on 25th (CB).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roost counts included 4,500 at Hallington on 6th, 500 at Colt Crag on 8th, 2,100 at Scotswood on 12th and 1,200 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th and on the coast 1,000 at Budle Bay on 25th (BNR) and 900 at Blyth harbour on 8th (DMT), 3,000 were at Big Waters on 22nd (AJJ).

Common Gull

Counts at inland roosts were 3,300 at Hallington on 6th, 12,000 at Colt Crag on 8th and 8,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th and on the coast 8,500 roosted at Budle Bay on 25th (BNR). Flocks of 300-400 were also at Ingoe, Kirkharle and Cambo.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

28 roosted at Broomlee on 30th when 17 at Grindon Lough (BNR) and on the coast 30 at the Long Nanny (RKS).

Herring Gull

160 roosted at Scotswood on 12th and 170 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (BNR). A maximum of 1,100 was at the Tyne Estuary on 13th where one-two birds showing characteristics of the race L.a. argentatus were present on several dates and another at Blyth harbour on 2nd (DMT).

Iceland Gull

A third summer bird was at Newbiggin on 5th (ES/WTL).

Glaucous Gull

An adult was at Seahouses on 25th (BNR).

Great Black-backed Gull

21 roosted at Scotswood on 12th and 20 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (BNR). 350 were at the Long Nanny on 30th (RKS), 330 at Blyth harbour on 6th (DMT) and 100-270 at Seahouses, Craster, St.Mary's Island and North Shields Fish Quay.

Kittiwake

500 were at Seahouses on 25th and 60-155 at Blyth harbour, St.Mary's Island and North Shields Fish Quay. Two adults arrived from E. inland at Hallington on 6th (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

88 were at Cresswell Pond on 1st (TRC/MHp) and smaller numbers were in nine other localities during the month.

Roseate Tern

An adult and a juvenile were at Cresswell on 1st (TRC) and an adult at Newbiggin on 22nd (JGS/MH).

'Commic' Tern

45 were at the Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM).

Common Tern

Up to 100 were at Newbiggin during the month declining to four by 30th (JGS). Ten were at Tynemouth on 25th (MT).

Little Tern

One was at Ladyburn Lake, D.B.C.P. on 12th (TAC).

Black Tern

Five were off Seaton Sluice on 16th (AIP).

Auk (Sp)

240 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 26th (SSWT).

Guillemot

250 were on the sea at Newbiggin on 1st where a movement of up to 2,000 per hour N. on 25th (JGS).

Black Guillemot

One was close in at St.Mary's Island on 7th (WGS) and it, or another, in Druridge Bay on 23rd (MRS/SOB).

Puffin

Small numbers were noted at Tynemouth and Newbiggin.

Stock Dove

Three-four were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th (MSH) when one at Gosforth Park (KIB).

Collared Dove

40 were at Brunton Lane on 30th (GB).

Barn Owl

One was at Druridge Bay C.P. on 19th (JWR).

Little Owl

One was at Blyth on 30th (LJM).

Tawny Owl

One-two were at Jesmond Vale, Gosforth Park, Big Waters and Walbottle Hall.

Long-eared Owl

One was at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Short-eared Owl

Singles were in five coastal localities from 21st.

Swift

Between 1st-7th up to twelve were at Big Waters and Cresswell and two at Gosforth Park (AJJ/ES/ISD). Late singles were at Felton Lane on 13th (NF) and Widdrington Station on 29th (SS).

Kingfisher

Still well reported with one-two in 14 widespread localities during the month.

Green Woodpecker

One-two were in the Harthope Valley, Close House, Gosforth Park and Holywell Pond.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Singles were noted at Matfen, Ovingham and Chapel House.

Skylark

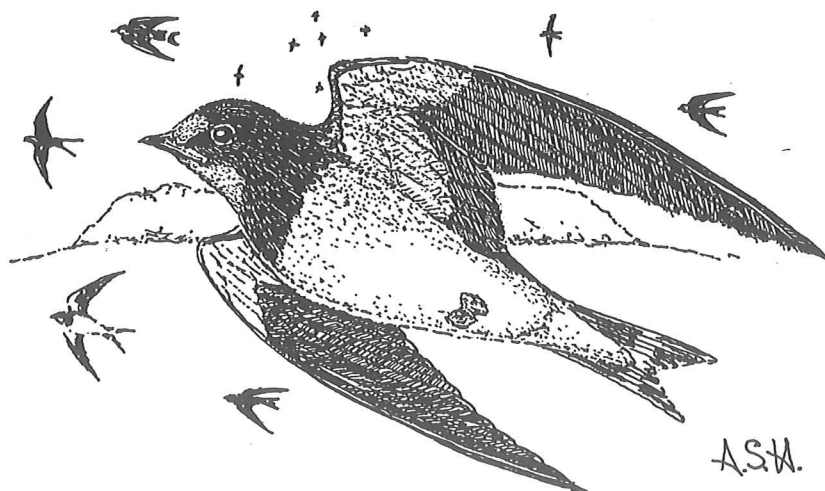
100 were at Whittle dene on 23rd (MR).

Sand Martin

About 50 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (ES/MBS) and 25-30 at W.Woodburn on 3rd (J&MH). Two-three were at Morpeth on 20th (DM) and the last his month were three at Big Waters and four at Whittle Dene on 23rd (AJJ/MR).

Swallow

Two broods were still in nests at Whittle dene on 9th-12th (MR) and a fledged brood still being fed at W.Woodburn on 16th (J&MH). A huge roost of 15,000-20,000 birds at E.Chevington between 4th-7th declined to 3,000 on 10th and only 800 on the 12th (BG/TAC/IK). Large gatherings at Hauxley and Druridge Bay CP on 3rd/9th were probably from this roost (SS/JRT). Other large gatherings involved 220 at Matfen on 6th (RW), 150 roosting at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR) and 200 at Big Waters on 22nd (AJJ).



House Martin

200 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (ES), 130 at Wallington Hall on 9th, up to 120 at Fenham on 10th/14th (MH) and 210 at High Heaton on 18th (MPF/SP). 20-80 were noted in three other localities.

Richard's Pipit

Singles were reported at Beadnell on 19th (GW) and Hauxley beach on 23rd (EJD/RL).

Meadow Pipit

100 were at Hauxley on 8th (ES/DRS) and 200 moved S. at Hadston dunes on 16th (SS) when 100 at Bamburgh (BRS). 20-60 were also in six other coastal areas.

Rock Pipit

Up to ten were at Hauxley and five at Newton Point (DBNR/ISD).

Yellow Wagtail

20 roosted with Swallows at E.Chevington on 9th (TAC). One-eight were at six localities between 1st-17th and the last a single at Big Waters on 20th (GB).

Grey Wagtail

13 were at Whittle Dene on 1st/3rd declining to five by mid month (MR). Three-four were at Blanchland and the Harthope Valley and one-three in nine coastal or near coastal localities.

Pied Wagtail

40 roosted with Swallows at E.Chevington on 9th (TAC). 45-50 were at Knowesgate on 26th (M&JH), and 20-21 at Calder and Big Waters.

White Wagtail

One was at Newbiggin on 22nd and three on 23rd-25th (JGS) and another at Big Waters on 26th (L&KR).

Redstart

Inland singles were still at Whittle Dene and the Harthope Valley on 2nd (MR/RKS) and Heddon-on-the-Wall on 4th (GB). One was at Horton on 7th (LJM) and another at Wallsend Swallow Pond between 26th-29th (MRS). On the coast one was at St.Mary's Island on 16th (MT), two at Tynemouth on 23rd (CB), five at Holy Island on 25th (JS) and one at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 26th (MT).

Whinchat

Five at Whittle Dene on 2nd declined to one by 23rd (MR). On or near the coast one-four were in eight widespread localities.

Stonechat

Single males were at Cresswell and Druridge from 25th/26th (WAK/DBNR). Inland one was at Whittle Dene on 16th (MR) when a juvenile was at Dinnington (IK).

Wheatear

Inland eight were at Whittle Dene on 1st declining to one on 15th although three were there on 30th (MR) and five were at Ilderton Dod on 2nd (AMB). On the coast one-five were in 12 localities including one showing the characteristics of the Greenland race at Hauxley on 8th (ES).

Ring Ousel

One was on Holy Island on 25th (JS).

Fieldfare

The first arrivals were 'a small flock' at Belsay on 16th (JS). One was in the Irthing Valley on 27th (MH), three flew SW over Druridge Bay C.P. on 29th and one W. at Hexham on 30th (DCJ).

Redwing

The first were two at Embleton G.C. on 25th (ISD). On 26th 15 flew W. at Close House (GB) and three W. at Jesmond Dene (MPF). Two were at the Irthing Valley on 27th (MH) and on 29th/30th small parties arrived in several coastal localities although 600 were at Holy Island (CB).

Mistle Thrush

50 were at Wingates on 12th (MLC), 34 at Horton on 13th (LJM) and 55 at the Irthing Valley (MH). 12 flew in from E. at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS).

Sedge Warbler

Three were at Whittle Dene on 9th and at Big Waters on 16th (MR/AJJ).

Reed Warbler

A first year bird was trapped at Gosforth Park on 8th (ISD).

Barred Warbler

One was trapped at Bamburgh on 15th (BRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

Two were at Pegswood on 1st (SS). Between 2nd-16th singles were at Big Waters, Corbridge, Craster, Hadston Dunes and Holywell Pond. Three were at Holy Island on 30th (CB).

Whitethroat

Singles were at Big Waters on 15th (AJJ) and Cresswell on 16th (DBNR).

Garden Warbler

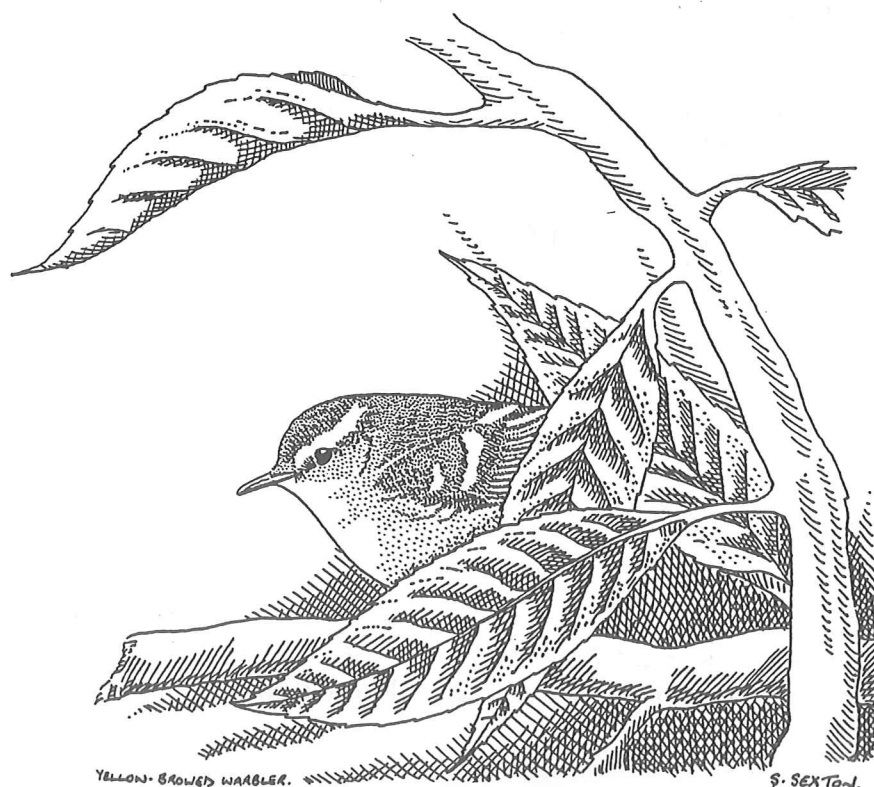
Two were on Holy Island on 30th (CB).

Blackcap

Three were at Close House on 11th (GB) and 15 on Holy Island on 30th (CB). Singles were noted at four other localities.

Yellow-browed Warbler

On 23rd singles were at Holywell Dene, Newbiggin and Prior's Park (TRC/JGS/CB).



YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER.

S. SEXTON.

Wood Warbler

One was on Holy Island on 30th (CB).

Chiffchaff

Singles, some in song, noted at six localities.

Willow Warbler

One was singing at Big Waters on 9th, 16th and 23rd (AJJ). Others were at Whittle Dene on 12th (MR) and in the Harthope Valley on 16th (RKS).

Goldcrest

15 were at Priors Park on 25th, ten at Newbiggin on 23rd and Holy Island on 30th.

Spotted Flycatcher

A family party of five was in the Harthope Valley on 2nd (RKS). One-two noted at Big Waters, Druridge Bay C.P., Holy Island, Matfen and Whitley Bay.

Pied Flycatcher

Singles noted at Whitley Bay between 22nd-26th and Holywell Dene on 23rd (MT/TRC).

Long-tailed Tit

21 were at Big Waters on 30th. Parties of four-20 noted at a further seven localities.

Blue Tit

An influx of 20 was noted at Priors Park on 15th and 23rd.

Nuthatch

Two were at Gosforth Park on 29th (MT).

Treecreeper

Two were at Craster on 23rd (RKS) and at Whitley Bay Cem. on 26th (MT).

Jay

Up to 21 were at Gosforth Park.

Carrion Crow

34 roosted at Sweethope on 9th (BNR).

Starling

900 roosted at Blyth harbour on 7th (DMT).

Tree Sparrow

16 were at Beal on 9th (JDL), 15 at Whittle Dene (MR) and 12 at Felton (ET + JRN).

Chaffinch

60 were at Arcot Pond on 22nd and 40 at Horton Grange on 6th (LJM).

Brambling

35 were on Holy Island on 30th and a single at Priors Park on 29th (CB).

Greenfinch

20 were at Newton Links on 9th.

Goldfinch

Well reported with maximum flocks of 120 at St. Mary's Island on 12th (MT) and 100 at Druridge Bay CP on 30th (TAC). Charms of 10-85 noted at a further 16 localities.

Siskin

Inland 200 noted at Falstone Forest on 14th and 150 around Kielder Castle on 21st (DCJ). 12 flew S. at Bamburgh on 30th (BRS). Three noted at Druridge Bay C.P. on 16th and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 29th.

Linnet

Well reported with gatherings of 350 at Holy Island and Cramlington and 300 at Druridge Bay and Boulmer. 40-200 were at a further eight localities.

Redpoll

250 were in Harthope Valley on 16th (RKS). Five-30 at four other inland localities.

Crossbill

Noted as more common than usual at Threestoneburn where small parties present throughout the month (AMB). 95 were in Redesdale Forest on 28th (DCJ). Four flew over Big Waters on 16th (BG). On the coast 11 were at Howick on 29th (ISD), six at Scremerston on 9th (JDL) and two on Holy Island on 25th (JS).

Scarlet Rosefinch

An immature was at Priors Park on 11th (CB).

Yellowhammer

Flocks of 60 were at Bamburgh and Horton Grange

Reed Bunting

40-50 were at Whittle Dene between 23rd-29th and 100 at Druridge Bay on 29th.

Corn Bunting

One was at Whittle Dene on 29th-30th (MR).

Please send all October records, in Voous order, to B.N. Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, NE46 1 SX by 8th November at the latest.

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E Crabtree	ET & JR Norris	R Walton
I S Davidson	S Parnaby	T P M Watson
N Foggo	M D Plenty	M Winter
M P Frankis	A I Purvis	A Woodhall
M Freeman	K W Regan	K W York
B Galloway	M Richardson	Bamburgh Ringing Station
A S Hart	B N Rossiter	Druridge Bay Nature Reserves
M Henry	G S Rushbrooke	Seaton Sluice Watchtower

INDOOR MEETING - 8TH NOVEMBER 1990

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th November 1990 in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University starting at 7.00pm. Our guest speaker will be Sven Brekke who is going to tell us about 'Birding in Norway'.

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COUNTY RECORDS COMMITTEE

The club committee has elected C Bradshaw, M Davison, B Little and M S Hodgson to join B N Rossiter (Chairman) to form the County Records Committee for 1990/91.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1990/91

Subscriptions were due on 1st October and remain unchanged (£11 Ordinary, £12 Family, and £5 Junior). Please renew now and send your subs to Lindsay McDougall, 45 Pendleton Drive, Northburn Chase, Cramlington, NE23 9TU.

FOREIGN BIRDWATCHING INFORMATION

Steve Whitehouse who runs the Foreign Birdwatching Reports and Information Service has sent the club his latest catalogue which lists birding details collected by visitors to a total of 120 countries.

This means that whether you are planning a flying week's holiday in Majorca or Corfu or a three-month expedition to somewhere rather more exotic like Papua New Guinea, the latest information is available.

Steve explains that the main idea of the catalogue is to provide a database so that birders can quickly find out the best spots to visit and what they can expect to see at any particular time of year.

There is a charge to cover photocopying, packaging and postage of copies of the various reports, lists and maps. Members can obtain a copy of the 34-page catalogue, which seems to be essential reading for anyone wanting information about foreign parts, particularly those not well covered in the standard guides of places to watch birds, by sending £1 in postage stamps, postal order or cheque to Steve at 5 Stanway Close, Blackpole, Worcester WR4 9XL.

OVER AND OUT

At the Annual General Meeting, as some members are already aware, I retired from the club committee. Over the years as Chairman and Recorder I have had the opportunity to speak and correspond with a large proportion of club members and I would like to thank all of you who have helped the club and myself during this period.

I am sure that you will continue to give your support to the new County Recorder, Nick Rossiter and his able deputy Alan Johnston. Nick's address for future correspondence, record cards, etc is given at the end of the classified list.

MIKE HODGSON

CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 1990/91

Chairman:	I Kerr 27 Eddrington Grove Westerhope Newcastle NE5 1 JG (Tel (091)2676974)	Secretary:	A Brunt 7 Highmoor Kirkhill Morpeth NE61 2AL (Tel (0670)512691)
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Indoor Meeting:	K V Brooks 18 Wellburn Park Jesmond Newcastle NE2 2JX (Tel:(091)2810285)	Field Meetings:	M Davison 4 North View Stocksfield NE43 7JN (Tel:(0661)843047)



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

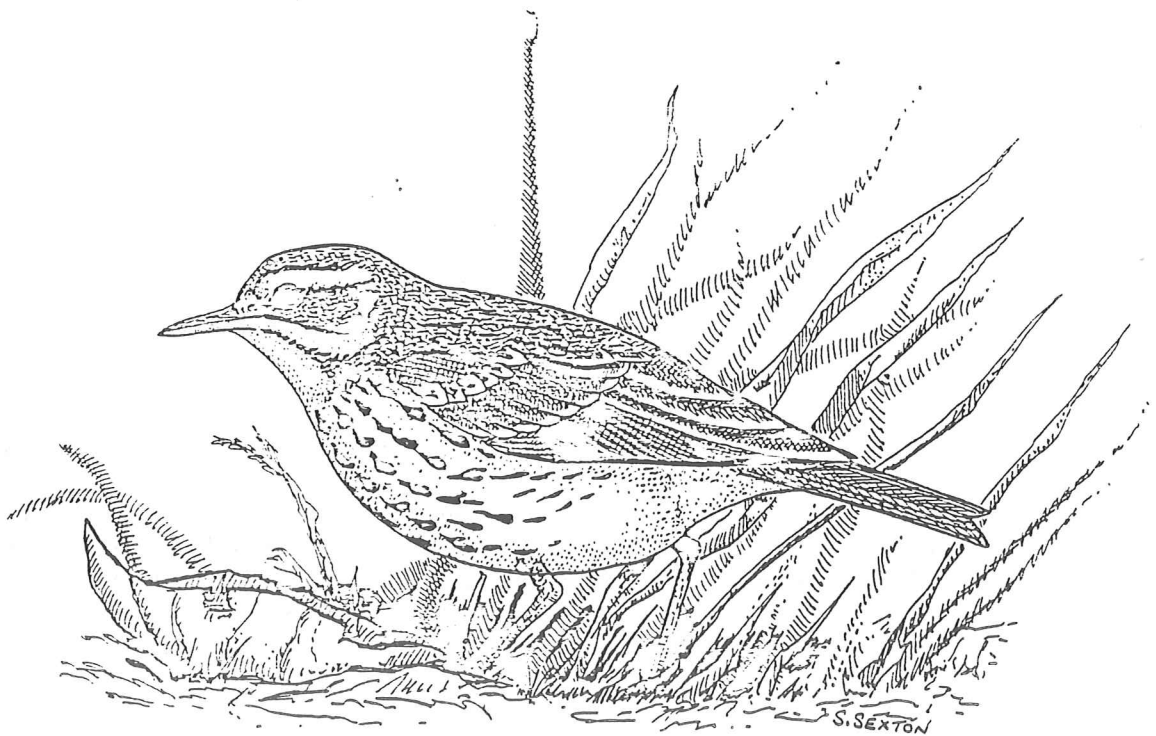
MONTHLY SUMMARY OCTOBER 1990

October is generally regarded as a classic month for birdwatching. October 1990 will be remembered as a month where many observers high expectations were for one year realised. It began quietly with the arrival of the first Lapland and Snow Buntings. Last winters celebrity the Terek Sandpiper was reported again from the Blyth estuary, a Ferruginous Duck was found at Ladyburn Lake on 7th and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Whittle Dene on 13th-14th. As the winds moved into the east the first movements of thrushes occurred, a late Wood Warbler was found on Holy Island and two Yellow-browed Warblers provided a taste of things to come.

By 18th as high pressure developed over Scandinavia a low moved in from the Atlantic across Southern England bringing with it heavy showers, and on 19th increasing winds from the NE and rain. This was followed by a period of drier weather however the winds continued from the east. These conditions resulted in a truly memorable fall of thousands of Fieldfares, Redwings and Blackbirds all along the coast. Hundreds of Goldcrests and impressive numbers of Robins and Ring Ousels. Woodcock, Blackcap and Brambling were also noted in numbers.

The number of rarities recorded between 18th-27th and the space available in this introduction permits little more than a list of those seen. Readers will need to refer to the species accounts in a very full bulletin which makes exciting reading. Rarities noted during the fall of 1990 involved a Sabines Gull off Holy Island on 26th, an Olive-backed Pipit trapped at Hauxley on 18th which was in poor condition and unfortunately died, while another at Newbiggin from 21st-23rd delighted many observers. Waxwing's reported from 19th occurred at ten localities, a Nightingale was trapped at Prior's Park on 24th, three Siberian Stonechats were noted, a Great Reed Warbler was trapped at Big Waters on 24th, two Barred Warblers were found. At Hauxley on 23rd and 27th a bird showing the characteristics of 'Humes' Lesser Whitethroat was trapped. A Pallas Warbler was at Prior Park on 19th and 22nd. A Radde's Warbler was at Craster on 27th and Dusky Warbler's were at St.Mary's Island on 18th and trapped at Druridge Bay C.P. on 20th. Three Firecrests and at least four Great Grey Shrikes were seen. A male Pine Bunting astonished finders at Bamburgh on 21st and a Rustic Bunting at Newbiggin from 18th-21st was seen by many, despite at times being elusive.

Other unusual species included Sooty Shearwater, Leach's Petrel, Bewick's Swan, Snew, Marsh Harrier, Black Tern, Little Auk, Black Redstart, Reed Warbler, Twite and Northern race Treecreeper and Bullfinch.

CLASSIFIED LISTRed-throated Diver

24 were in Druridge Bay on 4th (MH), ten off Ross on 10th (JDM) when seven off Stag Rocks (ES). One-five were at a further five localities. A single visited Cresswell Pond on 24th (ES/WTL).

Black-throated Diver

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT) and two were off Ross on 10th (JDM).

Great Northern Diver

Singles were noted at Newbiggin, Druridge Bay, Hauxley and Holy Island between 7th-24th.

Little Grebe

Six were at Big Waters on 4th (AJJ), ten at Capheaton on 7th (MT) and a maximum of 11 at Cresswell Pond on 24th (ES). One-four were noted at another ten rivers or ponds.

Great Crested Grebe

Six were in Druridge Bay on 29th (JDM), three at Whittle Dene on 4th (MR) and one-two at another ten localities.

Red-necked Grebe

Two were off Ross on 4th (ISD) and singles off Stag Rocks on 14th and Holy Island on 21st (ASJ/DM).

Slavonian Grebe

One was at Ladyburn Lake DBCP all month with two present on 21st (TAC). One-two were also at Ross Back Sands and Druridge Bay.

Sooty Shearwater

Singles flew N. at Tyne-mouth on 5th (MT) and at Cullercoats on 7th when two flew N. at Seaton Sluice.

Manx Shearwater

At Seaton Sluice 13 flew N. and one S. on 7th (SSWT). One-four were also noted at five localities.

Leach's Petrel

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT).

Gannet

100 were at Holy Island and Beadnell Bay on 6th when 30 flew N. at Hauxley.

Cormorant

61 were in Blyth Harbour on 7th and 45 at North Shields Fish Quay on 20th (DMT). Inland 12 were at Colt Crag on 27th and 14 at Derwent Reservoir on 28th. One-eleven were at a further five localities.

Shag

400-500 were off Stag Rocks on 31st (ES/WLT) and a single was at N. Shields Fish Quay on 28th (DMT).

Grey Heron

14 were at Warkworth on 27th (PW). One-seven were at another 18 localities.

Mute Swan

170 were at Berwick on 18th (AJ) and 28 at Hipsburn on 22nd (MLC). Up to 15 were at a further ten localities.

Bewick's Swan

Two were at Whittle Dene on 20th (L&KR). Nine were at Big Waters on 22nd-23rd and 27th (AIB/AJJ).

Whooper Swan

Six were at Rayburn Lake on 7th (RKS), eight flew S. at Hauxley on 17th (HRS), ten N. at Bamburgh on 21st (BRS) and two were also at Holy Island, Hipsburn and Whittle Dene.

Pink-footed Goose

95 were at Budle Bay on 14th (RKS), 73 flew S. at Hauxley on 27th (HRS), 46 were at Druridge Pools on 1st-2nd (DBNR), 44 flew NW at Ladyburn Lake on 9th (TAC) and 40 SW over Wideopen on 16th (AIB). Two-35 were at another six localities.

White-fronted Goose

One of the Greenland race was at Holywell Pond on 4th (TRC). Two flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT).

Greylag Goose

The largest herds were of 880 in Budle Bay on 14th (BNR) and 167 at Holywell Pond on 30th (L&KR), 20-80 were at Big Waters, Hallington, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Newton and Wooler.

Canada Goose

122 were at Colt Crag on 13th (RW), 114 at Hallington on 20th (BNR) and up to 46 at Big Waters between 8th-14th (AJJ/SP).

Barnacle Goose

On 7th the peak movement was of 65SW at Druridge Pools (BG/IK) with smaller numbers noted at Hauxley, Tynemouth, Cresswell Pond and St. Marys Island. Ten-23 were noted at Budle Bay and Druridge Bay CP between 10th-31st.

Brent Goose

1,200 were at Fenham Flats on 19th (AJ). Up to 25 were also noted off Hauxley, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin, Beadnell and Druridge Bay. One-eight dark-bellied birds were noted at Boulner, Hauxley Reserve, Howick and Newbiggin.

Shelduck

500 were off Ross on 31st when 200 in Budle Bay (ES). Inland four flew E. at Ryton on 21st when four were also at Gosforth Park (STR/ISD). Singles were noted at Swallow Pond and Big Waters.

Wigeon

A maximum of 600 were in Budle Bay on 10th and 31st (ES). Other large flocks were of 180 at Holburn Moss, 80 at Ladyburn Lake and 73 at Colt Crag. The largest movements were at Hauxley of 160 N. on 14th and 100N. and 20 S. on 21st (HRS).

Gadwall

One-two were at Arcot Pond, Ladyburn Lake, DBCP, Hauxley Reserve and Budle Bay.

Teal

The largest gatherings were 374 at Big Waters on 28th (ALT/AJJ) 300 at Holburn Moss on 3rd (ISD) with 150 at Budle Bay, 133 at Grindon Lough, 110 at Hauxley Reserve and 107 at Derwent Reservoir.

Mallard

The highest counts were of 400 in Budle Bay on 31st, 336 at Big Waters on 27th (AJJ), 317 at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR) 260 at Hauxley Reserve on 6th (HRS) and 244 at Druridge Pool on 4th (KWY).

Pintail

30 were at Fenham Mill on 14th (BG), 12 at Druridge Pool and Hauxley Reserve on 3rd (DBNR/HRS). One-five were at a further six localities.

Shoveler

45 were at Big Waters on 13th-14th (GB), 12 were at Ladyburn Lake on 21st (TAC) and one-four at six further localities.

Pochard

150 were at Ladyburn Lake on 21st (TAC) and 83 at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ). One-49 were also at another five localities.

Ferruginous Duck

An adult male was at Ladyburn Lake on 7th (TAC/SS).

Tufted Duck

100 were at Ladyburn Lake, 70 at Hauxley Reserve, 46 at Killingworth Lake and 35 at Big Waters.

Scaup

A maximum of eight were at Hauxley Reserve on 13th when six flew S. at Holy Island (DBNR/BG). One-two were also at Holywell Pond, Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Ladyburn Lake and the R.Tyne at Ryton.

Eider

300 were off Cambois/N.Blyth on 9th/29th (LJM/AMB).

Long-tailed Duck

26 flew N. at Beadnell on 21st (WGJ) and 15-20 were at Stag Rocks on 31st (ES). One-seven were also at Holy Island, Druridge Bay and St.Marys Island. Singles were at Hauxley Reserve on 13th-17th and at Ladyburn Lake between 20th-27th with three present on 28th (TAC).

Common Scoter

255 were in Druridge Bay on 6th (KWY/JRT). The largest movements were on 20th-21st when 30 flew S. at Hauxley and 75 N. at Beadnell (HRS/WGJ).

Velvet Scoter

A maximum of eight were in Druridge Bay on 7th (NF), five flew N. off Ross on 10th (JDM) and two were at Holy Island on 13th (KIB). One-two were also noted flying N. at Newbiggin, Tyne-mouth, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice.

Goldeneye

40 were at Holy Island and Longhoughton Steel on 21st when 46 were inland at Derwent Reservoir (DM/RKS/BNR). 12-30 were at another nine localities.

Smew

A 'red head' was at Ladyburn Lake on 21st (per TAC).

Red-breasted Merganser

16 were at Ross on 4th (ISD), 35 at Ladyburn Lake on 21st (TAC) and 29 in Druridge Bay on 29th (JDM). 13 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 7th (JRT) and a redhead was in the Tyne estuary on 3rd-4th (DMT). Inland a single was at Big Waters from 22nd-28th (AJJ et al) and another was on R. Tyne at Falstone on 29th (DCJ).

Goosander

13 were at Whittle Dene on 20th (MR) and nine on R. Tyne between Newburn and Wylam on 13th (STR), four were at Pawston Lake and two at Kimmer Lough and Derwent Reservoir (ISD/RKS). The only coastal records were of singles at Druridge Bay on 8th, Fenham-le-Moor on 21st when four flew S. at Newbiggin.

Ruddy Duck

Single females were at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (RKS) and at Big Waters between 24th-29th (AJJ et al).

Marsh Harrier

A female/immature was at New Hartley on 23rd (MHP).

Hen Harrier

A ring tail was at Bamburgh on 3rd (JLK). One-two were also noted at two inland localities.

Sparrowhawk

One-three noted in at least 15 localities. Individuals noted at Druridge Bay CP and Hexham Racecourse on 20th-22nd taking incoming 'thrushes'.

Kestrel

Six noted at Thirlwall Common/R. Irthing with one-three at another ten localities.

Merlin

Well reported from 15 localities. Up to three were on Holy Island on 13th (BG) and other individuals were noted hunting Swallows, a Pied Wagtail and a Dunlin, all attempts were reported as failures!

Peregrine

Singles noted at Holy Island, Budle Bay, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Druridge Bay C.P., Whittle Dene, Colt Crag and Medburn.

Red Grouse

Up to four present at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Black Grouse

A male noted in Allendale on 27th (KD).

Grey Partridge

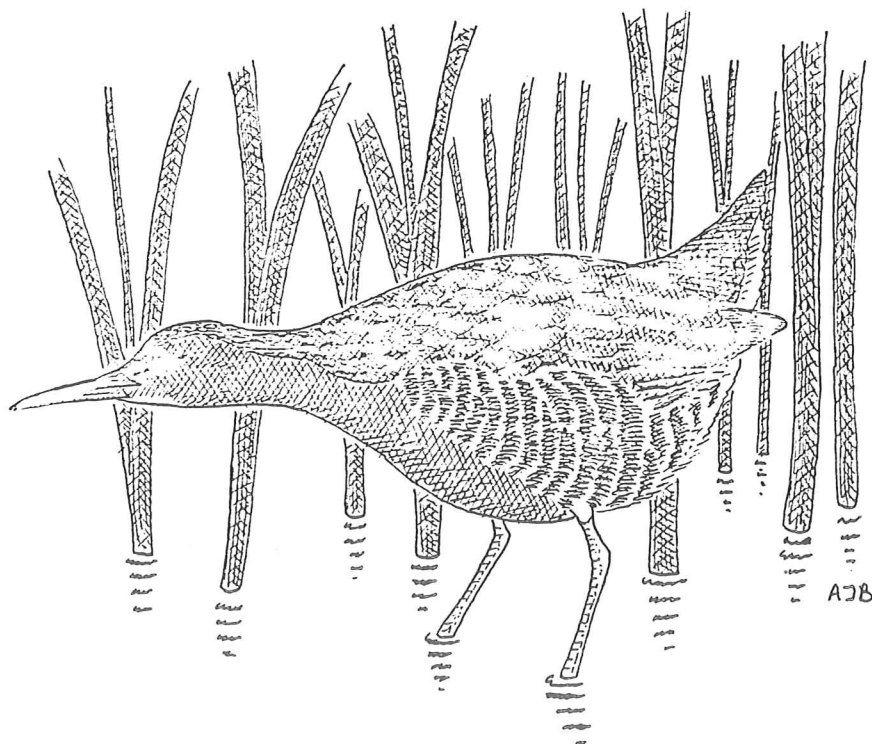
Several coveys totalling 57 birds noted at St. Mary's Island on 27th (IDM). 30 were at Swallow Pond on 12th (SP), 20 at Holywell and 17 at Horton (TRC/LJM).

Water Rail

One-two noted at Holywell Pond, Gosforth Park, Big Waters and Ladyburn Lake. One was found dead near Bardon Mill on 13th (Per BG).

Moorhen

20 were at Big Waters on 7th (AJJ) and 30 at Holywell Pond on 17th (ISD).



Coot

340 were at Big Waters on 23rd (L&KR), 126 at Ladyburn Lake on 9th (TAC) and 45-49 at Whittle Dene and Sweethope.

WADER COUNTS - October 21st

The following stretches were counted, St.Mary's Island (IDM), Blyth Estuary (LJM), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Cresswell-Chevington (EC, MRS), Chevington Burn-Amble (TPMW), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Alnmouth-Boulmer (ES, WTL), Boulmer-Howick (IK), Bednell-Seahouses (MLC/AS), Seahouses-Budle Point (PK).

Oystercatcher

A total of 778 was noted during the counts. Other large counts involved 270 in Budle Bay on 2nd (ISD) and 198 at St.Mary's Island on 6th (DMT).

Ringed Plover

A total of 171 was noted during the count. Two remained inland at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (RKS) while on 30th 34 roosted at Newbiggin (AP).

Golden Plover

The largest coastal gatherings were 1,590 near St.Mary's Island on 5th (IDM), 700 at Newton Point on 6th (ISD) and 2,000 at Longhoughton Steel on 13th (RKS). Inland 1,200 were at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR), 255-300 in the Walbottle-Blucher area on 6th and 17th (MH/L&KR), 200 at Grindon Lough on 26th (DCJ) and 375 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th (PAB).

Grey Plover

A total of 76 was found during the count. Up to 10 regularly feed in fields at Boulmer. Coastal ponds attracted small numbers, 15 at Cresswell on 13th (JRT) being the largest group. Much more unusual were records away from the coast with singles at Holywell Pond between 1st-7th (TRC/IC), at Big Waters on 6th (LR) and at Whittle Dene on 20th (MR).

Lapwing

The largest parties noted included 1,000 at Wallsend Swallow (JMH), 800 at Whittle Dene (MR), 465 at Grindon Lough (RKS) and 360 at Stamfordham (EB). Only 840 were found during the coastal count.

Knot

A total of 127 were seen during the count but 200 were at St. Mary's Island on 24th.

Sanderling

The months count produced 184. Other larger parties included 80 at St. Mary's Island on 27th (DMT), 56 in Druridge Bay on 29th (JDM) and 25 at Cambois, also on 29th (RMH).

Little Stint

Five at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (AJ) reduced to three by 7th (PAB) and a single frequented Druridge Pool from 10th-14th. One was at Boulmer on 20th (JGS) while six were reported from Holy Island on 23rd (JMA).

Curlew Sandpiper

A single was at Holywell Pond on 3rd (KWY), two juveniles were in the Castle Island and Blyth Estuary areas between 3rd-11th (MDP), while five were reported from Wallsend Swallow Pond on 7th (MDP). One at Fenham Mill on 14th was chased but escaped from an immature cock Peregrine (BG).

Purple Sandpiper

During the wader count 88 were noted. 120 were at Stag Rocks on 31st (ASJ) while only two-ten were reported from three other coastal areas.

Dunlin

A total of 1106 was noted during the count. Other large counts involved 1,000 in Budle Bay and at Ross on 10th and 31st (ES/WL), 320 at Berwick Little Beach on 21st (JDL) and 230 roosting at North Blyth on 23rd (AMB). Inland passage produced a peak of 18 at Whittle Dene on 21st (MR) while three fed at Grindon Lough on 3rd (DCJ).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

An adult was at Whittle Dene on 13th-14th (JSB/MR).

Ruff

27 at Whittle Dene on 1st dwindled to a single by 27th (MR). 11 were at Cresswell Pond on 7th (IK/BG) while one-three were seen at five other coastal localities during the month.

Jack Snipe

Six were at Whittle Dene between 20th-27th (MR). Two were also seen at Hauxley Reserve and Holy Island during the month while singles were at seven other localities.

Snipe

The biggest counts involved up to 42 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, 31 at Whittle Dene, 18 at Grindon Lough and one-six at eight other localities.

Woodcock

A significant arrival occurred from 19th bringing at least 20 to Holy Island on 20th-22nd. Seven were also in the Newbiggin area on 21st (JGS). One-six were reported from 13 other coastal and four inland localities.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were at Wallsend Swallow on 1st (AJ) while singles visited the Cresswell-Druridge area on 7th (ADM). One-two were in Budle Bay between 7th-13th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 79 were found during the count. About 920 were near Holy Island causeway on 28th but only one-nine were reported from four other localities.

Curlew

During the count a total of 133 were found. A single at Big Waters on 14th was the only inland sighting

Spotted Redshank

One was at Druridge Pool on 7th (FH).

Redshank

A total of 680 was noted during the wader count. In addition 250 were at Berwick Little Beach on 21st (JDL) and 480 roosted at Blyth coal staithes on 23rd (AMB). Up to 30 fed in fields at Ladyburn Lake during the month while inland nine were on the Tyne near Newburn on 17th (STR) and 27 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th (PAB).

Greenshank

Singles were reported from five coastal and three inland localities during the month, the latest and furthest inland being at Grindon Lough on 26th.

Wood Sandpiper

One was at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th.

Terek Sandpiper

A single present in the Blyth Estuary from 6th was presumed to be the individual noted last winter at this locality.

Turnstone

A total of 1136 was noted during the count. An unusual record on 23rd involved two feeding halfway up one of the high sections of cliff N. of St. Mary's Island (IDM). On 23rd 140 roosted at N. Blyth coal staithes.

Pomarine Skua

One-two moved N. at Tynemouth and Seaton Sluice on 7th while on 21st-one-two were also seen from Newbiggin, Hauxley and Beadnell. One flew S. at Bamburgh on 31st.

Arctic Skua

The biggest movement occurred on 21st when 13 flew N. at both Tynemouth and Beadnell (KW/WGJ) while 12 were seen off Hauxley. One-five were noted from seven other sea-watching locations during the month.

Great Skua

There were 14 reports during the month. Three moved N. at both Hauxley and Tynemouth on 21st while the other records involved singles from six other localities.

Mediterranean Gull

The regular adult was noted at Craster between the 12th and 28th. Other adults were noted in the Bamburgh/Budle Bay area on the 13th-14th (AJ/BNR) and at Cresswell Pond on the 27th/28th (DBNR).

Little Gull

At Newbiggin, an adult was noted on 7th (SS) and an individual showing all-dark upperwing flew N. on 19th (MH).

Sabines Gull

A juvenile was flying S. off Holy Island on 26th (IK).

Black-headed Gull

Numbers increased significantly at inland roosts with 8,200 at Hallington on 20th, 6,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th, 4,500 at Scotswood on 23rd and 2,500 at Colt Crag on 21st. On the coast 4,500 roosted at Fenham Flats on 13th and 1,600 in Budle Bay on 14th (BNR). 400-900 were present at Swallow Pond, Boulmer and Big Waters. About 2,000 flew N. in one hour at Hauxley on 21st (DCJ).

Common Gull

Numbers continued to increase with 28,000 roosting at Colt Crag on 21st, 15,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th, 10,000 in Budle Bay on 14th, 800 at Hallington and 700 at Broomlee. Light N. passage was noted at Ordley on 21st (BNR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

20 were at Grindon on 3rd (DCJ). One-ten noted at seven other localities.

Herring Gull

A maximum of 1100 in the Tyne Estuary on 8th. Two birds here on 23rd showed characteristics of the Scandinavian race (DMT). 350 were in the Coquet Estuary on 25th and 180 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 27th.

Glaucous Gull

Single adults were at Seahouses on 10th and at Boulmer on 12th (MW/IK).

Great Black Backed Gull

500 were in the Coquet Estuary on 19th, 383 in Blyth Harbour on 7th with 142 at Hartley and a maximum of 123 at North Shields Fish Quay (JMA/DMT). Inland 35 roosted at Colt Crag on 21st.

Kittiwake

Heavy passage was noted on 19th at Cullercoats with 4,000/hour (KW) and on 21st at Hauxley with up to 3,500/hour (DCJ). 54-60 noted at Amble, Blyth and North Shields. Single birds with flesh-coloured legs were at North Shields on 3rd and 23rd (DMT).

Sandwich Tern

Up to four birds noted at six localities with the last being one at Boulmer on 28th (MHP).

'Commic' Tern

At Hauxley, 30 flew S. in 15 minutes on 5th. One was still present on 28th (HRS).

Common Tern

32 were at Stag Rocks on 1st (ASJ). Noted at five more localities during the month with the last record being a single at Tyne-mouth on 19th (MT).

Arctic Tern

One-six noted at five localities with the last being a single at Hadston on 28th (BG).

Little Tern

One was at Druridge Pool on 4th and another flew N. at Cullercoats on 7th (DBNR/KW).

Black Tern

A single was at Stag Rocks on 10th (ES/WTL) and a juvenile at North Shields Fish Quay on 20th (DMT).

Auk (sp)

N. passage noted on 7th at Cresswell and Seaton Sluice of 100-145/hour (BG/SSWT) and on 21st at Beadnell of 570/hour (WGJ).

Guillemot

Heavy N. passage was recorded at Hauxley on 21st of 700-1000/hour (TPMW/DCJ). 13 corpses were found on the tideline at Newbiggin on 23rd (AP).

Razorbill

The only record was of six at North Blyth on 9th (AMB).

Little Auk

Single birds flew N. at Newbiggin and Hauxley on 21st (SS/TPMW). One was found dead at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Stock Dove

Four-ten noted at Big Waters, Swallow Pond and Holywell Pond.

Woodpigeon

A recently fledged juvenile was at Holywell Dene on 13th (TRC).

Collared Dove

Large gatherings were 200 at Earsdon (ASJ) and 70 at Alndyke (WD) with 10-18 at a further three localities. A leucistic bird was at Wideopen on 5th and 15th (DM).

Barn Owl

Singles present at East Chevington, Druridge Bay C.P. and Hauxley (MF/DCJ). A road casualty was found at Red Row on the 10th (SL).

Little Owl

One was at Druridge on 29th (MGA).

Tawny Owl

Singles reported from Hauxley, Chathill, Walbottle, Holywell, Berwick and Gosforth.

Long-eared Owl

Well reported on the coast with two birds at Holy Island on 21st and Hauxley on 24th (ADM.DBNR) and one at Newbiggin on 18th (JGS) and Whitley Bay on 23rd (ES). Inland one was at Catcleugh on 8th (DCJ).

Short-eared Owl

Noted at 12 coastal or near-coastal localities through the month with the highest count being two at Hauxley on 27th (HRS). Arrivals from the E were noted at Fenham Mill on 14th (BG/AJJ) and Seaton Sluice on 15th (HDP).

Swift

Late birds were seen at five coastal localities finishing with singles at Newton Pool and Craster on 28th (MGA/ADM/WGS).

Kingfisher

The encouraging picture continues with birds reported from 11 localities.

Green Woodpecker

One was at Mitford on 30th (DM).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

A significant influx on the coast between the 18th - 28th with a maximum of seven at Holy Island on 20th (ASJ/MJS/IK), two at Hauxley on several dates (HRS/DBNR) and at Priors Park on 18th (CB), and singles at Newbiggin, Bamburgh, North Shields and Cresswell. Inland one was at Brandon on 28th (AMB) and one fed on peanuts in Walbottle on 7th (L&KR).

Skylark

Main dates of passage were 1st at Newton Pool, 5th at Hauxley, 13th at Bamburgh, Longhoughton, Ordley, Newburn and Hauxley and 23rd-24th at Bamburgh and Hauxley. General direction was to S.

Sand Martin

Singles noted at four localities. The last was seen at North Shields on 27th (CB).

Swallow

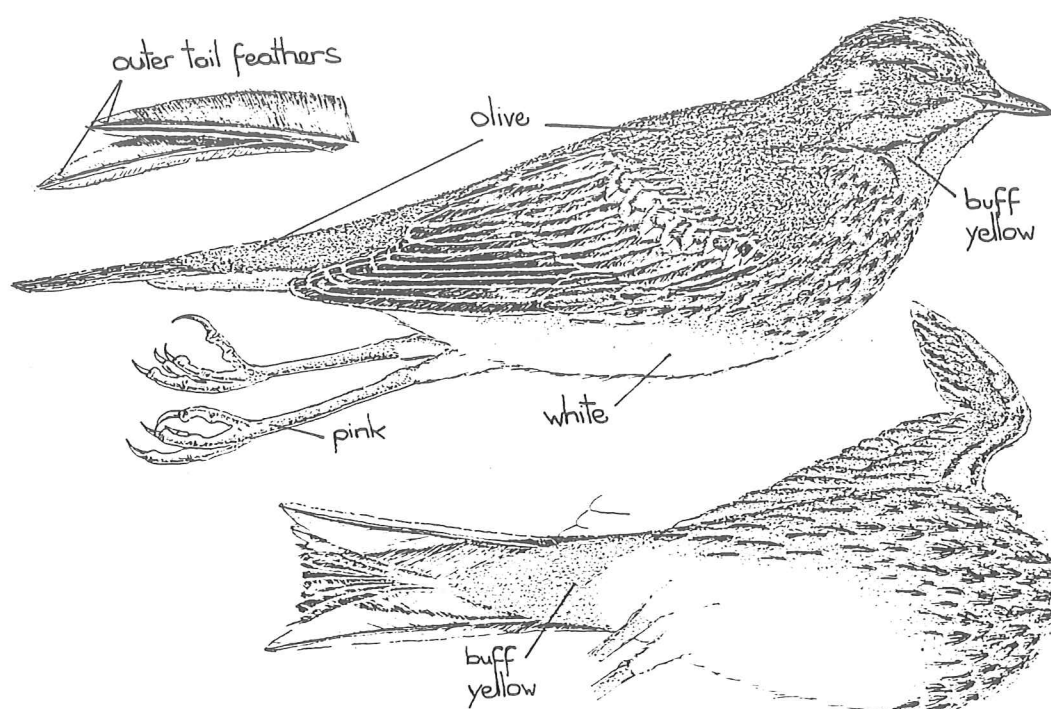
Reports were received from 19 coastal and nine inland localities. Highest counts were 30 at Wallington on 7th and Ordley on 9th (RKS/BNR) and 25 on Holy Island on 6th (LJM). The last record was of one in Upper Coquet on 29th (JMA).

House Martin

Reports from 12 coastal and only two inland localities included counts of 25 at Tynemouth on 11th (MT) and 20 flying S. at Druridge on 14th (ASJ). The last birds were seen on 28th at Tynemouth and Whitley Bay (CB.MSH).

Olive-backed Pipit

One was trapped at Hauxley on 18th (HRS) and another was seen at Woodhorn Church, Newbiggin from 21st-23rd (AHB/JGS et al).



OLIVE - BACKED PIPIT

A.S.W.

Meadow Pipit

Heavy S. passage was noted at Westerhope on 1st (BG).

Rock Pipit

Ten were at Hadston, three at Hauxley and one at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (HRS/LJM).

Grey Wagtail

Coastal records included three birds on Howick beach on the 6th (RKS) and at Hauxley on 27th (HRS). Single birds were reported from a further three inland and three coastal localities.

Pied Wagtail

50 were at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR).

White Wagtail

Two were found at Holywell Pond on 3rd and one at Boulmer on 6th (KWY/RKS).

Waxwing

The first record of one at Newbiggin on 19th (BB/DS) heralded a general influx with birds seen from 20th-30th at eight coastal and two inland localities. The highest counts were 12 moving S. at Bamburgh on 22nd and 25 at Amble Braid on 29th (BRS/JMA).

Dipper

Noted at Stanton Mill, West Woodburn, Rothbury and Waren Mill. One was singing on the Upper Rede on 21st (MH).

Wren

Some evidence for an influx with 21 at Holy Island on 18th (MJS), 20 at Newbiggin on 20th (JGS) and a considerable increase in numbers at Priors Park in the period 18th-21st (CB).

Dunnock

Numbers increased at Priors Park from 18th-21st and small parties were seen flying S. (CB).

Robin

Many arrived between the 18th and 27th with 1000 at Holy Island on 20th including 112 in one field (IK). Other large coastal counts included 250 at Tynemouth on 18th (CB), 70 at Hauxley on 20th (HRS) and 40-50 at Craster, Hadston, Druridge Bay C.P., Newbiggin and Bamburgh.

Nightingale

One was caught at Priors Park on 24th and it or another was seen in the same area on the 26th (CB).

Black Redstart

The first influx was between the 13th and 15th with two at Holy Island (PAB/MT) and singles at four other coastal localities. Large numbers were reported from 19th-31st with a maximum of eight at Holy Island (IK) and one-two reported from 11 coastal or near-coastal localities. One flew into a house at Beadnell in the early hours of the 14th to be released at daybreak (per WGJ).

Redstart

Singles were at Hauxley, Hadston and Holy Island on 13th (HRS/DCJ). From 18th-25th, the number of records increased with three birds at Newbiggin on 21st (JGS), two at Whitley Bay on 23rd (MDP) and singles at Holy Island, Blyth and Holywell Dene. One was well-inland at Borough Woods, Morpeth on 25th (JMA).

Whinchat

One-two recorded through the month at six coastal or near-coastal localities.

Stonechat

One-two noted through the month at seven coastal localities. Records increased from 18th with three birds at Blyth on 20th (SPP), Druridge Bay C.P. on 21st (TAC/BG), Bamburgh on 22nd (BRS) and Warkworth Gut on 28th (GB/AIB). One was well inland at Whittle Dene on 21st (MR).

Siberian Stonechat

Singles reported from St Marys Island on 18th (MPF/ASJ/GPB), Newbiggin on 20th (SS) and Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Wheatear

Noted in small numbers at 17 coastal localities through the month.

Ring Ousel

The only records early in the month were two at Cullercoats on 3rd (KW) and one-two at Newbiggin on 13th (JGS). From 18th-28th they were well-reported from 16 coastal localities with highest counts of 15 at Newbiggin (TJT), ten at Craster (TRC) eight at Holy Island (IK), seven at Hauxley (HRS) and six at Bamburgh (BRS). Inland two birds were at Big Waters from 24th-28th (AJJ/DM) and a male was in the Wark Forest on 23rd (DCJ).

Blackbird

Only small numbers were noted before the 18th, the highest count being 57 at Hauxley on 13th. Large numbers arrived from the 18th onwards with 'thousands' at Druridge Bay (TAC) and on Holy Island from 20th-22nd (IK) when 1,000 at Hauxley (HRS), 500 at Newbiggin (JGS), 300 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 200-300 at Craster (TRC/MSH). Numbers increased inland from 20th with 27-30 at Morpeth and Whittle Dene (A&LB/MR) and 100 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (RMH). Birds were heard calling moving SW on evening on 29th at Ordley (BNR).

Fieldfare

Little passage was observed before the 20th: 150 were at Cresswell on 10th (DBNR) with 42 at Hauxley and 24 at Stamfordham on 12th. A tremendous influx occurred on the coast on the 20th with huge numbers on Holy Island possibly reaching 20,000 (ASJ), 5,000 at Newbiggin (JGS), 3,500 at Tynemouth (CB), 3,000 at Craster, 2,000 at Boulmer and Hadston (TRC), 2-3000 at St Mary's Island (MT/ASJ), and 'thousands' at Druridge Bay (TAC). Inland, movement was first noted on the 20th at Newburn with 1,383 flying SW/S in 90 minutes (STR) but was much more marked on 21st with over one thousand birds noted at Netherwitton, Morpeth, Ordley, Derwent Reservoir and Bradford Kaims (A&LB/BNR/BRS). Subsequent large numbers noted included 'thousands' in the Milbourne area from 22nd-25th and at Big Waters on the 22nd. 2,000 at Whittle Dene on the 27th, 1,200 at Stamfordham on 23rd (WGJ/AJJ/MR/EB) and 4,000 fresh arrivals at Swallow Pond on 22nd (L&KR).

Song Thrush

Only small numbers reported until the 16th when 41 were at Hauxley (HRS). An influx then brought 200 to Newbiggin (TRC) on 18th and 140-150 to Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Redwing

Between the 1st and 7th, 10-25 were noted at Tyne-mouth, Hauxley and Ordley. A significant movement was noted on 14th with 400 at Newbiggin (LJM), a peak arrival rate of 3,000/hour at Holy Island (BG) and several hundred arriving at Bamburgh (BRS). Movement continued on the 18th with 2,000 at Hauxley (HRS) and 1,000 at Newbiggin (TRC), being followed by huge numbers on the 20th with an estimated 15-20,000 on Holy Island (ASJ), 5,000 at Tyne-mouth (CB), 4,000 at Newbiggin (JGS), 2,000 at St Marys Island (ASJ/MT), 1,500 at Hauxley (HRS), 1,000 at Bamburgh (BRS), Craster and Hadston (TRC) and 'thousands' at Druridge Bay (TAC). Inland, flocks of 60-262 were found on 19th-20th at Morpeth, Riding Mill, Bellingham, Whittle Dene, Slaley and Newburn with the largest counts being on the 21st of 600 at Morpeth (A&LB) and 1,200 flying SW at Ordley (BNR). At Swallow Pond on 22nd, 800 vacated roosts and a further 500 new arrivals were noted from the east (SP/L&KR).

Mistle Thrush

25-30 were at Swallow Pond on 8th (SP) and at Slaley Hall from the 9th (RMH). Small numbers arrived with other thrushes: two birds were on Newbiggin Point on 20th (JGS) and 20-30 arrived at Bamburgh between 20th-23rd (BRS).

Grasshopper Warbler

One was at Newbiggin on 21st (JGS), this is the 8th October sighting and latest on record.

Reed Warbler

Singles were trapped at Hauxley on 19th and 27th. Two were present on 20th (HRS).

Great Reed Warbler

One was trapped at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ/DM). This is the second report of the species in the county in 1990.

Barred Warbler

Singles were at Newbiggin on 19th-20th (MJS/AIB) and Bamburgh on 21st (BRS).

Lesser Whitethroat

One was in Holywell Dene on 7th (TRC). Between 19th-27th singles were at Holy Island, Craster, Hauxley, Newbiggin and Whitley Bay. One trapped at Hauxley on 23rd and 27th was considered to be of the race 'Hume's Lesser Whitethroat', s.c. althaea, and may have been present since 19th (HRS).

Whitethroat

One was at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS).

Garden Warbler

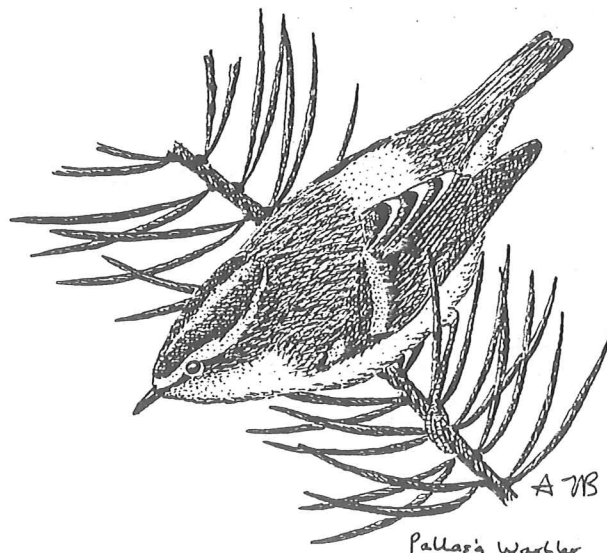
Between 18th-23rd singles were at Holy Island, Craster, Newbiggin and Prior's Park.

Blackcap

Well represented along the coast between 13th-27th with one-ten in 14 localities. Inland singles were at Big Waters on 22nd and Threestoneburn on 27th (AJJ/AMB). 43 were ringed at Hauxley and 13 at Bamburgh during the month (HRS/BRS).

Pallas's Warbler

One was at Prior's Park on 19th and 22nd (CB). This will represent the 28th record for the county.



Pallas's Warbler

Yellow-Browed Warbler

Singles were at Holy Island on 13th (KD) and Hauxley on 13-14th (HRS)

Radde's Warbler

One was at Craster on 27th (TRC/MHp et al). This will be the 6th record for the county and the first since 1988.

Dusky Warbler

Singles were at St. Mary's Island on 18th (JRT) and one was trapped at Druridge Bay C.P. on 20th. These will be the 6th and 7th records for the county.

Wood Warbler

One was on Holy Island on 13th-14th (MT/DCJ). This is the latest on record.

Chiff Chaff

Singles were at Matfen on 6th and 10th (RW). An influx from 13th was noted with one-four in 14 coastal localities, although there were seven in Holywell Dene on 21st (TRC), six at Newbiggin on 27th (JGS) and five on Holy Island on 22nd and Hauxley on 25th. Birds showing the characteristics of the Siberian race, *P.C. tristis*, were at St. Mary's Island on 18th-19th (MPF/ASJ), Newbiggin on 20th (SS) and Briardene on 21st (KWY). Two trapped at Druridge Bay C.P. on 20th showed characteristics of the race *P.C. abietinus* (TAC).

Willow Warbler

Singles were trapped at Hauxley on 17th (HRS) and Bamburgh on 21st (BRS). The last was one at Newbiggin on 24th (LJM).

Goldcrest

Only small numbers were noted during the first 16 days. A massive influx occurred on 20th-21st with birds all along the coast. Estimated numbers included many hundreds on Holy Island (IK), 1,000 + in Druridge Bay C.P. (TRC) and in Prior's Park (CB), 400 were at Craster (JGS) and at Hauxley, 300 at Newbiggin and 10-20 at 15 other localities. 493 were ringed at Hauxley during the month, with 92 at Bamburgh between 20th-23rd and 55 in four hours at Druridge Bay C.P. on 21st (HRS/BRS/TAC).

Firecrest

Singles were at Blyth Cemetery on 21st (TJT), Bamburgh on 22nd and 26th (BRS) and Hauxley on 25th (HRS).

Spotted Flycatcher

One was at Cresswell on 7th (SS).

Pied Flycatcher

A single was at Newton Pool on 4th (ISD) and two at Horton on 7th (LJM).

Long-Tailed Tit

Well represented throughout the month. The largest tribes were 50 at Big Waters on 25th (DM) and Druridge Bay C.P. on 20th (TAC). 30 at Westerhope on 18th, 28 at Prior's Park on 28th, 25 at Howick Haven on 28th and 22 at Hexham on 26th. One-20 were at 23 other localities. 29 were ringed at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ) and 24 at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Marsh Tit

Singles were at Craster and Hulne Park.

Willow Tit

Singles noted at Holywell Dene, Slaley Hall, Craster, Gosforth Park, and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Coal Tit

Eight were at Netherwitton on 21st (A&LB) and a single at Prior's Park on 26th (CB).

Nuthatch

Singles noted at Holywell Dene, Newborough and Nunwick.

Treecreeper

Three were at Delaval Hall on 27th (KWY), two were at Hauxley on 12th (HRS), at Netherwitton on 21st and Gosforth Park on 23rd. One showing characteristics of the Northern race was at Blyth Park on 11th and 15th (MDP).

Great Grey Shrike

One was trapped at Hauxley on 18th (HRS). Between 21st-23rd another was in the Hauxley area (DBNR et al). Other singles were at Blyth Park on 19th (BB) and Whitley Bay Cemetery between 23rd-25th (ES/WTL et al).

Jay

Noted at Gosforth Park and Netherwitton.

Magpie

Nine were at Big Waters on 15th (DM) and Derwent Reservoir on 30th (RMH). More unusual was one on Holy Island between 13th-26th (IK).

Jackdaw

1,000 were at W.Heddon on 20th (L&KR) and 250 at Housesteads on 28th (BNR).

Rook

600 were at W.Heddon on 20th (L&KR).

Carrion Crow

52 roosted at Sweethope on 7th (BNR).

Hooded Crow

Singles were at Newbiggin on 20th (GB/ASJ), Bradford Kaims on 24th (BRS) and Howick between 26th-29th (MJS/MGA).

Starling

Flocks up to 500 + were coming in daily off the sea at Bamburgh between 20th-27th (BRS). 800 were at Hauxley on 27th (HRS).

Tree Sparrow

100 were at Beal Road Ends on 31st (ES/WTL) and 13 at Holywell Dene on 13th (TRC).

Chaffinch

200 were at Bellingham on 11th (DCJ). Parties of up to 50 were at Allenbanks and W.Woodburn.

Brambling

An influx from 18th brought up to 80 at Hauxley (HRS), 40 at Holy Island (IK) 20 at Newbiggin and Prior's Park with 17 at Whitley Bay Cemetery. One-15 noted at four other coastal sites. Inland four were at Bellingham on 23rd (DCJ) and a single at Big Waters on 22nd (AJJ).

Greenfinch

100 were at Calder on 13th (AMB), 90 at Lesbury on 14th. 80 at Hauxley on 4th and Whitley Bay Cemetery on 20th.

Goldfinch

The largest charm was 10 at W.Woodburn on 27th.

Siskin

300 were at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 19th and 200 at Falstone on 29th (DCJ). Coastal records involved 60 at Craster on 27th (TRC), 56 flying west at Bamburgh on 14th (BRS), 20 at Hauxley on 27th (HRS) and 10 at Newbiggin on 14th.

Linnet

Large flocks involved 300 at Ingoe on 4th (RW), 200 at Holy Island on 5th (AJH) and 150 at Calder on 13th (AMB).

Twite

10 were at Newbiggin on 22nd (KD), five at Hauxley on 28th (HRS) and three at Druridge Bay on 20th (FH).

Redpoll

A flock of 13 flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 27th (KWY). 15 were at Hauxley on 18th (HRS).

Mealy Redpoll

One was at Prior's Park on 21st (TRC).

Crossbill

Well represented in the county throughout the month. Small flocks were common at Threestoneburn (AMB), 100 were at Byrness on 2nd (PWW), 40-50 in Wark Forest on 10th and 30 at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 19th (DCJ). Coastal passage was again noted with an influx between 20th-22nd of four at Newbiggin (AP et al), and Druridge Bay C.P.(TAC), and two at Hauxley (HRS). Three were at N. Shields on 27th (CB) and 10 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 28th (PAB).

Bullfinch

Six were at Gosforth Park on 21st (ISD), and five at Morpeth on 20th (A&LB). Singles of the northern race were at Hauxley on 21st and 27th (HRS).

Lapland Bunting

One at Hauxley on 13th was the first arrival, increasing to five by 17th (HRS). Five were on Holy Island on 16th (MJS). Singles noted at Newbiggin on 22nd (JGS) and Craster on 27th (TRC).

Snow Bunting

Two on the tideline at Druridge Bay on 7th (MF) were the first arrivals. Nine were at Newbiggin on 31st (AP) and two on Holy Island on 23rd. Singles noted at three other localities.

Pine Bunting

A male was found at Bamburgh on 21st and was seen briefly again on two occasions on 22nd (BRS). This is the second record of this species in the county this year.

Yellowhammer

A flock of 60-70 were at Horton throughout the month (LJM). On the coast three were at St. Mary's Island on 20th (IDM) and one at Prior's Park on 20th (CB).

Rustic Bunting

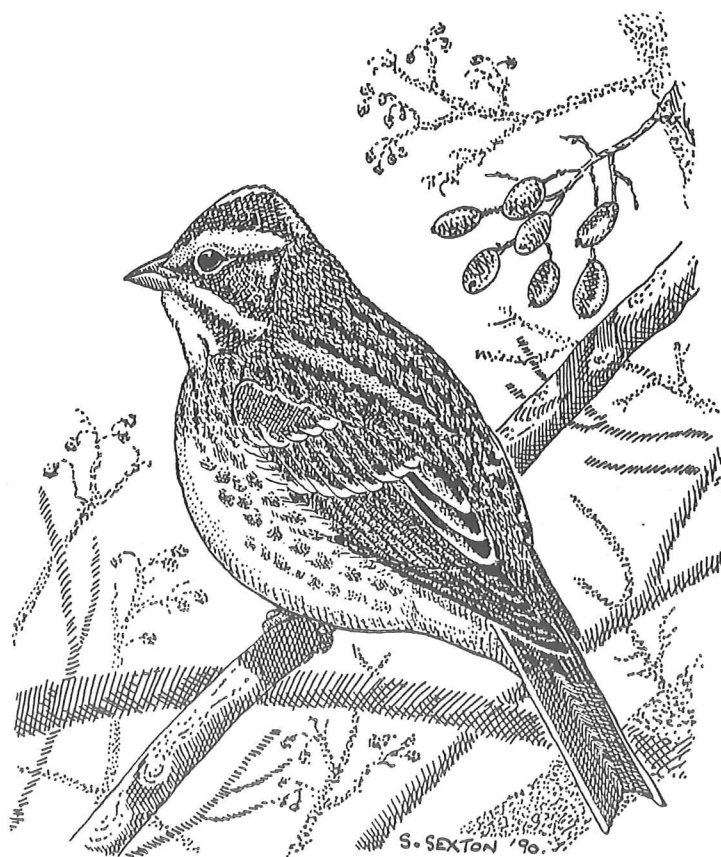
One was at Newbiggin between 18th-21st (CB/TRC/JGS et al). This will be the 8th record for the county.

Reed Bunting

Five were at the pond at St. Mary's Island on the 14th and three were on the island on 28th (IDM).

Corn Bunting

Four were at Hauxley on 28th (HRS) and a single at Whittle Dene (MR).



Please send all November records, in Vooous order, to B.N.Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, NE46 1SX by 8th December at the latest.

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A & L Brunt	D C Jardine	S Snart
C P Bull	W G Johnson	J G Steele
B Bullough	A J Johnston	R K Stephenson
P A Buskin	I Kerr	T J Tams
ML & TA Cadwallender	J L Knowles	M Thomson
I Chadwick	P Knowles	A L Todd
T R Cleeves	W T Logan	J R Todd
E Crabtree	J D Lough	D M Turner
A Curry	S Lowe	L Walton
I S Davidson	L J McDougall	R Walton
A J Davis	J D McElwee	T P A Watson
K Dawson	D McKeown	P W West
W Dickson	A D McLevy	M Winter
I R Douglas	B Mecrow	N Wiseman
N Dyson	G W Moon	K W York
J E Fergusson	I D Moorhouse	D & S Younger
I Fisher	A P Mossop	Bamburgh Ringing Station
N Foggo	S Parnaby	Druridge Bay Nature Reserve
M P Frankis	M D Plenty	Hauxley Ringing Station
B Galloway	A Priest	Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

This months bulletin has been prepared by I.Kerr, A J Johnston, D McKeown and B N Rossiter. Illustrations of Olive-backed Pipit (cover) and Rustic Bunting by S. Sexton, Water Rail and Pallas' Warbler by A J Booth, and Oliver-backed Pipit (dead) by A S Hart.

INDOOR MEETING - 13th DECEMBER 1990

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th December 1990 in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00pm, prompt. Our guest speaker is John Stowger who will talk on the 'Dotterel in the North'.

FIELD TRIPS

After the Norfolk trip there will be a change in the procedure for booking places on future outings. The new arrangements will be as follows: Prior to any field trip a booking form will appear in your bulletin if you wish to go on the outing it must be completed and returned to:- MARTIN DAVISON, 4 NORTH VIEW, STOCKSFIELD, NORTHUMBERLAND NE43 7JN, to arrive no less than seven days before the date of the trip. If you do not wish to damage your bulletin a letter with the relevant information will be acceptable.

MARTIN DAVISON



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

MONTHLY SUMMARY NOVEMBER 1990

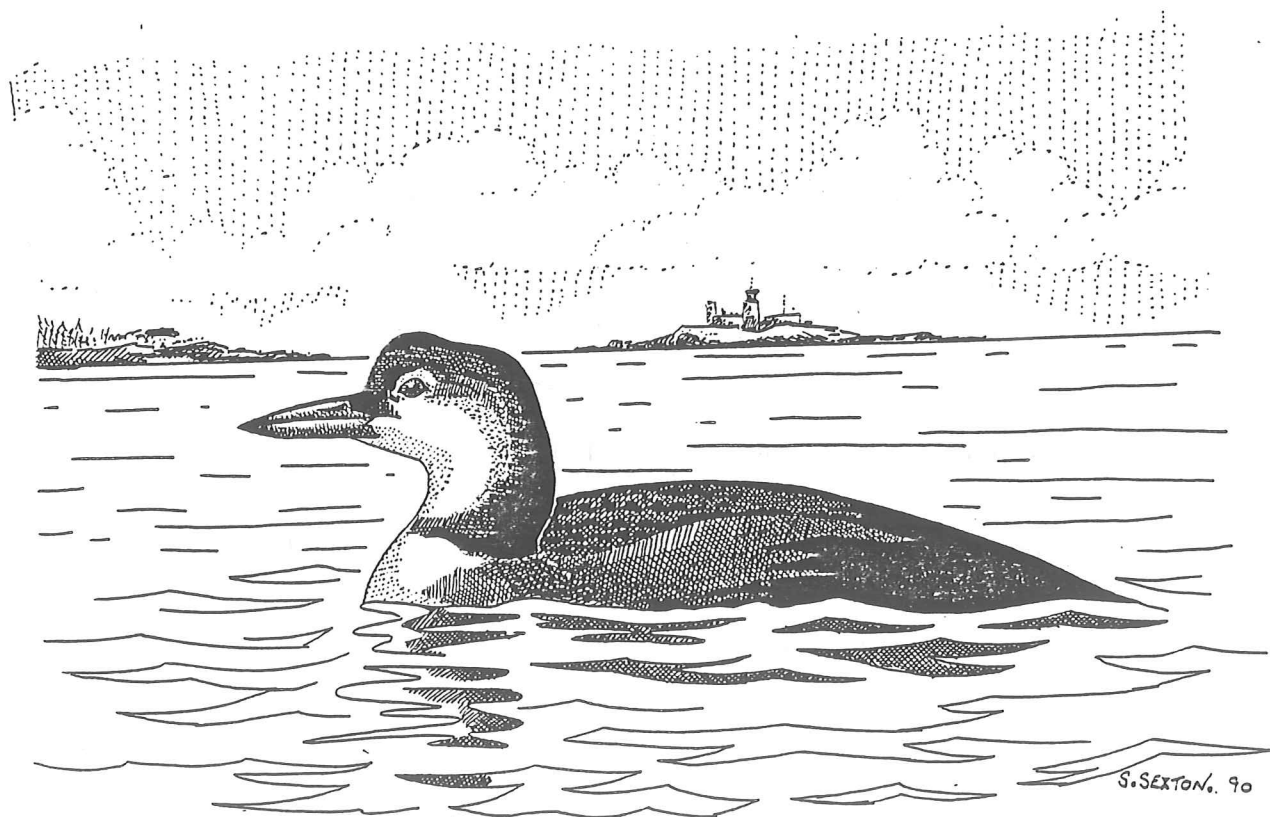
November was typically cold and wet, with rain occurring on most days. The final week saw temperatures drop and ground frost being noted, winds were often from the N. bringing an increase in wintering wildfowl.

Whooper and Bewick's Swans were noted in numbers from the Cresswell-Druridge area. A drake Mandarin Duck was in the same localities from 9th-11th. Smew were recorded from four ponds but the pick of the wildfowl was a drake Surf Scoter at Seaton Sluice on 3rd.

Signs of winter arriving were shown by the first Gloucous Gulls at N.Shields & Druridge Pool, an Iceland Gull was at Holywell as was an adult Little Gull. Little Auks were noted at ten coastal localities between 2nd-7th.

One of the highlights of the month was an impressive number of Waxwings mostly centred around Newcastle however lingering summer visitors included Swallow, Garden Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff. Flocks of Finches and Buntings began to form with impressive numbers of Crossbills with 'tens of thousands' in Kielder. Gatherings of up to 65 Twite were noted at four areas.

Other unusual or interesting species included Great Northern Diver, Sooty Shearwater, Buzzard, Little Stint, Terek Sandpiper, Water Pipit, White Wagtail and Hooded Crow.



Reg. Charity No. 517641

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

Up 20 were in Druridge Bay on 5th (DM). Nine flew N. in three hours at Newbiggin on 4th (JGS), five were at Holy Island on 24th (ES) and one-three at eight other localities.

Black-throated Diver

Two flew N. at Newbiggin on 4th (JGS) and two were in Druridge Bay on 8th (MGA).

Great Northern Diver

Singles noted at Druridge Bay, Berwick, Stag Rocks and North Shields. Two flew N. at Newbiggin on 3rd, where three flew N. on 4th.

Little Grebe

18 were at Cresswell Pond on 24th/30th (IF/TRC). Four were at Whittle Dene on 3rd and Ladyburn Lake D.B.C.P. on 25th (MR/TAC). One-two were at another six localities.

Great Crested Grebe

One-two were on the sea in Druridge Bay throughout the month. The only other record was of two on Druridge Pools on 10th (MT).

Red-necked Grebe

Three were off Stag Rocks on 11th (BRS).

Slavonian Grebe

Four were at Stag Rocks on 11th (BRS) and three at Lindisfarne on 8th (IK). One was at Cresswell on 7th (ES).

Black-necked Grebe

Three were in the Coquet Estuary on 7th (JMH). Inland a single was at Whittle Dene on 10th (JSB).

Sooty Shearwater

Singles flew N. at Newbiggin on 2nd and at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (JGS/RF).

Cormorant

93 were at Blyth Harbour on 18th (LJM), 34 at North Shields Fish Quay on 23rd (DM) and 63 at Amble Harbour on 25th (SS). Inland 19 were at Whittle Dene on 12th (JSB) and one-ten at another nine localities.

Shag

600-800 were between Ross and Stag Rocks on 11th (BRS).

Grey Heron

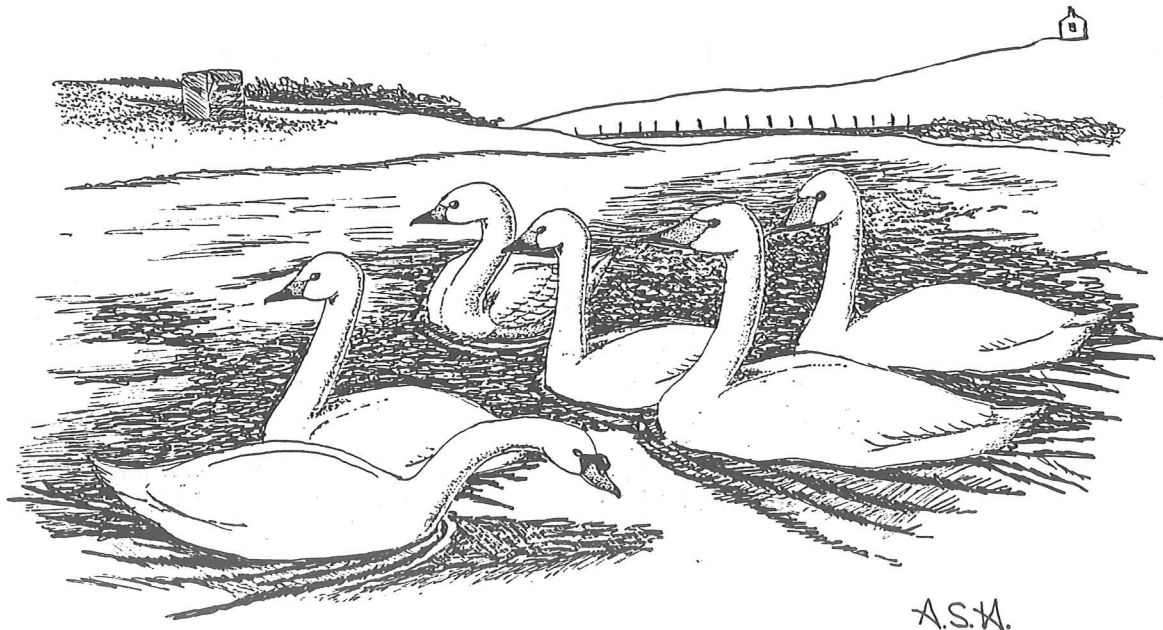
Ten were at Newton Pool on 3rd (ISD) and four at Whittle Dene on 17th (JSB).

Mute Swan

55 were at Berwick on 4th (DCJ), 16 at Sweethope Lough on 11th (JMH) and 26 at Cresswell Pond on 21st (ES).

Bewick's Swan

Between 7th-24th one-six were in the Cresswell-Druridge area with a maximum of eight at Cresswell Pond on 10th (ES et al).

Whooper Swan

Numbers built up in the Cresswell-Druridge area till 127 were at Cresswell Pond on 21st (ES). 47 were at Grindon Lough on 4th (RKS), 43 at Rayburn Lake on 25th and two-nine at Whittle Dene, Newton Pool, Big Waters, Holywell Pond Broomlee Lough and Sweethope Lough.

Pink-footed Goose

80 flew over Pawston Lake on 3rd (ISD), 95 flew SW at Kielder on 17th (BNR), 35 roosted at Grindon Lough on 18th and 52 flew over Benton on 20th (IF).

White fronted Goose

One was at Elwick on 8th (IK) and four-five at Holywell Pond on 9th-11th (BR/MT/PAB). Four were at Newton Pool on 18th-19th (MF).

Greylag Goose

The largest herds were of 345 at Grindon Lough on 3rd (RKS), 316 at Holywell Pond on 11th (MT) and 298 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (BNR). 240 flew SW over Kielder on 17th.

Canada Goose

80 roosted at Colt Crag on 11th (BNR), 90 were at Hallington on 17th (L&KR), 34 flew N. at Big Waters on 14th (SP) and 27 were at Capheaton on 21st (MLC).

Barnacle Goose

Five were at Grindon Lough on 17th (RKS) while singles were at Colt Crag on 11th and Hallington on 17th.

Brent Goose

On 4th 60 flew N. at Newbiggin and 23 flew N. at Seaton Sluice (JGS/MSH).

Bar-headed Goose

One was with Canada Geese at Colt Crag on 11th and at Hallington on 17th (BNR/L&KR).

Shelduck

400 were in Budle Bay on 24th (ES). A single was at Big Waters on 3rd (AJJ).

Mandarin Duck

A male was at Druridge Pool on 9th, at Cresswell Pond on 10th and on the sea at Cresswell on 11th (JEF et al).

Wigeon

432 were at Cresswell Pond on 24th (TRC), 244 at Grindon Lough on 3rd, 200 at Budle Bay on 24th and 114 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th. 64-87 were also at Whittle Dene and Rothley Lakes.

Gadwall

A pair were at Ladyburn Lake DBCP all month (TAC). Single males were at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR), Big Waters on 18th (AJJ) and Amble harbour on 24th (TRC).

Teal

The largest gatherings were of 250 at Holburn Moss on 18th (ISD) and Swallow Pond on 24th (ES). 125-200 were at Newton Pool, Druridge-Cresswell Pond, Big Waters, Grindon Lough and Crag Lough.

Mallard

418 were at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ), 342 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (L&KR) when 280 at Pawston Lake (ISD), 203 were on the sea at Cresswell on 11th (JRT) and 50-198 at a further nine localities.

Pintail

Three were at Big Waters on 1st (DM) and singles at Cresswell-Druridge between 5th-24th and at Tyne Green on 18th (AJR).

Shoveler

Only two-five noted at Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough Swallow Pond and Big Waters.

Pochard

Numbers increased at Ladyburn Lake from 60 on 1st to a peak of 169 on 20th (TAC), 79 were at Holywell Pond on 25th (TRC) and 41 at Big Waters on 18th (DM/AJJ).

Tufted Duck

220 were at Druridge Pool on 11th (JRT) 85 at Ladyburn Lake (TAC), 43 at Big Waters and 15-33 at Whittle Dene, Holywell Pond and Pawston Lake.

Scaup

14 flew N. at Newbiggin on 3rd (JGS). The coastal pools in Druridge Bay held maxima of 16 at Ladyburn Lake on 21st (ES/DRS), 12 at Druridge Pools on 11th (JRT), 11 at Hauxley on 10th (AJB) and eight at Cresswell Pond on 7th. A single was at Holywell Pond on 10th (TRC) where four present on 21st (MT). Further inland a single duck was at Big Waters on 14th (L&KR).

Eider

300 were at Lindisfarne on 8th (IK).

Long-tailed Duck

53 flew N. at Newbiggin on 4th (JGS). One-three were on Ladyburn Lake and Druridge Pool throughout the month. Seven were at Stag Rocks on 18th (BRS). A single duck was at Grindon Lough on 23rd-24th (DCJ/RKS/JSB).

Surf Scoter

A drake was at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (RF/KWR).

Common Scoter

About 1,000 were at Stag Rocks on 24th (ES/DRS) and in Druridge Bay on 10th (PAB). 101 flew N. in three hours at Newbiggin on 4th (JGS). Singles were on Ladyburn Lake on 5th/27th (IF/TAC).

Velvet Scoter

14 flew N. at Berwick on 4th (JDL) with six-eight N. at Newbiggin and St. Mary's Island. 12 were in Druridge Bay on 9th (IF).

Goldeneye

Peak numbers on or near the coast involved 120 in Druridge Bay on 5th (DM) when 70 at Ladyburn Lake and 60 at Seaton Sluice. 65 were at Castle Island on 28th (ASH). Peak inland counts involved 128 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (RMH), 77 on R. Tyne at Newburn on 12th (L&KR) and 47 at Whittle Dene on 10th (JSB).

Smew

Single 'redheads' were at Druridge Pool on 10th/15th, at Bothal Pond on 11th and at Spindleston on 18th. One-two 'redheads' were at Big Waters between 16th-30th (AJJ et al).

Red-breasted Merganser

20 were in Druridge Bay on 5th (DM). A maximum of 66 were on Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 24th (TRC). Inland a single was at Bakethin Reservoir on 6th (DCJ).

Goosander

69 were at Whittle Dene on 17th (MR), 33 on R Tyne at Wylam on 11th (MRA) and one-seven at a further seven localities.

Hen Harrier

Adults males were hunting in Wark Forest on 12th and 19th (PS/DCJ) and at Harwood Forest on 17th (IK).

Sparrowhawk

Singles were reported from 12 areas during the month. Birds hunted through gardens at Matfen (RW) and Walbottle (L&KR) while an immature female attacked and fatally injured but could not carry off a Black-headed Gull at Druridge Pool (SS/JWR). One ringed as a one-year-old at Threestoneburn in 1988 was retrapped there for a second time.

Common Buzzard

A single was seen in the Druridge area on 10th (AJB/ADM/DS) and again on 16th (IK), on both occasions being mobbed by crows (sp).

Kestrel

Two-three were present throughout the month at Druridge Bay C.P. (TAC). Singles at Derwent, Berwick and Wallsend were the only other reports.

Merlin

Singles were reported from four coastal areas while an immature female was at Boulmer throughout the month. Single were in three inland areas, including an immature male hunting Crossbills at Falstone.

Peregrine

Two were at Lindisfarne on 8th (IK) while singles in four other coastal localities included a female hunting a wader roost at Chevington Burn (AP). Two were seen in inland areas.

Red Grouse

Nine on moors near Catcleugh (A&LB) was the only report.

Black Grouse

A single near Sweethope on 10th (JMH) was the first seen in the area by the observer for two years. Seven roosted in hawthorns at Kingswood Burn on 28th (ES/WTL).

Grey Partridge

The largest coveys were 15 at Druridge Bay C.P., 12 at Whitley Bay golf course, ten at Styford and eight at Howick.

Pheasant

A partial albino was at Arcot Hall on 5th.

Water Rail

One-two were in wintering quarters at Holywell, Newton Pool, Gosforth Park and Big Waters but much more unusual was a single in a roadside ditch at almost 1,000 feet near Elsdon Gibbet on 17th.

Moorhen

Up to 45 birds regularly fed in a field adjacent to Holywell Pond (DM/SPP).

Coot

Peak counts were 328 at Big Waters, 128 at Ladyburn Lake, while 95 at Sweethope Lough on 18th (AJR) was the highest count ever by the observer at that locality.

WADER COUNTS

17th-18th. Cards were received for the following stretches: Blyth S. Pier-Seaton Sluice (KVB), Blyth Estuary (LJM), North Blyth-Newbiggin (MGA), Cresswell-Chevington (EC/MRS/DGB/ISD), Alnmouth-Boulmer (ES,WTL), Boulmer-Howick (IK), Beadnell-Seahouse (MC.AS), Seahouses-Budle Point (PK) and Tweed Estuary (CK).

Oystercatcher

A total of 835 were found during the monthly count. 55 roosted on St.Mary's Island on 12th.

Ringed Plover

The monthly count showed 140 along the coast. In addition 45-50 were near St.Mary's Island on 12th (SPP) and 79 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL).

Golden Plover

Only 720 were noted on the coastal count. However, 800 were at Newton on 3rd (ISD) and 500 at Cresswell on 24th (TRC). Large flocks inland included 540 at Grindon Lough (RKS), 400 at Woolsington (LJM), 250-300 at Wallsend Swallow Pond and 200 at Whittle Dene. Four parties totalling 68 were still on high moors near Catcleugh on 4th (A&LB).

Grey Plover

A total of 80 were found on the monthly count. 50 were in Budle Bay on 24th while one at Whittle Dene on 10th was the only inland record (JSB).

Lapwing

There were 1,389 noted on the monthly count. The largest flock during the month was 1,000 at Cresswell Pond on 24th but in mild conditions many remained inland. Larger gatherings were 529 at Grindon Lough, 400 at Hallington (BNR) and 550 at Woolsington (EB,LJM).

Knot

The peak count at St.Mary's Island was 269 on 12th (SPP). 75 were at Cambois and 25 at Howick Haven during the month (AMB, ISD).

Sanderling

Although only 86 were found on the monthly count, 140 were in Berwick Harbour on 4th (JCD), 92 at Chevington on 10th (JRT) while 43 were at Tynemouth and St.Mary's Island during the month.

Little Stint

A single was reported from Wallsend Swallow Pond on 13th.

Curlew Sandpiper

A juvenile was at Blyth Estuary between 2nd-9th (AJB/JMcL/IF).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 243 were between Seahouses-Budle Point on 20th. Only four-ten were noted in three other areas.

Dunlin

The monthly count produced a total of 1,471 along the coastline. In addition, there were counts of 370 at Berwick Little Beach and 200 roosting at St.Mary's Island during the month. Birds lingered inland with a maximum of seven at Whittle Dene on 25th (MR) with one-two also being noted at Hallington and Big Waters.

Ruff

Two, one with a broken leg, remained at Cresswell Pond until at least the 28th while one was at North Blyth on 29th. Inland one remained at Wallsend Swallow Pond until at least the 15th and two were last reported at Whittle Dene on 17th (MR).

Jack Snipe

One was at Whittle Dene on 10th and 13th (EB/JSB).

Snipe

The largest groups were 75 at Cresswell Pond (AJB et al), 72 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (PAB), 21 at Grindon Lough (RKS), 20 at Whittle Dene (MR) and 12 at Big Waters (DM). Up to nine were found at Anick Pond, Hexham (RMH).

Woodcock

Five near Newton Pool on 4th was the only report (ISD).

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were in Budle Bay between 11th-25th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Only 32 were noted during the monthly count.

Curlew

The monthly count produced only 66 birds although 35 were near Newton Pool on 4th, 50 were at the Long Nanny Burn on 4th (RKS) and 265 were at Holy Island causeway on 9th (APM). Three were still inland at Hallington on 10th (L&KR).

Spotted Redshank

Two were at St.Mary's Island on 4th (JMH).

Redshank

A total of 847 were found during the monthly count. Other large gatherings included 220 at Berwick Little Beach and up to 63 regularly feeding around Ladyburn Lake. Birds remained inland with a peak of six at Whittle Dene on 25th.

Greenshank

One remained at Boulmer until at least the 26th (IK).

Terek Sandpiper

The Blyth individual was reported regularly and roosted with Redshanks on the old coal staithes (RW/IF/AMB).

Turnstone

A total of 649 were found on the monthly count. Other records included 145 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (JDL) and 130 roosting at St.Mary's Island on 30th (DM).

Arctic Skua

One flew N. at Newbiggin on 24th (JGS).

Mediterranean Gull

Adults were noted at Scotswood on the 2nd (BNR), Craster on the 17th (JGS) and Holywell Pond on the 18th (MT/JRT).

Little Gull

An adult was at Holywell Pond on 10th/11th and 24th (TRC et al).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roosts were at record levels with 10,000 at Hallington on 10th, 9,000 at Scotswood on 14th, 3,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th and 900 at Colt Crag on 11th (BNR). On the coast, 3,000 were in the Tyne Estuary on 23rd (DM) and 650-700 at Seaton Sluice and Budle Bay.

Common Gull

Numbers declined at the main roosts with 10,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th, 9,000 at Colt Crag on 11th and at Hallington on 10th, 3,500 in Budle Bay on 30th and 700 at Broomlee (BNR). 550 were at Whittle Dene on the 8th and 280 in the Tyne Estuary on 24th (L&KR/DMNT).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

The only records were singles on 1st/2nd at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Blyth (ES/IF).

Herring Gull

Maximum counts were 2000 in the Tyne Estuary on 25th, 700 in the Coquet Estuary on 8th and 600 in Blyth Harbour on 17th (DMT/JMA). Characteristics of the Scandinavian race were shown by four birds at North Shields Fish Quay on 25th and two at Hallington on 10th (DMT/BNR). 210 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 16th.

Iceland Gull

An adult was at Holywell Pond on 24th (JRT/KWY/MT).

Glaucous Gull

First noted this winter at North Shields Fish Quay with an adult on the 24th (DMT). An adult was also at Druridge Pool on 10th.

Great Black Backed Gull

550 were on Spittal Beach on 23rd, 500 in the Coquet Estuary on 2nd and 267 in Blyth Harbour on 4th (MLC/JMA/DMT). 152-200 were at Boulmer and the Tyne Estuary and inland 15 pre-roosted at Catcleugh on 25th.

Kittiwake

800 per hour flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT). 16-34 were noted in Blyth Harbour and at North Shields Fish Quay.

Common Tern

A late-staying juvenile was seen well at Amble on 11th and Boulmer on 24th (RGW/IK).

Auk (sp)

Passage noted at Seaton Sluice with 110 per hour N. on 5th and 300 per hour S. on 9th (SSWT).

Guillemot

5-20 noted at Stag Rocks, Beadnell and North Shields.

Razorbill

10 were at the Stag Rocks on 11th (BRS).

Little Auk

Two birds flying N. at Hartley Point (WAK) were the first indication of a small movement observed from 2nd-7th at ten coastal localities between St. Mary's Island and Berwick. Highest counts were 19 flying N. at Seaton Sluice on 5th and six flying N. at Newbiggin on 4th (SSWT/JGS).

Stock Dove

On the 6th, 25 were at Holywell Pond (MT) and 11 in Jesmond Dene (SP).

Woodpigeon

400 were at Howick on the 2nd (ISD).

Collared Dove

58 were at Druridge Bay C.P. on 28th (per TAC) and 25 at Newton Links Farm on 4th (RKS).

Barn Owl

Two were at Druridge on 28th (ES/WTL). Singles were also noted at Foxton and Heatheridge.

Tawny Owl

Singles reported from Jesmond Dene, Belsay and South Gosforth.

Long Eared Owl

A single was at Arcot on the 17th (AHB).

Short Eared Owl

Noted at four coastal localities with the highest count again being at Hauxley of two birds from 6th-30th (DBNR).

Kingfisher

Noted at four inland localities. One was well-reported from Cresswell Pond from 20th-30th (DBNR et al).

Green Woodpecker

Singles reported from Wooperton and Harwood (AMB/MH).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Noted at six inland localities. At Matfen, a female ringed in February 1988 fed on nuts and fat (RW).

Skylark

Some movement was noted at the start of the month with 50 flying W. at Horton on 1st and 20 at Longhoughton on 3rd (LJM/RKS).

Swallow

A late juvenile was at Berwick Harbour on the 4th (DCJ).

Meadow Pipit

Small numbers still present at 1,000 ft a.s.l. at Harwood on 17th (IK).

Rock Pipit

Counts on coastal stretches were 26 from Beadnell - Seahouses, 17 from Long Nanny - Low Newton and 11 from Boulmer - Howick (MLC/AS/RKS).

Water Pipit

One was reported from Whittle Dene on 11th/17th/25th (MR).

Grey Wagtail

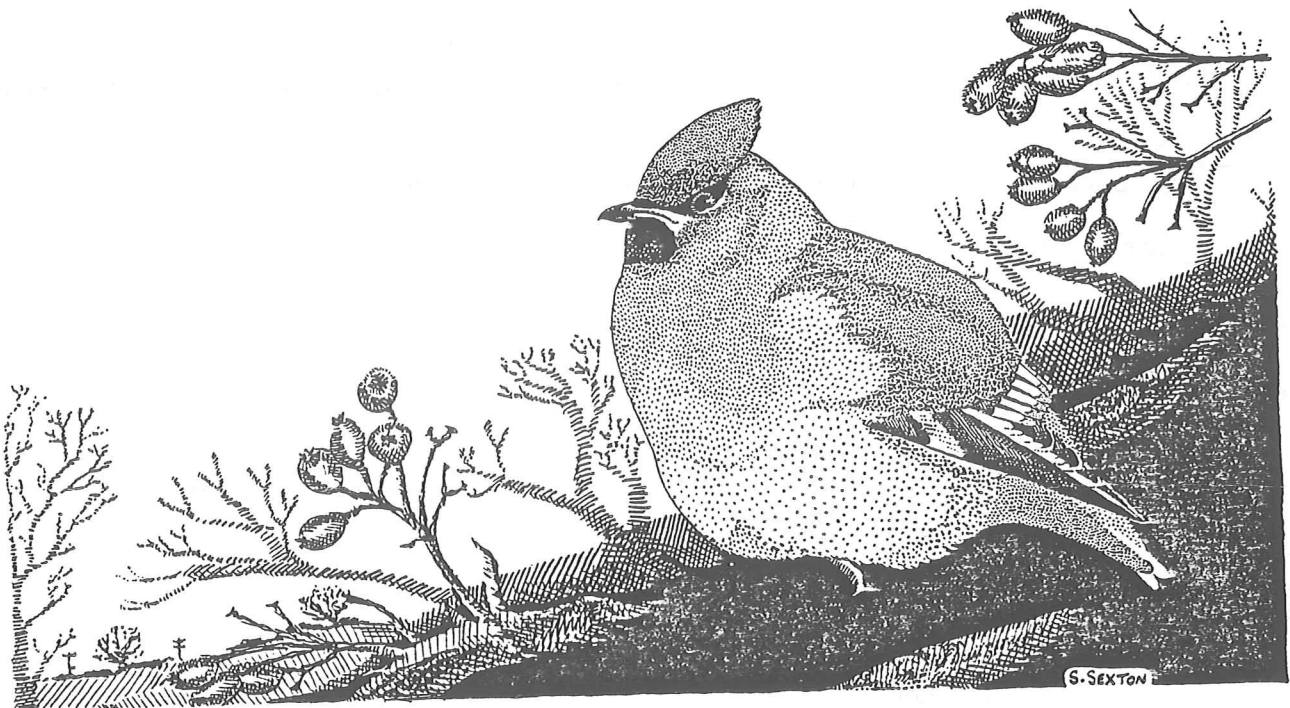
One-two noted at seven inland and three coastal localities.

White Wagtail

One was reported from Craster Harbour on 11th (RKS).

Waxwing

By far the largest numbers were reported from Newcastle: large counts, probably including considerable duplication, were 160-210 in the Brandling Park area on 18th/20th (PAB/MPF/AGP), 85 at the Royal Grammar School on 21st (DR), 60-84 in Exhibition Park on 22nd/27th (JGS/RGW), 75 at the Civic Centre on 9th (TRC), and 24-32 in Leazes Park, the RVI and Barrack Road. Elsewhere inland, 36 were near Alnwick on 10th and 11 at Embleton on 7th (JMA) and one-six birds were noted at another seven localities as far west as Bellingham. On the coast, further movement was indicated with sightings at five localities including seven in Druridge Bay on 13th (AP).

Dipper

Singing birds and pairs noted at Bellingham (DCJ), Slaley Hall (RMH), Butterburn (MH) and Linhope (SW/AES).

Stonechat

Two were at Cresswell on 3rd (MSH) with singles at Blyth Dunes, Newbiggin and Druridge Bay C.P.

Blackbird

Small numbers noted early in the month on the coast with 80 at Craster and 40 at Bamburgh on 3rd (MSH/BRS).

Fieldfare

Much smaller numbers were noted than last month with the highest counts being only 630 at Harwood on 29th (MH) and 380 at Whittle Dene on 17th (L&KR). Smaller numbers were noted at four other localities.

Redwing

40-50 noted at Jesmond Dene, Belsay Hall and Slaley Hall.

Mistle Thrush

11 were at Kimmer Lough on 18th (ISD) and six at Hulne Park on 25th (SS).

Garden Warbler

A very late bird was reported from Walker on 1st (PAB).

Blackcap

One was at Newbiggin on 17th (JGS).

Chiffchaff

Well reported with the highest count of 5-6 at Newbiggin on the 10th (JGS). Singles were also reported from Bamburgh, Holy Island, Craster and Holywell Dene between the 3rd and the 24th. An individual showing characteristics of the Siberian race was at Newbiggin on 10th and another of possible northern/eastern origin was at Craster on the 11th (JGS).

Goldcrest

The only reports were of 10-14 at Craster on 3rd/11th (MSH/RKS).

Long-tailed Tit

Tribes of 10-20 were reported from Big Waters, Wansbeck Riverside Park, Dipton Wood, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Jesmond, Killingworth, Hulne Park, Bothal and Hauxley.

Marsh Tit

Two were at Ordley on 1st and one at Kingswood Burn on 28th (BNR/ES/WTL).

Willow Tit

Singles were at Holywell Dene, Slaley Hall and Belsay Hall (TRC/RMH/L&KR).

Coal Tit

40 were at Hulne Park on 18th and 21 at Belsay Hall on 10th (MSH/L&KR).

Blue Tit

33 were at Belsay Hall on 10th (L&KR).

Nuthatch

Three were at Belsay Hall on 10th and at Mitford on 23rd (L&KR/DM). One-two noted at Close House, Horsley Wood, Hulne Park and Morpeth.

Treecreeper

Two were at Felton on 22nd (ET & JRN). Singles noted at Horsley Wood, Hulne Park and Morpeth.

Jay

Six were at Gosforth Park on 24th (ISD). Singles noted at Linnels, Sandhoe and Thrunton Woods.

Magpie

Five were at Anick near Hexham on 10th (RMH).

Hooded Crow

A single was at Holywell Dene on 3rd (TRC). Another probably the same bird was at Holywell Pond on 4th and 6th (TRC/MT).

Starling

5,000 were roosting at Blyth Harbour on 18th (LJM). 500+ were feeding on the tideline at Newton-By-the Sea on 3rd (ISD). 250 were at Howick on 2nd and 50 at Buston Links on 11th.

Tree Sparrow

24 were at Boulmer on 3rd (RKS). 20 were at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ) and at Horton between 21st-30th (LJM).

Chaffinch

300 were at Hexham on 19th (RMH) and 200 feeding at cattle troughs on Newton Links on 10th (RKS). Parties of 50 noted at two localities.

Brambling

Four at Hulne Park on 18th (MSH) and a single at Bellingham on 26th (DCJ) were the only records.

Greenfinch

Large numbers were present throughout the month in Jesmond Dene (MPF). Flocks of 30 were noted at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS) and at Belsay Hall on 10th (L&KR).

Goldfinch

The largest charm was 20 at Catcleugh Reservoir on 27th (DCJ).

Siskin

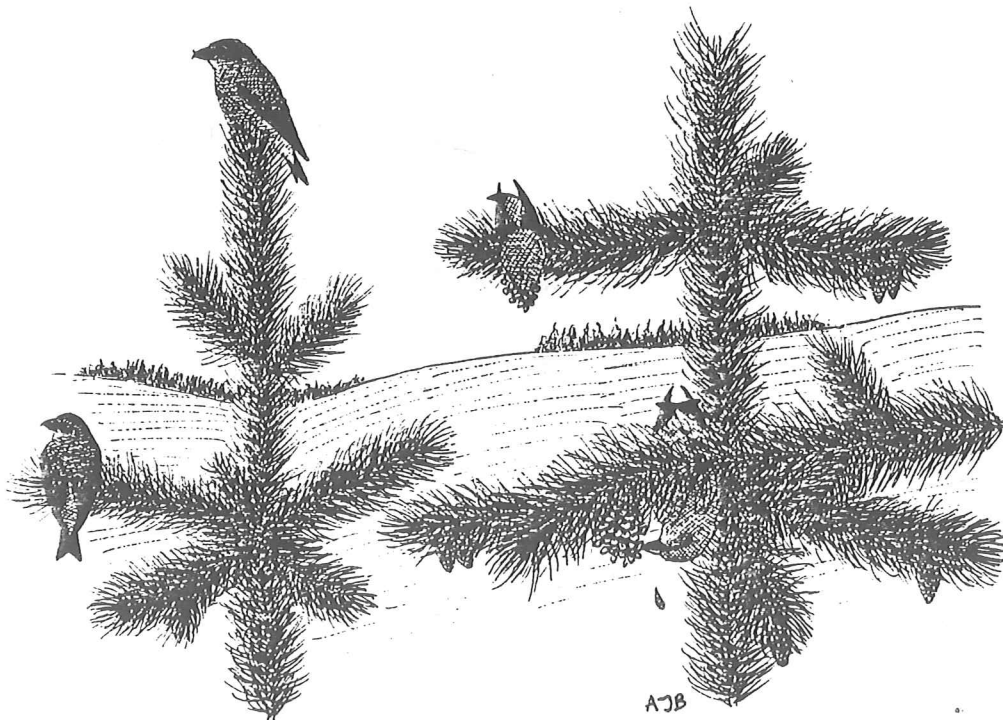
Well represented at inland localities throughout the month. The largest gatherings were 150 at Kielder Castle on 6th (DCJ) and at Countess Park, North Tyne on 11th (J&MH), 100 at Bellingham on 27th and 75 at Kingswood Burn on 28th. Three-40 noted at ten widespread localities.

Twite

Two separate flocks of 65 and 33 were at Goswick Links on 9th (APM) 60 + were at Alnmouth Dunes on 11th (AJB/MJS), five at Warkworth Gut on 14th (ES/WTL) and a single was at Newbiggin on 10th (JGS).

Redpoll

The largest gatherings were 130 at Blanchland on 7th (RKS) and 60 at Slaley on 24th (RMH).



Crossbill

Again well represented in the county. Reports indicated "tens of thousands" in the Kielder Forest district throughout the month (DCJ). Small flocks were common at Threestoneburn (AMB), 100 were at Harwood Forest on 17th (IK), 80 at Kielder Dam on 17th (BNR) and 40 at Slaley Hall on 24th (RMH). Two-30 noted at nine inland localities.

Bullfinch

Nine were at Plankey Mill on 24th (RKS). A single was trapped at Bamburgh on 11th (BRS).

Lapland Bunting

10 were on Holy Island on 4th (IF/KWR). Singles were noted at Longhoughton Low Stead, Long Nanny and Boulmer between 3rd-4th.

Snow Bunting

Flocks of 11 were noted at Newton Links on 4th (RKS) and Long Nanny on 15th (M&AF). Inland four were at Ordley on 3rd (BNR). One-three noted at four other localities.

Yellowhammer

30+ were at Bamburgh on 11th (BRS).

Reed Bunting

80 were roosting in the reedbed at Buston Links on 11th (MSH et al).

Corn Bunting

A single was calling at Cresswell on 5th (DM).

Please send all December records, in Voous order, to B.N.Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, NE46 1SX by 9th January at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

J Almond	M G Anderson	M R Armstrong
E Bagshaw	A M Bankier	A H Banks
A J Booth	J S Booth	K V Brooks
A & L Brunt	P A Buskin	ML & TA Cadwallender
T R Cleaves	E Crabtree	A Curry
I S Davidson	K Dawson	C E Douglas
R Fairhurst	J E Fergusson	I Fisher
M P Frankis	M Freeman	B D Green
A S Hart	M Henry	A J Hewitt
M S Hodgson	R M Holmes	J & M Howat
K Huxley	D C Jardine	A J Johnston
C Kanefsky	W A Kelly	I Kerr
P Knowles	W T Logan	J D Lough
L J McDougall	D McKeown	J McLoughlin
A P Mossop	A D Mould	ET & JR Norris
S P Parnaby	A Priest	A J Purvis
K W Regan	D Rhodes	A J Richards
M Richardson	D Ritchie	B Robson
B N Rossiter	L & K Russell	S Sexton
D R Shannon	M J Sharp	D Short
E Slack	M R Smith	S Snart
A R Starling	J G Steele	R K Stephenson
A Stimpson	M Thomson	J R Todd
D M Turner	R Walton	R G Waugh
S Westerberg	K W York	Bamburgh Ringing Station
Druridge Bay Nature Reserve	Seaton Sluice Watch Tower	

This months bulletin has been prepared by I Kerr, A J Johnston, D McKeown, and B N Rossiter. Illustration of Mute, Whooper and Bewick's Swan and Red-breasted Merganser by A S Hart, Great Northern Diver and Waxwing by S Sexton, Crossbills by A J Booth.

INDOOR MEETING - 10TH JANUARY 1991

Our next meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on Thursday 10th January 1991 at 7.00pm prompt. Our guest speaker is Ken Shaw who will talk on "Bird Conservation in Grampian and Tayside".

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1990/91

These are now long overdue. Subscriptions outstanding should be paid to our treasurer, Lyndsay McDougall immediately. Failure to pay your sub will mean this is the last bulletin you will receive.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR 1990

Members are reminded that the closing date for this club competition is 28th February 1991. Full details and rules see sheet at end of this bulletin.

ACCOUNTS 1989/90

A set of audited accounts for the year ending 30th September 1990 are attached to this bulletin.

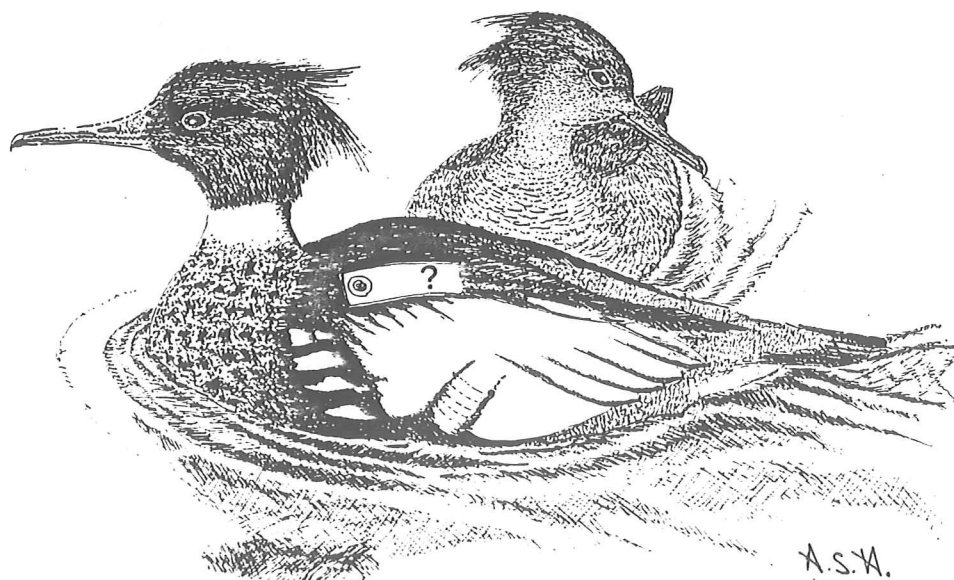
BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA 1990

Changes are to be made in the way Birds in Northumbria is produced. The aim will be to publish the annual report much earlier than in the past, to both benefit members and to help the club's finances by extending the period during which we can reasonably hope to sell copies through other outlets.

However, all this will depend on the full co-operation of members and other observers in submitting all their outstanding records as quickly as possible to give our team of writers the opportunity to make an early start. This is even more important when descriptions have to be considered by the County Records Committee. It is no exaggeration to say that in the past some records and descriptions have been submitted nine-12 months after a species was actually seen!

To enable a flying start to be made on the 1990 report the committee has decided to impose a deadline of January 31st 1991 for all outstanding record cards, descriptions and other data. The committee would appeal for the co-operation of everyone in this matter to help us make Birds in Northumbria 1990 not only the best but also the earliest annual report we have produced.

WING-TAGGED MERGANSERS - APPEAL FOR SIGHTINGS



During the mid-summertime of 1989 and 1990 a total of 55 Red-breasted Mergansers were caught and marked in their traditional moulting area at Lindisfarne by members of the Northumbria Ringing Group.

Some of these birds have since been seen in areas as far apart as the Tees Estuary and the coast of Cumbria with others noted still within Northumberland.

The NRG is anxious to receive full information about any sightings of these birds as part of efforts to gain a fuller understanding of their movements and has appealed to club members to help.

The information needed is basically the date, locality, which wing was tagged, the colour of the tag and - for the particularly sharp-eyed telescope users - the number on the tag, if it can be read.

The information will be invaluable to the NRG and, of course, will help expand the annual entries of the species in Birds in Northumbria.

All information please on record cards to:- Brian Little, 37 Stella Hall Drive, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear.

N&TBC Atlas of Breeding Birds

The coverage in many parts of the county is now almost complete and it is envisaged that a fourth year in 1991, which will complete the BTO's continued work in this area, will only involve relatively minor operations in restricted parts of the county.

However, in order to plan the next season, the atlas co-ordinators urgently need all outstanding data by 15th January at the very latest. Please forward data to the co-ordinator for your area as soon as possible so that we can complete a report on the very encouraging progress being made in the atlas project.

BTO Regional Representative

I would like to thank all members who have given such strong support to BTO surveys whilst I have acted as regional representative. My successor, Tom Cadwallender, takes over on 1st January and deserves full support in the continued collection of objective data for supporting nature conservation.

NICK ROSSITER

FIELD TRIP - 26th JANUARY 1991 TO STAG ROCKS AND ROSS

Anyone interested should return the slip below to Martin Davison, 4 North View, Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7JN as soon as possible (and no later than 19.1.91). A letter bearing the relevant information is acceptable.

26.1.91

NAME (s)

CONTACT ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

DO YOU REQUIRE TRANSPORT? YES/NO (please delete) IF YOU HAVE A CAR AND CAN PROVIDE TRANSPORT HOW MANY SPACES ARE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS _____.

NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

1990 BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YEAR

Entries are invited for the annual club photographic competition. All entries must be submitted by 28th February 1991.

There will be two classes:-

Class A - Photographs taken within the club's recording area.

Class B - Photographs taken outside the club's recording area.

The following rules will apply to both classes:-

1. The competition is open to all club members.
2. Photographs must take the form of 2X2 transparencies and must not be glass mounted.
3. Up to three photographs per class will be accepted with an entry fee of £1.00 per class.
4. Photographs must have been taken during 1990.
5. Photographs of captive birds are not allowed.
6. Any photographs of a species for which an NCC licence is required must be accompanied by a copy of the appropriate licence.
7. The photographs must be submitted with a completed entry form.
8. Transparencies must be clearly marked with the photographers name, the name of the species and the Class reference letter and number ; eg A1; A2 etc.
9. A sae must be provided for the return of transparencies or arrangements made to collect them personally.
10. The N.T.B.C. can accept no responsibility for any transparency and they are accepted on this condition.
11. The judges decision will be final.

NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1990

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

CLASS	SPECIES	WHERE PHOTOGRAPHED
A1		
A2		
A3		
B1		
B2		
B3		

Fee enclosed £ _____

Signed _____

Entries to be submitted to:- Andrew Brunt 7 Highmoor, Morpeth, NE61 2AL

NORTHUMBERLAND AND TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

Accounts for Year Ended 30 September 1990

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

£

£

INCOME

Members Subscriptions (279 members)		3,115.50
Sales - Birds in Northumbria - 1988	398.13	
- " " " - Previous years	100.65	
- Access Guides	135.60	
- Other	<u>100.30</u>	734.68
Refund of Income Tax (Covenanted Subscriptions)		502.00
Bank Account Interest		203.63
Misc (Donations, raffles etc)		<u>148.38</u>
		4,704.19

EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions	21.30	
Indoor Meetings	579.00	
Monthly Bulletin	1,295.00	
Birds in Northumbria 1989 (est)	1,733.00	
Officers' Expenses (inc postages)	289.76	
Printing	230.40	
Misc	<u>122.92</u>	4,271.38
	Profit for Year	<u>432.81</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1990

£

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance as at 1 October 1989	5,387.47
+ Profit from Income and Expenditure Account	<u>432.81</u>
	<u>5,820.28</u>

Represented By:-

ASSETS

£

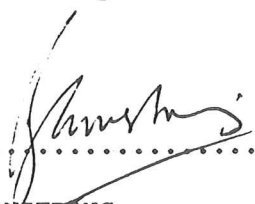
Stock - Birds in Northumbria, etc		1,106.84
Debtors - Inland Revenue (Ref. of Income Tax)		502.00
Cash - In Hand	0.03	
- Current Account	1,755.24	
- Deposit Account	4,121.59	
- Atlas Account	<u>279.58</u>	<u>6,156.44</u>
		<u>7,765.28</u>

less LIABILITIES

Creditors - Subscriptions for 1990/91 -		
In Advance	212.00	
- Printer (Birds in Northumbria 89)	<u>1,733.00</u>	<u>1,945.00</u>
		<u>5,820.28</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

2 November 1990



Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

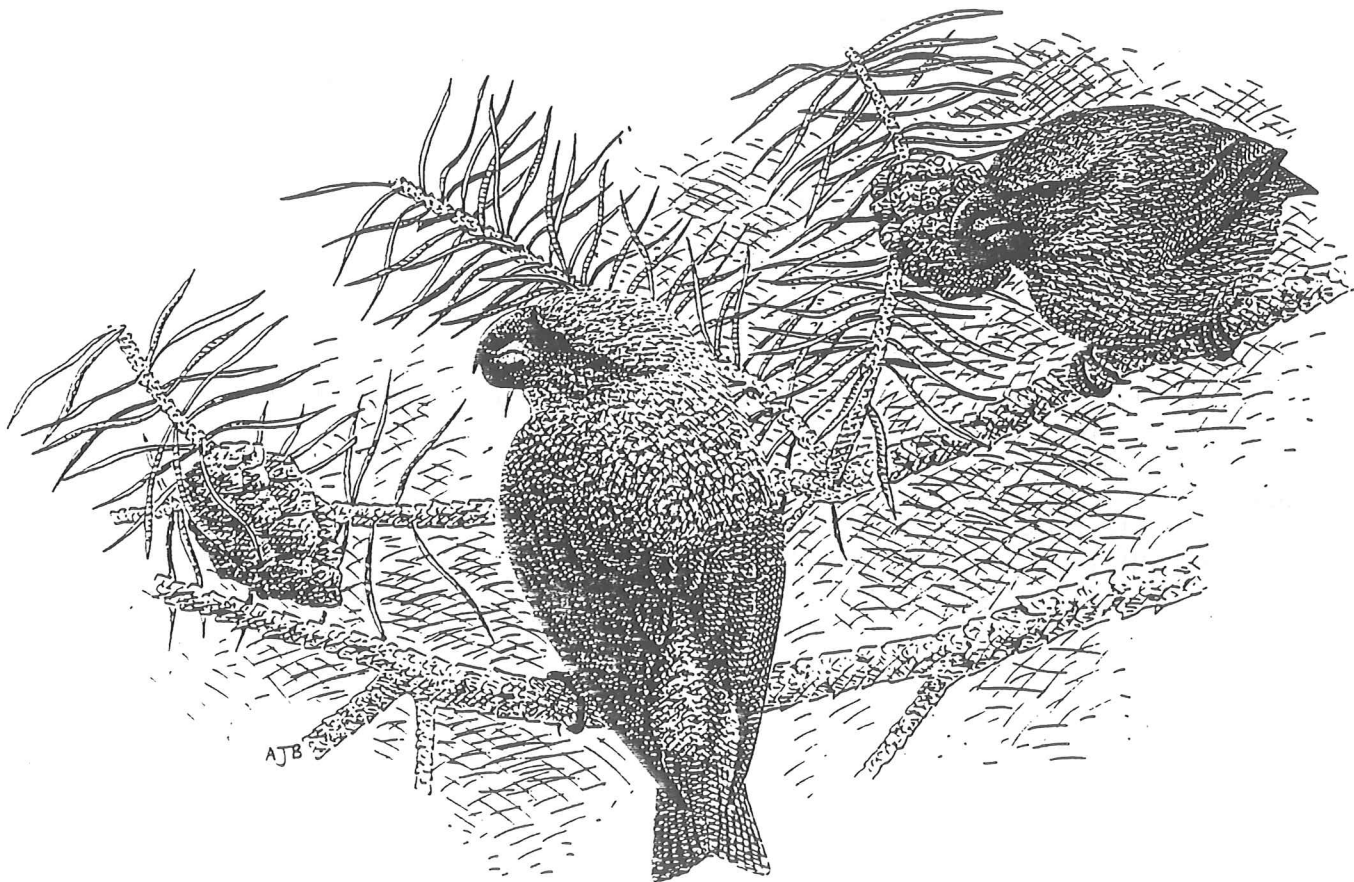
MONTHLY SUMMARY DECEMBER 1990

Early December began with snow covering all areas by 8th however this quickly turned to rain despite strong northerly winds. Colder weather returned mid-month followed by a Christmas period largely dominated by SW winds and rain. Snow returned by 27th but again did not linger. A Bittern proved an attraction to many at Holywell Pond where a Bearded tit was reported on 16th. Up to 15 Bewick Swans were noted at a number of localities and Smew were again reported from four ponds. A drake Mandarin Duck was at Castle Island on 22nd-23rd and 28th. Large movements of Little Auks were reported throughout the month, however more unusual was a late Arctic Skua at Seaton Sluice on 8th.

The Terek Sandpiper remained at Blyth while a Grey Phalarope was at Newbiggin on 27th. Up to 11 Jack Snipe were at Haltwhistle.

Most of this month's interest was provided by large finch flocks especially large numbers of Crossbills. Up to seven Parrot Crossbills were present at Harwood forest, first noted on 25th November. However one lucky observer was rewarded with views of a fine male Two-barred Crossbill also at Harwood on 29th.

A Shore Lark was seen by many in Druridge Dunes from 24th while Waxwings continued to be reported in numbers. Other interesting species included Great Grey Shrike at two localities, two wintering Blackcaps and five Chiffchaffs, Raven, Little Gull and Hen Harrier.



Reg. Charity No. 517641

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

22 flew N. and three S. in 2 1/2 hours at Newbiggin on 15th (JGS). One-eight were at Bamburgh, Beadnell Bay, Druridge Bay, Holy Island, Longhoughton Steel, St.Mary's Island and the Tyne Estuary.

Black-throated Diver

Two flew N. at Newbiggin on 15th (JGS). Singles were noted at Hauxley on 20th (DBNR), Newbiggin 23rd (SS) and Stag Rocks on 23rd and 30th (IDM/MDP). More unusual were singles at Marden Quarry Pond between 3rd-11th (PAB et al) and at Cresswell Pond between 13th-14th (DBNR).

Great Northern Diver

Two flew N. at St.Mary's Island on 12th (JDP). Singles were noted at Hauxley, Newbiggin, Ross and St.Mary's Island.

Little Grebe

17 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th (IF/DCJ). One-five were at another seven localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Singles were on the sea at Newbiggin on 9th and 13th (JGS/MH) and at Druridge Bay on 14th (TAC/SWA). Inland a single was at Big Waters between 24th-31st (AJJ).

Red-necked Grebe

Two were at Ross on 15th (KWY) and a single at Stag Rocks on 15th and 19th (ES/WTL).

Slavonian Grebe

Five were at Ross on 23rd (IRD), while two were at Stag Rocks on 9th (ADM) and Druridge Bay on 22nd (ES/WTL). Singles were noted at Blyth Bay and more unusually on a freshwater stretch of the Long Nanny Burn.

Black-necked Grebe

A single offshore at Cresswell on 24th was the only record (DBNR).

Fulmar

Singles were noted on Holy Island Castle on 19th (ES/WTL) and at Seaton Sluice on 26th (MT).

Gannet

Two flew N, while a storm blown single was stranded at Newbiggin on 9th (JGS). Singles noted at Seaton Sluice and at St.Mary's Island.

Cormorant

83 were at Blyth Harbour on 16th, 75 in the Tyne Estuary on 12th (DMT) and 68 in Amble Harbour on 19th (LJM). Inland 24 were on the R.Tyne between Newburn and Wylam on 16th (STR), 18 at Hallington on 29th and 17 at Colt Crag on 24th (L&KR).

Shag

40 were present at Druridge Bay on 22nd (ES/WTL). A single was at North Shields Fish Quay between 1st-2nd (DMT).

Bittern

A single was present at Holywell Pond between 2nd-31st (TRC/AW et al).

Grey Heron

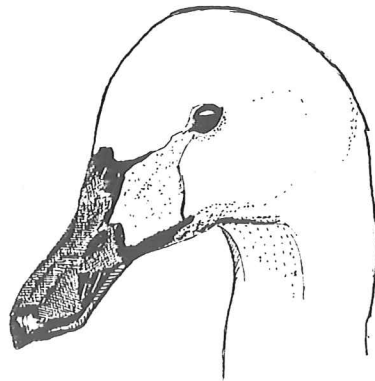
Six were on the R.Tyne between Newburn and Wylam on 18th and 31st (STR). One-five were noted at another seven localities.

Mute Swan

13 were at Queen Elizabeth II CP on 9th (MSH), 12 at Grindon Lough on 1st (RKS) and 10 at Sweethope Lough on 18th (DCJ). A colour ringed adult was seen on four occasions at North Shields Fish Quay between 2nd-24th (DMT).

Bewick's Swan

A maximum of 15 including three juveniles were present in the Bothel Pond - Cresswell Pond - Druridge Pool area between 2nd-29th (MGA et al). The same group was present at Big Waters on 28th (AJJ).



Bewick's Swan

es

Whooper Swan

The largest herds were up to 63 in the Cresswell-Druridge-Warkworth Lane area throughout the month (DBNR), 59 at Rayburn Lake on 2nd (RKS) and at Bothal Pond on 26th (IF et al) and 55 at Grindon Lough on 1st. Two-five were noted at Big Waters, Holywell Pond, Long Nanny Burn, Newton Pool and flying over Plessey Woods.

Bean Goose

Three were at Holywell Pond between 2nd-22nd (JRT/TRC et al).

Pink-footed Goose

72 were at Grindon Lough on 1st (RKS), three at Hallington on 5th and 8 at Whittle Dene on 15th (RSF/MR). A single was in Budle Bay on 2nd and 30th. Up to six were at Holywell Pond throughout the month.

White-fronted Goose

17 were in Budle Bay on 2nd (RSF).

Greylag Goose

The largest gatherings were of 360 at Holywell Pond on 13th and at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (L&KR/RKS). 350 were at Whittle Dene, 201 at Grindon Lough, 188 at Hallington and 102 at Rayburn Lake. 100 flew NE over Powburn on 27th (AMB) and 60 E. over Cramlington on 9th (LJM).

Canada Goose

96 were at Hallington on 1st and 21 at Colt Crag on 24th (L&KR).

Barnacle Goose

One-two were at Budle Bay, Hallington and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Brent Goose

525 were at Fenham Flats on 15th (JRT/KWY). Four flew N. at Newbiggin on 9th.

Bar-headed Goose

One was with Canada Geese at Hallington between 1st-15th.

Shelduck

On 15th 378 were at Fenham Flats and 261 at Budle Bay (JRT/KWY). 20 were in Amble Harbour on 17th (DM) and five at Castle Island on 27th (AT). One was at Arcot Ponds on 14th (LJM).

Mandarin Duck

A male was at Castle Island on 22nd-23rd and 28th (AT).

Wigeon

3,300 were at Fenham on 15th (JRT/KWY), 334 at Grindon Lough, 183 at Budle Bay, 130 at Whittle Dene and 110 at Hallington.

Gadwall

A male was at Druridge Pools on 10th (DBNR) four were at Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 13th (TAC) and three at Bolam Lake between 19th-31st (JCD).

Teal

280 were at Druridge Pools on 2nd (SS), 250 at Swallow Pond on 8th and 211 at Big Waters on 30th. 194-206 were also at Budle Bay, Grindon Lough and Colt Crag with 21-80 at a further six localities.

Mallard

The largest gatherings were of 340 at Big Waters, 275 at Kimmer Lough, 243 at Whittle Dene, 220 at Budle Bay and 183 at Holywell Pond and Colt Crag. 25-100 were at another nine localities.

Pintail

Singles were at Big Waters, Fenham Flats, Holywell and Druridge Pools.

Shoveler

18 were at Swallow Pond on 1st (MT), 13 at Big Waters on 10th (DM) and two-three at Arcot Pond and Grindon Lough.

Pochard

160 were at Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 4th (TAC) 90 at Holywell Pond on 20th (MT), 41 at Big Waters (AJJ) and 110 at Castle Island on 31st (TRC).

Tufted Duck

54 were at Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 15th (TAC) and 40 at Killingworth Lake on 24th (LJM). 20-37 were also at Big Waters, Whittle Dene, Holywell Pond and Rayburn Lake.

Scaup

A maximum of 17 were at Hauxley Pond on 23rd (DBNR). Five were at Castle Island on 9th (JGS/AT) and one-three at Ladyburn Lake, Newton Pool and Cresswell Pond. Inland a single female was at Bothal Pond on 16th (RSF).

Eider

750 were off N.Blyth on 29th (MT) 30 were in the Tyne Estuary on 24th and 47 in Amble harbour on 23rd. More unusual were five on R.Coquet well upstream at Warkworth, a single was also well upstream on the Long Nanny burn (GB/DM/RKS). Even more unusual was a single found dead at Jesmond Dene on 20th (per MPF).

Long-tailed Duck

100+ were at Stag Rocks on 9th (ADM). Up to three were on Druridge Pools and two were at Ladyburn Lake. Further inland a female was at Bothal Pond on 14th (SS).

Common Scoter

1,000 were at Stag Rocks on 19th and 400 at Druridge Bay on 15th when 200 at Ross.

Velvet Scoter

Eight were at Stag Rocks on 20th (JGB), four flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 13th (SSWT) and two in Druridge Bay on 16th.

Goldeneye

140 were on R.Tyne between Newburn and Wylam on 31st (STR), 126 were on the Wansbeck at Castle Island on 10th (AT). 30 were on the sea off Cambois on 17th (IF) and 29 at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (L&KR). One-19 were noted at a further 14 localities.

Smew

A single redhead remained at Big Waters throughout the month (AJJ et al) as did another at Spindleston (per BRS). One at Ladyburn Lake on 9th increased to three on 29th (RSF/ES et al). Another single redhead was in Budle Bay on 2nd and 15th.

Red-breasted Merganser

42 were at Ladyburn Lake on 8th (TAC) one-13 were also at Druridge Bay, Lindisfarne, the Blyth Estuary, St.Mary's Island, N.Shields Fish Quay, Longhoughton Steel and Football hole.

Goosander

66 were at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR), 27 were on the Tyne at Newburn-Wylam on 1st (JSB) and 12 flew up river at Ovingham on 26th (WAK). Eight were at Wallington on 29th (IK) and one-five at a further eight localities.

Hen Harrier

The adult male first noted at Harwood in November remained until at least 25th and an immature cock was seen regularly throughout the month (MH). An immature male at Hauxley on 18th killed and ate a Moorhen (DBNR) while another adult cock was at Grindon Lough on 24th (MJS).

Goshawk

A male was noted in a forest area on 29th.

Sparrowhawk

Singles were reported from 18 widely scattered localities with two being noted in Harwood Forest on 1st (MDP). Individuals hunted through gardens at Cochrane Park, Newcastle (KIB), Hipsburn (TA & MLC) and Matfen where two separate birds were identified, a young male being caught on 23rd (RW).

Kestrel

High vole numbers were indicated by at least seven, including four hunting one hillside, at Thirlwall Common on the Irthing on 16th (MH). Three hunted along the A189 between Moor Farm-Shankhouse on 9th and near Weetslade on 31st (LJM). One-two were reported from ten other areas.

Merlin

At least two females frequented Holy Island during the month (ES/WTL) while singles were seen at three other coastal localities. Five inland included singles in Newcastle at Chapel House, Fenham and Heaton.

Peregrine

Five were reported with individuals chasing Golden Plover at Newbiggin on 19th (AP), Wood Pigeons and then Fieldfare at Elsdon on 22nd and feral pigeons at Cresswell on 29th.

Red Grouse

Ten on the Simonsides (JCD), eight pairs on Whitfield Moor (BNR) and four at Threestone (AMB) were the only records.

Black Grouse

A single male was noted at Ridley Common (MJS).

Red-legged Partridge

A tame group of at least 23 near Walltown Craggs on 16th indicated a recent release for shooting (MH). Two near Hepple on 29th (SS) were probably of similar origin.

Grey Partridge

The largest coveys comprised 52 near St.Mary's Island (SPP) and 20 at Holywell (TRC) while parties of four were seen near Blyth (KVB) and on Holy Island (JDL).

Water Rail

Two-three were settled in wintering quarters at Holywell Pond (MT/WAK et al) while singles were seen at Gosforth Park, Big Waters, Bolam Lake and at small ponds near Barrasford and Swinburne (RSF).

Moorhen

The largest groups reported were 22 at Holywell Pond (L&KR) and 19 at Castle Island (AT).

Coot

There was a peak count of 318 at Big Waters (AJJ/DMcK) on 10th while 170c were at Sweethope Lough on 18th (DCJ). Ten were at Gosforth Park on several dates (ISD).

WADER COUNT 15TH 16TH

Cards were received for the following areas: St.Mary's Island (IDM), Seaton Sluice Blyth South Pier (KVB), Newbiggin-Cresswell (MGA), Cresswell-Chevington (EC/ISD), Chevington-Amble (TPMW), Coquet Estuary (PWW), South Alnmouth (ETN/JRN), Alnmouth-Boulmer (WTL/DRS), Boulmer-Howick (IK), Howick-Beadnell (MF/AW), Beadnell-Seahouses (MLC/AS), Seahouses-Budle Point (PK) and the Tweed Estuary (CK).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,223 were found on the monthly count. In addition 144 were noted at Blyth on 17th (IF).

Ringed Plover

The monthly count produced a total of 244 which included 57 on the Howick-Beadnell stretch. 32 roosted in Tynemouth Haven on 24th (DMcK).

Golden Plover

Although 1,711 were found during the coastal count 2,000 were in fields near St.Mary's Island on 29th (IDM). Other large coastal flocks during the month included 1,500c in Budle Bay (ES/WTL). Large numbers remained inland with up to 900 in the Wallsend area (ISD/SPP), 420 at Grindon Lough (RKS), 320 at Hallington (L&KR), 100 at Colt Crag (BNR) and 80 near Great Swinburne (MH).

Grey Plover

A total of 159 were found on the coastal count. These included 53 on the Howick-Beadnell stretch and 27 occupying the usual wintering area around Longhoughton Steel, often moving to feed in coastal fields (IK).

Lapwing

3,246 were located during the monthly count. Other flocks involved up to 2,000 flying near St.Mary's Island as a blizzard eased on 7th (JDP) and at least 1,800 near Holywell Pond on 16th (TRC) and 900 at Amble on 23rd (L&KR). Considerable numbers remained inland with counts of 700 at Close House, 500 at Hallington, 528 at Grindon Lough, 400 at North Brunton and 250 at Wallsend being the largest groups found.

Knot

Flocks totalling 599 were found during the monthly count. As usual St.Mary's Island was the main area with 340 while 250 were on the Howick-Beadnell and Seahouses-Budle Point sections. 200c were in Budle Bay on 19th (ES/WTL).

Sanderling

Only 151 were found during the wader count. In addition 21 were at St. Mary's Island on 22nd and 39 roosted in Tynemouth Haven on 24th.

Purple Sandpiper

Although only 188 were noted during the monthly count 200c roosted near Stag Rocks on 19th and 125 were at Seaton Sluice on 31st. Five-20 were seen in three other typical rocky shore habitats.

Dunlin

2,121 were noted during the wader count. Other coastal counts included 385 at Blyth on 17th and 170 roosting in Tynemouth Haven on 24th. Some remained inland with a peak of ten at Whittle Dene on 3rd (EB).

Ruff

A single was still at Cresswell Pond on 12th (AP).

Jack Snipe

Eleven were flushed with 50 Common Snipe at Whiteside Law, near Haltwhistle on 26th (RSF). The only other records involved singles at Walkworth Gut, the Aln Estuary and in a marshy pasture at Medburn.

Common Snipe

The largest gatherings were 50 at Big Waters, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Whiteside Law (AJJ/IF/RSF), 15 near Powburn (AMB), 14 at Holywell Pond (MDT) and 11 at Grindon Lough (RKS). One arriving from the E at Druridge Bay on 15th suggested continued immigration (DCJ).

Woodcock

Singles were noted in seven widely scattered, mainly woodland, areas.

Bar-tailed Godwit

As usual they were scarce on the monthly count with only 93 being found. However, 1,500 were at Beal Sands on 23rd (JDL).

Curlew

Only 168 were noted during the monthly wader count, much lower than usual. The only other sizeable coastal gathering was 74 near Holy Island Harbour on 23rd (JDL). However many more than usual for December were found inland. A flock 15 flew E at Ryton on 18th, 28 were at Powburn on 27th, eight were at Heddon and two at Hallington on 29th and 12 were found in a traditional wintering area at Holystone Haugh on 31st when a single also flew W. at Ordley.

Redshank

741 were recorded during the monthly coastal count. Up to 600 were at Blyth on 2nd (IF) and 72 in Tynemouth Haven on 24th (DMcK). Inland a peak of seven was noted at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR) while the wintering area along the Tyne near Ryton held 17 on 16th (STR).

Greenshank

The single reported during November remained to winter at Boulmer and may also have accounted for a sighting at Howick Haven on 16th. One was also at Cresswell Pond between 4th-16th.

Terek Sandpiper

The Blyth individual was regularly reported during the month.

Turnstone

758 were found on the monthly count. In addition 302 were at Blyth on 17th.

Grey Phalarope

A single was found at Church Point, Newbiggin, on 27th (MRJ/BJ/MT).

Arctic Skua

One flew N. at Seaton Sluice on 8th (SSWT).

Mediterranean Gull

Adults were noted at North Shields on the 1st (DMT), Big Waters on the 23rd (GB) and Craster on the 29th-30th (BNR/MDP).

Little Gull

An adult/subadult was at Holywell Pond all month (MPF et al). Elsewhere an adult was at St Mary's Island on the 9th (JRT), and in the Wansbeck Estuary there was a 2nd winter on the 8th and an adult on the 9th (JGS).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roosts declined with 1,500 at Hallington on 15th, 2,200 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and 3,100 at Scotswood on 23rd (BNT). On the coast, 2,000 were in the Tyne Estuary on 12th (DMT), 1,000 at Blyth on 2nd (IF) and 400-600 at Holywell Pond, Budle Bay and Newton Haven.

Common Gull

Numbers rose slightly at the regular roosts with 19,000 at Hallington on 15th, 13,000 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd, 3,000 at Budle Bay on 29th, 700 at Colt Crag and 98 at Broomlee. Elsewhere, 510 roosted at Tynemouth on the 5th and 1,150 at Newton Haven on 29th (BNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

The only record was a single on 15th/16th at Big Waters (GB/DM).

Herring Gull

The highest count was 1200 in the Tyne Estuary on 21st where one-three birds showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race were noted during the month (DMT). Numbers rose sharply inland with roosts of 960 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd, 340 at Hallington on 15th and 240 at Scotswood on 23rd (BNR). 118 were at Big Waters on 23rd.

Glaucous Gull

Single adults were well reported from North Shields Fish Quay and the Seahouses/Budle Bay area (DMT et al). Elsewhere one was at Druridge Bay on 2nd and an immature flew N. at St. Mary's Island on 23rd (RSF/MPF).

Great Black Backed Gull

Largest counts were 195 at Blyth on 16th and 172 in the Tyne Estuary on 21st (DMT). Inland roosts increased with 120 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and 61 at Hallington on 15th (BNR). Two fed on spent salmonids at Falstone on 12th (DCJ).

Kittiwake

Maximum counts were 50 at North Shields Fish Quay and 17 in Blyth Harbour (DM/DMT).

Guillemot

600 flew N. in two hours at Newbiggin on 9th (JGS).

Little Auk

One carried to the S. in severe N/NE gales on 8th at Seaton Sluice (TRC/AH) indicated displacement of birds as did a single 'wrecked' at the Beehive Pub, Earsdon on the 7th (GPB). Return movement was noted on 9th at Newbiggin with 43 flying N. in two hours (JGS) but was most marked from the 12th-15th with substantial movement at ten coastal localities including, in one hour, 742 flying N. at Hauxley (HRS) and 307 at Newbiggin (MH). Later in the month, from 23rd-30th, another substantial movement to the N. was noted at eight coastal localities with 209 in 30 minutes at Druridge Bay (CPFR) and hourly counts of 296 at Seaton Sluice (MT) and 212 at Newbiggin (AP). One 'wrecked' on a compost heap at High Hauxley on 26th was later released in good health (KE & WKG).

Puffin

One flew N. at Newbiggin on 9th (JGS).

Stock Dove

120 were feeding on fat hen seeds at Colwell on 18th (RSF) and 1-12 were at Holywell Pond, Jesmond and Hauxley.

Collared Dove

37 were at Laverock Hall Farm on 1st (LJM).

Barn Owl

Noted at Druridge, Kirkharle, Buston Links, near Etal and Wideopen.

Little Owl

A single was at Druridge Pools on 1st-16th (DBNR/MGA).

Tawny Owl

Two were at Bolam on 27th (JCD).

Long-eared Owl

Singles were at Stamford on 7th and Harbottle on 15th (JMA). A roost in the county held up to six birds during the month.

Short-eared Owl

Noted at five coastal localities. One was well inland in the River Irthing valley on 16th (MH).

Kingfisher

Noted at seven inland localities. The bird at Cresswell Pond remained there through the month (DBNR et al).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

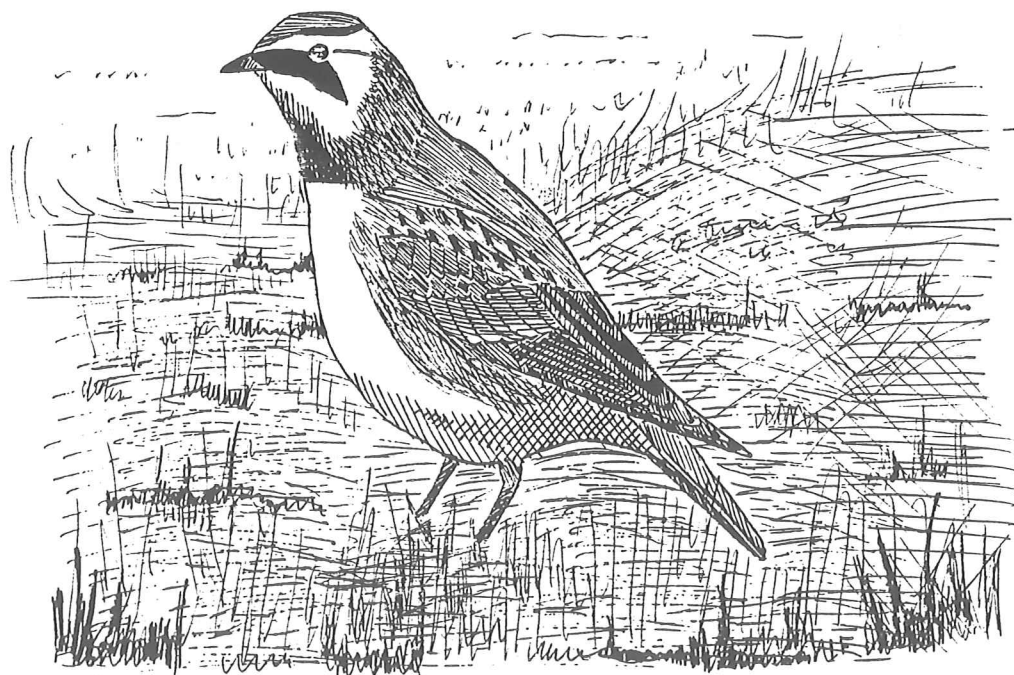
Reported from eight inland localities. At Bywell and Benton, birds fed at garden feeders (JH/JCD).

Skylark

130 were at Beal Sands on 23rd (JDL) and 75 flew SW at Cramlington on the 9th (LJM). One flew S. at Hexham on 27th between snow showers (DCJ).

Shore Lark

A single, believed to be a male, was on Druridge Dunes from 24th to the end of the month (JWR et al).



Meadow Pipit

The highest count was 56 at Matfen on 17th (RSF) with 13-17 at Castle Island and Big Waters. Small numbers moved E. at Rayburn Lake on 9th in bitter conditions (MSH).

Rock Pipit

The highest count was eight on St. Mary's Island on 22nd (L&KR).

Grey Wagtail

Singles noted at six inland and two coastal localities.

Waxwing

Numbers declined in the Newcastle area but rose in nearby towns and villages. 46-47 birds were present in South Gosforth on 12th and 15th (MPF/AMB/JC). Three of these birds had been colour-ringed near Aberdeen on 4th November and appeared later near Blaydon on 23rd/24th December. Large flocks of 210-250 were reported from Morpeth between the 15th and 24th including a group of 170 in one tree (SS/ADM). At Wylam, the highest count was 185 on 14th (JSB) and 80 were at Stocksfield on the 31st (JH). One-seven were noted at another eight localities.

Dipper

Ten birds were noted along a three mile stretch of the River Aln at Hulne Park on the 3rd (DM). One was singing at Nunnykirk (RW) and other singles noted at Greenlee Lough and the Wark Forest.

Dunnock

A partially leucistic bird was at Benton during the month (GPB).

Stonechat

Three were at Druridge Pool on 16th (EC) with singles at Cresswell, Warkworth and Hauxley.

Blackbird

28 fed in a garden at Walbottle on 30th (L&KR).

Fieldfare

The highest counts were 400 at Reaveley on 27th (AMB) and 370 at Harwood Forest on 1st (MH) with 200-300 at Hexham, Whittle Dene and Colt Crag. 40-150 were at a further ten inland localities. 500-700 moved S. in the Heddon-Matfen area on 30th away from snow-covered areas (BG/IK).

Song Thrush

Singing birds were at Riding Mill on 4th and Cochrane Park on 9th (BNR/KIB).

Redwing

95 were at Ordley on 25th (BNR) and 20 at Reaveley on 23rd (AMB).

Mistle Thrush

Two were singing at Matfen on 5th (RW).

Blackcap

A male was at Castle Island on 5th (MGA) and a female at Big Waters from 14th-24th (AJJ/DM/MRS).

Chiffchaff

Two were at Marden Quarry all month (ASJ) with singles at Holywell Pond on 5th, Hauxley on 20th and North Shields on 22nd.

Goldcrest

20-30 were at Broomleyfell Plantation, near Riding Mill on 22nd (MPF).

Bearded Tit

A single imm/female was at Holywell Pond on 16th (KWR/MDP et al). This will be the 10th record for the county and the first since December 27th 1977.

Long-tailed Tit

Well represented throughout the month. The largest tribes were 30 near Riding Mill on 22nd (MPF), 25 at Colt Crag on 15th (L&KR) and 20+ at Big Waters on 27th (AJJ). Tribes of four-17 were at 15 other localities.

Marsh Tit

Several were in gardens at Mitford on 10th (DM). Singles were noted at Big Waters, Hulne Park, Langley, Letah Wood, Ordley and Plessey Woods.

Willow Tit

Three + were at Harwood Forest on 24th (MH) and two were at Castle Island on 31st (TRC/MHp).

Coal Tit

40+ were in a plantation near Riding Mill on 22nd (MPF) and eight were at Belsay Hall on 30th (L&KR).

Blue Tit

155 were ringed during three 2 1/2 hour visits at Matfen on 30th (RW) and 32 were ringed at Spindlestone on 16th (BRS).

Nuthatch

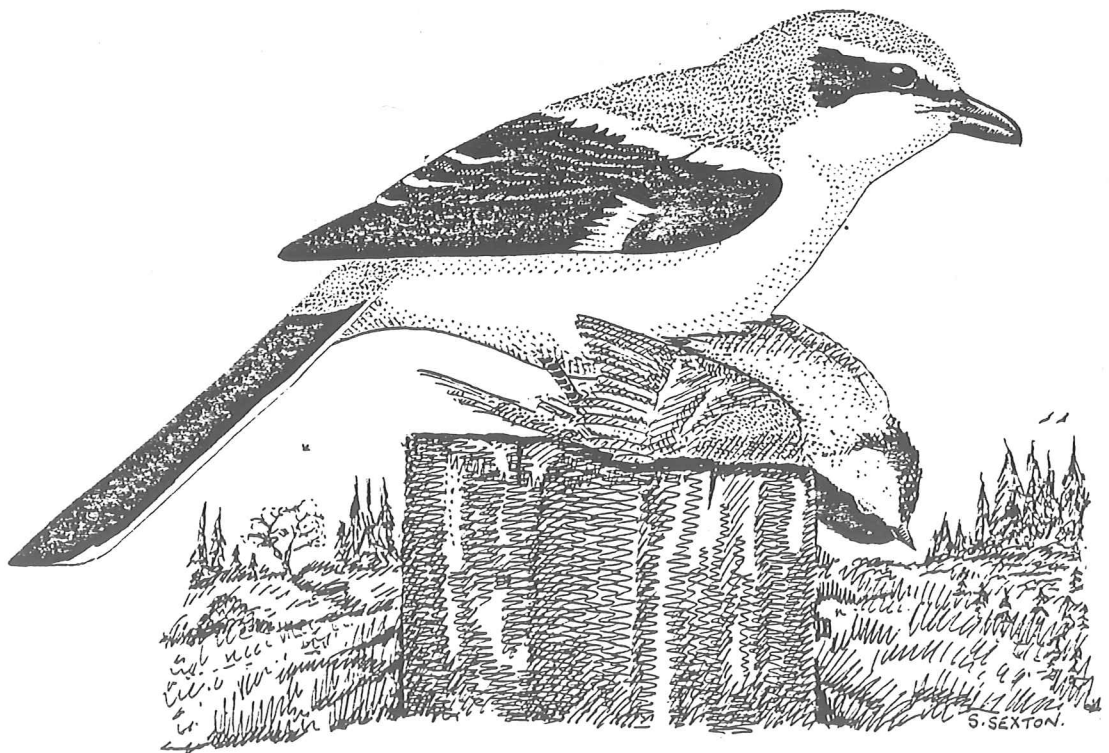
Six were at Wallington Hall on 16th (SS). One-two noted at ten widely scattered localities.

Treecreeper

Four were in a plantation near Riding Mill on 22nd (MPF). One-two noted at Big Waters, Benton, Close House, Hexham and Horsley Wood.

Great Grey Shrike

A single was at Harwood Forest between 1st-2nd (TRC/MH et al) it or another was also near Netherton on 2nd (MD).



Jay

Seven were at Gosforth Park on 24th (ISD). One-two noted at Arcot Pond, Hexham, Hulne Park, Mitford and Prudhoe.

Magpie

Large gatherings were 27 at Big Waters on 22nd (GB), 21 at Red Row on 29th (ES et al) and 20 at Linton on 24th (MT).

Jackdaw

200 were at Lower Heddon on 28th and at Hallington on 24th (L&KR).

Rook

500 were at Walbottle on 26th, 400 at Holywell Pond on 13th and 300 at Hallington on 29th (L&KR).

Hooded Crow

Singles were at Holywell Pond between 10th-24th (PAB et al), Ross on 15th (JRT/KWY) and Cresswell Pond on 23rd (MGA).

Raven

One was being mobbed by small birds near Grasslees Burn in the Simonsides Hills on 16th (WAK).

Starling

Up to 4,000 were roosting at Blyth Harbour on 16th (DMT), while 1,500 were at Colt Crag on 29th (L&KR). An all-white bird was at a Cramlington churchyard on 30th (LJM).

Tree Sparrow

Up to 50 were at Big Waters and 40 near Medburn during the month (AJJ/EC). 30 were at Warkworth Golf Course on 16th (ET/JRN). Four-20 noted at another six mainly coastal localities.

Chaffinch

The largest flocks were 200 at Hexham Abbey on 18th (WAK) and near Stoneyhaugh between 1st-2nd (MSH), 150 at Spindleston (BRS) and 140 at Allen Banks on 15th (RKS).

Brambling

20+ were at Wallington Hall on 16th (JWR/SS) while six were at Allen Banks on 15th (RKS). One-three noted at another five inland locations.

Greenfinch

Up to 800 were reported at Sandy Bay near Newbiggin on 15th (JGS), 40 at Spindleston on 16th (BRS).

Goldfinch

The largest charms were 30 at Edges Green on 1st (DCJ) and 12 at Swallow Pond on 24th (CDH).

Siskin

Well represented during the month. Reported as common at Threestoneburn with over 100 on 18th (AMB). Other large flocks were 100 at Nunnykirk on 21st (RW) and at Harwood Forest on 30th (AMB) and 50 at Big Waters throughout the month (GB/AJJ/DM). Three-40 noted at another seven widespread inland localities.

Linnet

The largest flocks were 500+ at Sandy Bay near Newbiggin on 15th (JGS) and 60 at Lynemouth on 9th (MSH).

Twite

The flock at Druridge Links rose to 75 by 28th (AJB). 40 were at Warkworth Gut on 23rd (GPB) and three were at Cambois on 26th (MDP).

Redpoll

The largest flocks were 200 + at Harwood Forest on 16th (JWR/SS) and 100 at Colt Crag on 1st (L&KR). One-20 noted at Falstone, Holystone, Threestoneburn and Wylam.

Two-Barred Crossbill

An adult male was with five Common Crossbills in Harwood Forest on 29th (MH). This will be the 3rd record for the county and the first since August 14th 1977.

Crossbill

Continues to be well represented in the county. Harwood Forest had the largest concentration with 400 on 15th (JSB). 282 were at Wark Forest on 1st (MSH), 100 at Threestoneburn on 16th (AMB) and at Falstone on 28th (DCJ). One-40 noted at another 19 widespread localities.

Parrot Crossbill

Six possibly seven present with Common Crossbills in Harwood Forest on 25th November (ASJ/RD). The only previous record was an immature killed by a car near Catcleugh on 16th September 1954. These birds lingered on into December with four at Harwood Forest on 1st (MDP/NA) and at Colt Crag on 24th (L&KR).

Bullfinch

Seven were at Riding Mill and at Slaley Hall on 31st (RMH). Six were at Bolam Lake C.P. on 8th (PAB) and at Harwood Forest on 30th (AMB).

Hawfinch

Ten + were at Hulne Park on 29th (ADM) and eight were at Hexham on 16th (DCJ).

Lapland Bunting

Singles were noted at Cresswell and Ross on 15th (DCJ/IF/JRT/KWY) and at Chevington Dunes on 30th (ADM/SS). More unusual was a single at Big Waters on 19th (IF).

Snow Bunting

Ten were at Newbiggin on 17th (JGB), while two were at Druridge Bay on 28th (AJB). Inland a single was at Whitfield Moor on 16th (BNR).

Yellowhammer

102 were at Pegswood on 27th (SS), 30 at Big Waters and at Spindlestone on 16th (AJJ/BRS).

Reed Bunting

Two at Big Waters on 16th (DM) was the only record.

Corn Bunting

Two were at Ashington on 23rd (MDP).

Please send all January records, in Vooous order, to BN Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, NE46 1SX by 8th February at the latest.

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R M Holmes	A S Jack	D C Jardine
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J D Lough	L J McDougall	D McKeown
A D McLevy	I D Moorhouse	A P Mossop
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M D Plenty	A Priest	CPF Redfern
K W Regan	K Reid	A J Richards
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M B Shaw	E Slack	M R Smith
J G Steele	R K Stephenson	A Stimpson
T J Tams	M I Thomas	M Thomson
A Tilmouth	J R Todd	D M Turner
R Walton	P A Watson	T P M Watson
R G Waugh	P W West	K W York

This months bulletin has been prepared by I Kerr, A J Johnston, D McKeown and BN Rossiter. Illustrations of Parrot Crossbills by AJ Booth, Bewick's Swan by C Bradshaw, Shore Lark by I Fisher, and Great Grey Shrike by S Sexton.

INDOOR MEETING - 14TH FEBRUARY 1991

Our next meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on Thursday 14th February 1991 at 7.00pm prompt. Our speaker is Mike Bayldon who will speak on 'The Everglades to the dry Tortugas'.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD

A club member is anxious to dispose of a large number of old magazine 'Birds of the World'. They comprise the complete set of nine volumes (unbound) covering 108 weekly issues in 1969-71, including index. Anyone interested can contact Mr JH Doick, 136 Scarborough Road, Byker, Newcastle, or call him on Tyneside 2762902 after 6pm.

FOR SALE

Gnome black and white enlarger, masking easel, etc. Good condition £25 o.n.o.
Tel Ian Chadwick on (091) 2376662.

Black Grouse Distribution and the Breeding Atlas

Peter Garson's assessment of the black grouse survey results from 1987-90 have confirmed, with good coverage throughout the upland areas of the county, that there are very few birds north of the South Tyne, whilst they are abundant in the SW and down as far as Swaledale.

They are concentrated on the 'white moor' or 'sheepwalk' areas, but MAFF parish agricultural records indicate that rough grazing land is equally abundant, and is disappearing equally slowly, in all areas. Stocking rates (breeding ewes/ ha) are actually highest in areas where black grouse are most numerous! Thus the lack of birds in the north of our area is not likely to be due to either a lack of the preferred habitat, or to the effects of grazing or trampling on cover (e.g. rushes) by sheep (or cattle).

To look at variations in predation pressure, Peter has used the tetrad-based Breeding Atlas returns (1988-9) to assess carrion crow abundance. The graph here shows the relationship between the total number of cocks seen displaying per 10 x 10km square and the percentage of the tetrads surveyed that scored zero for carrion crows. The 19 points plotted represent the whole of Northumberland above 250m ASL, and clearly demonstrate that where there are few crows there are plenty of black grouse.

